



FYI #187

June 9, 2021

A weekly e-newsletter for employees and friends of the
Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

RON AGUILERA

Illinois Conference President



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26

Nothing is more shocking, emotional, or final than the death of a loved one. Facing the death of someone you love—a child, a spouse, a parent, or a friend—is one of life’s most difficult experiences. Your head is spinning with thoughts, feelings, and emotions. You cannot grasp that you have had your last visit, conversation, meal, or holiday with your loved one. Your mind is flooded with things you wish you had said or done. You don’t feel ready to say goodbye, or to deal with the emotions you feel.

In the middle of this confusing and difficult time, I have found it helpful to remember a few simple truths. God uses these truths to help us understand what we are experiencing. See, you can’t prepare for the death of a loved one. Whether death results from a sudden accident, or a long illness, it always catches us unprepared. And death is so deeply emotional and shockingly final there is nothing you can do ahead of time that will help you in the moment of loss.

I want to remind us that death was not part of God’s original plan. One reason death is so hard to accept and understand is that it’s completely out of step with the life God planned for this world. The apostle Paul calls death our “enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). See, death is the enemy of everything good and beautiful about life; it is not God’s will. But also, death reminds us we live in a world that is broken; it’s not functioning according to God’s original design, where life was meant to give way to life, on into eternity.

The other truth is that God encourages us to mourn. Death was never meant to be. When we realize this, we will hunger for a final restoration of all things. We will long to live in a place where the last enemy, death, has been defeated. I am thankful that our Savior, Jesus, has taken another name, Emmanuel or “God with us.” He is with us, especially during difficult times. And I am thankful that the Bible shares about an upcoming day when all will be set right, and we will live without loss with the Father, who loves us. May that day come quickly!

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Stay In-the-Loop

Facebook	@ Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Email	president@ilcsda.org
Conference Calendar	www.ilcsda.org/calendar
Conference Address	619 Plainfield Rd Willowbrook IL 60527

COVID -19 Update

Recently, the governor of Illinois announced that all restrictions for gatherings, including church services, have been removed, and that the State of Illinois now moves into Phase 5. What does this mean? There are no longer any restrictions for church activities (church services, Sabbath School, potluck, etc). Churches can operate like they did before Covid. The only remaining protocol is the mask restriction for those not fully vaccinated. We recommend each church leadership work through how to implement this remaining protocol. May God bless us as we continue to do God's work here in Illinois.

Remembering Elder Justo Morales

It pains me to inform you that Elder Justo Morales, former Illinois Conference Hispanic Coordinator, was in a car accident Monday evening, and lost his life. His wife, Rosa, was with him and is in the hospital in critical condition. I ask you to lift the Morales family up in prayer during this very difficult time.



Hinsdale Fil-Am Senior Pastor

I want to announce that Elder Nestor Soriano has been hired to serve as the senior pastor of the Hinsdale Fil-Am church. Pastor Nestor is coming from Colorado and will be transitioning to the Illinois Conference starting in August. Welcome Pastor Nestor!

Family Camp Meeting

Camp meeting is approaching! This year's camp meeting theme is *Proclaiming Jesus Passionately*, and it will begin July 28 - 31 at Camp Akita in Gilson, IL. This is a time for you and your family to step away from the daily distractions and pressures and, instead, enjoy community, outdoor activities, and worship. You can plan to stay for the entirety of the meeting or for a portion. If you choose to stay for a few nights, lodging is available through Camp Akita cabins, nearby hotels, or by bringing your tent or RV.

We will be following CDC guidelines, which states that if you are not fully vaccinated (2 weeks after receiving the two-dose series COVID vaccine, or one-dose COVID vaccine), we ask that you wear a mask when in contact with others.

Registration will be open on Tuesday, June 15. For more information, refer to our website:

<https://www.ilcsda.org/departments/camp-meeting-2021>

DID YOU KNOW...

. . . Father's Day is the fourth most popular card-sending holiday in the U.S. behind Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day. Over 72 million cards are sent out on this special holiday to say, "I love you!"

NEWS, cont'd.

2021 Graduations

It's graduation season and families, educators, and the Illinois Conference are celebrating the accomplishments of the 2021 student classes. Here's a link to Hinsdale Adventist Academy's commencement service:

<https://tinyurl.com/yfc88mz6>

Congratulations to all our graduates!



Mental Health Counselor

Last year, thanks to a grant from the Center of Conflict Resolution, the Illinois Conference was able to provide a mental health counselor to our schools and students. I am very pleased to announce that this mental health support will continue during the 2021-2022 school. I want to welcome Dr. Jerry Pine to our team! He is a licensed Clinical Counselor and a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. He also has an Ed.S. in School Psychology and an M.Div from Andrews University. He was introduced to our teachers yesterday at the end-of-the-year training day. I am thankful for Dr. Jerry's willingness to serve. I know he will be a blessing to our schools.

RESOURCES

Resources from the NAD

The NAD Health Ministries Department offers a variety of resources to meet today's social, physical and psychological concerns. For more information, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/2eeyekj5>



“The Father’s presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord’s permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God’s workmen whereby good is brought to us.”

— Help In Daily Living, p. 30

