



# FYI #194

August 5, 2021

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

RON AGUILERA

Illinois Conference President



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

Matthew 4:19

A friend of mine sent me this, so I thought I would share it with you:

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book *The Cost of Discipleship* is a classic of Christian thought. A German pastor and an opponent of Adolf Hitler, Bonhoeffer, wrote this book in 1937 just before the start of World War II. In it, Bonhoeffer challenged people to count the cost and make the decision to live as true disciples of Jesus. This stance cost him his life. Just as Bonhoeffer, we live in a time of great challenge. Our secular culture is out-discipling the church. More and more of us are at home in the world and alienated from paying the price to truly follow Jesus. As the pressure grows to accommodate our culture and fit in, we must resist. Jesus calls us to turn from the ways of the world in terms of accepting immorality, embracing self-indulgence, greed, and the like. Otherwise, we end up with cheap grace, which is an enemy of discipleship.

Bonhoeffer described the challenge succinctly: “*Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods.*” Like Bonhoeffer, we teach that Jesus rightfully requires sacrifices and ethical consistency from those whose lives and thoughts are truly inspired by his Gospel and those who imbue the spirit of Christian service and duty.

So, the question is that comes to my mind after reading this is: Will we pay the cost of discipleship today—in our personal lives, homes, churches, and in the world? Bonhoeffer put it this way: “*When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.*” True discipleship is costly because it costs a person their life, and it is gracious because it gives them true life. True discipleship is costly because it condemns sin, and it is gracious because it justifies the sinner.

Put simply, when you count the cost, you plan ahead. You take inventory of everything that needs to happen before you pursue a goal. You may not know every little detail that needs to be achieved in the process, but you have an attitude that says you will follow Jesus. Wherever Jesus calls me, I will go. Whatever the price, I am willing to pay it. The cost of discipleship is making the decision to pay the price to follow Jesus. More specifically, it’s recognizing the need to pay this price in multiple areas of life.

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### Stay In-the-Loop

Facebook	@Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Email	president@ilcsda.org
Conference Calendar	<a href="http://www.ilcsda.org/calendar">www.ilcsda.org/calendar</a>
Conference Address	619 Plainfield Rd Willowbrook IL 60527

## Welcome, Jazmin Martinez!

Jazmin Martinez is the new secretary for the Illinois Conference ministerial department. She takes over the role vacated by Christine Pena, who served in that capacity previously. She officially begins her duties this coming Monday, August 9th. Welcome to the Illinois Conference staff, Jazmin!

## A Successful Camp Meeting

I am happy to report that we held Illinois Conference Family Camp Meeting last week. It was a marvelous opportunity to be together, to worship and fellowship, and even experience two baptisms.



I also want to specially recognize the **Peter family from our Deer Park church**, who always faithfully attend and bring their smiles and good cheer to our time together.



## Do It Together-A virtual Sabbath School Convention-September 9-11

Do It Together - Sabbath School Convention 2021 is the first annual event of its kind, sponsored by the North American Division Adult, Children's and Youth Ministries focusing on doing Sabbath School together in a unified way. This virtual event is designed to train leaders for in service and to update teaching techniques and connection with student and teacher. Join us as we Do It Together!

To register, go to: [oneteamplaybook.org](https://oneteamplaybook.org)



## Save the Date for our Prayer Retreat

Plan now to join us for the Illinois Conference Prayer Retreat at Camp Akita, October 1-3. Our guest speakers will be Jim and Ingrid Moon. This year's theme is: "Ebenezer, A Missional Prayer Journey."

Save the date, registration information will follow soon.

## DID YOU KNOW...

... August 21st is Senior Citizens Day? The world has a substantial elderly population, and this population is expected to keep on growing. Experts estimate that by 2025, there will be over one billion people over 65.

## RESOURCES

### Coming, October 14-16, a Congress on Social Justice

The Congress on Social Justice is designed to bring attention to global issues of imbalance as well as the biblical solutions that address them. Discover the link between caring for creation in its fullness and beauty and proclaiming the Three Angels' Message of Revelation 14. This event is scheduled for October 14-16 on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Choose between in-person and virtual registration options.

For more, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/rstasr98>

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**“IF THERE WERE TWENTY WOMEN WHERE NOW THERE IS ONE, WHO WOULD MAKE THIS HOLY MISSION THEIR CHERISHED WORK, WE SHOULD SEE MANY MORE CONVERTED TO THE TRUTH. THE REFINING, SOFTENING INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN IS NEEDED IN THE GREAT WORK OF PREACHING THE TRUTH.”**

—Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 471, 472

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