



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*

February 17, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.” Proverbs 10:19

I have a saying I have used for many years, “Less is more.” This philosophy has served me well in many situations. It comes from this verse, Proverbs 10:19, and it is wisdom to live by. When I read God’s Word on wisdom, it is amazing to see how often it involves our mouths and the words we speak. Proverbs says it clearly, fools talk too much, but the wise and prudent person restrains the number of his words. Less is more.

See, when we speak many words, transgression (sin) is unavoidable. The more we speak, the less likely we are to measure and weigh our words enough to make sure that we do not sin, either against a person or, more importantly, against God Himself. In the New Testament, the author of the book of James puts it this way, *“Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.”* (James 1:19)

I also think of the Old Testament patriarch, Moses, and I believe he would affirm this as well, as it was his words, spoken in anger, that kept him from entering the promised land. Measured and weighed words are wise words... and the more words we speak, the more likely our sinful nature will be expressed in them. That is why the greater volume of words, the greater likelihood of saying something you regret. Less is more.

You know, the word “transgression” is an interesting word to use in this proverb. Transgression is the Hebrew word, “pasha,” which means a rebellion or revolt, rejecting authority. It is the rejecting of God and His perfect and absolute truth and wisdom. Maybe that is why in a verse that promises us prosperity, God says to Joshua not to let God’s Word depart from his mouth. This is true when speaking with people and with God.



Seventh-day Adventist[®] Church

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In another wonderful reminder of being careful what we speak before God, Solomon says this in the book of Ecclesiastes, *“Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil. Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore, let your words be few. For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words.”* Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

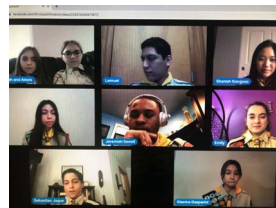
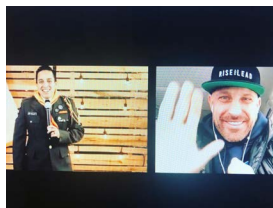
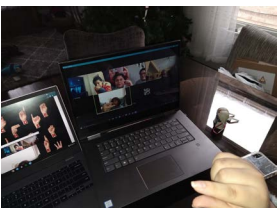
That is why Proverbs 10 makes it clear that many words are not wise. Our first impulse should be to listen rather than to speak. The wise man measures his words before speaking them. The reality is each of us will give an account for the words we speak. That should remind us to speak fewer of them unless necessary. As a godly man once told me, “It is better to be quiet and have everyone wonder if you are wise or not than to open your mouth and remove all doubt that you are not.” Less is more!

COVID 19 UPDATE

I am happy to report all 11 regions of the State of Illinois are now in Phase 4. This means there can be gatherings of up to 50 people, or 50% room capacity (whichever is less). About 75% of our 120 churches around Illinois are now open, and others are in the planning stages to reopen soon. As you do, please continue to practice all safety protocols (wearing masks, social distancing, cleaning, etc.) and to pray for one another as we move forward with God’s mission in Illinois in 2021.

NEWS

- ☞ This Sabbath, February 20th, starting at 9:30 AM. Illinois Conference Online Convocation, “The Most Important Mission Field.” Our speaker will be Elder Claudio Consegrua, North American Division Family Ministries Director. Elder Glenn Hill will teach Sabbath School. You can view it on the Illinois Conference Facebook or YouTube pages.
- ☞ This past Sabbath, Illinois Conference Pathfinders participated in a virtual Pathfinder Synergy event. The theme? *Shout It Out!* Usually, this is a Northern Area event, but this year, the whole State came together with Pathfinders from Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois. As a pleasant surprise, joining this event was the Golden Eagles Pathfinder Club from Accra, Ghana. For the worship hour, Pastor Benjamin Lundquist from the Oregon Conference shared a message. In the afternoon, Pathfinders were able to share how they showed God’s love to their communities by taking part in an Outreach Hour. At the end of the day, it was time for *Pathfinder’s Got Talent* program, where Pathfinders and friends got to showcase the talents God has given them. To close out Synergy 2021, Pastor Jonathan Osorio from the Southeastern California Conference reminded our Pathfinders that we have a message to tell, so it’s time to get to work!



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- ☞ The Lake Union Executive Committee has voted to postpone its Constituency Session scheduled for May 2021 until May of 2022. For more information, please go to:
<https://www.lakeunionherald.org/archive/articles/lake-union-constituency-session-postponed>

RESOURCES

- ☞ Free Webinar on Leading Virtual Sabbath Schools, Sabbath, February 27, at 5 PM Eastern time. With today's demand for online worship, old methods won't work anymore. Take your virtual Sabbath School to the next level with this webinar presented by Curtis Hall, whose virtual Sabbath School forum attracts thousands of loyal viewers each week. Curtis has combined principles learned through years of Sabbath School leadership and training with new strategies developed through hosting virtual broadcasts. Space is limited, so sign up today! Go to: <https://sabbathschoolcoaching.com/register>
- ☞ NAD Health Ministries Launches "Joy of Eating" Club. This monthly meet-up is open to anyone interested in healthy eating. Join NAD Health Ministries on the third Thursday of each month, starting February 18 at 4 PM Eastern. The first meeting will cover the biblical foundation for a healthy diet and how we can apply those principles in our lives. Enjoy practical culinary tips and an exciting cooking demo featuring a delicious and nutritious recipe to inspire you in this journey. Learn more at: <https://nadhealth.org/healthyyou/joyofeating/club/>

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . Presidents' Day falls on the third Monday in February in the United States. It is also known as Washington's Birthday, after George Washington, the first president of the United States. The day is meant to celebrate George Washington and all the presidents of the U.S. It became a federal holiday in 1879.

"I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to divert men's minds to some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to salvation. This is made the absorbing theme, the "present truth," when all the investigations and suppositions only serve to make matters more obscure and to confuse the minds of some who ought to be seeking for oneness through sanctification of the truth."

—Ellen White, *Evangelism* page 182



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Illinois Conference of
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