

iC + Me



ILLINOIS CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

February 5

Volume 2, Issue 2b, 2025

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS:

- Updated text for Meet and Greet
- Added Hope Church baptisms

[LinkTree](#)

THE ISSUE

THE LEADER:

- Illinois Conference Helps Launch Project Amigo
- Further Reading

THE FEED:

- Women's Ministries Meet and Greet
- LUC Young Adult Retreat

THE SNACK:

- Women's Ministries Retreat Coming Up!
- Pentecost 2025 Training with Mark Finley
- Hope Church has High Sabbath
- Winter Retreat for Pastors
- Hispanic Elders' Meeting

THE LEADER

Illinois Conference Leaders Help Launch Project Amigo

A final prayer meeting is the end and hopefully the beginning



Matthew Lucio, Assistant to the President for Communication.

Far from home, Illinois Conference (ILC) President John Grys and Executive Secretary Michael Campos (accompanied by his wife, Erika) awoke in the mountains of Peru. A black flag on a stick signaled the presence of Project Amigo, a five-year initiative designed to deepen the relationship between the Lake Union Conference and the South Peru Union. Lake Union President Ken Denslow and conference officers from Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Lake Region participated in the project, joining Peruvian leaders and members to eat, talk, worship, and work together.

"Unlike traditional mission projects that focus solely on giving," wrote the Lake Union Herald, "this partnership is built on the premise of mutual benefit." [Ken Denslow explained](#):

“We need to recognize their strengths and what they can teach us while contributing what we can. We’re stronger together.”



Lake Union leaders partnered with Maranatha Ministries to construct a church in Chilca for a company of Adventists—most of them children—who now worship there. Two Adventists, Carlos and Bessie, moved from Lima three years ago and began a children’s ministry in the surrounding area. Before long, their home was filled with 25 children gathering for worship and meals, making it clear that a dedicated building was needed.



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In addition to the church, the Illinois and Michigan Conferences each built a parsonage for local pastors and their families in areas where it is difficult to find housing. At a dedication for one of the parsonages high up in the mountains, some of those gathered noted how hard it was to find adequate housing for pastors with small children. Before these parsonages were built, they often lived in the larger cities at lower elevations, leaving their families for days at a time as they visited the churches in the mountains. Thanks to these parsonages, pastors can spend more time with their families while ministering to their church members.

“The beauty of participating in projects like these,” Grys said, “is the mutual blessing we all receive as we work to advance the mission through concrete and mortar. Serving side by side reminds us that our church is a global church with global needs, united in serving the same God and preparing a people for His return.”

Erika Campos was inspired by the believers she met: "They are on fire and God's work is theirs."





Though the Seventh-day Adventist Church originated in the United States, only 5% of its global membership resides in the North American Division. This demographic shift highlights the importance of building stronger relationships with Adventists around the world.

Andrews University has also joined Project Amigo to provide educational opportunities, while AdventHealth is donating medical equipment. Project Amigo will also provide Lake Union members with opportunities to serve believers in Peru. A Project Amigo website with more information is expected to launch in Spring 2025. The Illinois Conference will continue to share updates on the progress of this exciting mission.

NEXT STEPS

[Read this story on ilcsda.org.](https://ilcsda.org)

Read more about [Project Amigo in the Lake Union Herald](#).

For other photos of the trip, [visit the Lake Union's Flickr album](#).



OTHER ARTICLES TO CHECK OUT



Remembering Ronald Becker Graham

[Read More](#)



North American Division Offers Guidelines on Immigration

[Read More](#)

THE FEED



RSVP

Women's Ministries Meet and Greet (February 15)

Join Laura Lucio (Volunteer Women's Ministries Coordinator) for the first quarterly Meet and Greet of the year. This is your chance to hear about the exciting events planned this year and to offer feedback.

LUC Campus Ministries/Young Adult Retreat (February 14-16)

Join young adults from across the Lake Union for a retreat at Camp Au Sable for a special week with Dr. Richard Davidson.



Register

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THE SNACK

Quick bites from around the Conference

**SAVE THE DATE! THE 2025 WOMEN'S
RETREAT IS COMING**

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 17
ILCSDA.ORG

the UNSEEN

2025 WOMEN'S RETREAT

featuring

GAIL MCKENZIE
DR. ANGELIKA KAISER
DR. GENALIN NIERE-METCALF
CAITLIN MUSGRAVE
DR. ERIKA CAMPOS, DPT

OCTOBER 17-19
EAST PEORIA



Illinois
Conference
Seventh-day Adventist Church



ADVENTIST
WOMEN

PENTECOST 2025

TRAINING (April 4-5)

Pastor Mark Finley is a featured speaker at the upcoming Pentecost 2025 meeting in April. If your church signed up for Pentecost 2025, look forward to attending this training. When we get more information, this item will be bumped up to "The Feed."

The event will take place in Berrien Springs, Michigan, but there is no new information at this point.



HOPE CHURCH BAPTISMS



Pastor Ruslan Drumi baptized several people at Hope Church on February 1.





Oleg Bokov, a Ukrainian Adventist influencer with 600,000 followers on YouTube, speaks during the service.

PASTORS' WINTER RETREAT TO CAMP AKITA



Standing on the frozen lake and still smiling! It was a blessed time for pastors to be together, hear from Conference leaders, and think on biblical presentations before heading back to their districts.

HISPANIC CHURCH ELDERS GATHER



Pastor Ruben Bullon speaks as elders from the various hispanic churches gathered for all-day training and fellowship at the Conference office on February 1.

If you have any **Snack Stories** you want to share with us, please email them to **communication@ilcsda.org**

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