

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:55-58

This past Sunday was Resurrection Sunday, a reminder that we have a lot to be thankful for. It is a season of great joy for those who know Jesus. And yet, for those who are without "the light of the knowledge of God's glory" (2 Corinthians 4:6), there is nothing to rejoice over.

Today, I want to remind us that Jesus left each of us with the great hope and the certainty that He is going to return, "I will come back," he said, to bring a new Heaven and a new earth. We are also told, there will be no more sorrow, trouble, or death for those who believe and follow Him. There will be trouble, sorrow, and suffering for those who have rejected Him.

Our great task, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again...and to extend invitations to those who need to draw nearer to Him.

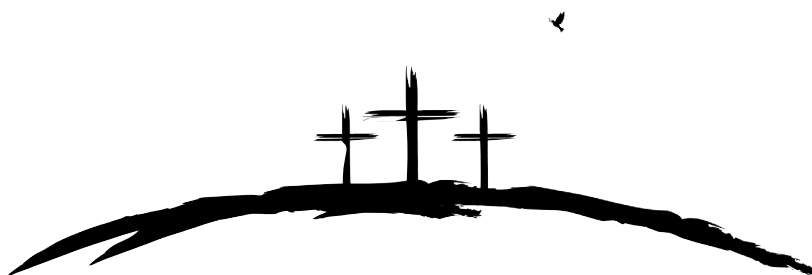
My prayer for you is when you meditate on our Savior's great sacrifice for us on the cross that you will be filled with great peace and hope, because "He is risen!" That is the Good News. As you follow Christ, will you obey His command to tell others that He is risen indeed? May God bless you as you live in the assurance of salvation and you share it with others.

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TRANSITION UPDATE

As previously announced (<https://tinyurl.com/ypd6m3hu>), I have accepted an invitation to pastor in Southeastern California Conference, to be near our daughters and son in laws. My last official day as Conference President will be May 15. Thank you again for your acceptance and support. It has been a joy to serve the Illinois Conference the past 9 years.

The Illinois Conference Constitution and Bylaws state when the position of Conference President becomes vacant, the Conference Executive Secretary becomes acting president. Today, the Illinois Conference Executive Committee voted to wait until the October Constituency Session to select the next president. Which means, effective May 16th, Elder John Gry, Conference Executive Secretary, will serve as acting president in the interim.

NEWS

New Pastor at Champaign SDA Church

I am happy to report that the Illinois Conference Executive committee voted today to hire Eugene Praval to be the pastor of the Champaign, Danville, and Paris district. We welcome Pastor Praval and his wife to the Illinois Conference pastoral team!



Adventurer Fun Day Recap

Here is a report from our Youth Department: "On April 10th, we were blessed to host our annual Adventurer Fun Day at the North Aurora SDA Church! We were able to explore the life of David through the theme "DAVID: A Shepherd Boy Turned King", and what a blessing it was! The Adventurers spent the day playing exciting games, making awesome crafts, learning our theme song, and jumping around in our featured element: The Bounce Houses! The day was a great success, and we are fortunate and grateful to have such an amazing team of Coordinators and volunteers who came together to make this program possible. We look forward to the Southern Illinois Adventurer Fun Day taking place on April 24th, as our friends down South get the chance to explore "DAVID: A Shepherd Boy Turned King" as well! We love our Illinois adventurers!

**pictures on page 3*

RESOURCES

Register Now for the General Conference Session Virtual Exhibition Experience

You are invited to join the first-ever virtual exhibition experience as part of the June 6-11, 2022 General Conference session! It will offer you unique insights into the global church and an opportunity to: Connect with people and ministries from around the world, explore the exhibition hall and visit hundreds of booths, attend presentations from the comfort of your home, participate in games, contests, and scavenger hunts, visit the prayer room, and more!

To register: <https://exhibithall.gcsession.org>

Cracking the Code of Copyrights & Music Licensing for Your Church Service

There are many ways to access music in today's environment. Music is everywhere we turn, but it may not be as legally accessible as it seems. In this article, Adventist Risk Management shares the steps to ensuring that the music we use respects musicians' rights and does not infringe copyright laws.

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/nhk25f32>



The rainbow of promise encircling the throne on high is an everlasting testimony that 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3:16. It testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His children in the struggle with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure.

- Ellen G. White
Ministry of Healing, p. 94



GALLERY



Adventurers attending and participating in the Adventurer Fun Day on April 10.



Downers Grove School principal Yanina Jimenez with two Ukrainian refugee students while students welcome them with balloons.

