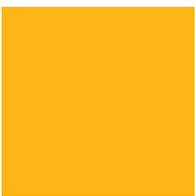




FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT
RON AGUILERA

FYI (For Your Information...)

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



September 11, 2019



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:38

It has been 18 years since that vicious attack on our country, specifically New York City and Washington DC. I think we still struggle with how to spend this day that represents such pain and fear. I believe 9/11 has come to serve as a day of remembrance for the many trials we have endured as a nation over the past two decades. The continued concern and anxiety created by ongoing threats have become, if not normal, an ever-present stressor. We wonder if we’ll ever be free of that sense of unease in our daily lives.

Our country continues to be torn from within by violence. The unthinkable stories of the innocent victims and instant heroes in these situations have seared our consciousness, leaving us reeling with grief and disbelief. Natural disasters like hurricane Dorian and other destructive forces have scarred our land and our people. We are weary. We wonder: Will we get through these turbulent times? The answer from the pages of the Bible is a resounding, “Yes.” I think of the story of Joseph. When life hits us with multiple blows, with God’s help, we will overcome.

Joseph faced a famine in his day, and he focused all his efforts on bringing life and nourishment to all. Today, we face a famine of hope. As God’s people, let’s dispense courage and sustenance to our generation, offering a plan, a hope, and a story of God’s help and goodness. Worship and remember that God is for us and that one day, He will return to set all things right. Today, as we remember the past, let’s look to the future and offer the hope we have in Jesus to others.



**Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church**
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy
disciple-making
churches*

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September 11, 2019

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

...Jorge Cruz, head elder of the Little Village SDA Hispanic church, who with others is organizing a celebration for our Chilean members (from Chile, South America). September 18th, *Dieciocho*, is a day of celebration of Chile's independence from Spain.

CHURCH VISIT

This past Sabbath, I had the privilege of being at Hinsdale SDA church to install and introduce their new senior pastor, Jason Salyers. Pastor Salyers comes to us from the Minnesota Conference, where he had been serving as the senior pastor of the Minnetonka SDA Church. Pastors Salyers is married to Mindi, and they have two daughters. Welcome to Illinois!



NEWS

- Although I am away at Advent Health's Conference on Mission, I am pleased that my home church, the Burr Ridge Church, is celebrating its annual Education Sabbath this Sabbath. They will recognize all teachers and students (pre-K through professional school). If you are looking for a place to worship this Sabbath, check out the Burr Ridge SDA Church.
- Training and equipping each church member is a high value in the Illinois Conference. I want to invite you to commit the time to attend our Northern Illinois lay training event at the Illinois Conference, Sunday, September 29 from 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Deadline to register is September 25, 2019 (Date changed from September 15.)

RESOURCES

- Grandparenting, By Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra
Our culture calls grandparents to a life of indulgence with their grandchildren, while God has given them a much higher calling – that of being disciple-makers. This resource is filled with research, practical ideas, and discussion questions that may be used by individuals or small groups to explore the God-given role of grand-parenting. For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y2899x1x>
- Creation Sabbath
Join Seventh-day Adventists around the world in celebrating Creation Sabbath on October 26. Creation Sabbath presents a specific opportunity for recognizing God's power and grace as our Creator and Redeemer. Visit the Creation Sabbath website (<https://creationsabbath.net>) to find or register an event, download sermon outlines and children's stories, and more.

September 11, 2019

DID YOU KNOW . . . the FUN FACTs about the Pathfinder Camporee at Oshkosh?

- 76 Busses were used to shuttle Pathfinders to various activities and service projects.
- 6000 pathfinders engaged in outreach during camporee.
- Over 30,000 community service hours we worked.
- 4000 special issues of the Guide magazine were handed out to the Oshkosh community.
- 795 shower heads were used.

“Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. ‘With His stripes we are healed.’ ”

– Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages



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