













## AROUND THE UNION



# Spanish Church Plants English Congregation in Chicago

That spirit of church planting continues at Central Hispanic Church with a celebration held on Sabbath, July 15, 2023, for the organization of a new Illinois Conference church called 2nd Generation.

The Central Hispanic Church of Chicago has a prominent history as the first Hispanic church to be organized in the Lake Union. If you go to the Adventist Archives website, you can read an article published in 1947 in the Lake Union Herald entitled "Attempting Great Things for God."

There, Pastor Jose Rivera shares that when he came to pastor the congregation in 1944, there were only twelve people. That first sabbath the pastor challenged them to "attempt great things for God." - Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Conference

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# Faith-Flight Themed VBS Program Raises Money for Mission Pilot

Vacation Bible School at the Berrien Springs Village Church used flight-related object lessons to inspire children to focus on heavenly themes. One such higher purpose was to raise money for Andrew Hosford, a mission pilot in the Philippines who recently lost his fiancé in a medical aviation accident. His ministry involves flying injured people to medical help from wherever it is needed. Kimberly Spare, one of the VBS leaders, reached out to Andrew and asked if there were any needs because the VBS theme was related to his type of ministry. He was happily surprised about getting support such as gas or other supplies to help the missionary effort. The children collected offerings and deposited them into a wooden airplane offering box made by Barry Wilson.

- Rob Rice, Village Seventh-day Adventist Church

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# **Volunteer Pastors Commissioned in Wisconsin**

On Sabbath, June 24, five new Volunteer Lay Pastors (VLP) were commissioned during Sabbath School in Pioneer Pavilion.

The Volunteer Lay Pastor Program originated with former Wisconsin Ministerial Director James Fox over a decade ago and has trained over 50 lay people to be better equipped to serve God and help their local church to reach others for Jesus.

Most of our VLP's are active in their local churches as elders or in other forms of leadership. Each one humbly serves their congregation, usually without recognition, because we are all called to use our gifts and talents for the Lord.

There are currently seven VLP's that are pastoring a local congregation under the leadership of a district pastor. In these locations the district pastor provides mentorship and guidance to the VLP. "We have enjoyed seeing the way that



## Over 500 Attend NAD Zomi Convention in Indiana

The 10th Annual North American Division Zomi convention took place on the campus of Indiana Academy from June 28 - July 1, 2023. The Indianapolis Zomi church was the host for the event. More than 500 guests came from all over the country.

Zomi (pronounced ZOH-Mee) members come from Myanmar, a Southeast Asian nation, formerly known as Burma. Many fled their homes to escape religious persecution for their Christian faith, and the recently intensified political unrest as a result of Myanmar armed forces (known as the Tatmadaw) seizing control of the country on February 1st, 2021. - *Noel Ojeda, Indiana Conference* 

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# A Cancer Diagnosis. Contemplating Why Me to Concluding Why Not Me?

A cancer diagnosis sent me into a catatonic state of asking the "why me" question. Carrying blindness for the past 40 years seemed like enough for someone to deal with in a lifetime. But the tests didn't lie. There I sat with a life-threatening illness and a treatment plan that promised to deplete my health to a degree that I had not yet known. I had come to know my features and hair by the familiarity of touch and it was what I anchored knowing my appearance in. I would lose my hair, my eyebrows, my eyelashes, and my features would certainly change after chemo, surgery, and radiation. "Why me?" I asked again. - Cyndi Woods

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### **EVENTS AND RESOURCES**





Check out Three Angels Natural Foods & Christian Books July Sale



## Are your health challenges interfering with your life goals?

Worried that you won't be there to walk your granddaughter down the aisle? If your bucket list has been reduced to getting up in the morning, why not come to the quiet, healing beauty of the Black Hills Health & Education Center and discover the pathway to wellness. We'd love to help you expand your list! Call 605-255-4101 or visit www.bhhec.org.



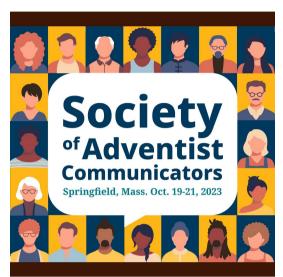


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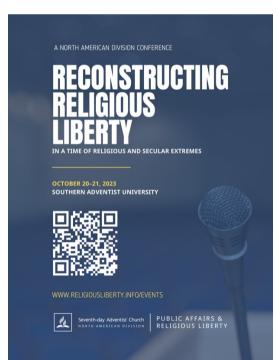


You're invited to send your kids (ages 8-16) to the Lake Region Junior Camp on July 23-30, 2023 at Camp Wagner. Activities include Yee-Haw classes, PB&J's Racing Karts, Kit Kat's Horsing Snacks, Ziggi's Wildin' Adventure, and more. Register your child today at <a href="Irregular-Irregu











What: Families & Emotional Health

Where: Virtual

When: July 20-22, 2023 Registration: ACFRP.org

Who should participate? Family

Ministries leaders from local churches, conferences, union conferences and divisions, other professionals who work with families, seminary students, graduate students, pastors and lay persons who have an interest in improving their own marriages and families are invited to participate.

The Society of Adventist
Communicators Convention
registration is now open! Join SAC in
Springfield, Mass., on Oct. 19-21, as
professional communicators attend
workshops, meet for worship, and
network. They also welcome Adventist
college and university students. And
after a hiatus, they are planning to
bring back the communication awards
program and area media tours. Hurry!
CLICK HERE for more info and/or to
register.

CYE invites you to a cruise adventure to Alaska on September 3-10.

Check out the itinerary and register.

If you have any questions, please send an email to <a href="mailto:cwm@cye.org">cwm@cye.org</a>.

The NAD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty ministry invites you to "Reconstructing Religious Liberty in a Time of Religious and Secular Extremes." This two-day event will explore new ways to talk about religious freedom within a culturally and politically polarized America.

When: October 20-21, 2023
Where: Collegedale Seventh-day
Adventist Church

For more information and to register, visit <u>religiousliberty.info/events</u>. **Registration is now open with an Early Bird rate of just \$49.** 

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Christ to the world through free online access to Adventist historical and contemporary resources. Visit us to discover magazines, books, photographs, and more.



## June / July 2023

This month's issue features stories from UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.

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