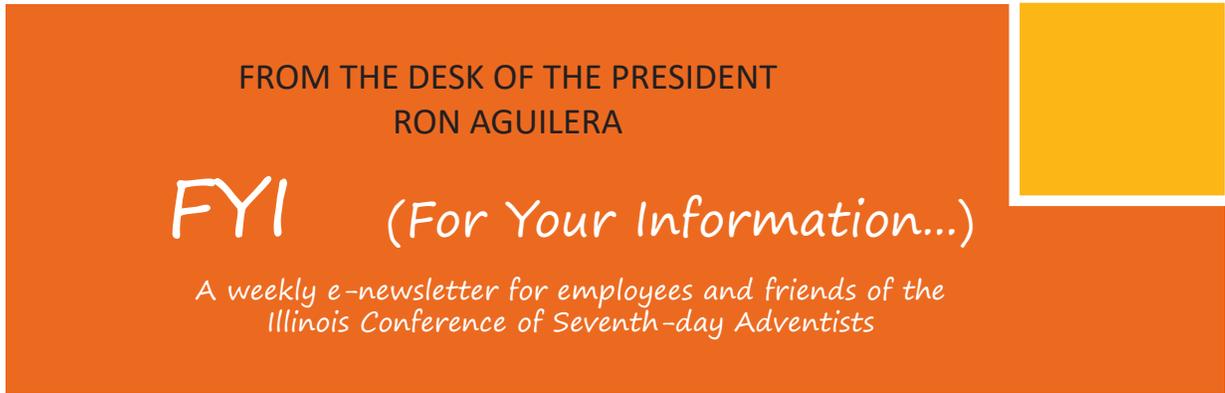




FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT  
RON AGUILERA

# FYI (For Your Information...)

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



July 31, 2019



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.” James 1:14–15*

When my children were young, they wanted all kinds of pets: rabbits, ducks, hamsters, iguanas...but when my daughter asked for a snake, I balked. There are a lot of different kind of snakes: boas, pythons, king snakes, garter snakes, corn snakes, and gopher snakes.

When I lived in Florida, my next-door neighbor had snakes, including a very large boa constrictor. When I talked to him about his snakes, he told me he had been bitten by many of his snakes. That’s because, unlike dogs, you never know what snakes are thinking. You know where you stand with dogs. If a dog likes you, he’ll wag his tail and lick you in the face. Even cats are more affectionate than snakes, which is saying a lot. But there’s no affection with a snake. The only reason a snake likes to be held by a human is because it’s a cold-blooded reptile and likes the warmth of human contact. This is why snakes often sun themselves on rocks and other things. They’re cold-blooded, and their brains are very small. So, a snake could be looking at you and thinking, “I may bite you, but I don’t really know what I’m going to do.” That’s a snake. There is no affection.

I read an article about a man who kept an eight-foot python named Tiny in his bedroom, along with nine other snakes. After the man was found dead in his room, the coroner concluded, “The most likely scenario is he was holding Tiny, and she was coiling around him. This man probably was strangled by his own snake, and that is tragic.”

In the same way, sin can creep into our lives and we think, “It’s a tiny sin. I can handle this. This will never get me.” Then the next thing we know, that “tiny” sin has strangled us. I challenge you to spend time on your knees each day and beware of “Tiny.”



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy  
disciple-making  
churches*

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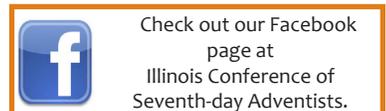
## I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

...Nicoleta Plamadeala. Pastor Samuel Negrea reports that on June 22, 2019, they celebrated the baptism of Nicoleta Plamadeala at Addison Romanian church. *Congratulations and blessings! All heaven rejoices when a decision is made for Christ!*



## ILLINOIS CONFERENCE FACEBOOK PAGE

I invite you to subscribe to the Illinois Conference Facebook page to receive the video devotional that is posted there every day. I think it will be a blessing to you. Feel free to share this with your friends and family. Check it out at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5f5p6hg>



## NEWS

☞ This past week we had pastors meetings at beautiful Camp Akita. The training time was led by Anthony WagenerSmith, Associate Director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute and Assistant Professor of Christian Ministry. His training focus on evangelism and church planting was excellent. My hope is that your pastors will be sharing this training with their local churches.



☞ Hope Channel will be live-streaming the Pathfinder Camporee from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Can't make it to Camporee? Host a Watch Party! Hope Channel will be providing a livestream of every nighttime program at the Camporee on their website at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6z9ntaq>

## RESOURCES

- ☞ Children's Sabbath 2019: God's Amazing Grace. Children's Sabbath is a day when kids have the opportunity to share the gospel in their own words, and this year's program focuses on how we are all part of God's big family. Children's Sabbath is scheduled for October 5, though you can host this program on any Sabbath that works for your church. Visit the NAD Children's Ministries website to download free materials for planning this program. For more information, go to: <https://www.childmin.org/childrenssabbath19>
- ☞ Secrets to Wellness, by Ernestine "Teenie" Finley  
Let's face it, there is no healing elixir that will magically make you healthy overnight. The key to improving health is making positive lifestyle choices. This book has easy to follow tips for wellness that you can put into practice immediately. Shop at: [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com)
- ☞ Everybody's talking about something, and there's no shortage of opinions. Just watch the daily news and to every issue, there are always many sides of a discussion. **14th and U** is a weekly show, fueled by the

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thoughts and opinions of real people who live and work around 14th and U streets in cities all around the world. Check out this podcast by Cliff Goldstein and Dwain Esmond at: [www.14thU.com](http://www.14thU.com).

## ***DID YOU KNOW . . .***

...according to the Gallup organization, the percentage of adults who are church members was 70% in the year 2000? In 2018, it dropped down to 50%.

*“Christ is coming the second time, with power unto salvation. To prepare human beings for this event, He has sent the first, second, and third angels’ messages. These angels represent those who receive the truth, and with power open the gospel to the world.”*

*E. G. White—Letter 79, 1900*

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