



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



April 24, 2019



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” Matthew 25:32*



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

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy  
disciple-making  
churches*

Recently, I was reading through the Gospel of Matthew and ran across this text. It is part of a sermon Jesus told regarding the time of the end. It reminded me I must always remember that one day Jesus will return. This will be a day of ultimate rejoicing, but only for those who have put their faith in Jesus. It will be a terrible day of judgement for the rest. That’s what Jesus is speaking about in this unusual parable about sheep and goats.

On that final day, people will no longer be known by nationality, language, race, or ethnicity. Rather, Jesus will divide mankind into two groups. The “sheep” group (verse 34), which refers to the heirs of God’s Kingdom. These “sheep,” as Jesus calls them, are full recipients to all their heavenly Father’s blessings and eternity with God in heaven.

To those in the “goat” category, well, the parable doesn’t end well for them. This is everyone else; those who choose their OWN will over God’s. (Again, this is their choice, not God’s.) They will be facing eternal separation from God.

But there’s good news! Jesus shared this parable so that we might choose faith. So that we might chose Him. He is giving everyone the opportunity to be adopted into our heavenly Father’s kingdom. This is an incredible gift that we can accept through faith in Jesus Christ. And, we get to share this with others!

So, are you a sheep or a goat? When mankind faces God’s ultimate judgement day, in which group will you be?

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April 24, 2019

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

...the Southern Illinois Division ACS Disaster Response Agency. They will be holding a Chainsaw Operators Certification Class on Sunday, May 5, 2019, beginning at 9AM. Thanks for all you are doing to represent Jesus well!



## *CHURCH VISIT*

This past Sabbath, I had the opportunity to preach at the Downers Grove church. What a blessing to worship and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! I especially appreciated the praise music, led by Esteban Linares, as well as the Easter medley, and special music (by the Rivera family). Lori and I were blessed!



## *STEWARDSHIP FOCUS*

Here is a video produced by the North American Division that is helpful in answering the following questions:

1. Does the tithe have a specific percentage?
2. Is there a specific system of delivering it?
3. Is there an exclusive use for the tithe?

This video titled, "The Truth about Tithe" is available at: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/the-truth-about-tithe>

## *NEWS*

☞ World Church News. A new documentary highlighting the early beginnings of Adventism in the British Isles was recently released by the British Union Conference media department. To see the 30-minute film, "A Story of Perseverance," go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y5mdg2g7>

☞ Do you have any nursing professionals in your church, or within your community? Here is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate them. Nurses' Appreciation Day is coming up! On Sabbath, May 4, at 4:30 p.m., NAD Health Ministries will help celebrate Nurses' Appreciation Day at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. [Click here](#) for more information.

April 24, 2019

## RESOURCES

☞ Have you checked out The Haystack TV? The Haystack blends faith and culture with articles and videos with a focus on encouraging conversations and creative thinking for Seventh-day Adventist Millennials. Join The Haystack community and enjoy digital content on a daily basis. Learn more at: <https://www.thehaystack.org>

☞ Looking for Money Management Resources? Check out “He Came to My House” by Tracy B. John. This workbook features four practical presentations for Christian money management. It is excellent for a small group study or to conduct a stewardship weekend for your church. Corresponding PowerPoint presentations are available at NADStewardship.org. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yydngrq7>

☞ Looking for a Vacation Bible School Resource? Check out Jamii Kingdom VBS at: <https://www.adventistvbs.org>. It is a new VBS where kids will have fun exploring an African savanna while making friends and learning how we are all part of God’s big family. Christ-centered activities will introduce kids to the plan of salvation and how we can share the Good News with others.

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

...The Taksim Seventh-day Adventist Church in Istanbul, Turkey was re-opened and re-dedicated February 16, 2019, following 50 years of attempts by the Church to regain the title to this historic property. God is moving all around the world!

*“The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come.”*

– Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* page 787



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