



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



January 30, 2019



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.”
(Luke 4:18-19)



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Last week, our country celebrated Martin Luther King Jr Day. Martin Luther King Jr. is widely regarded as American’s leading advocate for nonviolence and one of the greatest leaders in world history. Dr. King led the American civil rights movement from December 1955 until his untimely death on April 4, 1968. During those thirteen years, more advances were made toward racial equality in America than in the previous 350 years combined.

Martin was Born on January 15, 1929, at the family home in Atlanta to the Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King, and he grew up to follow his father into the ministry. In 1951, he moved to Boston to attend school. While there, he began dating Coretta Scott, a student at the New England Conservatory of Music. They married in 1953. In 1955, he graduated with a doctorate in systematic theology from Boston University School of Theology.

During the late 1950s, Dr. King launched a campaign to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. His strategy involved utilizing acts of nonviolent resistance, the power of communication, and grassroots efforts, which together achieved seemingly impossible goals. Dr. King also served as the spokesperson for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which ultimately led to the end of racial segregation on public transportation.

In 1963, he led the March on Washington, which drew 250,000 people to



the national mall and influenced Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act, making it illegal to discriminate against minorities. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech" and his "Letters from a Birmingham Jail" are among the most revered messages in American history.

He is the only non-president to have a national holiday to memorialize him, and at age thirty-five he became the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

How do you think we as the Church should respond to issues of injustice and inequality? What is God calling us to do for those who are oppressed and downtrodden?

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

...Fairmont City SDA Church. They are in the process of planting a new mission group in Effingham. Way to go, Fairmont City!

NEWS

☞ 8th Annual Vegetarian International Food Festival. Saturday night, March 2nd, 2019. Doors open at 6:30PM. Where? At the Elmhurst SDA Church, 246 W. Butterfield Rd. Experience the Taste of: USA, Chile, Italy/Greece, Mexico, Romania, and so much more! Vegan and Gluten Free options will be available. Food tickets cost: \$1.00 each. Church Cookbook for sale \$20.00 with 502 recipes and includes easel. All proceeds to benefit the Youth Kenyan Mission Trip. Invite your family and friends!

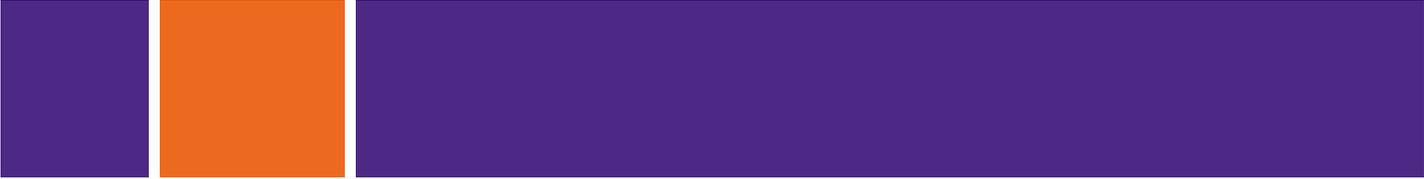
☞ David O'Brien, Illinois Conference property manager, passed away January 23, 2019. Our hearts go out to his wife, Carlynn, and his children, Stephanie and Cody. Please keep them in your prayers. The funeral service was held yesterday, Tuesday, January 29th, at the Hinsdale Church.

☞ I thought you might be interested in this short article that appeared in the Lake Union Herald. It is about one of our pastors here in Illinois, and it was written by one of our pastors wives. =)

Adventist History Podcast Proving Popular! Who says history is boring, especially church history? Certainly not Matthew Lucio. The Illinois Conference pastor is so passionate, in fact, he started podcasting on the subject, starting with the founding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to just past the time of Ellen White's death.

What's a podcast, you ask? In Lucio's own words, it's "basically a radio show on the internet." His Adventist History Podcast (AHP) has gone off the charts in just the last 11 months. What started out as 12 downloads has exploded to 130K (meaning, potentially, 130,000 people — from around the world — are regularly listening). Other Adventist podcasters (yes, there's even an association that has formed) report a similar trend.

To check it out, go to Lucio's website. You also will find his podcast on Facebook or other podcasting apps on your phone. (Written by Cheri Lewis, freelance writer based in the Quad Cities of Illinois)



RESOURCES

☞ Personal Ministries Training Course Set, created by NAD Adult Ministries.

This Personal Ministries Training Course includes nine units designed to help you become a more effective leader and improve your skills in sharing the Gospel. Courses include: The Great Commission, Introduction to the Bible, How to Use the Bible in Personal Ministries Outreach, The Science of Soul Winning, How to Give Bible Studies, The Art of Obtaining Decisions, Relating to People of Various Religious Persuasions, The Basics of Evangelistic Sermon, Preparation and Delivery, and How to Organize and Run an Evangelistic Campaign. For more information, go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/ybhmbk79>

☞ Mission Spotlight videos are new and improved. Did you know you have access to feature stories about mission from around the globe, along with a video for each quarter's 13th Sabbath offering? These videos are perfect for use in a Sabbath School class or church service. Visit Adventist Mission's website to sign up to receive these free videos via email or DVD. <https://am.adventistmission.org/mission-spotlight>

DID YOU KNOW. . .

... what the coldest temperature ever recorded in Chicago is? On January 20, 1985, it was 27 degrees below 0, Fahrenheit.

"O God,... we thank Thee for Thy Church, founded upon Thy Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon Thee... Help us to realize that man was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace, help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children, Black, White, Red, and Yellow, will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the kingdom of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen."

*Martin Luther King Jr.
From Dangerous Prayers by Susan Hill*



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