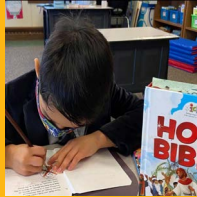


PROCLAIMING Jesus PASSIONATELY

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 17, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“And he said to the elders, ‘Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them.’” Exodus 24:14

Moses had led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, into the wilderness, and now to the foot of Mount Sinai. As everyone settled in at the base of this mountain, God called Moses to come up to the top. As Moses prepared to leave, he gave specific instructions to the elders. “Wait here. Stay put. Do not go anywhere.” That sounds like a simple message. But as is often the case, the people became restless and impatient. How long were they supposed to wait? Maybe they thought Moses would head up the mountain and then come right back down. Their understanding of time did not meet God’s understanding of time.

How often does that happen to us? We live in a fast-paced world; cell phones, texting, email, running to and from meetings, Zoom, or otherwise... We wait for very few things, and it is easy to get impatient and anxious over the smallest time delays. Waiting in line or on the phone to do anything seems futile and a waste of time. We pray for self-control just so we are not completely rude or offensive to those around us, especially those who may be holding up our schedule. But just as in the days of Moses, there are consequences to the behavior that comes from such impatience. The children of Israel decided to build a golden calf, throw a wild party around it, and make complete fools of themselves before God. We may not build a golden calf while waiting in traffic, but many of us (if we are honest) must admit that sometimes we act foolishly in how we handle our frustrations. Horns beeping, people yelling, gestures and faces display hostility... what has happened to us? The short answer: we struggle with the concept of waiting.



Seventh-day
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March 17, 2021

As Christians, we serve a God who is never in a rush. The Lord is patient and steadfast. If we treat our prayers like a slot machine or a 911 call, we will most likely be disappointed. The Lord will often wait. So often, He is waiting on us to come to Him or to come back to Him. He does not respond according to the world's pace or our desire. I've learned that waiting on the Lord brings strength to our character. So, as you reflect on this today, remember, if you find yourself in a line at a store, in traffic, or anywhere that you have to "wait," pray for God's strength to give you the patience you need. Pray for the person standing before you in line or the cashier before you get to her. Pray that it be an opportunity to glorify Him and be His witness.

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

...They are planning for an on-line Communion Service and sent a recipe for communion bread to their members. Maybe it can be helpful to your church, so here it is: For four people: 4 teaspoons of whole wheat flour, 3/4 teaspoon olive oil, 2 teaspoons cold water, and a pinch of salt. For two people: 2 teaspoons whole wheat flour, skinny 1/2 teaspoon olive oil, 1 teaspoon cold water, and a thin pinch of salt. Bake at 300 degrees for 15 minutes.

NEWS

- ☞ As I mentioned last week, some of our educators are retiring and moving on, which means we have some new faces joining our team. Sable Kessler has been hired to be the math/science teacher at Gurnee Christian School. She will join us from Andrews University. Vicki Martin will be the new principal/teacher at Downers SDA School and is coming to us from Wisconsin. Welcome!
 - ☞ The next Illinois Conference on-line convocation: Proclaiming Jesus Passionately: Living a Missional Life will take place this Sabbath, March 20. The keynote speaker is David Jamieson, Pastor of the Aldergrove SDA Church in British Columbia. His church has captured worldwide attention for their community ministries. Sabbath School will be the Isaiah lesson study presented by 7 Illinois Conference pastors.
 - ☞ 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 (7:00 PM) - Hope and Healing, Pastor David Oceguela, Bolingbrook Church
 - April 12 (7:00 PM) - Love and Relationships, Pastor Gordon Fraser, Goshen Church district
 - April 13 (7:00 PM) – Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Pastor Jonathan Burnett, North Shore Church
 - April 14 (7:00 PM) - Life and Purpose, Pastor Matthew Lucio, Peoria Church
 - April 15 (7:00 PM) - A Different Kingdom, Pastor Jason Salyers, Hinsdale Church
 - April 16 (7:00 PM) - Celebration and Joy, Elder Ivan Williams, North American Division
 - April 17 - A Forever Story – Elder Ivan Williams (9:30 AM - 12:00 noon and 7:00 PM)
- Save the date and make plans to use this resource as an evangelism tool for your church.
- ☞ Interested in receiving a daily devotional? Kick start your day every day with an inspirational devotional thought from pastors and leaders of the Illinois Conference. These devotionals are starting up again on the Illinois Conference Facebook page. Go there, and you can sign up to receive them every day.

March 17, 2021

- ☞ Two of our Adventist hospitals were named “World’s Best Hospitals” by Newsweek Magazine. There were 22 hospitals selected in Illinois and only 300 in the United States that received this honor. AMITA Adventist Hinsdale ranked #169 on the list, and AMITA Adventist La Grange ranked #298.

RESOURCES

- ☞ During this month dedicated to raising awareness of colorectal cancer, Fabrizio Luca, MD, chief of Loma Linda University Cancer Center’s division of colon and rectal surgery, elucidates why this cancer is both one of the most deadly and most preventable diseases. Read [this article](#) for additional facts about the third deadliest cancer in the U.S.
- ☞ This year, Safety Sabbath will be March 27, 2021, and will focus on helping churches protect against cyber-crime, avoid liabilities from streaming services on-line, and adapt child protection policies to an on-line environment. Sign up today to receive tips on how to prepare for Safety Sabbath and a valuable resource kit to help you protect your congregation.
Register at <https://www.adventistrisk.org/en-us/safety-resources/safety-sabbath>

DID YOU KNOW. . . TODAY IS ST. PATRICK’S DAY?

. . . And, that the color of St. Patrick’s Day was originally blue?

“Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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Illinois Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists.

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