

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE  
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*"So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world?"*

Galatians 4:9

February is Black History Month. It is a time to remember African American sacrifices and heroism throughout history. One such movement was the Underground Railroad. Prior to the Civil War, organized abolitionists were aided by the loosely interconnected Underground Railroad. But it was neither underground nor a railroad. It was a secret network of antislavery leaders and freed blacks. It included secret routes and safe houses from Georgia to Canada. Between the peak years of 1830 and 1865, it helped as many as one hundred thousand fugitive slaves escape to freedom.

The Underground Railroad was a dangerous but effective way to help slaves escape their life in the South. Through a secret network of safe houses ("stations") run by "stationmasters," the "conductors" helped to guide the slaves along their journey. The destinations were in northern states where slavery had been abolished, as well as places in the far West, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. If caught, the punishment was swift and harsh. But because freedom was so precious, the risks were worth it. There was no turning back.

As people enslaved by sin, we have also been offered an escape route. The destination is God's eternal kingdom, but the reward also includes a life of freedom in Jesus for the here and now. This plan is not dangerous for us, but it was certainly costly for Jesus. Our freedom was and is so precious to our Savior that the risks and price were worth His coming to this world to achieve it. And for us, that freedom is such a precious gift, why would we "want to go back again and become slaves once more"? After we remember the past, let us rejoice in His freedom today!

### In this Issue

Ordination Recommendations	2
Safety Sabbath Resource	3
Pictures from Northbrook Church	3

### Stay Connected

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



# NEWS

## Ordination Recommendations

At last week's Conference Executive Committee, the Committee voted to recommend to the Lake Union Conference Executive Committee (who is the ordination deciding body) the ministerial ordination for Pastor Paul Lowe and Pastor David Quilatan. We are very thankful for what God is doing through our pastors!



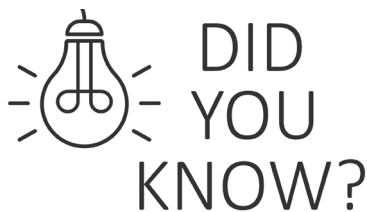
*Congratulations*

## The Great Adventure

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](http://campakita.com/apply) to submit your application today or contact our Youth Department via phone (630) 716-3555 or email [youthdept@ilcsda.org](mailto:youthdept@ilcsda.org)



[campakita.com/apply](http://campakita.com/apply)



**Did you know despite its forerunner, Negro History Week, originating all the way back in 1926, Black History Month as we know it today didn't become nationally recognized until the 1970s?**

Black students and educators at Kent State first celebrated Black History Month in January and February of 1970. Other educational institutions started following suit, and for the United States' bicentennial, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month, as has every president since.

# RESOURCES

## Free Online Course: Member Placement

Looking for ways to recruit new helpers and avoid volunteer burnout at your church? This free online course from the Adventist Learning Community will walk you through the steps of active engagement. Learn new and innovative methods of member placement that facilitate kingdom growth.

To search courses, visit <https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/>



ADVENTIST LEARNING COMMUNITY  
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists®

## Get Ready for Safety Sabbath 2022

This year Safety Sabbath is dedicated to disability awareness and inclusive emergency preparedness. Learn useful tools for better identifying, communicating with, and safeguarding persons with disabilities if and when emergencies unfold. Take this opportunity on Sabbath, March 24 to ensure your church is prepared to assist everyone who participates in your church's ministries.

For more, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/52keb256>



We claim little, when we  
might claim much; for  
there is no limit to the  
promises of God.

- Ellen G. White  
Evangelism, p. 598

# GALLERY



Pictures from Pastor Lamont Taylor at Northbrook SDA Church

