



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



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.’” Acts 17: 22-23

The Apostle Paul came from a very traditional Jewish background, so connecting with his fellow Jews was familiar territory. However, Paul was also successful in sharing with and connecting with the Gentiles, the non-Jewish communities. Take a look at his trip to Greece. In Athens, the headquarters of Greek culture and religion, Paul was confronted with idols and gods everywhere. On one of the altars, Paul noticed an inscription, “To an Unknown God,” and it was there he began a conversation. It might seem a strange place to begin a faith conversation, but this was his starting point to sharing the Gospel. Rather than immediately condemn their beliefs, Paul used this particular altar and opportunity to tell them about the one true God.

The majority of Americans today have not grown up in a Christian home. The majority of people today are biblically illiterate. Ancient Greece was no different, so Paul met them where they were. While Paul never once quoted a Bible verse, everything he said came from God’s Word. Read his full conversation in Acts 17:16-34.

Paul demonstrated how we can share God’s story to a biblically illiterate culture, a story that’s relevant today. And it starts by listening and connecting. If you are a Christian like Paul, what common ground can you find with your colleagues at work, your friends, or your neighbors to share the good news of Jesus?



Seventh-day
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disciple-making
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June 12, 2019

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

... Pastor Adrian Amarandei and the Joliet church. They celebrated the baptism of three young people: Glenis Brooks, Samuel Cherrington and Monica Cherrington, this past Sabbath. All heaven rejoices when a person accepts Jesus!



CHURCH VISIT

This past Sabbath, I had the privilege of being at the Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church to introduce the new interim senior pastor, Elder Marvin Wray. Pastor Wray is recently retired after 43 years of full-time ministry. I am very pleased that Pastor Wray will be with us during the search for a new senior pastor.

NEWS

☞ The Illinois Conference has partnered with the Voice of Prophecy to provide churches in the Illinois Conference with free access to two of the five Discovery Centers bundles: Bible School and Evangelism. What does this mean? Discovery Centers are a brand new program from the Voice of Prophecy which equips SDA churches with comprehensive tools to support the evangelistic success of your church. Discovery Centers consists of five bundles: Bible School (free), Education, Evangelism, Community and Media. To find out more about what each of these bundles include, visit the www.discoverycenters.com website.

I want to thank the pastors who took the initiative to have their churches join this initiative and receive these resources. May God bless you as you strive to share the Good News of Jesus with those He misses the most.

☞ I am happy to announce that Elder Ira Bartolome has accepted the position of pastor for the Downers Grove Church. Pastor Ira and his family will be transitioning at the beginning of August from Centralia, Washington.

☞ Here is a summary of the Health Expo held in Collinsville on June 2. Several area churches came together to facilitate this event - Oakhill, Fairmont City, Alton from the IL Conference and New Jerusalem from the Lake Region Conference. Thank you to all churches involved. The following is a list of what was provided this past weekend.

Dental: 122 guests served, 143 x-rays obtained, 57 guests had teeth cleaned, 50 teeth were extracted (9 on one gentleman!), and 27 fillings were placed.

Memorial Hospital provided free cholesterol and blood sugar testing, as well as blood pressure counseling. There were 2 hair stylists providing free haircuts to 50 people. Childcare was provided for all parents while they were receiving dental services. Health related magazines/tracts were distributed. Christ-centered books, pamphlets and literature were also given to guests. The total value of just the dental services provided came in just under \$49,000.

June 12, 2019

RESOURCES

☞ Refugee Sabbath - June 15

Help raise awareness of the 3 million refugees in North America by planning a Refugee Sabbath program on June 15. Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries has prepared program ideas and resources you can use in your church. Learn more at: <https://www.refugeeministries.org>

☞ “Getting it Right,” by Dan Day

This iFollow Bible study is written for those leading discipleship training in the local congregation. Learn how to avoid obstacles including starting out at the wrong place, losing sight of Jesus, being whipped around by your emotions, failing to embrace the promise of recovery, missing the benefits of a faith community, and forgetting to cling to Jesus no matter what. Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/yy7ehqhn>

DID YOU KNOW . . .

...The hymn, “We Have this Hope,” was introduced as the theme song for the 1962 General Conference Session in San Francisco? It was also the theme song in 1966, 1975, 1995, and 2000.

“A truly Christian life will cost us thoughtfulness, searching of the Scriptures, and most earnest, persevering prayer. It will not be prayer without point and purpose, but it will be the intercession of a heart burdened for poor sinners out of Christ.”

– Ellen G. White

(from *An Important Testimony to Our Brethren and Sisters in New York, 1887*)



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