

PROCLAIMING **Jesus**
PASSIONATELY

LUKE 4:18



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

February 10, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"We love each other because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Valentine's Day 2021 is around the corner. In our culture, it is a day we celebrate that special love in our lives. Valentine's Day was created with that celebration and recognition in mind. As we near this special day, it reminds me how easy it is to get wrapped up in the sweet celebration of love for each other and forget where all this love really came from.

"We love each other because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Valentine's Day should not be just about us. If we are as intentional about loving God as we are about loving each other, the whole day can bring glory to the Creator. So, how can we honor God on Valentine's Day?

One: Think about the ways He has shown His love for you. *"For God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only son..."* (John 3:16) A great activity as a couple, or family, is to write down a list of ways God has shown His love for you over the years. God's love for us becomes more apparent when we can see the evidence down on paper.

Two: Give a special gift to God in recognition of His love for you. Just as we give a special Valentine's Day gift to the one we love most, why not give a gift to the God who has given you everything, including His life? Consider giving a monetary gift to your church, or a double tithe for the month of February, or volunteering to help those in need and are precious to God. God loves gifts that go to further His work and mission in this world.

Three: Love each other. Love is a verb. Love your loved ones. Call your parents and in-laws. Go out of your way to serve your children and celebrate them. Do something special for your spouse. But also, reach out

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to someone that maybe is not as easy to love. “*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another*” (John 13:34). Be His hands and feet, share His love with someone else. *Never walk away from someone who needs help; for you may be the hand of God to that person.* (Proverbs 3:27)

This Valentine’s Day, as you celebrate your love with that special person in your life, don’t forget to show God together your love for Him and for those He loves!

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT . . .

. . . Josh Alabata, Physical Education Teacher and Coach at Hinsdale Adventist Academy, has been nominated for SDA Physical Education Teacher of the year for his commitment to teaching Adventist health principles.

COVID 19 UPDATE

I am happy to report all 11 regions of the State of Illinois are now in Phase 4. This means there can be gatherings of up to 50 people, or 50% room capacity (whichever is less). Most of our churches in Illinois have begun to open or plan to open in the next couple of weeks. As you do, please continue to practice all safety protocols (wearing masks, social distancing, cleaning, etc.) and to pray for one another as we move forward with God’s mission in Illinois.

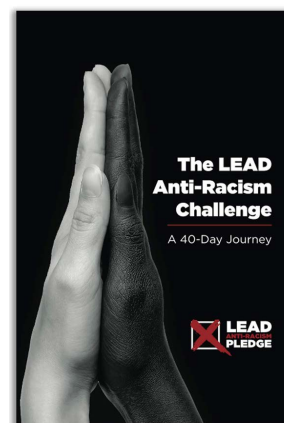
NEWS

Monday evening, the Lake Union Executive Committee voted to postpone its Constituency Session scheduled for May 2021 until May of 2022. This is NOT to be confused with the Illinois Conference Constituency, which happens every four years and is next scheduled for October of 2022. A Constituency Session handles items like the election of officers and directors, proposed changes in the Constitution and Bylaws, Elections of Executive Committee, etc.

RESOURCES

☞ *The LEAD Anti-Racism Challenge*, edited by Nicole Parker.
This book is for you if you are passionate about anti-racism and want to help lead a movement. Join a diverse group of writers on this 40-day devotional journey through stories, prayers, and radical growth. Your life will never be the same. Learn to: listen, embrace, advocate, and dream. “That we all may be one” is the authors’ earnest prayer. For more, go to: tinyurl.com/lpfz1mps

☞ PhoneFaith Offers Daily Call-in Inspiration.
PhoneFaith is a new outreach ministry from Christian Record Services for the Blind. Daily PhoneFaith dial-in presentations will inform, encourage, and inspire the mind, body, and spirit through mental health and wellness sessions, social meet-and-greet interactions, Bible games, and prayer time. Learn more at: <https://christianrecord.org/PhoneFaith/>



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DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . . According to Hallmark, 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged every February 14. This makes Valentine's Day the second biggest holiday for exchanging greeting cards after Christmas. Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards annually, followed by children, mothers, and wives.



Photo by Mockaroon on Unsplash

“It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”

—Ellen White, *Last Day Events* page 39



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Illinois Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists.

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