



# PROCLAIMING **Jesus** PASSIONATELY

LUKE 4:18



## 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

April 14, 2021



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit”* Proverbs 18:21

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me”? It is not true! In my experience, that statement is far from accurate. Words are powerful. We all have been hurt by careless, unkind, or mean comments, especially from well-meaning individuals. And the effect of those words on our lives, even years later, is indisputable. It is not a coincidence how we tend to remember the hurtful words more often than the affirming word. The truth is, no matter how much we deny it, it is still painful to remember the taunts of a bully on the playground, or that ugly word about our clothes by a “friend,” or the “well-meaning” remark from a person at church, that makes us want to crawl under a rock, or never come back to church.

Proverbs 18:21 says, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue,”* See, the impact our words have on others cannot be overstated. One small comment or remark can make the difference between building a relationship up or tearing it down. We have the power to either encourage or discourage others with our words. It is not a coincidence the Bible says a lot about the power of words, especially positive ones. But it also warns us about the dangers of careless words. *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger,”* says Proverbs 15:1 and *“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones,”* Proverbs 16:24. Ephesians 4:29 says, *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*

Today, I want to ask you a question, “How are you doing in this area?” Are you using your words to uplift and encourage? Or are you



## Seventh-day Adventist<sup>®</sup> Church

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*Making healthy  
disciple-making  
churches*

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struggling with the temptation to criticize or to put someone down? I want to remind you that a kind, positive, or encouraging word at the right time can truly be life-changing. Your words hold power to breathe the spirit of life into someone's life or instill an attitude of death into others. Which will you choose today?

## NEWS

- ☞ Today, at the General Conference Executive Committee's Spring Council meeting, the committee elected Erton Kohler, current president of the South American Division, to the position of General Conference Secretary. He replaces G.T. Ng, who is retiring. Paul H. Douglas has been elected as the treasurer of the General Conference, replacing Juan Prestol-Puesan, also retiring. Paul Douglas is currently the director of the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS).
- ☞ As you may have heard or read, Shona Cross, administrative assistant for the President and Executive Secretary of the Illinois Conference, will be moving, and the Conference is accepting resumes to fill that position as early as the beginning of May. If interested, please contact the Conference HR Director, Deb Perez, at [dperez@ilcsda.org](mailto:dperez@ilcsda.org).
- ☞ Today, we are halfway through the Illinois Conference Proclamation Series. This evangelism series has been focusing on stories of Jesus in the gospel narrative to address many questions and struggles we experience today and offering the gospel hope Jesus provides. The presentations begin at 7:00 each evening. We will have a Sabbath program on April 17th. Here are the general themes and speakers below:

Tonight, April 14 (7:00 PM) - Life and Purpose, Pastor Matthew Lucio, Peoria Church  
April 15, (7:00 PM) - A Different Kingdom, Pastor Jason Salyers, Hinsdale Church  
April 16, (7:00 PM) - Celebration and Joy, Pastor Elizabeth McDonald, Hinsdale Church  
April 17 (11:00 AM) – Proclaiming Jesus, Elder Ivan Williams, North American Division  
April 17, (7:00 PM) – The Forever Story, Ron Aguilera, President of the Illinois Conference

You can watch these on the Illinois Conference Facebook page or YouTube channel.

- ☞ Here is a report from Adventurer Fun Day this past weekend: "This past Sunday, all of our Illinois Adventurers were able to go back in time all the way to Noah's Ark to learn more about the awesome creative power of God through the animals He made! In the morning, they enjoyed a fun Bible skit, our theme verse and song, and a super cool Noah craft. In the afternoon, the Adventurers and their families were encouraged to spend some time in nature to observe God's wonderful creation. Many of them went to the zoo, the park, or a nature center to see how many animals they could find. In some areas, the weather wasn't cooperative, so those families will have the opportunity to watch the program again this coming Sunday, April 18th, and enjoy the outdoor afternoon activities. We praise God for all our Illinois Adventurers!"  
Many thanks to our Illinois Youth Department (Pastor Michael Campos and Stacey DePluzer) for their good work!



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## RESOURCES

- ☞ “Join Cactusville VBS Training on April 15. Yee-haw! It’s time to saddle up and get ready for a knee-slappin’, foot-stompin’ good time with Cactusville VBS, where kids are called to follow Jesus. VBS leaders are invited to an online Cactusville VBS training session on Thursday, April 15, at 7 PM Eastern to see first-hand all of the fun and inspiring activities planned for your kids. Cactusville VBS can be used in-person or virtually. Check out the possibilities at this free training! Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/t4m5yx93>
- ☞ It Is Written has a new health series, Next Level Health. Join health experts from around the country as they share practical ways to enhance every area of a person’s life: physical, mental, and spiritual. Next Level Health runs April 23-29. Register and watch at [www.nextlevelhealth.life](http://www.nextlevelhealth.life).

## DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . the Illinois Conference is the only conference in the North American Division to have a special educator and a school counselor to serve our schools?

*““It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity.”*

*—Ellen G. White, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings page 75*



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Illinois Conference of  
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