



# ILLINOIS Focus



Ron Aguilera, President

## THE SPIRITUAL LEADER



Jesus Himself outlined in Matthew 28 to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching to obey all God has commanded." A spiritual leader must model the pursuit of this mission.

**THREE: A SPIRITUAL LEADER MUST CHOOSE A "CAN DO" ATTITUDE.** Many people tend to focus on problem side of things instead of on the solution side. This leads to negative thinking and can

**FOUR: A SPIRITUAL LEADER MUST MODEL MATTHEW 18 IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS.** This means if there is conflict, a spiritual leader follows the counsel in Matthew 18 to try and resolve the issue with that person alone. If that does not work, then bring a couple of other spiritual leaders to help. The Bible says, "Don't leave things unresolved." In other words, if there is a conflict, if you were hurt, say something, address it, most of the time, it is unintended. This also applies to others around

Someone once asked me what leadership traits we should look for as we select church board members or the board of elders? As I thought about the leadership principles important for those roles, or other leadership roles, like a pastor, a teacher, or a conference leader, the following four things came to mind:

**ONE: A SPIRITUAL LEADER MUST LIVE A COMPLETELY YIELDED LIFE TO JESUS.** Now, you might ask, "What does this look like?" For me, love is at the center of good leadership. We must love people into complete devotion to Jesus Christ. This means that a leader must set aside pride, arrogance, and selfish motivation and yield their mind and heart to God. To do so, a leader must spend time in self-leadership, specifically spiritual leadership. A spiritual leader must spend time in God's Word. A spiritual leader must also spend time on their knees each day. This is the beginning of the path to a yielded life.

**TWO: A SPIRITUAL LEADER MUST MODEL COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION.** How does that look? The leader's life must model a "Follow me," a "Do as I do, not as I say," approach. This is a powerful way to lead, and leaders must lead by example. Leaders must also be committed to the mission

create a critical environment. Our attitude makes a big difference. A spiritual leader models their attitude after Jesus. *"Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on the cross!"* Phil. 2:4–8

you. If you see someone treating someone in a way that is against our values, confront them, say, "That is not who we are, or who the Bible says we should be, or how we should act." God's two-fold command to Love God and Love Others is at the core of leadership.

God has called us to serve Him. I have

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**& MORE**



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ISSUE FOCUS

## LEADERSHIP



There is leadership in the church, at work, at school, as well as in the home. Leadership can be effective or ineffective. Some might define leadership as influence. Consider your leadership. Is it effective? Does it influence others for the good? Does it represent the Heart of God?

The example of leadership through Moses has been fascinating for me. How could someone like Moses lead a mass of people through the wilderness for 40 years? From the burning bush's hallowed ground all the way to Mount Nebo's hopeful vistas, there is much to glean regarding leadership.

Have you ever felt unqualified? Moses did not feel qualified. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus chapter 3 gives an appealing picture of how Godly leadership should begin—with a sense of humility. If God is calling you to leadership, He will have to provide everything necessary to fulfill His call. He takes your objections to His call as an opportunity to display His glory.

Does your leadership thrive on drama? Throughout all the miraculous signs for Pharaoh, Moses gets a front-row seat to the show. This is

“ ... A SPIRITUAL LEADER WILL POINT

PEOPLE TO **GOD** NOT SELF. ”

not for pure entertainment. The privileged view of spiritual leadership is meant to emphasize the awe-inspiring God we worship. A spiritual leader will point people to God, not self.

Have you ever criticized leadership? In the wilderness, the people on several occasions no longer wanted Moses to lead them. The people quickly resorted to complaining. In some cases, they were on the verge of rebellion. How does Moses react? Sometimes with anger (Exodus 32:19 and Numbers 20:11) when he leads from his own heart. Other times Moses leads by trusting in the Lord. In Exodus 32:32, Moses sacrificially offers himself on behalf of a disobedient people. The success of Moses' leadership was his trust in God and an experiential understanding of God's heart. God's heart is merciful, forgiving, generous, sacrificial, and just.

Your leadership can be more effective for God's Kingdom when you align your leadership qualities with the heart of God. In an article entitled "Spirit Driven Leadership" by Cindy Tutsch for Ministry Magazine, February 2010, there are ten qualities of Christian Leadership that Tutsch distills from the writings of Ellen White. Consider these ten qualities and reflect on how God wants to grow your leadership.



## LEADING FROM THE HEART OF GOD

Ira Bartolome  
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1. A Spirit-filled life
2. A Diligent Student of Scripture
3. A Prayerful life
4. A Servant Leadership
5. A Shared Leadership
6. An Inclusive and Empowering Leadership
7. An Ability to Connect
8. A Sympathetic Leadership
9. A Visioning Leadership
10. A Caring Leadership

Our world today is more challenged than ever before. Amidst the confusion, apathy, hate, greed, pain, and frustration, how is a serious Christ-follower to lead? I contend that the heart of God is the key. The more you understand and experience God's heart, the more you will lead from His heart. This is Godly emotional intelligence that applies the proper response to any situation. Spiritual leadership is about God and not about you. When this happens, God ultimately gets the glory and honor as well as any criticisms. The most effective way to lead is from the heart of God.

To grow your leadership, consider doing a case study on a Bible character's leadership journey. Learn God's leadership principles and develop them through your personal daily devotions. Imagine how God will grow your leadership exponentially for His sake. Imagine the impact on your family, work, church, and beyond!

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 Consultant  
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## STEWARDSHIP in Three Easy Steps



Genia lived alone in a small town in central Poland. She was the only Seventh-day Adventist in town with no church nearby. She didn't have a car either. The local conference would send someone from time to time on Sabbath to allow her to fellowship with other Adventist believers. One Sabbath, it was my friend Alice who visited Genia. Immediately after entering Genia's little village cottage Alice had noticed that something was wrong. Cuts and bruises covered Genia's face. At first, Alice assumed that Genia, definitely not a young person anymore, had possibly tripped and fallen, hurting herself. The reality was much more sinister.

Genia was retired, and she was receiving her social security payments in the form of cash delivered to her by a local postman on the same day every month. One evening, a couple of days after receiving her money, two local thugs violently entered Genia's cottage demanding money from her. They beat her, searched the house, and stole her money. While Genia was telling this



story to my friend Alice, she suddenly went to her room and came back holding her purse. She opened it with a beaming face, reached inside to a small pocket on the purse wall, and pulled out of it a few banknotes. "Look," she said to Alice, "they didn't find my tithe! Could you please take it from me and deliver it to the conference?" What an incredible example of faithfulness! This lady was brutally assaulted and robbed of her monthly payment just a few days before, but she was rejoicing that her tithe was not stolen. She would be able to support the mission of Jesus Christ fulfilled by her local conference!

See, Genia had this habit of physically separating her tithe from the total amount of her social security money right away after receiving it. She kept it separately in the small pocket of her purse so that she would never mix it up with her assets. She was treating it as if it did not exist for her. God says, *"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD."* (Leviticus 27:30 NKJV). Yes, some money that comes through our hands, banking accounts or wallets is not ours; it is the LORD'S.

Specific steps lead to our faithful stewardship practices. First is our recognition of the fact that one-tenth of our income does belong to God. As long as we claim it as absolutely ours, we will treat it as such. The second is the act of separating. What belongs to the LORD must be separated from what belongs to us. In ancient times, in agricultural societies, tithing involved counting and separating animals in the herd, counting and separating bushels of grain or fruits, measuring and separating jars of oil. Although those activities do not apply to most of us, we still need to separate, whether it is by counting and separating the actual banknotes of money or making calculations and transfers from our internet banking account. Only then do we arrive at the third step, which is the act of returning the tithe. Faithful stewardship is a spiritual journey, and even the longest journey starts with a first step. Only then comes the second, then the third, and so on. Thus, if you want to grow in your faithful donating, start today training yourself in faithful and immediate separating.



**¿**Qué oportunidades de liderazgo estamos brindando a nuestras generaciones actuales dentro de la iglesia? Tenemos una sociedad cambiante, multigeneracional, que se mueve en varias direcciones de acuerdo a su cultura y necesidades presentes. También tenemos unas brechas generacionales marcadas dentro de nuestra iglesia, porque son parte de esa sociedad. La pregunta que nos mueve a escribir este artículo es: ¿qué porcentaje de esas generaciones están involucradas dentro del liderazgo de la iglesia? Las brechas generacionales que resaltan son la Baby Boomer, aquellos nacidos entre 1946 y 1964; la generación X, que comprende a los nacidos desde 1946 hasta 1980; los Millennials, generación comprendida por los nacidos entre los años 1981 y 2000, y los Z, nacidos a partir del 2000.

En la encuesta Global de miembros de la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, que se realizó entre 2017 y 2018<sup>1</sup>, abarcando las 13 divisiones, con una muestra poblacional de 63.756, se preguntó sobre la participación en algún ministerio de la iglesia durante los últimos 12 meses. Quienes respondieron se distribuyen de la siguiente manera en las diferentes franjas etarias: hay una representación considerable de jóvenes adventistas, fueron 25.460 participantes y representan el 40% de la muestra. El 28% de ellos, eran adultos de 21 a 35 años, considerados dentro de la generación Millennials, y el 12% adolescentes, considerados generación Z.

Los resultados arrojados fueron: el 22% de la generación Z ayuda una vez por semana, mientras que los Millennials lo hacen en un 27%. En lo que respecta ayudar en un ministerio en la iglesia durante el sábado, el 28%

# LIDERAZGO Multi- generacional

de la Generación Z respondió afirmativamente; mientras que entre los Millennials el 35% lo hace.

Otra pregunta fue: ¿Mi iglesia tiene un programa para preparar a los jóvenes para que se conviertan en líderes? Entre quienes respondieron, el 60% de la generación Z dice estar de acuerdo; asimismo, el 61% de los Millennials señala que su respuesta es afirmativa.



A la pregunta que cuestionaba si tiene un cargo en la iglesia local, la Generación Z respondió que no, en un 63% y que sí, el 37% restante. Esta proporción entre los integrantes de la Generación Millennials fue de un 59% diciendo que no y el 41% restante respondió que sí.

Estos resultados son dicentes en la necesidad de no solo formar líderes, sino de darles más oportunidades y espacios para que estén en acción. El liderazgo es fundamental en el desarrollo, el crecimiento y la consolidación de la vida espiritual de la iglesia y del avance del evangelio. Por esto, resulta necesario



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preguntarnos: ¿cómo estamos trabajando como generaciones? ¿Estamos siendo complementarios? ¿Estamos aprovechando las fortalezas de cada generación, para minimizar nuestras deficiencias y ser más eficientes ante una sociedad tan diversa y cambiante? ¿Estamos permitiendo que surjan líderes en generaciones como la de los Millennials o la Z?

Recuerdo la experiencia de un Millennials con un líder de los Baby boomers, cuando en un sábado el joven subió a la plataforma para dirigir un programa de Escuela sabática. La reacción del líder al ver el vestuario del joven fue bajarlo en medio del programa diciéndole que no era apropiado, solo porque no llevaba puesta una corbata. El joven tristemente se bajó y no volvió más a la iglesia.

Me pregunto si la brecha generacional está causando choques en la manera de liderar a la iglesia. Cada generación tiene que aportar en liderazgo a la causa de Dios; por ejemplo, los Millennials son más colaborativos, orientados a la conciliación, creativos, exigentes. Por su parte, a la Generación X se le facilitan las relaciones interpersonales, son comprensivos. Así mismo, los Baby Boomers transmiten valores, tienen cultura organizacional, una visión global, entre otras buenas características. De ahí que Dios nos da la oportunidad de trabajar en equipo.

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**LEADING WHILE UNCERTAIN**

John Gryś

Illinois Conference Executive Director



**W**hile recently conversing with a pastor, the individual shared concern regarding the future of the congregation and pastoral leading. "Where do we go from here? Where do I go in the process of leading?" The uncertainty of an immediate post-pandemic world may lead some to be as uncertain now as we were in the early stages of the pandemic. One popular Christian speaker shared that many Christian organizations request he answer the question, "Where do we go in a post-Covid reality?" Uncertainty!

The New Testament openly shares moments like this following disturbances. Some of His inner circle, after watching "many disciples" walk away after the disorienting message by Jesus, listened as He asked, "Will you leave as well?" (John 6) People walking away. A penetrating question. Wonder about a future.

Two walking the path away from tragedy. And on that path, they sought to make sense of the tragedy. Where that path would lead, they did not know. Truly difficult to know about a future when uncertain about the meaning of the past. And still... the path they walked. (Luke 24)

In both situations, there is this air of the unknown. Thick with apprehension, the inner circle

stays close to Jesus. Filled with downcast souls, the weary road travelers remain in dialogue with the suddenly present Stranger. In the first, "Will more walk away?" In the second, "Will hope abide in death?" And here, I find solace as we head into an unknown summer.

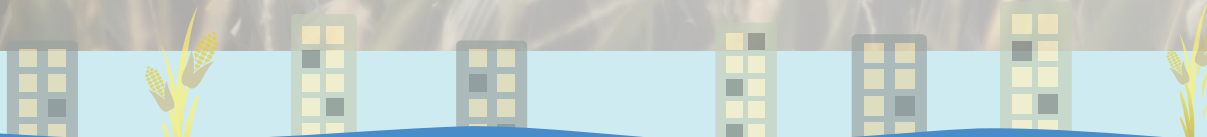
For in both places, those directly involved discovered that while remaining close to Him, uncertainty and doubts, while not eliminated, were held at bay. They found that in staying close and engaging in dialogue with Him, His Presence grew at a faster rate than their uncertainty.

And in this solace, I wish to remind all who lead in our congregational settings: His presence grows courage faster than fear. The events over the past year have brought forth trauma and loss in wave after wave after wave. We all have been forced into places we never dreamed of at the beginning of 2020. And now, here we are, almost halfway into 2021, and while hope does appear to emerge from the fog, we wonder how it will all come back—if it even does.

And from each story, two themes emerge: First, He still abides right with us. Second, whatever emerges from the fog of the unknown future, it matters not. He. Is. Here. As it was for those

in John 6 and Luke 24, leading in uncertainty requires us not to flee this nasty mist but to lean even more into the mist. It is possible that in that misty fog, we will come to experience Him in ways otherwise missed if we did not lean. They stayed to answer His question. They journeyed on the road long enough to see an unexpected turning of their upside-down, uncertain world. Both stayed. Both remained. Both did not take the path of least resistance. By leaning into His question and leaning into their own disheartening, soul-sick condition, both experienced a calming influence.

And for leaders in whatever context, the hope amidst the misty fog may not be the release from such conditions but that *we can experience this abiding, eternal, transcendent Presence in those conditions*. And in that discovery amidst the conditions, we find the words of Paul echoing from places so deep within us that we can hardly keep still—"Whatever...I am content." And I wonder, I wonder in a society filled with such discontent whether our experience in the misty fog becomes a beacon of contentment for others. I wonder.



**INTRODUCING...**

JUDITH ROSA was born and raised in Massachusetts. She is joining us from Spencerville Adventist Academy in Maryland, where she served as Elementary Principal (PK-8) for the past five years. She holds a BA Andrews University With over 25 years of experience in education, both in the public and private sector, Mrs. Rosa has taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition, she holds a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, with an ESOL certification, from American College of Education, Indianapolis, IN, and a Masters of Science in Educational Leadership from Baruch College, New York, NY. Mrs. Rosa and her husband have five children; two have graduated college, two will be attending Andrews University in the Fall, and one high schooler. She's passionate about Christian education, equitable practices, academic excellence, and fostering a mindset of lifelong learning.



WILLIAM SANGKEUN LEE is the new pastor of the Chicago Central Korean and Chicago Unity Churches. We welcome him from Michigan, where he served as the Senior Pastor of the Andrews Korean Church. Pastor Lee hold a MDiv degree in Theology and has served as pastor of several churches in the United States since immigrating in 2000. He is married to Laura Kisook Lee, and they have four daughters, two adult girls are a doctor and a dentist, one daughter is studying at

Andrews University and the youngest is in 11th grade at Hinsdale Adventist Academy. We pray that Pastor Lee's tenure in Illinois will be long and happy.

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found it helpful to remind myself that I am serving God. I remember the importance of mission, keeping an eye on eternity, valuing each day, each opportunity, and praying God will open my eyes and make me attentive to what He is trying to do around me and join him in His heavenly mission. I invite you to do the same!

- Ron Aguilera

Continuación de la pág 3 **LIDERAZGO MULTI-GENERACIONAL**

La Biblia, en 1 Corintios 12:11<sup>2</sup> dice: “Pero todas estas cosas las hace uno y el mismo Espíritu, distribuyendo individualmente a cada uno según la voluntad de Él”. Se le debe permitir al Espíritu Santo poder utilizar las fortalezas de cada generación para ser más eficientes como líderes y derribar las barreras que impidan la integración del liderazgo entre generaciones; todas ellas, no solo las que integran los miembros con más edad. Se debe recordar lo dicho por la escritora Elena G. de White (2008)<sup>3</sup> quien afirma: “Con semejante ejército de obreros, como el que nuestros jóvenes, bien preparados, podrían proveer, ¡cuán pronto se proclamaría a todo el mundo el mensaje de un Salvador crucificado, resucitado y próximo a venir!” (p.11).

- Nelson Salazar

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.adventistresearch.org/sites/default/files/files/Nurture\\_Retention/BreakoutSessions/What%20does%20the%202018%20Global%20Research%20Reveal%20about%20Adventist%20Young%20People.%20pptx.pdf](https://www.adventistresearch.org/sites/default/files/files/Nurture_Retention/BreakoutSessions/What%20does%20the%202018%20Global%20Research%20Reveal%20about%20Adventist%20Young%20People.%20pptx.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/es/1%20Corintios%2012%3A11>

<sup>3</sup>White, E. (2008). Mensajes para los jóvenes. México: Gema.

## FOCUS ON YOUTH - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing youth for leadership begins with defining what Christian leadership is and the best definition can be found with the person and approach of Jesus Christ. His leadership demonstrated compassion for the people, He sanctified the nature of work, held those in authority accountable, identified His mission as bringing the Kingdom of God to the people's reality, gave hope to the hopeless and freedom to those enslaved, and provided the ultimate example of servant leadership in His willingness to go to the cross for those He served.

We have a sacred responsibility to provide opportunities for youth to grow in this knowledge and a space for an experience to be had that will lead them over time in their leadership development. So here are just a few ideas that any church leader could put into practice in the process of developing their youth as Christian leaders:

1. Involve youth in the planning of various aspects of the church programming. As you involve them and share how various aspects of the program or event tie into the overall mission and values of the church, they will get a sense of the bigger picture.
2. Delegate. Many who are doers may find that this could be the most difficult part of helping others grow in their leadership. Whether it be small tasks or organizing an entire program/event, being intentional in delegating allows the youth you are developing to practice what they have learned. Additionally, it gives opportunity for them to influence their peers to accomplish given responsibilities.
3. Developing our youth will be important when the time comes to step back and allow them to step into leadership positions. You can continue to provide insight, feedback and even debrief on how it's all going but allow them to lead. Staying connected throughout the process will develop them further in their leadership skills.
4. Planning for failure is not often encouraged because we don't want our youth to shy away from future opportunities, but leadership development almost demands that some type of failure occur during the process. As much as we try to make sure that everyone is happy and things are running smoothly, there is much that can be learned from “seeming catastrophes” when you take time to talk through it.
5. Allow youth to act on their ideas. Not only does this develop them further in their leadership but it also creates an excitement and commitment to the mission of the church. They aren't just spectators; they are now actively involved in the kingdom building process. Let's be leaders that welcome new ideas and encourages them to become reality.



## 2021 CAMPMEETING - PROCLAIMING JESUS PASSIONATELY

Illinois Conference Family Camp Meeting at Camp Akita is scheduled for July 28–31, 2021. The theme is “Proclaiming Jesus Passionately.” In the words of Jesus, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Matthew 28:19. My desire is that all of us will strive to proclaim Jesus more, to share with others our testimony, our discovery that life with God works out better than life without Him.

Our theme this year follows up on last year’s theme, “Knowing Jesus Intimately.” To Proclaim Jesus Passionately, we must know Jesus intimately. Wednesday to Friday presentations will be made by some of our own Illinois Conference pastors. Our speaker Friday night will be Elder John Grys, Illinois Conference Executive Secretary. The Sabbath morning and evening speaker will be Illinois Conference President, Ron Aguilera.

It is our prayer Illinois Conference Family Camp Meeting will be a spiritual blessing to all and that we will experience Jesus intimately which will lead us to Proclaim Jesus Passionately. May we all say, “Here am I, send me” (Isaiah 6:8 KJV).

Family Camp Meeting: July 28–31  
Camp Akita  
1684 Knox Road 1200 North  
Gilson, IL 61436





  
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE  
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

We exist to make healthy  
disciple-making churches

**PROCLAIMING Jesus**  
**PASSIONATELY**  
LUKE 4:18



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