



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



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

July 1, 2020



1st Corinthians 15:3-4

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

This coming Sabbath, July 4th, is Independence Day, and all across U.S. people will celebrate the tremendous freedom we enjoy. Despite the current challenges and turmoil we are experiencing, we are indeed blessed!

Beyond that, those of us who know Jesus as our Savior enjoy another kind of freedom to celebrate. We are free from the bondage of our sin and death. 1st Corinthians 15:1-4 gives us a clear picture of the freedom we have in Christ.

Now, I know the 4th of July is a time to reflect on the privileges, freedoms, and responsibilities of being an American. But this is not an easy day for America when it comes to values, the breakdown of the family, materialism, sexual immorality, crime, and racism that exist in this country. I want to suggest that our problem isn't that Americans don't care. People care passionately about what they feel is right, but I believe that's the problem! We seem determined to do what we feel is right in our own eyes. But if you have lived any length of time and are honest with yourself, you know that we are incapable of doing what is right on our own, no matter how well-intentioned we might be.

This is why God gave us the Bible to teach us His perfect ways. We must stop trying to do what is right in our own eyes and begin doing what is right in God's eyes. My prayer for each one of us is that we will realize true freedom comes from Jesus. See, from the moment you and I accepted Jesus



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

*Making healthy
disciple-making
churches*

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into our hearts, we became free from the penalty of sin...free from the present power of sin over us...and guaranteed to one day be free from the presence of sin. Now that's cause for celebration—every day! Happy Freedom Day!

COVID-19 UPDATE

Last Friday, we entered Phase 4 of *Restore Illinois*, which means many things and places around our state will begin to open up. I want to suggest we proceed with caution. If what is happening in other states holds true for Illinois, there is a strong possibility that COVID-19 cases will increase over the next few weeks.

I want to encourage our churches who have opened, or are considering opening, to implement restrictions and protocols to protect our members and families. The Illinois Conference administration strongly recommends each church and school follow the guidelines set by the CDC and Adventist Risk Management services. If you have any questions or need clarification, you can contact John Grys (Illinois Conference Executive Secretary) at jgrys@ilcsda.org.

If you want to see the protocols and guidelines of Restore Illinois Phase 4, you can go to:
<https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4>

PROVERBS FOR TODAY

*“Of all the things I wear,
my expression is the
most important.”*

NEWS

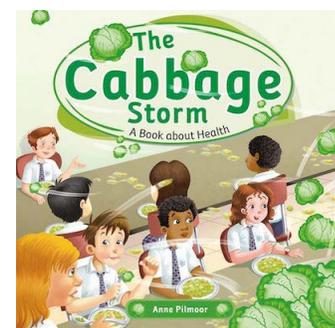
- ☞ ILC Virtual Summer Camp!
The Illinois Conference Youth Department is excited to announce Virtual Summer Camp Week! From July 20-25, 2020, we will be hosting LIVE worship services, games nights, Camp Staff Instagram takeovers, challenges, and so much more! When you register, they will send you a personalized gift that includes camp gear, as well as materials you can use throughout the week for the LIVE events! Registration opens July 2nd, 2020, so head over to www.ilcsda.org/youth to reserve your spot.



RESOURCES

☞ AdventSource is now carrying the entire lineup of products from *Message Magazine*! Shop our site for Bible studies and bulk orders of past issues of *Message*. These timely issues cover such topics as health, family life, finances, Bible prophecy, and much more. For more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y9qj4ww6>

☞ *The Cabbage Storm*, a book about health, for kids.
Meet Jack and Julia! They are twins who used to hate eating their vegetables, especially cabbages. Then one day, while eating lunch at school, Julia caused pieces of cabbage to fly everywhere...and that's when their journey of health discovery started! It's a health adventure you'll never forget!
More at: <https://tinyurl.com/ybt4pv4o>



“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - God governs in the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?”

—Benjamin Franklin



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