

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"
Matthew 4:19

Happy New Year! As you know, every January millions of people begin their year with New Year's resolutions. Losing weight, getting organized, exercising more, eating healthier, and managing finances better are some of the most common resolutions. But what about making spiritual New Year's resolutions?

The Illinois Conference's theme in 2022 is Following Jesus Faithfully. 1 Peter 4:19 says, *"So then, those who suffer according to the will of God should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."* We should be faithful to Him as He is faithful to us. So, what are some spiritual resolutions you might make this year? Here are a few possible resolutions as we set out in the New Year:

Spiritual Resolution #1 – Pray

Seek God's face and pray David's prayer every morning for the next year. *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; restore within me a sense of being brand new. Do not throw me far away from Your presence, and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me,"* Psalm 51:10-11

Spiritual Resolution #2 – Turn over your time and attitude to the Lord

Let's resolve to give our attitudes to the Lord. Commit to making a difference at home, in the workplace, the marketplace, on the roads, and even at church. You could make this passage your resolution: *"but above all these, put on love! Love is the perfect tie to bind these together. Let your hearts fall under the rule of the Anointed's peace and be thankful,"* Colossians 3:14-15

Spiritual Resolution #3 – Don't Do It Alone

First, seek Him and His wonderful plan for your life. The two of you make a great team! So often, we think we are forging our path alone. We live as though life is completely up to us. Yet, if we are "in Christ," we are part of a team. *"This expression of God's restorative justice displays in the present that He is just and righteous and that He makes right those who trust and commit themselves to Jesus,"* Romans 3:26

Life is not always easy. Following through on simple commitments can even be difficult when bombarded by everyday affairs. In addition, the attacks of the evil one will challenge us at every turn. Because of this, I offer this prayer on your behalf; *"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified,"* Acts 20:32

What spiritual New Year's resolutions will you make this year? May the Lord bless you as you choose to follow Jesus faithfully every day in 2022 and beyond!

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NEWS

10 Days of Prayer

Today, begins our 10 Days of Prayer-United in Prayer. If your church is not doing it currently, I invite you to enter into this individually or as a family.

Visit the website on www.tendaysofprayer.org



Morton Grove Fil-Am and Chicago Fil-Am

I am happy to announce that Pastor Ely Magtanong is the new pastor at our Morton Grove and Chicago Fil-Am churches. Pastor Ely will be introduced in his district this Sabbath and next Sabbath. I want to welcome Pastor Ely and his wife, Amelyn, to the Illinois Conference!

2022 Youth Winter Retreat

2022 Youth Winter Retreat, January 14-17, at Camp Wakonda/Cascade Mountain in Wisconsin. We will be partnering with the Wisconsin Youth Department, so you'll have the chance to meet a few new faces and make some new friends! Click here to see all the details of the weekend, including a full cost breakdown.

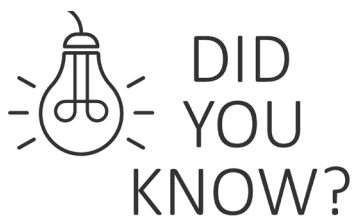
Registration is now open at:

<https://form.jotform.com/ilcsdayouth/2022WinterRetreat>

Lake Union Youth Congress

Coming soon. Lake Union Youth Congress.

February 18-20, 2022. For more information, go to: www.lucyouth.org. February 7 is the registration deadline.



Did you know **45% of Americans** make a New Year's resolutions?

RESOURCES

Revival and Reformation

Want to read through the Bible? Check out <https://revivalandreformation.org/bhp>. Genesis 1 starts on January 14, 2022.

Bible Lab

Are you looking for a Sabbath School resource? Check out the Bible Lab at <http://thebiblelab.com/> for this new resource from Faith For Today.



GALLERY



It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ.

— Ellen G. White
The Desire of Ages, pg. 83

