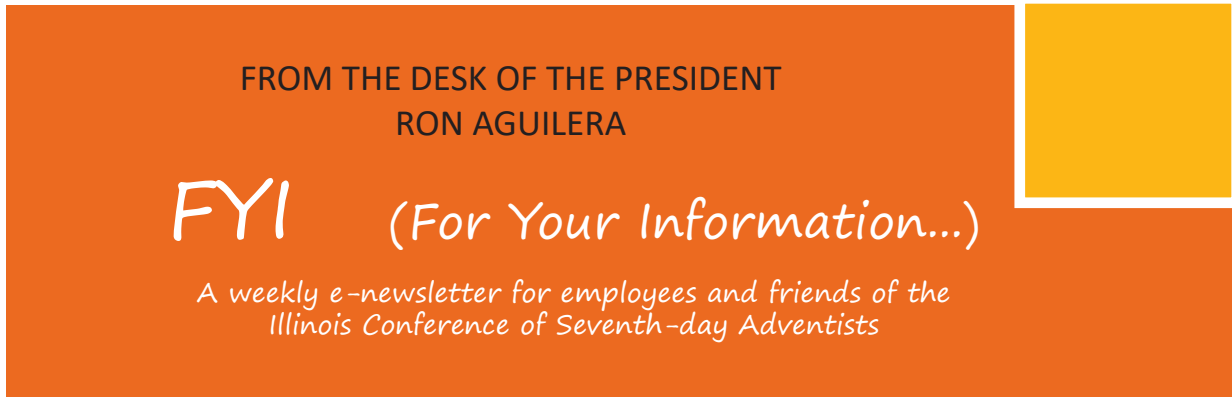




FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT
RON AGUILERA

FYI (For Your Information...)

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



July 17, 2019



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light." Luke 8:16



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

*Making healthy
disciple-making
churches*

The first paying job I ever had was apple picking at Sievers Orchard. After picking apples for hours, the Sievers would send me home with a couple of bags of apples. Afterwards, at home we'd enjoy apple-related meals, including my mother's apple sauce.

Later, after I went away to school, my mom would reminisce about the absence of those Macintosh apples. This was the memory that jumped to my mind a few days ago, as I was reading the book of Luke. Take a look at the following verses, *"And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"* Luke 13:6-9

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The simple truth is that there is not much use in a fruit tree that doesn't grow fruit, just like there isn't much use in a disciple of Jesus that isn't living out Jesus' teachings. God made us, the Church, to be people of growth and action. It is his desire that we constantly seek to mature in faith, and the way we do that is by being faithful to the mission Jesus has given us. It doesn't have to be anything big. Become a greeter at your church, make a new friend in your neighborhood, bring a meal to the couple that just had a baby, or share your faith with a co-worker. All that matters is if your heart is providing a harvest for God, because you never know what he'll do with the spiritual fruit you create.

July 17, 2019

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

...Pastor Joshua Sang-Gyu Seo, reports that the Chicago Unity Church, had baptisms on July 6th. All of heaven rejoices when a person gives their life to Jesus.

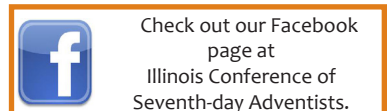
...Pastor Sam Indreiu reports that on Sabbath July 13, 2019, Adam Becerra was baptized and became the newest member of the Burbank Seventh-day Adventist Church. Congratulations, Adam!



ILLINOIS CONFERENCE FACEBOOK PAGE

I invite you to subscribe to the Illinois Conference Facebook page to receive the daily 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>



SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION TRIP

The Illinois Conference is planning a Bible lands trip to Greece and Turkey to see the sites of the seven churches of Revelation. If you are interested in more information about this trip, go to the Conference website at: www.ilcsda.org

This is a fantastic trip, with amazing locations, at a very reasonable price, with fellow Adventist church members. Sign up while there is still room. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Shona Cross at the Conference office.

NEWS

☞ The Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin is around the corner. Michael Campos, our Illinois Conference youth director tells me there will be over 1000 of us attending from the Illinois Conference. Pathfinder clubs, I hope you are ready!

Wondering what to expect at camporee? Check out this fun and informative video tour of the grounds! [Click here](#) to watch.

☞ On July 22, 2019, the Andrews University Department of Leadership will hold their ninth annual Leadership Conference in Newbold Auditorium, Buller Hall, on the campus of Andrews University. The conference, titled "Leadership, Organizational Culture & Innovation," was planned in partnership with Spectrum Health Lakeland. For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y45hujnn>

☞ Kenneth O. Cox, whose career as a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist spanned decades, continents, and time zones, passed to his rest on July 3, 2019 at the age of 84. For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y42pdlm2>

July 17, 2019

RESOURCES

☞ *New My Place with Jesus Bible Marking Stickers*

Ever need to do a quick Bible study but can't remember all the texts? Be prepared by marking your Bible with the My Place with Jesus Bible-marking stickers. No need for scissors with these easy, peel-and-stick labels. Each topic features 12 verses to chain reference for 22 major Bible topics. Equip yourself today with this awesome Bible study tool. For more, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y28ew9qu>

☞ It Is Written has a new program series, *Conspiracy: More Than A Theory*. Watch the trailer for this five-part series at: <https://tinyurl.com/y25x2psr>

DID YOU KNOW . . .

...Andrews University is one of only 139 universities and colleges around the world to be honored by *Exercise is Medicine*® for its efforts to create a culture of wellness on campus?

“The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages has been located by the word of Inspiration... These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been, and the things that will be.”

E. G. White—Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 26.

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter from the president's desk directly into your email please subscribe by following the link on the president's web page: www.ilcsda.org/president