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▲ Senior pastor Gordon Fraser and associate pastor Casey Adams prayed over the mothers and children.

Mothers receive support and education at Chicago community baby shower

ILLINOIS—The Goshen Church fellowship hall was transformed into a space adorned with pink and blue balloons, as mothers-to-be visited various stations, greeted by medical and other professionals providing helpful information.

The free community baby shower, put on by the Goshen Church on Nov. 18, gave families living in and near the impoverished South Chicago community a chance to access maternal and health services, support and education they may have otherwise lacked.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago has one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the U.S., and there are significant racial and

ethnic disparities. Non-Hispanic Black infants have an infant mortality rate that is three times higher than non-Hispanic white infants.

Organizers and church elders, Lorian Willis and Tonnie Young-Hayes, said that, while it was important to give the expectant mothers the tools to have a healthy pregnancy and delivery, they also wanted the event to be fun. Stations included a professional photographer; blood pressure check; information on prenatal, doula and dental care; along with games and rewards.

With support from Hinsdale Church and individual donations, Goshen distributed over 1,000 diapers, lotions, soaps, baby wipes, clothes, diaper bags, formula and other courtesy gifts to 100 attendees. Anelle Willis, one of the attendees who was due in December, said she was grateful because she needed the help.

Regional conference presidents meet with General Conference president

LAKE REGION—History was made on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, when North

American regional conference presidents met with Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in his office at the church's World Headquarters. Convened to address and clarify statements made by Wilson in his sermon at Annual Council in October, the meeting covered an array

of other critical issues related to ministry in the African-American community in the North American Division, as well as in the broader community. The conversation was open and frank, characterized by civility and courtesy, and lasted almost four hours. It ended with prayer for the General Conference president,

During the event, senior pastor Gordon Fraser and associate pastor Casey Adams held some of the babies and offered a prayer of blessing over each of the expectant mothers. "Not only do we want to serve the physical needs of the community but also the spiritual needs," Fraser said afterwards. ■

Kristine Walker-Fraser teaches Communication at Andrews University, Indiana University and Southwestern Michigan College.

