



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

December 11,
2019



“She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.” Luke 2:37



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

*Making healthy
disciple-making
churches*

As I think about the story of Jesus, a person not noticed much in the story is the prophet Anna. She was eighty-four years old and became a widow after just seven years of marriage. Anna was from the ancient Israelite tribe of Asher, one of the ten tribes that had split away from the rule of King David’s line long ago (see 2 Chronicles 10). So, she represented a remnant of God’s followers from those earlier times, showing that God’s promise was for them too.

The Bible says Anna never left the temple but worshiped there night and day. Perhaps she noticed the commotion caused by Simeon—or maybe she, too, was “moved by the Spirit,” and suddenly she saw Jesus. By grace, her eyes of faith were opened to see that this child was the Christ, the Messiah, the awaited One, who fulfilled all of God’s promises. And immediately she began to give praise and thanks.

In two weeks, we will celebrate Christmas. I hope that you will take time during a season of good tidings and gift-giving, to remember the ultimate gift to the world, Jesus, and to proclaim to all who will listen that the Savior of the world has come. Have you stopped to give thanks because of God’s good news? Have you forgotten that in Him we have forgiveness of sins and hope for the future? Thank you, Jesus!

By the way, Anna immediately began telling others that, with this child, salvation had come. Many people today are looking for love that forgives and brings joy to their lives. Will you tell them that Jesus has come to do that?

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CHURCH VISIT

This past Sabbath, I had the opportunity to visit two of our Illinois Conference churches. In the morning, I worshipped at our South Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church, as part of the evangelism caravan with Pastor Alejandro Bullón. In the afternoon, I attended the second service of our Bolingbrook Church under the leadership of our new pastor there, Pastor David Ocegüera. What a joy to be able to see how God is moving throughout our Conference!

LAST CALL! Only 2 Spots Left!

It is not too late. We need to fill the bus. **Two places left.** Sign up now. The Illinois Conference is hosting a **Seven Churches of Revelation** trip to visit Greece and Turkey March 22-April 1, 2020. The highlights include Istanbul, Turkey, the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation (which are found in both Turkey and Greece), Athens, Greece, and a three-day cruise with stops on the Greek isles of Patmos, Crete, and Santorini. (We will be on Patmos on Sabbath). For more information and the registration form, please visit the home page of the Illinois Conference website: www.ilsda.org. Scroll down through the details to the links to the forms and documents at the end. To enroll, send your application directly to Gospel Travel. If you have any questions, contact Wanda Martinez at 919-577-0043.



NEWS

☞ Last week, I announced that Mike Daum, Illinois Conference treasurer, has announced he has accepted a call to work for the General Conference Auditing Service Lake District office in Berrien Springs, MI. I also neglected to mention that Jamie Daum, our assistant treasurer, and Conference clerk, has also accepted an invitation to work for the General Conference Auditing Service Lake District office. Jamie will begin her duties there at the end of January.

☞ I am excited to announce that our evangelism caravan throughout our Hispanic churches is bearing fruit. Baptisms are happening in every district, and people are coming forward and asking for Bible studies! Tonight, Pastor Alejandro Bullón will be at our Melrose Park Church. Below is the schedule for the rest of the caravan:

Thursday 7:30p	– Maranatha Hispanic Church
Friday 7:30p	– Central Hispanic Church
Saturday 9:30a	– Elgin Agape Church
Saturday 11a	– Lakeview Hispanic Church
Saturday 4p	– Soul Winning Festival for all Hispanic churches at Hinsdale Church
Sunday 7p	– Brazilian Community Church
Monday 7:30p	– Joliet Hispanic Church
Tuesday 7:30p	– Berwyn Hispanic Church

☞ Pastor Gabriel Bardan of the Elgin Seventh-day Adventist Church reports the following:
“The city of Elgin allowed us to use the beautiful mansion in the largest park in the city for an outreach project called, “Heal Elgin Clinic.” The city mayor came at 6:30 am to thank our 125 volunteers. Midwestern University, Chicago Dental Association, and Illinois Dental Association helped with volunteers and grants. We held a depression & anxiety recovery program that was well-received, as well as nutrition and cooking classes – in collaboration with local organizations. “Move Elgin,” our 10K and 5K Race in Elgin Downtown, is sponsored by the NFL Foundation. Additionally, we held a business meeting where we voted the new local mission statement,

the new strategy, and also voted to establish a center of influence (Recovery & Training Center).” It is so exciting to hear how God is moving in the Elgin Church.

FAITHFULNESS IN GIVING

As 2019 comes to an end and you consider your year-end giving, I want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving. For your information, *Online Giving*—the Adventist Giving App is now available at the Google Play and the iTunes App stores.

RESOURCES

- ☞ Check out the daily one-minute video devotionals by some of our Illinois Conference pastors on our Facebook page. Some people have requested to receive these devotionals on their cell phones. To get the devotionals, all you need to do is to text the word, **Devotional**, to 844-947-6582, and every day, at 5:30 pm, you will receive a link to the video devotional.
- ☞ 71.5 is a lifestyle magazine created by and for Seventh-day Adventist youth and young adults. It is dedicated to empowering young people to embrace their God-given gifts in His service. Articles cover health and wellness, art, music, and social aspects of our daily walk with Christ. For more information, go to: <https://www.715youthmag.com>

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . “Silent Night” is the most-recorded Christmas song in history, with over 733 different versions copyrighted since 1978?

*Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift,
that's why we call it the present. Suffering passes, while love is eternal.
That's a gift that you have received from God.
Don't waste it.”*

– Unknown



Check out our Facebook page at Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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