

FYI.

FROM ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT, RON AGUILERA

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT



"We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin"

Romans 6:6

Recently, I have been talking to some of our Ukrainian and Polish members here in the Illinois Conference and beyond and listening to their pain as they describe what some of their family members and friends are going through. My heart goes out to all those who have been affected by the attacks in Ukraine. It has been painful to watch. The attacks have destroyed many homes, schools, hospital, and businesses. There is a shortage of food, the air quality is bad, and there is no cell service, power, or Wi-Fi in some areas. Some people have lost everything; worst of all, many have lost their lives.

In the midst of so much tragedy, I'm thankful for the active and real presence of God, giving strength and comfort. His power is unending and never cut off from us. We can know our connection with Him is strong and dependable. We have the assurance that all the horror and evil that we see in the world around us will not be present forever. The power of sin that impacts us in so many horrible ways will be gone - and the loss of that power will be a good thing, thanks to the great love and mercy of God!

On the next page, you will see one of the ways we are trying to support our brothers and sister in Poland and Ukraine and others affected by this tragedy. Let's continue to pray and do all we can to support those who are suffering, and let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His soon return.

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WAYS TO SUPPORT UKRAINE AND POLAND

PRAYER

I want to ask you and our churches to pray for both Ukraine and Russia.

Beside praying for the people in these countries, especially those under attack in Ukraine, remember of Seventh-day Adventist churches and church members.

DONATE

The Russian invasion on Ukraine has created the greatest refugee crisis in Europe since WWII. Since the beginning of the war, more than 3 million people, mostly mothers with children, have crossed the border to neighboring countries of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova. Poland has received 2 million refugees.

Our small SDA Church in Poland (less than 6,000 members in a population of over 38 million) is working tirelessly to minister for people in need. Cars and busses transport food items to Ukraine, bringing refugees on the way back. Relocated people find temporary shelters in our churches, schools, retreat centers, and private homes. Volunteers are helping to find permanent housing and work. Almost every day brings a new initiative of our members trying to help as much as possible.

To support the efforts of our brethren in the Polish Union, the Illinois conference is opening a time limited possibility to donate tax deductible gifts using the Adventist Giving online platform. 100% of donations declared as "Ukraine – Poland" in section "Conference/Union" will be transferred to Polish Union for support of their humanitarian efforts. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and



DID
YOU
KNOW?

Did you know more than 3.5 million Ukrainians have fled the country since Russia invaded last month?

NEWS & RESOURCES

Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience

Here is a report from our Conference Youth Department: "This past weekend, Pathfinder teams from across Lake Union gathered in Stevensville, MI to participate in the Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience. Illinois rose to the challenge with five teams participating:

- Brazilian Club Gideon's Army
- Fairmont City Cahokians "Caleb"
- Fox Valley Maranatha
- Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Faith Fighters"
- Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Mara"



After enduring an afternoon testing over the books of 1 Kings and Ruth, our Pathfinders were rewarded for their hard work with both 1st (**Fox Valley Maranatha, Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Mara"**) and 3rd (**Brazilian Club Gideon's Army, Fairmont City Cahokians "Caleb", Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers "Faith Fighters"**) place rankings! We are so proud of all our Illinois Pathfinders, and we are excited for our 1st place teams as they advance to the final level of testing, Division Level PBE on April 23rd in Eugene, OR. Well done!"

Ministry Quick Start

Are you looking for resources to share with your church's ministry leaders? Check out the Ministry Quick Start section of the Advent Source website to download FREE Quick Start Guides in English, Spanish, and French, find ministry descriptions, discover recommended resources, and more. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yckpa2js>

GALLERY



Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love. Our Father in heaven is the source of life, of wisdom, and of joy. Look at the wonderful and beautiful things of nature. Think of their marvelous adaptation to the needs and happiness, not only of man, but of all living creatures. The sunshine and the rain, that gladden and refresh the earth, the hills and seas and plains, all speak to us of the Creator's love. It is God who supplies the daily needs of all His creatures.

- Ellen G. White
Steps to Christ, p. 9.

