



PROCLAIMING **Jesus** PASSIONATELY

LUKE 4:18



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT RON AGUILERA

FYI (For Your Information...)

A weekly e-newsletter for employees and friends of the
Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



January 13, 2021



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4, NKJV

A New Year is upon us! When I think of a new year, I think of fresh beginnings, a new start. See, for me, the beginning of a new year provides the opportunity to think about our past and our future. So, I want to ask you, as you think back, what brings you joy? And what do you regret? What would you like to do *differently*?

Not surprisingly, the Bible has a great deal to say about beginnings. The Apostle John declares that “in the beginning was the Word.” The Bible makes clear that this Word was Jesus. He was the logos; God’s revealed Word. Through these truths, the Bible reveals a pattern that can apply to any situation; the key is to start with Jesus, to start with the Word. With this focus, we can know that our hearts and minds are in tune with God, that we are building a strong foundation, that He will lead and guide us, and even correct us, if necessary.

Are you open to God’s correction? See, many people claim they are Christians but fail to live according to the Bible or its guidance. Then, they wonder why they do not have the joy, peace, love, and power that God promises. How different our lives would be if we truly focused on the Word and make it our foundation!

This year, 2021, I want to invite you to commit to read and study the Bible every day. To make sure that you begin every day with the Word. Then, as you have difficult decisions to make, or face the difficulties of life, re-



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double your efforts to fill your mind with the Word. Let it provide your standards. Let it give you direction. And you will find that it will. The Word will give you wisdom; it will help shape your mind and heart and give you discernment and a victorious lifestyle. It will prepare you to receive more of God's blessings today and every day. May God lead you as you draw closer to Him today!

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

... Camp Akita's Pathfinder Training Center (previously the pathfinder pavilion) - it is complete. It has now been equipped with walls and doors that open to make it a multi-season facility. Many thanks to Roger Henderson and team!



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 continues to affect us as we enter 2021. Our hospitals continue to be at full capacity. Many of our members have been affected, including some of our pastors, teachers, and office staff (some who are seriously ill today). Also, some of our members have lost loved ones to COVID. I ask you to remember all those affected in prayer.

My prayer is that 2021 will bring healing and hope to those affected and beyond. We continue to encourage all of our members, churches, and schools to err on the side of caution. We are still recommending that our churches and schools strictly follow the protocols and guidelines set by the State. If you have any questions or are unsure about how to move forward, please contact our Executive Secretary, John Gry. We hope to release new recommendations later this month, after a potential holiday wave. Until then, may God keep each of you safe.

NEWS

- ☞ This Sabbath is our Conference Sabbath for January. I will be sharing a sermon focusing on our theme for 2021, Proclaiming Jesus Passionately. The programming will be on our Facebook and YouTube pages. It will begin at 9:30 am and end at noon. I want to invite you to join us for this time of worship and visioning.
- ☞ The General Conference Session was initially scheduled for 2020, and then rescheduled for May of 2021, and now has been rescheduled for June 6-11, 2022. For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y3zx4yxa>

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RESOURCES

- ☞ I invite you to check out a local resource. It is provided by two of our Illinois Conference pastors, Gabriel Bardan and Josh Voigt. They have committed to helping us read through the Bible in 2021. You are invited to join them every Tuesday at 8 pm as they review each week's reading on [Youtube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Vimeo](#). For more information and to register, go to <https://biblereading.link>
- ☞ Are you looking for stories of transformation to share with your church or family. Check out the stories at: <https://www.adventist.org/stories-of-transformation/> These stories are a powerful reminder that God is still at work today!

“Our work is not to make a raid on the Government but to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. The fewer attacks we make on authorities and powers, the more work will we do for God... Do all in your power to reflect the light, but do not speak words that will irritate or provoke.”

—Ellen White, *Evangelism* page 173.



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