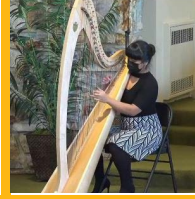




PROCLAIMING **Jesus** PASSIONATELY

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

January 27, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?” Psalm 8:3-4a

This past week, as I was reading through the Psalms. I stopped at Psalm 8. What caught my attention is the text above...especially, *“What is man that you are mindful of him?”* It stopped me. Who am I that God would be so concerned about me? And yet, He is.

The Psalmist, David, prefaces that question by writing, *“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place...”* I imagine David out under the stars at night watching his sheep. The stars are brilliant, and the moon is in its full phase. Clearly, he felt, as we have all felt as we have stood under the stars at night, a sense of mystery and awe as he looked up into the star-spangled heavens. He realized the beauty of nature and its silent witness to God.

I remember as an 8-year-old watching, on our 11” black and white TV, man’s first steps on the moon and being amazed. Yes, astronauts have been physically able to walk on the same moon that David could observe only from a distance, and we have learned much about the stars, and yet, all the knowledge that has been gained about the universe in which we live only serves to deepen our sense of awe of the tremendous wisdom and power of God.

As he looks to the sky, David faces the inevitable question that comes to those who contemplate God’s greatness. “What is man,” he asks, “in the sight of a God who could make a universe like this?” You will recognize this is the question that cries for an answer in our day. The psalmist, David, goes on to answer his own question: *“You made him a little lower*



Seventh-day
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*Making healthy
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than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor” (Psalm 8:5). Man, mankind, you and I, have a unique relationship to God. We were made to be a little less than God. See, mankind was to be the instrument by which God would do His work in the world and the expression of the character and being of God. Man is the creature nearest to God, because of Jesus... There is none other nearer, for God Himself was to live in man. That is the revelation of the Bible. That God, in Jesus, became a man, to redeem us and return us to the right hand of the Father. This is His promise; He will come back, to take us to be with Him...soon. May it be so!

COVID-19 UPDATE

The good news is that the COVID-19 positivity rate has been going down, and some areas of our state are beginning to open up. Today, 10 of the 11 regions in our state have gone to Tier 1, which allows for gatherings of 25 or less, and some regions are at gatherings of 50 or less. As you plan for the future, please check with your region regularly as things change daily. If you have any questions, please contact Elder John Gry, Illinois Conference Executive Secretary.

NEWS

- ☞ This past Sabbath was our Conference Sabbath for Hispanic Churches. In the afternoon, I had an opportunity to meet (virtually) with the elders of our Hispanic churches to discuss our mission, our Conference Theme for 2021, and COVID and its effect on our Conference.
- ☞ Save the date! Our next Illinois Conference Sabbath will be February 20th. The theme? *Proclaiming Jesus in, with, and to our Families*. More information about this Sabbath event is coming soon!
- ☞ From Pastor Adrian Amarandei—“**LOVE IN ANY LANGUAGE, February 14-19 at 7 PM**, is a series of six conversations proclaiming the Love of God for His children. Beginning on Valentine’s Day, Sunday, February 14, for six consecutive nights, we will build upon the 5 Love Languages from Gary Chapman’s book and look at how God is speaking to us and helping us to relearn the love language by example. Following Him results in us manifesting the same love and consideration toward those around us, starting within our immediate circle. This series of conversations is a partnership between five pastors in the Chicagoland area. The conversations will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube starting at 7 PM.”

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/hoperoute4u/live>

YT: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSwqcFNkJubI1buQUc_rImw/live

RESOURCES

- ☞ From Advent Source--We have been busy adding lots of new downloads to our store! From health ministries presentations and books on discipleship to evangelistic seminars and Adventurer Club award requirements and activities. Shop our eFiles tab to find new resources you can purchase and immediately download.
Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y3g6yhwp>
- ☞ Free Webinar: Financial Empowerment - Exiting Poverty Through Asset Building
Many people are struggling in a cycle of poverty. Join Adventist Community Services for a free webinar on Thursday, February 4, at 2:00 PM Eastern to explore the principles of financial empowerment as well as practical tools you can use in your ministry. This webinar is open to Adventist Community Services volunteers, pastors, elders, anyone interested in community outreach ministry.
Learn more at: <https://www.communityservices.org/events/>

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DID YOU KNOW...

... the 2024 International Camporee Executive Advisory Committee voted a change of location for the 2024 Believe the Promise Camporee from Oshkosh, Wisconsin to Gillette, Wyoming, and new dates of August 5-11, 2024.

“I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to divert men’s minds to some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to salvation. This is made the absorbing theme, the “present truth,” when all the investigations and suppositions only serve to make matters more obscure and to confuse the minds of some who ought to be seeking for oneness through sanctification of the truth”

—Ellen White, *Evangelism* page 182.



Check out our Facebook page

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 to the president’s web page:

www.ilcsda.org/president