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August 13, 2020



# Lake Union HERALD

THIS WEEK

## NEWS AROUND THE UNION



### **Second Center of Influence opens in Chicago**

Epic Church [opened an Urban Center of Influence](#) (UCI) on Monday, July 27 in the Wicker Park-Bucktown suburb of Chicago. At the core of the new center, is the Epic Art House, which is an art and cultural center offering art classes, as well as exhibition space for local artists.

Since opening, the center has hosted the two of four week-long summer camp sessions and is currently finishing its third week. During these initial weeks, the Art House staff has focused on getting to know the newcomers and establishing relationships with them.



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## Love in the time of the coronavirus

The Covid-19 pandemic has deepened the bonds of many families and friends in unexpected ways. One couple, Jonathan Ericson and Marcella Lobo, saw their relationship bloom during a time of unforeseen circumstances.

Prior to their live-streamed wedding on May 17, the Ericsons initially met on an online dating app and after their engagement, [began virtual Bible studies and premarital counseling](#) led by Elgin Church Pastor Gabriel Bardan.



## A model for public evangelism

In early March, when Covid-19 was an unknown threat in the U.S., a group embarked on a unique type of retreat, one that would end up transforming the lives of several hundred people.

[The weekend was an experiment](#) that ended as a divinely innovative breakthrough in personal and public evangelism. Focused on “Christ’s Method Alone” for reaching the heart, it created an opportunity for any Michigan lay member to bring a non-Adventist friend and enjoy a relaxing retreat and an opportunity to study the Bible together.

Wes Peppers, the Michigan Conference Evangelism Coordinator wasn’t sure how many would respond. He was hoping for a total of 50-75 people. However, the Lord brought almost 300, with nearly 200 non-Adventists!

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## South Bend members mobilize to help farm workers

Olga Jimenez has had to field her share of questions recently from her two daughters about the news they see on television. So she and her husband, Mauricio, want to ensure their children see and are involved in examples of goodness.

For Olga Jimenez, that revolves around doing missionary work at her church, South Bend Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jimenez, 33, has been attending the church since she was eight and has been among the members [spreading goodness throughout the community.](#)

[Leer en Español!](#)

## IN THE NEWS



## Wisconsin president announces retirement

On August 12, 2020 Mike Edge shared with the Conference Executive Committee that he and his wife Juanita will be [retiring at the end of this year.](#)

Edge has served as Wisconsin Conference president since April 2010. Prior to that he served as the Conference Youth Director from 2000-2010. Juanita has served as the Conference Communications Director since 2010.

## ADDITIONAL NEWS & INFORMATION

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

### **Youth Literature Evangelists Canvass Detroit Metropolitan Area to Reach the Middle East**

Since July 6, 2020, the Michigan Conference has sponsored a [youth outreach effort that ministers to the largest population of Arab Americans in the U.S.](#) – the city of Dearborn, of the greater Detroit region.

### **ADRA Assists Families in the Dominican Republic Hit by Hurricane Isaias**

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in the Dominican Republic is providing assistance to hundreds of families affected by Hurricane Isaias, which struck the island on July 30. [The storm brought rains that overflowed rivers, drenching 14 provinces](#) and affecting more than 5,500 persons and damaging 1,000 homes.

### **ADRA Distributes Food And Laptops In Hungary During Pandemic**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, [more than 560 low-income families received food packages and 24 families received laptops](#) for online education thanks to projects sponsored by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Hungary.

### **Several Adventist schools and churches damaged after blast rocks Beirut, Lebanon**

At least 100 people are dead, thousands injured and buildings destroyed after a massive explosion hit Beirut, Lebanon on August 4. [The blast was felt as far away as Cyprus](#), which is more than 140 miles away, and registered as a 3.3 earthquake in Beirut. Initial reports blame the blast on a fire at a warehouse for firecrackers.

## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION NEWS

### **"We Can All Pray"**

NAD NewsPoints [Interview with Rick McEdward](#) on the Beirut, Lebanon, situation

### **ADRA Mourns the Loss of Former Leader Richard W. O'Fill**

[Early leader of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) passes to his rest.

### **"Dear Coronavirus" Videos Circle the World**

Adventist communication experts from different worldwide church divisions work together to share [messages of hope through a series of 12 #DearCoronavirus videos](#) shown globally on social media/viewing platforms.

### **Election Process Identified for New NAD Executive Secretary**

The North American Division (NAD) leadership has identified the [process to elect a new executive secretary](#). The position became vacant when G. Alexander Bryant was elected NAD president on July 9, 2020.

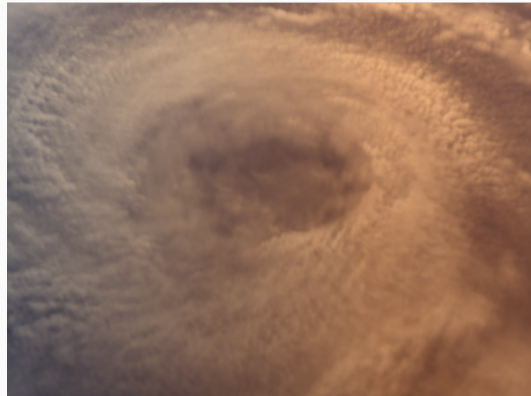
EVENTS AND RESOURCES



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By answering [these questions](#), you're helping us gain a clearer understanding of what you expect to see in these pages, which will help us produce a magazine that is a true reflection of interests and concerns to our Lake Union members.

Submit your answers by September 30 for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Watch for survey results in the a future issue of the *Herald*.



#### **Preparing for Hurricane Season**

Researchers from Colorado State University predict an above-average Atlantic hurricane season during 2020. Their team forecasts 20 named storms, which is eight more than the average of 12 per season. They also forecast nine of these named systems will reach hurricane status.

[Are you prepared?](#)



#### **ASI Videos are now available!**

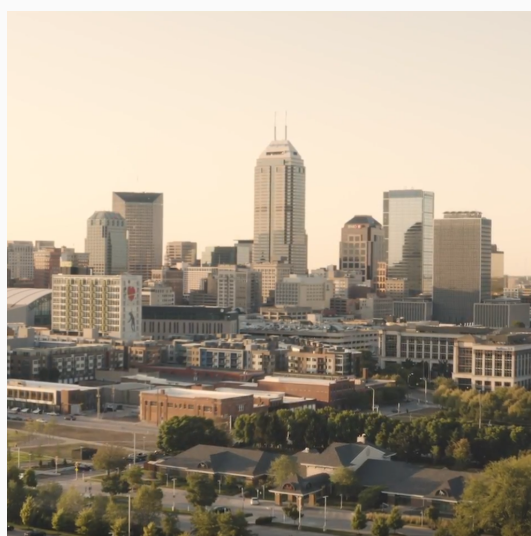
Sharing the three angels' messages was the focal point of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries 2020 convention. The virtual event was held July 29 to Aug. 1, and now it is available to everyone on [ASI's YouTube Channel](#).



#### **2021 Fearless Lake Union Camporee**

Come join us on September 16-19, 2021 as we learn how to be Fearless for Jesus!

[Learn more!](#)



**ONE YEAR IN MISSION PLUS** is an initiative in the Lake Union and an expansion of the [C.A.M.P.U.S.](#) Missionary Training Program.

If you know of committed Seventh-day Adventist young people with a desire to take the 2020-2021 year off from school to make a difference in the lives others, please contact: [www.campushope.com/oyim](http://www.campushope.com/oyim)



**ADVENTIST  
MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONALS**

**Adventist Medical Professionals**  
Virtual Clinician Well-being  
Conference and Family Conference

"Restoring Faith in Medicine"

October 2 and 3

Registration coming soon!

[www.amp.lakeunion.org](http://www.amp.lakeunion.org)

For additional information, email:

[heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org](mailto:heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org)

What's inside this month's *Herald*

Lake Union  
**HERALD**

AUGUST 2020

The color of the skin is no criterion as to the value of the soul.

**GRACE**

God has taken us, all classes, all nations, all languages, and nationalities, and brought us into His workshop, to be prepared for His temple.

ILLINOIS MEMBERS  
ILLINOIS FOCUS  
INSIDE

Featured Video



#### Epic Church launches Center of Influence

Epic Church Pastor Andres Flores says that art is merely the vehicle they are using to build a connection with camp goers and Wicker Park/Bucktown residents. Aside from the art, the center plans to be intentionally active in the community through programs such as a food distribution for the less fortunate, health clinics and educational and wellness classes.

**Thanks for reading the *Lake Union Herald* newsletter.**

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