

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*"Do not stop crying out to the Lord our God for us,
that he may rescue us."*

1 Samuel 7:8

Recently, I was deeply concerned about a close friend of mine. I found encouragement in part of the Old Testament story of Samuel, a wise leader and prophet of the Israelites. As I read how Samuel interceded for God's people as they faced trouble, it strengthened my commitment to pray for the one I was concerned about.

You might remember the Israelites faced a threat from the Philistines, who had previously defeated them when God's people didn't trust in Him. After repenting of their sins, they heard that the Philistines were about to attack again. This time, however, they ask Samuel to pray for them and the Lord answered by throwing their enemy into confusion. Though the Philistines may have been more powerful than the Israelites, the Lord was the strongest of them all.

When we ache over the challenges facing those we love, and fear the situation won't change, we may be tempted to believe that the Lord will not act. But we should NEVER underestimate the power of prayer, for our loving God hears our pleas. We don't know how He will move in response to our petitions, but we know that as our Father He longs for us to embrace His love and to trust in His faithfulness.



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NEWS

New Jr. Academy Status Schools

I am happy to report that enrollment in our 10 Illinois Conference schools is on the rise. Today, the Illinois Conference Board of Education voted to approve two new applications for Jr. Academy status. Congratulations to our Thompsonville and North Shore school! They join our Gurnee school with Jr. Academy status!

Congratulations

Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

More than 1 million people have been displaced because of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Seventh-day Adventists in western Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and other bordering nations, along with ADRA and Hope Channel, and other Adventist entities are providing not only humanitarian relief but spiritual support to the many refugees. Watch a report from the Adventist News Network here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3rs82w>



PRAYER FOCUS

Praying for Ukraine and Russia

I want to ask you and our churches to pray for both Ukraine and Russia. Along with praying for the people in these countries, especially those under attack in Ukraine, 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."*



DID
YOU
KNOW?

Did you know the longest book of the Bible is Jeremiah?

This prophet had a lot to say. He even wrote in the twentieth chapter of his book: "But if I say, 'I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,' his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." (Jeremiah 20:9) Jeremiah is the longest book based on how we currently arrange the books of the Bible. If we did it the old school way, the two-part book of Kings would be the longest book.

RESOURCES

Mentoring Young Women: Free Course from Adventist Learning Community

Do you want to better understand the challenges and needs of young women in order to provide effective ministry through mentorship? Join Erica Jones, assistant director of Women's Ministries for the North American Division, for this free online course from the Adventist Learning Community. By the end of this course, you will be better equipped to mentor teen girls during a transitional time in their life and have tools to create a safe atmosphere in your church for youth.

Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/32dh5avk>

Gorgeous 2 God

Gorgeous 2 God is a blog from the North American Division Department of Women's Ministries dedicated to connecting young women to God through mentorship and community, helping them tackle the tough questions they need answers to! No judgment—just compassionate advice from women who care. Follow this blog to be inspired and uplifted.

Go to: <https://www.gorgeous2god.org/>



Christ's most favorite theme was the paternal character and abundant love of God. The curse of every church today is that men do not adopt Christ's methods. They think they can improve on the rules given in the gospel, and so are free to define them, hoping thus to reform the churches and the workmen. Let God be our one Master, our one Lord, full of goodness, compassion, and love.

- Ellen G. White
Testimonies to Ministers, pg. 192



GALLERY



Pictures from Downers Grove Church's International Sabbath program

