

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 20, 2021



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer."* Psalm 61:1

Psalm 61 was written by David at a time when he was far from home and safety and feeling the weight of the challenges before him. So, it is no surprise that the psalm begins with his desperate cry to God.

*"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer."*

David is struggling. "My heart is overwhelmed!" he tells the Lord. If we are honest, many of us can relate to, can identify with, the feelings of David. We know what it is like to sit in darkness and wonder if light will ever come. When will my health issues improve? When will COVID end? When will I get a job? Will I be able to pay my bills this week? Maybe that is where you find yourself today.

I want to point out that in his trouble, David calls out to God in prayer. He knows the only way he can find rest and safety is in the Rock of Salvation. The only way he can find rest and safety is if God reaches down and places him atop the rock. See, in God, David has always found shelter. In God, he has found rest, comfort, and retreat. So why would he not, in his darkest moments, cry out to God, who is his "rock," his hiding place, and his fortress? And as he cries out, David finds comfort in God's grace and care.

Sometimes, when our hearts are overwhelmed, the best thing we can do is cry out to God and ask that in our desperation and fear, God would place us on stable ground, that God would comfort us and lead us to safety, that God would shelter us and deliver us. What is overwhelming you in this season of cold and winter and taxes and COVID and racial injustice and political turmoil? What weighs heavy on your heart?

Hopefully, the words of this song and Psalm will bring you comfort, and a small amount of peace, as you remember that when your heart is overwhelmed, you can always find rest in God, your rock. May you sense His presence today!

 Seventh-day  
Adventist<sup>®</sup> Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy  
disciple-making  
churches*

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## 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. As of today, several of our state regions have gone to Tier 1, which allows for gatherings of 25 or less. Please check with your region regularly as things change daily. In the meantime, please continue to err on the side of caution. I hope that we will be able to slowly begin to open over the next few weeks with continued caution.

Also, I ask you to join me in praying for members of our churches who have been affected and infected by COVID, including some of our pastors, teachers, and office staff. Also, some of our members have lost loved ones to COVID.

## NEWS

- ☞ This past Sabbath was our Conference Sabbath for January 2021. If you missed it, you can go to the Illinois Conference Facebook page at: (<https://www.facebook.com/illinoisconferencesda>) or Illinois Conference YouTube channel at: (<https://www.youtube.com/c/illinoisconferencesda/videos>) and watch it and share it with others.
- ☞ 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 coming soon! Save the date!
- ☞ Our Chicago Unity and Central Korean churches will be hosting an online health and Bible prophecy seminar from January 22-30. This seminar is organized by “It Is Written Korea.” The Korean Church Association NAD signed an agreement with It Is Written to launch “It Is Written Korea.” This seminar is its first event. The speaker for this Bible prophecy seminar is our very own Pastor Joshua Seo.
- ☞ Ken Bacon has been named president and CEO for AdventHealth’s Multi-State Division, effective March 1. In his new role, Bacon will oversee the strategic direction, development, and expansion of the entire division, which spans five regions, including our four Adventist hospitals here in the Chicagoland area.

## RESOURCES

- ☞ On Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. (EST), the Andrews University Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry will host an online presentation by Kizzmekia Shanta Corbett, Ph.D., senior research fellow and team lead for coronavirus research within the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory (VPL) at the Vaccine Research Center, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Corbett will address the safety and effectiveness of the coronavirus vaccines. To join, go to: <https://andrews.zoom.us/j/98288823271?pwd=cC9POFhnWkNKRUtDSEXuUFRiUDhmQT09>
- ☞ Free Online Bible Studies from [truth]LINK  
Our world is filled with misinformation about God that has many people running from Him in fear. [truth]LINK is a unique Bible study experience that achieves a high level of doctrinal clarity while showing how God’s love is central to every biblical truth. This site features easy-to-understand online Bible studies covering 28 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s beliefs in a systematic, topical format. Learn more at: <https://truthlink.org>

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## DID YOU KNOW...

... that the Illinois Conference provides a free will and trust service for its members? For more information, contact our planned giving director, Elder Arek Bojko, at [abojko@ilcsda.org](mailto:abojko@ilcsda.org)

*“The world is not without a ruler. The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations as well as the concerns of His church in His own charge.”*

—Ellen White, *Last Day Events* page 29.



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Illinois Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists.

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