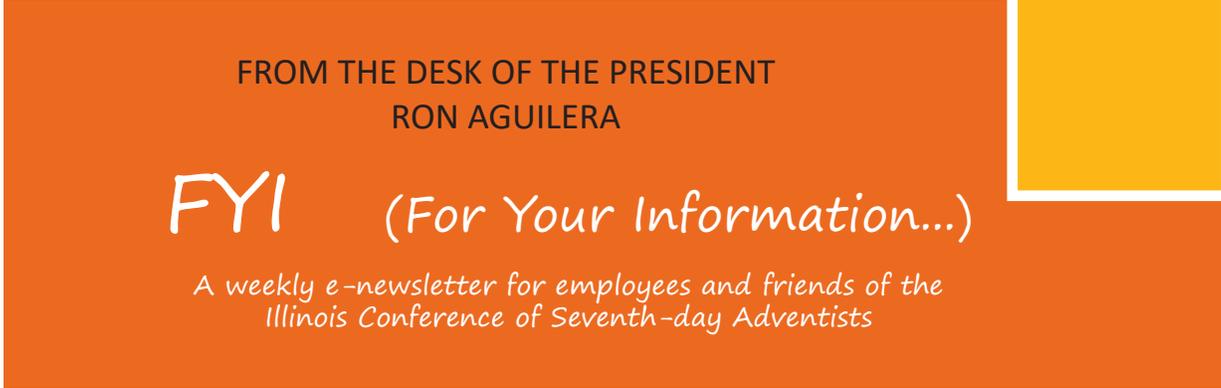




FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT  
RON AGUILERA

# FYI (For Your Information...)

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



August 21, 2019



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“International Pathfinder Camporee 2019 theme text: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV).*



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

Making healthy  
disciple-making  
churches

You can contact me  
by writing:  
Illinois Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
619 Plainfield Road  
Willowbrook IL 60527

by email:  
president@ilcsda.org

by phone:  
630-856-2880

In this text, Peter uses wording from Exodus 19:5–6, where God told the children of Israel, *“if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* But here, in 1st Peter, Peter writes to a primarily Gentile audience, and he applies it to those *“who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”* Peter is making the point that Gentile believers are also God’s chosen race during this age—the time of the Gentiles.

We, as believers, Jew or Gentile, enjoy a special relationship with God. We are *“His own special people.”* As Seventh-day Adventists, we too believe we are God’s special people with a special message. And as such, we have the great honor of praising Him here on earth and on into eternity. We have been delivered from a spiritual darkness of ignorance, error, sin, and misery; and now, though His mercy given to us, we walk in His marvelous light.

Roy Plunkett invented Teflon, the coating found on nonstick pans, somewhat by chance in 1938. According to the *“History of Teflon,”* the material turned out to *“be inert to virtually all chemicals”* and *“the most slippery material in existence.”* Teflon is so slippery that virtually nothing sticks to it or is absorbed by it. Perhaps it is a stretch, but it seems that Teflon could be seen as an illustration of the Holy Spirit’s effect on sin in a believer’s life. Yes, certainly we can and do occasionally fall into sin, but His presence and control over our

August 21, 2019

lives give us a stick-free surface. Through humble repentance we can be kept free from contamination. Is that something we somehow earned? No. Peter says we are the people of God who “now have obtained mercy.”

That is a reminder for today and each day. We are God’s people, called out of darkness, to share the marvelous light, the Good News, that Jesus is coming soon! May it be so!

## ILLINOIS CONFERENCE FACEBOOK PAGE

Our daily video devotionals ARE BACK! Go to the Illinois Conference Facebook page to check it out, and subscribe, and share it with your friends and family. You can find it at: <https://tinyurl.com/yyp7bvf>.



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

## NEWS

☞ School started this week. Our Illinois Conference schools are up and running, but it is not too late to enroll your child. I trust that we all share the same desire to support and benefit from Adventist Christian Education. the video link provided below will give you a sense of what is happening in our schools: <https://vimeo.com/350997153>

☞ Last week, about 57,000 Pathfinders, including over 1100 from the Illinois Conference, had a wonderful time at the International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Clubs from more than 100 countries gathered at this once-every-five-years event last week. The theme for 2019 was “Chosen.”

During the day, Pathfinders earned honors, traded pins, performed community service, tried a wide variety of fun activities, demonstrated their marching skills, and made friends. Each evening, they worshiped, heard a message from the pastor, and watched an ongoing play about the life of the Bible character David. This year, the Illinois Conference had 8 Pathfinders have the unforgettable experience of being baptized at Oshkosh.



☞ **Town Hall Meetings are coming to your area!** I am looking forward to being you at our town hall meetings. I will be sharing a Conference update, as well as talking about our next Camp Akita project. Below are the dates and locations for each of our six areas. These town hall meetings are open to all Illinois Conference church members.

Area 1 - Thompsonville SDA Church. Tuesday, September 3rd, 7 pm.

Area 2 – All Nations SDA Church (Bloomington/Normal). Wednesday, September 4th, 7 pm.

Area 3 – Princeton SDA Church. Thursday, September 5th, 7 pm.

**Area 4 – Northbrook SDA Church. Thursday, August 22nd, 7 pm. This week!**

Area 5 – Bolingbrook SDA Church. Monday, August 26th, at 7 pm.

Area 6 - West Suburban SDA Church. Tuesday, August 27, 7 pm.

☞ Pastor Jason Salyers has accepted the invitation to serve as the senior pastor of the Hinsdale SDA Church. Pastor Salyers and his wife, Mindy, and two daughters will transition to Illinois from Minnesota over the next few weeks. Welcome, Pastor Jason, Mindy, and family to Chicagoland!

☞ Are you planning to attend next summer’s General Conference Session in Indianapolis, Indiana? It will be held June

August 21, 2019

25-July 4, 2020, at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium. Check out the event's website for lots of helpful information: [www.session.adventist.org](http://www.session.adventist.org).

## RESOURCES

- ☞ EQUIP: Putting Your Spiritual Gifts into Action, by Curtis Rittenour  
EQUIP is much more than a spiritual gifts assessment seminar. It is a complete guide for your church to start a system of matching each member to a ministry where they have the gifts and passion to thrive. This seminar outlines a 12-month cycle that your church can implement each year. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yx9vryps>

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

... you can get help with writing a will or a trust at the Illinois Conference office? Contact Arek Bojko at the Conference office (630) 856-2870 for more information.

*“It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity.”*

*– Ellen G. White, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, p.73*

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)