

Things to Know



Musings from the Word

John Gryns, President

Reading Acts 8 regarding the death of Stephen, the verses following are a reminder for every part of our lives and as a conference. First, as Saul consented for violence and murder and death in the name of God, and the emerging body of believers experienced persecution, the fallout pushed the survivors out of their comfort and began a “scattering” (verse 1) of followers throughout the Roman Empire. The trauma and tragedy for those in Jerusalem led to the Jesus movement heading into the regions of the world. Illinois is a mission field. The challenges we face provide the opportunities to see God work in ways unimaginable. As has been mentioned before, prayer serves as the foundation for all things. The havoc from Saul and the burial of Stephen was not the end of the story but the interruption into a new mission field beyond Jerusalem. Brothers and sisters, please join me in keeping our mission field front and center in your prayer life. Growing up in the church, we used to pray for the “colporteurs and missionaries around the world.” And while that must continue, the mission field has come home to the state of Illinois. The urban world of the greater Chicagoland area. The small-town mission territories experiencing the shifts of resources. All this may be a bit overwhelming to us but brings us right where we need to be: leaning on those everlasting arms.

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Musings from the Field

Youth Winter Retreat

Just about 2 weeks ago on January 13-16, 50 of our Illinois youth and young adults spent a snowy weekend together with our friends across the lake in Wisconsin for our annual Youth Winter Retreat! The weekend was full of worship and fellowship, and plenty of snow tubing, snowboarding and skiing. We can't wait for 2024 to roll around so we can do it all over again!

Area Level PBE

This past Saturday, January 28th, we were blessed to host our annual Area Level Pathfinder Bible Experience at the Hinsdale Adventist Academy for the Northern area and the Thompsonville SDA Church in the Southern area. Our Pathfinders came ready and prepared to demonstrate their knowledge of the Biblical book of John. With a total of 21 teams, 153 Pathfinders, 40 Coaches, 16 Club Directors, and our Illinois Pathfinder Leadership Team, this event was a huge blessing. Of the 21 participating teams, 17 will advance to Conference Level testing on February 25th at the Richland Bridge SDA Church. We are so proud of all our Illinois Pathfinders for their commitment to studying the word of God

Area Level Results:

1. Ángeles Guardianes de Barrington Team 1- 2nd Place
2. Ángeles Guardianes de Barrington Team 2- 3rd Place
3. Ángeles Guardianes de Barrington Team 3- 3rd Place
4. Brazilian Club Gideon's Army Team 1 - 1st Place
5. Brazilian Club Gideon's Army Team 2 - 1st Place
6. Elgin Explorers- 1st Place
7. Elmhurst Sentinels "Miracles" - 1st Place
8. Elmhurst Sentinels "Rise of the Twelve" - 1st Place
9. Fairmont City Cahokians- 1st Place
10. Fox Valley Maranatha Team A- 1st Place
11. Fox Valley Maranatha Team B- 1st Place
12. Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Bible Warriors" - 1st Place
13. Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Faith Fighters" - 1st Place
14. Joliet Hispanic Creyentes de Jesus- 3rd Place
15. Joliet Timberwolves- 1st Place
16. Lighthouse Sailors- 1st Place
17. Little Village Emmanuel- 3rd Place
18. Maranatha Eben-Ezer- 1st Place
19. Oakhill Fearless Lions- 1st Place
20. Springfield PawPaw- 1st Place
21. Thompsonville Truthseekers- 1st Place

dyk

The first
clothing
fastener was
invented by a
Chicago
resident in
1891.

You need to learn the art of using your talents for the glory of Him who has lent them to you. This requires study, and prayer, and consecration.

(Special Testimonies A, p. 17)