



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*

February 24, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Today, I want to share with you a thought a friend sent me this past week. I hope it will be helpful to you as you go through the rest of your week.

This past year, I've often found myself lost...in fear, sadness, in loneliness. Maybe you've felt some of this, too. In a world teetering through high-tech, low-touch distancing, we want to run and hide from a master plan that's outside of our control. Because as we fill agendas and do right, we're often ambushed by the reality that nothing is certain—other than God.

This week, I chose to reread Hebrews 11, the Hall of Fame of Faith. Because when betrayal, deception, or rejection whips through your best-laid plans, there is always something worth holding on to by faith: the abiding, everlasting presence of God. It doesn't matter if you can't run toward God or even walk by faith. You can crawl by faith. Breathe your next breath by faith. Hope by faith. Even in the darkest of times. 2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us, "*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*"

When reading through the biblical heroes who walked by faith, it became apparent to me that today, I can only crawl. My faith has days when my feet are knocked out from under me. In these times, when you're maybe only able to breathe your way to the truth, rest in the knowledge that even when you don't know what your longing is...the Spirit intercedes. You can't *see* the Spirit, but you can have confidence, by faith in God's word, that even your wordless groans are understood.

If you want to have faith that is pleasing to God, remind yourself that it all belongs to Him. He is the owner of all of it. You gave it all to Him when you chose Jesus. You can't make people stay, keep them in their faith, or heal



Seventh-day Adventist[®] Church

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*Making healthy
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them. That's his work. So, release to him all the days, good and bad. He's given us the will to choose faith over fear, peace over anxiety, and eternal life over the temptations of the world.

His ways are the origin and meaning of life. His ways are why we marvel at the tiniest treasure, or seemingly insignificant moments thrill us. Let me encourage you now, that whether you can run by faith, walk by faith, or only crawl to the source of eternal life...give it all to Him again by praying **Psalm 51:10**, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Then, ask Him to give you "the confidence in what you hope for and the assurance about what you cannot see."

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

...Jill Morikone, Kathy Morrissy, and Joy Kauffman, three women lay leaders from the Illinois Conference. All three ladies were part of a group of great woman leaders recognized by the Lake Union for their outstanding service. Thank you, ladies, for your faithful service!

For more information, go to: <https://www.lakeunionherald.org/archive/articles/sisterhood-of-service-the-women-of-asi>

COVID 19 UPDATE

I am happy to report all 11 regions of the State of Illinois are now in Phase 4. This means there can be gatherings of up to 50 people or 50% room capacity (whichever is less). Most of our churches in Illinois have begun to open or plan to open in the next couple of weeks. As you do, please continue to practice all safety protocols (wearing masks, social distancing, cleaning, etc.) and pray for one another as we move forward God's mission in Illinois.

NEWS

Glenn Aguirre, Senior Pastor of the Hinsdale FilAm Church, has accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. We wish Pastor Glenn and his family well as they transition. Pastor Glenn will conclude his ministry time in Illinois at the end of March.

RESOURCES

- ☞ 4 Steps to Launching a Dynamic Virtual Sabbath School. Sabbath, February 27, at 5 PM Eastern. With today's demand for online worship, old methods won't work anymore. Take your virtual Sabbath School to the next level with this webinar presented by Curtis Hall, whose virtual Sabbath School forum attracts thousands of loyal viewers each week. Join this webinar to...
- Learn how to start a dynamic virtual Sabbath School class from scratch, even with no technical experience.
 - Transform your existing online class into one that attracts and retains viewers despite having so many other options on the web.
 - Increase student participation by discovering how to create engaging questions.
 - Navigate your class from takeoff to landing in a method that breeds thought-provoking conversation, dispels "hijackers," and leads to a practical takeaway for all participants at the end.
- Register now and receive a free download of *Stream It: Sabbath School* e-Book. Sign up today at: <https://sabbathschoolcoaching.com/register>

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☞ The Voice of Prophecy is pleased to announce the debut of its latest media offering. *Authentic*, a 30-minute television and radio program featuring Shawn Boonstra, made its debut on Saturday, Feb. 20, on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). Those interested in learning more about *Authentic* and how they can bring the show to a station near them are urged to **contact the ministry's production department at production@vop.com**.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . Each year, Safety Sabbath® raises awareness about a specific area of risk management and encourages churches to take an active role in promoting safety. The focus of Safety Sabbath 2021 is online safety. Safety Sabbath is March 27, 2021. Register today at www.safetysabbath.com.

“A noble, devoted, spiritual worker will see in the great testing truths that constitute the solemn message to be given to the world, sufficient reason for keeping all minor differences concealed, rather than to bring them forth to become subjects of contention. Let the mind dwell upon the great work of redemption, the soon coming of Christ, and the commandments of God; and it will be found that there is enough food for thought in these subjects to take up the entire attention.”

—Ellen White, *Evangelism* page 183



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