



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Illinois Conference Update

Kenneth A. Denslow, President

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Conference Day of Prayer

As you know this Sabbath, May 2, is a conference-wide Day of Prayer. We hope that you will take time personally and in the corporate setting of your congregation to be in prayer. Here are the specific issues we are asking our members to remember in prayer:

1. **Personal and congregational revival.** We must come to understand our complete and total dependence on our Heavenly Father for our salvation and for the empowerment that we need to accomplish the mission He has given us. Paul talked about dying to self on a daily basis and then being alive in Christ. This is the experience that we all need. If we allow Him, God will lead us to repentance which opens the door to revival.
2. **Year of Evangelism.** The North American Division has declared this year as the Year of Evangelism. What that means is that we are being more intentional about sharing the gospel with our friends, neighbors, families, and communities. This is taking place in ShareHim meetings, personal Bible studies, small group ministries, door-to-door literature distribution and many other ways. Our pastors are conducting evangelistic meetings as well as many church members. We want to pray that God will bless these efforts.
3. **Touch Every 1 For Jesus.** We are nearing the end of the third year of this five-year initiative. There are many churches around our conference that have taken very seriously the challenge to make personal contact with all the people in their territory. You probably saw in your church recently a DVD telling the story of how the

North Shore Church is going about the task in their huge territory. But there are many other stories that could be told of churches that have taken seriously this challenge. For instance, the West Frankfort Church has covered two entire towns in their territory and are working in a third town. The members are being blessed as they involve themselves in outreach to their communities.

4. **Stewardship issues.**

- a. Many of our members have lost jobs or are experiencing cutbacks in their pay. Let's pray about their situation and how we, as their brothers and sisters, can help bear their burden.
- b. The old Central Hispanic Church building has not sold and so the Central Hispanic Church has been left with a \$3 million dollar mortgage on their new facility. This large debt has implications not only for the local congregation but also for the Illinois Association which must stand behind this debt. Pray that God will bring a buyer to us.
- c. Praise the Lord for the miracle that, after adjusting for some anomalies in 2008, through March we have seen a 10% increase in tithe over the same period last year.
- d. Praise the Lord that more and more people are becoming involved in ministry and thereby they are being good stewards of their time.

May God bless us all as we seek His face in a special way on this special Day of Prayer.