



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT
RON AGUILERA

FYI (For Your Information...)

A weekly e-newsletter for employees and friends of the
Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



May 29, 2019



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13

This past Monday, the nation celebrated the sacrifice of soldiers' lives for the sake of our freedom. While many are conflicted with the idea of war, I think it would be a mistake to ignore the service of brave men and women who have served this country in times of peace and war. And those we memorialize because they sacrificed their lives, it is important to remember that each willingly laid down his or her life for a greater cause.

I think part of our struggle to understand the fallen soldier comes with our difficulty in accepting sacrifice, especially when a sacrifice seems so final and the reward is not always clear. The idea that anyone could give up everything, for people he doesn't even know, is hard to process. We spend so much of life trying to gain, to acquire, to win. Our country is home to the American Dream, the land of opportunity. So, sometimes thinking about the fallen soldier can feel uncomfortable, even confusing.

This week, I invite you to reflect on Christ's willingness to spill His blood for our sake. It seems to me that the only appropriate response to a sacrifice of this magnitude would be to offer our lives in return. God first bowed down to us by becoming human, then sacrificing His life for us, it is now our turn to bow down to Him and give our lives over to Him.

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

... KaraLeigh Kelley, math teacher at Hinsdale Adventist Academy. KaraLeigh just received her master's degree in Math Education from Ball State University. Congratulations, KaraLeigh!



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy
disciple-making
churches*

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VISIT

I had the opportunity to be in Rockford this past Thursday evening to speak at the 8th grade Alpine school graduation. What a joy to be part of the celebration of this milestone in the life of each student. Many thanks to Principal Teresa Smith and her team for the excellent job they are doing there.

STEWARDSHIP

I want to thank each one of our members for their faithfulness in stewardship. Unfortunately, I need to report that currently we are down 8.2% from last years tithe. I think much of this is due to not receiving tithe remittances on time. My understanding is that 21% of our churches are not current in the submission of tithe collected. I ask our pastors and treasurers to please help us with this. Thank you.



NEWS

The Conference Board of Education met today. A few of the highlights include; the announcement that Hinsdale Academy and the Thompsonville SDA School received 6-year accreditations and the Gurnee Christian School name change to Gurnee Christian Academy!

The personnel changes reported were:

Del Jean Murray will transfer from HAA to our Marion school.

Sheila (Grace) Viclar will transfer from HAA to Gurnee Christian Academy.

New hire, Jaquiline Reagan will be a new teacher at our N. Aurora School.



Check out our Facebook page at Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Congratulations to all our graduates! See below:

Hinsdale Adventist Academy – 12th grade: Daniel Omero Erazo, Samuel Danny Fisher, Courtland Douglas Hamel, Noah Christopher Martinez, Alexa Kayla Mendoza, Alexander Juan-Rene Navarro, Cody Evan O'Brien, Robert Rivas, Yuyang Yi, Xiang Yuan, Chuang Zhao.



Congratulations to our 8th grade graduates from each of our schools:

Alpine Christian School: Moo Nay Gay, Stephen Hamann, Hae Ler Htoo, Hay Say, Giselle Valencia.

Downers Grove: Jeancarlo Chaparro, Ethan James Landfare, Joshua O, Nicolas Silva Soares, Alexa Jordan Raceala, Nadine Raceala, Hailey Nicole Rojo.

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Gurnee Christian School: Karlo Edrey Carlin, Mila Dostonic, Zintya Marlenny Escobar, Mikayla Lee Kantak, Kimberly Rutendo Chido Mujeye, Jasmine Yassenia Sancen, Levonn Ehren Taylor, Anthony Tellez, Adriana Vidal.

HAA: India Sarye Brame, Joshua Nicholas Essex, Sofia Loren Gonzalez, Madigan Isabelle Hann, Jonah Michael Hoffman, Jason Matthew Morse, LiAnn Kyra Ombao, Kenneth Isaac Parker III, Maia Gabriela Prodanov, Sydnei Ananda Redd, Isaac Sarmina, Gianna Torres, Angela Marie Villeda.

Marion Adventist Christian School: Tommi Jaiden Johnson.

Metro-east Adventist Christian School: Emily Rebecca Ramirez.

North Aurora SDA School: Eva Souders, Samantha Duthie.

North Shore Adventist Academy: Alondra Nayeli Acosta, Abegail Pielago Calvario, Deroy Cody Chitan, Ariana Abigail Delgado, Sandrinne Nathalie Labayen, Joseph Zau ing Junior Lahkum, Autumn Carolyn Mallare, Alyssa Grace Fitzgerald Maranan, Eliana Crystal Perez, Tiyya Koya Tashita, Tollitu Koya Tashita, Camille Sarah Villasin.

Thompsonville Christian School: Miranda Renee Ellis, Noelia Mercedes Jaque, Brockton Avery Miller, Marissa Lynn Swan.

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter from the president's desk directly into your email please subscribe by following the link on the president's web page: www.ilcsda.org/president

RESOURCES

☞ Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World, by Dee Litten Reed

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to preaching the gospel throughout the world, but we're also committed to something a little closer to home: raising godly children in an ungodly world. In this iFollow Bible study, Dee Litten Reed writes honestly about the struggles, work, frustration, and joys of raising children for God's kingdom. For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yy8xesyl>

☞ Free Online Course: Stages of Faith

In this course from the Adventist Learning Community, Dr. Ginger Ketting-Weller explores spiritual development in children and adults. Learn to identify each stage, as well as the dangers and gifts of each. As you explore the characteristics of each stage, you will also reflect on your own faith development and how it impacts your life. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yyl4jgok>

DID YOU KNOW . . .

...A recent study of church members found that 52 percent of those who have attended church at least once in the past six months believe their church does a good job of helping members grow spiritually. The same study found that only 1 percent of pastors think they are doing a good job at helping their members grow. Hmmm...

"Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die."

– G.K. Chesterton