



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



October 9, 2019



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

John 10:10, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”*

Question: What challenge are you facing today? Maybe it’s the increasingly rapid pace of the life we are trying to live, which is causing problems for our relational, or physical, or mental, or spiritual growth. How is the speed of your life these days? Is life a blur? Are you moving too fast through life?

I once heard a wise man say, “If you want to live a life with God, you must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”

Have you ever watched NASCAR? Car racing. I am not a fan. To me, it looks like cars just going around in circles. And yet, I believe it is an apt metaphor for how many of us live our lives. Many of us live in a NASCAR world. Living at high speed, seemingly just going around in circles. Same thing, same place, day after day.

On top of this, we not only live fast, work fast, drive fast, and eat fast, but we view busy people with a sense of awe and prestige, as something to strive toward, to do more. In our capitalist culture, we honor them and value them for their speed, for all they accomplish. We, too, must do more, we think!

See, in our culture, a badge of honor question is, “Are you busy?” And, the busier we are, the more impressed we think people will be. And yet, I have discovered that much of the pain that people experience is connected to the pace of life they choose. Our pace, our inability to slow down, often leads to relational issues; there’s no time for spouses, kids, friendships...Or, it leads to health issues, not only physical problems but mental health, breakdowns, which leads to over-medication, which leads to addiction. And even more importantly, unhealthy pace of life and hurry leads to spiritual dryness, emptiness, and pain.



Seventh-day
Adventist® Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

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churches*

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I have a question for you today, “How many of you would say you struggle with your pace of life? I want to remind you that Jesus said, “I came that you might have life, life more abundant.” John 10:10 has become one of my life verses. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

Jesus wants us to have abundant life. Step one is slow down, to ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life, to create rhythms that add margin and health to every area of your life. If you don’t know how, your pastor can help you to establish rhythms that will help you live the life God wants you live, so you can have true life, the abundant life God wants for you today.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

There are only 10 spots left! The Illinois Conference is hosting a Seven Churches of Revelation trip to visit Greece and Turkey March 22-April 1, 2020. The highlights include Istanbul, Turkey, the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation (which are found in both Turkey and Greece), Athens, Greece, and a three-day cruise with stops on the Greek isles of Patmos, Crete, and Santorini. (We will be on Patmos on Sabbath). For more information and the registration form, please visit the home page of the Illinois Conference website: www.ilcsda.org. Scroll all the way down through the details to the links to the forms and documents at the end. To enroll, send your application directly to Gospel Travel. If you have any questions, contact Wanda Martinez at 919-577-0043.



CHURCH VISIT

This past Sabbath, I had the opportunity to worship at Camp Akita with all those who attended the Illinois Conference Prayer Retreat. Our guest speaker, former Illinois Conference pastor, Peter Neri (who now is a pastor in Las Vegas), talked to us about approaching the throne of God and spiritual warfare praying. They were excellent presentations!

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

NEWS

☞ Ron Huff, our Educational Superintendent, reports that the enrollment for our ten schools here in Illinois is up from last year, 456 this year, compared to 438 last year. I am also very pleased to hear that Hinsdale Adventist Academy’s enrollment is up to 170 students.

☞ Friday and Sabbath, October 25th and 26th, the Elmhurst SDA church will be celebrating its 50th anniversary! Former Pastor Glenn Hill will be leading out in Sabbath School, and Elder Maurice Valentine, Lake Union President, will be the sermon speaker. I am looking forward to this time of celebration. For more information, check out the Elmhurst SDA church Facebook page.

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EVANGELISM/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

One of our four pillars here in the Illinois Conference is Evangelism. Here is an upcoming opportunity I hope you will take advantage of: The Voice of Prophecy (Shawn Boonstra) is launching a new weekend documentary series entitled, “The Final Empire.” The event will be available to all churches across North America as a direct-to-church opportunity. The series will capture the fragility of religious freedoms, equality, and the United States in prophecy. For more information and free resource kit, explore www.FinalEmpire.com/host or call 888-744-1958. This event takes place from January 23-25, 2020.

RESOURCES



- ☞ Check out It Is Written TV at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3kwblnn> and watch, “Lawless.” The beautiful islands of the Bahamas were once home to pirates like the notorious Blackbeard, whose lawless reign of terror on the high seas struck fear into countless hearts. Lawlessness exists today—and it even exists in the church! Join John Bradshaw on location in the Bahamas and discover the origin of lawlessness, the reason it thrives today, and the Bible’s prescription for living in harmony with God.
- ☞ *Jesus in Samaria*, by Kirk King. *Jesus in Samaria* looks at the process that transforms skeptics into believers. Just like the woman at the well, we cannot see who Jesus really is until we allow him through our personal barriers. If we choose to trust Jesus, He will open our hearts and minds to the transformative power of His love. That’s what this Bible study is about: welcoming Jesus into our lives and proclaiming His saving grace. To purchase, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yxuxop9d>
- ☞ The Pacific Press and Jesus 101 have just released the 2020 Daily Devotional Book, “Jesus Wins!” Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director for the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, has authored this newly released 2020 daily devotional book for adults. Revisit the stories of Jesus and His followers in this life-changing daily devotional. Available now at www.adventistbookcenter.com and www.Jesus101.tv

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . Creation Health is now Creation Life? For more information about how to enter into a path of health and wholeness, go to: www.creationlife.com

“Ordained ministers alone are not equal to the task of warning the great cities. God is calling not only upon ministers, but also upon physicians, nurses, colporteurs, Bible workers, and other consecrated laymen of varied talent who have a knowledge of the word of God and who know the power of His grace, to consider the needs of the unwarned cities. Time is rapidly passing, and there is much to be done. Every agency must be set in operation, that present opportunities may be wisely improved.”

– Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 158. (1911)