



# FYI #184

May 19, 2021

A weekly e-newsletter for employees and friends of the  
Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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## PROCLAIMING **Jesus** PASSIONATELY

LUKE 4:18

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### Stay In-the-Loop

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## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“Children are a gift of the Lord.”*  
Psalm 127:3



I am blessed. My wife and I have a great relationship with our young adult married daughters (and sons-in-law). Although we live in different states, we call, text, and facetime all the time. We are part of their lives and they are part of ours...and that is truly a gift. That is why this text from Psalm 127 hit me this week—“Children are a gift and a blessing.”

Now, for some, family might sometimes feel like a mixed blessing, or no blessing at all. I think of when my children were younger and the times that we had to discipline them, or the times we shuttered at the silly and downright dumb things our kids did. In spite of that, we were and are still full of love for them. Now, I also know there are times you want to run away and hide because the stress can get crazy.

I think having a child is like buying your first house— you’re all in and fully committed. There is no turning back and life as you knew it changes forever. Yet, we would do it all over again. Why? Because we are crazy in love with the children God has blessed us with. I believe this is how God feels about us. He is crazy in love with us, no matter what we do.

So, today, no matter how old your children are, hug them and say, “thank you for all the smiles you bring our family, and the reminder that we, too, are children of God.”

## COVID-19 Update

As you may have heard, the State of Illinois has moved from Phase 4 to the bridge to Phase 5 of Restore Illinois. What does this mean for us? It means there is a 60% occupancy limitation, but those who are vaccinated do not count towards that.

Also, in keeping with the Executive Order of the Governor and updated CDC guidance, all fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks in most indoor and outdoor settings. When it comes to church attendance, the local church leadership will decide how to implement these new guidelines.

I continue to pray for each of you as you navigate life in our new reality.

## Church History

This week and next week, Administration and our ministerial director, Pete Braman, will be traveling around the state and meeting with all the pastors in their areas. One of the topics being asked is to talk with their church historians to capture the history of each of our churches in the Illinois Conference. If you know who that is in your church, please have them send the history of the church, and some pictures, to [pbraman@ilcsda.org](mailto:pbraman@ilcsda.org).

I am looking forward to gathering the histories of our churches in preparation for a special presentation at our next Constituency Meeting in October of 2022.

## Mission at Home Medical Clinic

The clinic is free and open to the public. Families and children are welcome! AMITA Health's healing mission is to extend care to all people, especially those in our local communities. It's a way to fulfill the mission at home, directly to those who need medical care but can't afford it. Join AMITA Health to receive free medical services, including: COVID-19 Vaccinations, Dental exams (adults and children), Dermatology, Diabetes and Nutrition Education, Laboratory screenings: glucose, urinalysis and pregnancy, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Pharmacy: Free medication (based on medical exam at event), Physical Therapy, Primary Care: school sports, physicals (immunizations not included), Podiatry, and more.

**When:** June 19th from 8-am -5pm.

**Where:** Glendale Heights Sports Hub, 250 Civic Centre Plaza, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Pre-registration is preferred to ensure an appointment time. On-site registration will be available, but times may be limited. Register online at [amitahealth.org/missionathome](https://amitahealth.org/missionathome) or call 855.MyAMITA.



## DID YOU KNOW...

... the General Conference Stewardship Ministries has a YouTube channel? <https://www.youtube.com/c/GCStewardshipMinistries>. There, you will find a lot of good video material-- from short inspirational video spots that can be used in church services or family devotional time to longer podcast type material. Watch and share with your friends.

Whatever you do in life, be God's steward and put God first!

## RESOURCES

### ☞ **Starting Today! General Conference to Host Virtual Global Campmeeting!**

The Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting will bring the entire world church together from May 19-23, 2021 to worship, be inspired, and learn. This event showcases the incredible breadth and depth of Adventist ministries around the world. Register now to experience powerful preaching, over 400 online seminars, roundtable discussions with church leaders, continuing education credits for pastors and teachers, and an exhibit hall with more than 100 Adventist organizations sharing their resource. Register now at: <https://2021.campmeeting.com>

### ☞ **Free Webinar: Getting Strategic About Sabbath School**

The pandemic forever changed the way we do church and Sabbath School. Some churches have adapted and are thriving, while others have struggled to maintain a viable virtual platform. So, what does the future of Sabbath School ministry look like? Join Curtis Hall of Sabbath School Coaching for a free webinar on Sunday, May 23, at 5 PM Eastern to...

- Learn best practices for facilitating a smooth transition back to in-person Sabbath School.
- Discover effective strategies for growing your teachers and leaders.
- Ensure buy-in from the members of your department when you implement necessary changes.
- Create a concrete, detailed plan for improving your Sabbath School ministry.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ute4afc3>

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*"It was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator."*

—Ellen G. White, Education, page 15

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