



# FYI #190

June 30, 2021

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

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## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

Galatians 5:1

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### Stay In-the-Loop

Facebook	@Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Email	president@ilcsda.org
Conference Calendar	www.ilcsda.org/calendar
Conference Address	619 Plainfield Rd Willowbrook IL 60527

This coming Sunday, citizens of the United States of America will celebrate freedom. There will be fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, as well as other public and private events to celebrate the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

The Fourth of July is our country's Independence Day; the day which marks the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Freedom is a blessing we hold dear and defend boldly. Our nation's armed forces are of one mind— that protecting our freedom is worth dying for. We strive to be what our national anthem proudly proclaims: *“the land of the free and the home of the brave!”* But are we really free? Whoever we are and wherever we live, are we free from what really matters?

From a biblical perspective, we are not free; all people are very much slaves. We find ourselves slaves to sin, and on our own, we cannot break its chains. We are slaves to our sinful nature and cannot live a day, an hour, even a minute without our sinful nature rearing its ugly head. Thoughts that pass through our heads, words that come flowing from our mouths, self-serving deeds that we plot to carry out, they all show our true nature. They all show just how much we are slaves to sin.

Thankfully, Jesus broke the shackles of sin, and He offers us true freedom. Jesus has forgiven the sinful thoughts of our minds, the devious actions from our hearts, the careless and hate-filled words that we speak. He forgives us because He lived up to God's sinless standard for us. Then Jesus willingly and lovingly allowed the punishment we deserved to be placed on Him. On the cross, Jesus endured our death and hell. When He burst forth from the tomb, He shattered the chains of sin and death. In Jesus, we have eternal life with God. That's something that no power on earth or scheme of man can ever take away. That's true freedom!

Happy Independence Day!

## Polish Church and Community

Did you know the Illinois Conference has the only Polish church in North America? Did you know the Chicago area has the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw, Poland? Illinois Conference Administration has been praying about how to reach our Polish brothers and sisters with the Good News of Jesus, and where to find a Polish speaking pastor to lead that outreach effort. I am happy to announce that Elder Tytus Gudzowski has accepted our invitation to come and pastor our Polish and Southwest churches. Pastor Tytus and his wife will be joining our pastoral team this Fall.

## Family Camp Meeting

Camp meeting is approaching! This year's camp meeting theme is *Proclaiming Jesus Passionately*, and it will begin July 28 - 31 at Camp Akita in Gilson, IL. This is a time for you and your family to step away from the daily distractions and pressures and, instead, enjoy community, outdoor activities, and worship. You can plan to stay for the entirety of the meeting or for a portion. If you choose to stay for a few nights, lodging is available through Camp Akita cabins, nearby hotels, or by bringing your tent or RV.

We will be following CDC guidelines, which states that if you are not fully vaccinated (2 weeks after receiving the two-dose series COVID vaccine or one-dose COVID vaccine), we ask that you wear a mask when in contact with others.

Registration is now open! Please visit our website for more information <https://www.ilcsda.org/departments/camp-meeting-2021>

## Thank You to Our ILC Prayer Ministry

I want to thank Elder Pete Braman and the Area Prayer Leaders (Deb Wilcot, Linda Tuthill, Ralph Shelton, Modupe Hughes, and Carole Bliss) for lifting the Illinois Conference churches and members up in prayer.

## Remembering Elder Justo Morales

This past Sunday, I joined others around the Illinois Conference, and beyond, at the West Central SDA church to celebrate the life of Elder Justo Morales. Please continue to lift up his wife, Rosa, and the rest of the family, as they move forward without their beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend.



## DID YOU KNOW...

... the Bible lists five specific postures of prayer:

Sitting (2 Sam 7:18)

Standing (Mark 11:25)

Kneeling (Chronicles 6:13; Daniel 6:10)

With one's face to the ground (Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:35),

With hands lifted up (1 Timothy 2:8).



# RESOURCES

## Free Online Course: Welcoming Visitors to Your Church

Is your church ready to welcome new or returning visitors? Learn the skills for intentionally welcoming visitors with this free online course from the Adventist Learning Community. By the end of this course, you will develop a vision of visitor care for your church, form a team of greeters, understand some roadblocks to visitors feeling comfortable in your church, and learn methods for helping everyone feel welcome.

For more: <https://tinyurl.com/5ykbs8y4>



## July 1 Webinar on Leadership & Team Development

Join this free webinar to learn three leadership development strategies specific to organizational change. Participants will also be able to understand the biblical concepts of servant leadership, and influence and inspire their team to succeed. Byron Dulan, Vice President for Regional Ministries for the North Pacific Union Conference, will lead this webinar on Thursday, July 1, at 2 PM Eastern.

For more: <https://tinyurl.com/v459baer>

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**“UNCEASING PRAYER IS THE UNBROKEN UNION OF THE SOUL WITH GOD, SO THAT LIFE FROM GOD FLOWS INTO OUR LIFE; AND FROM OUR LIFE, PURITY AND HOLINESS FLOW BACK TO GOD.”**

—Steps to Christ, p. 98

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