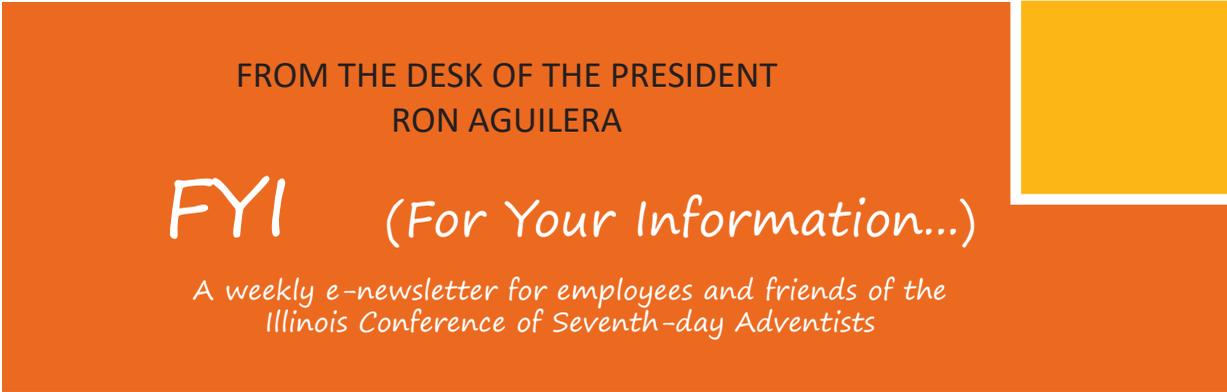


FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT  
RON AGUILERA

# FYI (For Your Information...)

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



January 23, 2019



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

Spending time with God.

Jesus regularly demonstrated the importance of spending time alone with God. Whether it was getting up early to start His day with prayer or going to His Father in the midst of incredible stress and uncertainty, Jesus believed in the importance of putting His Father first. And if Jesus did it, so should we. But, where do we start?

If tomorrow you had an important meeting with your boss, wouldn't you make every effort to show-up? So why do we regularly ignore or postpone our appointments with God? Is it because we are too busy, or, easily distracted, or maybe just lazy? I love what the late Justice Scalia said to his clerk when he invited him to church. "I'm just too busy," his clerk said. Scalia replied, "Well, I'll tell the creator of the universe that you were, "Too busy to see Him."

We should ask God to give us a desire to show up and meet with Him. For Jesus, the time was in the morning before the day even got underway. For many with young kids, the mornings can be chaotic. Maybe the ideal time is during nap time or in the evenings. Also, choose a place that is quiet and free from distraction: maybe an office, study, or bedroom. Choose a devotional guide to get started. Think of it like a spiritual warm-up – to help you focus.

Then, pray. Prayer is simply pouring our hearts out to God. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13) is a great model to get started: it involves praise, praying for others, confession, telling Him our needs, and asking for forgiveness and strength in the face of temptation. Also, during prayer, are you listening? Or, simply doing all the talking? If we want to hear from God, we have to listen. By the way, most of the time, God speaks to us through



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ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

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His Word. Beginning today, commit to a daily time with God. Don't let distractions or responsibilities get in the way; make God your first priority and see what He has to say. It can literally change your life!

## **TEN DAYS OF PRAYER**

The North American Division's focus on prayer just concluded (January 9-19). Why don't you start your own? Better yet, invite others to join you. The resources are still available at <https://www.tendaysofprayer.org>

## **PRAYER FOCUS**

Speaking of prayer, I invite you to pray for healing for Mel Palmer (stomach cancer), a longtime member of the Hinsdale church. He has gone to Jamaica for wholistic treatment. Pray for healing, peace, and an unshakable faith in our God of power and miracles.

## **I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...**

...the Hinsdale Fil-AM church. They have registered 106 slots for the upcoming Oshkosh Pathfinder Camporee (August 12-17, 2019). That is the 9th highest total of any church in North America.

## **NEWS**

☞ Last April, the Hinsdale Fil-Am church held Community Health Outreach at the Glendale Heights Community Center. The people and the community were truly blessed by their service. Here is a link to a short video highlighting the event. <https://vimeo.com/presencehealth/review/292991554/e5ab17a60c>

Vision Care: 56 people received eye exams, 41 pairs of glasses provided

Dental Care: 125 people served, 66 x-rays taken, 79 people had teeth cleaned, 24 teeth extracted, and 31 fillings placed.

Total value for these two departments services (donated)? \$54,900

Here is a quote from Dr. Randy Griffin, DDS, "The Hinsdale Fil-Am church Expo was one of the best organized and operated that I have seen at these events. I know many people received tips and info on how to live a healthier lifestyle, but more importantly, I know they were touched and shown the love of Jesus by those volunteering! Looking forward to working with the Hinsdale Fil-Am church again next year!!"

The Hinsdale Fil-Am church is planning to host another event on April 9, 2019. And, to mentor the Glen Ellyn and La Grange SDA churches. Way to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Hinsdale Fil-Am! And, way to go on helping other churches!

☞ :I love it when our churches catch the vision and seek to accomplish the mission God has given us. One of those churches is the Champaign SDA church. Check out their end of the year video and see some of the things God did through them in 2018. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xHMA2y3pCKQ>



## RESOURCES

☞ You might be interested in a study on why young adults drop out of church. Check it out at:  
<https://lifewayresearch.com/2019/01/15/most-teenagers-drop-out-of-church-as-young-adults>

☞ A launch rally of the new Rise Up Against Abuse initiative will be held on the campus of Andrews University from March 7–10, 2019. Registration now open: [www.riseupagainstabuse.com/rally/registration.html](http://www.riseupagainstabuse.com/rally/registration.html). Rise Up Against Abuse is an initiative focused on taking action against all forms of abuse through awareness, education, intervention and prevention.

☞ NAD Stewardship is launching an awareness campaign, *I am a Steward*. It is a promotional campaign for the AdventistGiving app. The campaign will increase awareness of the AdventistGiving App and grow viewers understanding of stewardship by using personal stories. This series will equip and inspire the church by providing them with visuals that communicate stewardship through real-life stories. For more information, visit What is a Steward? at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y9cxexq4>

## DID YOU KNOW. . .

... Andrew Mikolajczyk, a member of the Polish SDA church, attended the Illinois Inauguration in Springfield on Monday, January 14th, 2019? He reported that there was the Interfaith Inauguration Service that focused on praying for the leaders of our country

The increased awareness of a need for prayer is encouraging to me.



*“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” Revelation 3:21;*

*“And they overcame by the blood of the Lamb, and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.” Revelation 12:11*



Check out our Facebook page at Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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](http://www.ilcsda.org/president)