

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE  
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT



*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

Isaiah 43:18-19

A new year always get me thinking, "What will God do in 2022?" I believe God is wanting to do something "new" and yet many of us are still stuck in the "old." It's hard at times to let go of what's familiar, and what we know. It seems easier to stay "comfortable," to just keep going with the flow, not to mess anything up. But then "new" happens, and often sends us spiraling. For those who like change, "new" is mostly exciting. For those who don't like change, "new" is mostly stressful.

But here's what I love about God. He thinks and works outside our own box of thinking. He doesn't always work in the ways that we would have chosen for our "new." He sees the big picture and I trust that He knows what He's doing. He works behind the scenes, in the places where we can't always see or understand all the "why's." But we can trust that He has our best in mind; that He's got our back. He's with us right now and He's secured our future too.

Sometimes our "new" comes out of great blessing or new opportunities. Sometimes it comes through great pain or huge loss. People move, life happens, decisions are made, many change jobs, kids grow up, and there are times we might go through some really tough struggles. We may even start to feel cheated, maybe even think life is unfair. But, one thing is clear to me, God is not finished with our lives yet. You're still here. He has great purpose in all that you walk through, even in every life change and season. Whether we recognize it or not, we're rubbing shoulders every day with people that we needed to meet, maybe to share with them who God is to us.

If you find yourself in a "new" season right now or you're struggling to find the good in changing and difficult times, be assured that God has the best in store for you. Choose to trust that He's working on your behalf today, even in ways you may not fully see or understand.

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### Stay Connected

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# NEWS

## Following Jesus Faithfully Banners

Banners displaying our 2022 Conference theme will be available to each church starting next week. Banners will be available in multiple languages, settings (Chicago, downstate Illinois), and even for children.



## The Great Adventure

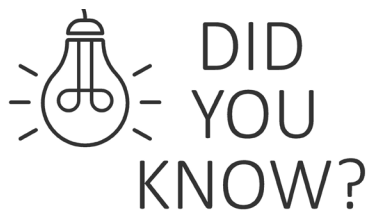
We are planning now to have Camp Akita open this summer. Plan now to attend Summer Camp 2022, "The Great Adventure". Look for more information on our website soon. In the meantime, the youth department is looking for young people, 18 and older, to join our Summer Camp team. Visit [campakita.com/apply](https://campakita.com/apply) to submit your application today, or contact our Youth Department via phone (630) 716-3555 or email [youthdept@ilcsda.org](mailto:youthdept@ilcsda.org)



[campakita.com/apply](https://campakita.com/apply)

## Did you know we have a free service for your planning needs through our Trust Services Department?

Life circumstances are ever-changing. There is a good chance that the provisions made in your estate documents several years ago, either in your Last Will and Testament or Trust Agreement, do not best reflect your current life situation. These documents can be revised to be in better alignment with your current life situation. If you are not sure when you last revised your documents, please contact the Illinois Conference Trust Department. It will be our pleasure to assist you!



### Here's who to contact!

Arkadiusz Bojko, Trust Services Director  
Phone: 630-480-4765,  
Email: [trust@ilcsda.org](mailto:trust@ilcsda.org)



# RESOURCES

## Resources for Youth Sabbath School Leaders

Youth Sabbath School Ideas provides free youth Sabbath School lesson helps. Visit the site to find ideas for leading Sabbath School discussions online or in person, plus weekly discussion starter videos, multiple lesson plans, application ideas, and more. To sign up, go to: <https://mailchi.mp/c36518d54311/yss-sign-up-page>



## “Before They Volunteer”

It is a great joy and blessing to volunteer with God’s most precious gift, His children, and we need to be cautious in selecting the appropriate volunteers who will protect them. Jesus placed a high value on the protection of children, and we must be proactive to create a safe place for them to worship and learn about Him. Adventist Risk Management’s guidelines will help you get started screening potential volunteers.

Read more at:

<https://adventistrisk.org/en-us/safety-resources/solutions-newsletter/2022/january/nadeng-before-they-volunteer>

## GALLERY



“All things are possible to him that believeth; and whatsoever things we desire when we pray, if we believe that we receive them, we shall have them. This faith will penetrate the darkest cloud, and bring hope to the drooping, desponding soul.”

It is the absence of this faith and trust which brings perplexity, distressing fears, and surmising’s of evil. God will do great things for his people when they put their entire trust in him. Christ will prove a never-failing source of strength, a present help in every time of trouble.

- *Signs of the Times*  
September 2, 1987

