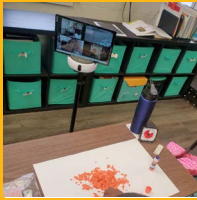


PROCLAIMING Jesus PASSIONATELY

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

March 10, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint, O Lord heal me, for my bones are in agony.” Psalm 6:1,2

There are different kinds of psalms; wisdom psalms, praise psalms, lament psalms, penitential psalms... Psalm 6 is penitential. Just in case you are wondering, penitent means repentance, contrition, remorse, regret...

Psalm 6 is written by David. It is the first of seven penitential psalms by King David. In them, David repents and cries out to God for forgiveness and mercy in the midst of discipline. God's discipline toward His children is always remedial and never punitive because He loves us and desires to teach us wisdom. In this psalm, David used the Hebrew word for *mercy* which means *to bend down*. He was asking God to bend down and be gracious to him as he lay there in pain.

I love the picture. David wisely clung to the Lord's mercy, and in doing so, he gave us a model prayer. He compared God's mercy and goodness to his own weakness and desperate need. Notice that David is not saying, "Due to my being so very spiritual, God," or "because my devotional life is so powerful," or "since my giving is so regular, Lord, you should heal me." No. David comes humbly, knowing it is only because of God's great predisposition toward mercy, forgiveness, and loving grace for the sinner that he can come and expect God to respond. David is counting on NOT getting what he deserves from his heavenly Father, judgment. Instead, he is anticipating that God's character is consistent and that He will once again give the mercy he doesn't merit. I am thankful for a God like that, aren't you?

 Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

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disciple-making
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March 10, 2021

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT... THE JOLIET SDA CHURCH

...The Joliet Church has a very active Prison Ministries program, and they have been asked to provide Bibles to inmates in the Danville Correction Facility. These Bibles can make an eternal difference in the lives of many. Thank you, Joliet, for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

NEWS

- ☞ Pastor Joshua Seo, pastor of Chicago Unity and Chicago Central Korean Churches, has accepted a call to pastor the Andrews University Korean Church. Pastor William Lee, currently the Andrews University Korean Church pastor, has accepted our invitation to come to Illinois and pastor the Chicago Unity and Chicago Central Korean churches. This will be effective May 1st.
- ☞ Camp Akita is ready for you. They are taking bookings for 2021 now. Contact Roger Henderson to schedule a visit or a weekend for your church in 2021.
- ☞ We are very excited about our upcoming Illinois Conference Proclamation Series from April 11-17. The theme is “The Greatest Story.” We will be looking at stories of Jesus in the gospel narrative to address common questions and struggles while offering the gospel hope Jesus provides. Each presentation will begin at 7:00 each evening and last for one hour. We will have a Sabbath program on April 17th with a repeat of the church service at 7:00p. Here are the general themes and speakers below:

April 11 (7:00p) - Hope and Healing, Pastor David Ocegüera, Bolingbrook Church

April 12 (7:00p) - Love and Relationships, Pastor Gordon Fraser, Goshen church district

April 13 (7:00p) – Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Pastor Jonathan Burnett, North Shore church

April 14 (7:00p) - Life and Purpose, Pastor Matthew Lucio, Peoria church

April 15 (7:00p) - A Different Kingdom, Pastor Jason Salyers, Hinsdale church

April 16 (7:00) - Celebration and Joy, Elder Ivan Williams, North American Division

April 17 - A Forever Story – Elder Ivan Williams (9:30a - 12:00p and 7:00 pm)

Save the date and make plans to use this resource as an evangelism tool for your church.

- ☞ Today, at the Illinois Conference Board of Education committee meeting, the following personnel changes we announced:
 1. Fawn Schrenel has resigned as principal of Hinsdale Adventist Academy to stay home with her newborn baby. This is effective at the end of the school year.
 2. Patricia Williams, principal/teacher at Downers Grove School, is retiring at the end of the current school year.
 3. Teresa Smith, principal/teacher at Alpine, has accepted a teaching position in Arkansas to be near her grandchildren.
 4. Katrina Baun, principal/teacher at our Gurnee School, has accepted the invitation to serve as the Associate Superintendent of Education in the Illinois Conference.
 5. Evelyn Haney, math, science, history teacher (and more) at Gurnee School, is also retiring.

We wish all of our outgoing educators the best as they transition. Thank you all very much for your ministry to the Illinois Conference and the impact you have had on our children!

March 10, 2021

RESOURCES

- ☞ Are you looking for some free online courses or resources? Check out the Adventist Learning Community at Adventistlearningcommunity.com.
- ☞ *Beyond Greeting: Establishing Guest Services in Your Church* by Seth Pierce.
While shaking hands and handing out bulletins are important parts of welcoming people to your church, the Beyond Greeting kit covers much more! It is a complete plan for moving beyond saying “Happy Sabbath” to creating a guest services system that will connect person to person. The kit comes with a book, leader’s guide, media resource USB, and sample participant guide. It will equip you to lead three seminars where participants will learn the steps in connecting with guests.
For more: <https://tinyurl.com/98a7a6a8>

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . 1 in 5 American adults started watching religious services remotely for the first time during the pandemic. Also, of the 4 in 5 persons who worship remotely, 42% watch services offered by their own church, 24% watch some other ministry’s service, and 34% watch both. (Pew Research Center)

“The Lord wants men to forget themselves in the effort to save souls. Our life is worse than a failure if we go through life without leaving waymarks of love and compassion. God will not work with a harsh, stubborn, loveless man. Such a man spoils the pattern that Christ desires His workers to reveal to the world. God’s workers, in whatever line of service they are engaged, are to bring into their efforts the goodness and benevolence and love of Christ.”

—Ellen White, *Evangelism* page 629



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Illinois Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists.

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