

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

1 John 5:14–15

My mom used to remind me of a wonderful truth, “never underestimate the power of prayer.” I believe this is true, especially when you are praying according to God’s will. How do we know what God’s will is? By careful study of Scripture. Jesus made this promise: *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you”* (John 15:7).

If you are like me, you tend to gravitate toward the latter part of that verse: *“Ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”* We love that, as if God were some sort of genie. But that isn’t the case. We tend to forget about the first part of this verse: *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you.”* If we are walking in fellowship with God and if we are studying the Word of God, then we will start praying according to the will of God; and then we will start seeing our prayers (His will) answered.

1 John 5:14–15 says, *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”* Therefore, we should never give up or back down. We need to keep praying. That is why Jesus said, *“ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you”* (Matthew 7:7). In the original language, there is an ascending intensity to the terms. It is like starting off with some politeness, then you get more aggressive, and then you are not letting go, like Jacob, who wrestled with the Lord and refused to let go until He blessed him.

This is my desire for my life and yours. No matter what is going on in the world around us, rest assured, God is waiting to join us when we pray His will be done. May that be our goal each day.

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NEWS

Pathfinder Bible Experience Recap

This past weekend, the 2022 Conference Level Pathfinder Bible Experience was held at the Richland Bridge SDA Church. There were 11 teams that advanced to Conference level after studying the books of 1 Kings and Ruth. Of those 11 participating clubs, 5 teams took 1st place, 4 teams took 2nd place, and 2 teams took 3rd place. The five first place teams will move on to the Lake Union level in two weeks at the Stevensville SDA Church in Michigan!" Congratulations to all! Well done!



1st Place Teams

Brazilian Club Gideon's Army
Fairmont City Cahokians "Caleb"
Fox Valley Maranatha
Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Faith Fighters"
Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Mara"



2nd Place Teams

Elgin Explorers
Elmhurst Sentinels "Friends of Jesus"
Elmhurst Sentinels "Wise Challenges"
Maranatha Eben-Ezer



3rd Place Teams

Fairmont City Cahokians "Josue"
Oakhill Fearless lions

**WELL
DONE**

Summer Camp at Camp Akita 2022

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 to submit your application today or contact our Youth Department via phone (630) 716-3555 or email youthdept@ilcsda.org



DID
YOU
KNOW?

Did you know the Illinois Conference Quadrennial Constituency Session is scheduled for October 23, 2022?

Churches are in the process of selecting their delegates for the Session, as well their delegate for the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee selects the Nominating Committee, who is then responsible for nominating Conference officers and directors, as well as the Conference Executive Committee and Board of Education.

RESOURCES

Free Online Course: Member Placement

Looking for ways to recruit new helpers and avoid volunteer burnout at your church? This free online course from the Adventist Learning Community will walk you through the steps of active engagement. Learn new and innovative methods of member placement that facilitate kingdom growth.

To search courses, visit <https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/>

PRAYER FOCUS

I want to ask you and our churches to pray for both Ukraine and Russia. Not only for the people in these countries, especially those under attack in Ukraine, but remember the Seventh-day Adventist churches and church members.

Here is a note from the General Conference: *“Pray for our pastors, church members, leaders, students, and the institutions in Ukraine, including our educational institution at Bucha, about an hour from Kyiv, our clinic/medical center in downtown Kyiv, our publishing house and Adventist Media Center, the Ukrainian Union headquarters in Kyiv, the various conference headquarters, hundreds of churches, and numerous schools.”*



GALLERY



Many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious, troubled heart because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him, for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. But unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.

- Ellen G. White
Ministry of Healing, pg 281

