

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

"Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14

Wouldn't it be great if you could be better than you were last year? If you could be a better Christian, a better husband or wife, a better mom or dad or child, or a better boss or employee?

If you could be more loving, more joyful, more at peace, more considerate, more disciplined, and more effective at making a difference? Is it possible to experience a new YOU in the New Year? I believe so. God is in the life-transformation business. He has a plan and program to change your life and make you more like Him in the way you act and react...to be transformed into what He wants us to be!

Although Paul was arguably the strongest Christian who ever lived, he had a great desire in his heart to be "better." He wanted to grow in his relationship with Christ. He wanted to be changed "from glory to glory." And, in Philippians chapter 3, Paul shared his plan in two key steps:

One: Forget what lies behind. Have you blown it in the past? Do you have major sins and failures in your past that keep you feeling like a second-class citizen in the Kingdom of God? It does not matter what you are guilty of, your sins are no match for the blood of Jesus Christ! Confess those sins to God. Get them out from the shadows of your heart and under the cleansing power of the blood of His cross. Once you confess that sin to God and turn from that sin, accept His complete and total forgiveness.

Two: Reach forward to what lies ahead. God does not want us to live looking back in the rearview mirror. He wants us to press on in Jesus' name. He wants us to put our eyes on Jesus and seek Him with all our hearts. He wants us to keep going, even when the way is hard. Have you been tempted to throw in the towel? Have you gotten knocked down and have yet to get up? The time is now to dust off the difficulties of the past and get back in the race. Press on toward the goal, toward the prize of pleasing the Lord and hearing Him say one day as you cross the finish line, "well done, my good and faithful servant."

Let's focus on Following Jesus Faithfully this New Year, forgetting the past and focusing on being transformed by Jesus!

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Stay Connected

Facebook	@illinoisconferencesda
Email	president@ilcsda.org
Website	www.ilcsda.org
Address	619 Plainfield Rd Willowbrook, IL 60527



NEWS

I know something good about the Hinsdale SDA church!

Check out the result of their Christmas Drive. Here is the link for the video.

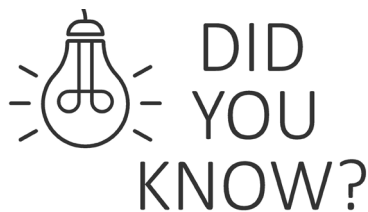
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDhCrkKq57U>

Summer Camp at Camp Akita 2022

We are planning now to have Camp Akita open this summer. Plan now to attend Summer Camp 2022, "The Great Adventure". Look for more information on our website soon. In the meantime, the youth department is looking for young people, 18 and older, to join our Summer Camp team. Visit campakita.com/apply to submit your application today, or contact our Youth Department via phone (630) 716-3555 or email youthdept@ilcsda.org!

New 2022 Theme Banners

Banners displaying our 2022 Conference theme will be available to each church starting next week. These banners will be available in multiple languages, settings (Chicago, downstate Illinois), and even for children.



Did you know January 19 is
NATIONAL POPCORN DAY?



RESOURCES

Adventist Learning Community Provides Free Online Training & Continuing Education

Adventist Learning Community (ALC) is a website created by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. It houses thousands of continuing education (CE) courses and resources for teachers, pastors, chaplains, administrators, lay-leaders, and faith-seekers. All you have to do is create a FREE account to get started using ALC resources.

For more, go to: <https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com>



ADVENTIST LEARNING COMMUNITY
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GALLERY



God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Like rays of light from the sun, like the streams of water bursting from a living spring, blessings flow out from Him to all His creatures. And wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing.

- Ellen G. White
Steps to Christ, p.77

