



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



May 5, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Psalm 65:2, *“Our God is the God who hears our prayers and provides atonement for our sins.”*

What do you pray for? What causes you or motivates you to pray?

What increases your prayer rhythms? For David, the author of this psalm, many things drove him to his knees: as he cared for his father’s sheep, as he was persecuted in the wilderness, and as he dealt with the challenges of being king. That is why I love verse 2— *“Our God is the God who hears our prayers and provides atonement for our sins.”* In David’s experience? God heard and answered his prayers!

God also provides atonement for our sins. The Hebrew word for atonement is *kaphar*, which literally means to *cover over*, as with a lid. This word is found three times in the Book of Psalms and is also found elsewhere in the Old Testament. This is the word used for the top covering of the Ark of the Covenant. *Kaphar* is also where we get the name for the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. One of the things I love about this psalm is its description of how God *covers over* sin and its effects. In this word, *kaphar*, we find the love of God meeting the holiness of God.

This psalm is also a worship psalm. If you read the rest of Psalm 65, you see that it is a psalm of praise and gratitude to God for His goodness to His people. It talks about:

- Forgiveness of sin
- How God draws us near to Him and how He satisfies and comforts us with His presence
- How He answers prayers
- It praises God for creation, life, and breath
- Protection: how God is the God who calms the storms of life



Seventh-day Adventist[®] Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy
disciple-making
churches*

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Then, verses 9-13 are a song of praise for His goodness in provision for rain, the growth of crops, His protection, and the many things we have to be thankful for. This psalm is often used as a thanksgiving psalm; a reminder of how we need to live with gratefulness in our hearts.

So, today's reminder? Remember to praise God. We have a lot to be thankful for.

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT. . .

Kristina Windham. Congratulations to Kristina, the Principal/Teacher at Metro East SDA School, on the birth of her son, Caleb Malachi Windham, who was born April 17, 2021.



COVID-19 UPDATE

Illinois could move to a full reopening in early-to-mid June under Pritzker's plan to lift the pandemic restrictions. Nearly 59% of Illinois residents have received at least one vaccine dose, and the positivity rate continues to go down. The city of Chicago is planning to fully reopen by July 4th, while the rest of the State hopes to move to the "Bridge Plan" as early as this month. For more information, go to: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>.

NEWS

☞ Pastor David Kokiong, Associate Pastor at Hinsdale Fil-Am SDA church, has accepted a call to serve as a pastor in the Oregon Conference. The Kokiong's will be transitioning this upcoming June. We pray for David, Kelly, and baby Isaac as they move near family and minister in their new church.

Also, the Lake Union Executive Committee voted to approve the recommendation of the Illinois Conference Executive Committee to ordain Pastor David Kokiong to the gospel ministry. An ordination service is currently being planned for May 29th.

☞ I am pleased to announce Nikki Quilatan has been hired as the Administrative Assistant to Administration. Nikki assumes the responsibilities Shona Cross held for the past 14 years. We wish Shona and Gevin well in their transition to Tennessee, and we welcome Nikki to the Illinois Conference staff team.

☞ Elder Maurice Valentine, President of the Lake Union, has accepted the invitation to serve as Vice-President for Media Ministries at the North American Division. He will transition at the beginning of June.

☞ Elder Steve Poenitz, Executive Secretary of the Lake Union, will be retiring at the end of this month. I want to express appreciation to Elder Steve for his lifetime of service and pray God's blessing will be upon him and his family as they transition to a new phase of life.



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RESOURCES

- ☞ General Conference to Host Virtual Global Campmeeting
The Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting will bring the entire world church together from May 19-23, 2021, to worship, be inspired, and learn. This event showcases the incredible breadth and depth of Adventist ministries around the world. Register now to experience powerful preaching, over 400 online seminars, roundtable discussions with church leaders, continuing education credits for pastors and teachers, and an exhibit hall with more than 100 Adventist organizations sharing their resources. Register now at: <https://2021.campmeeting.com>
- ☞ Webinar on Minimizing Risks for Church Ministries
Join Adventist Community Services for a webinar on risk management on Thursday, May 6, at 2 PM Eastern. In this session, participants will understand potential risks and learn to implement an effective risk management program to minimize or eliminate unintentional harm related to community-based ministry activities and events. This webinar will be presented by Robert Smith, Allegheny East Conference ACS Director.
Register now at: <https://www.communityservices.org/events/risk-management-webinar/>

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . May 3-7 is Teacher Appreciation week? Thank you, teachers, for your tireless work and commitment to serving our students in our ten schools around the Illinois Conference. You are valued and appreciated!

“It is his [the true teacher] ambition to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity—principles that will make them a positive force for the stability and uplifting of society. He desires them, above all else, to learn life’s great lesson of unselfish service.”

—Ellen G. White, *Education* page 29-30



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Illinois Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists.

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