

Lampletter — Wisconsin

Volume 6, Number 4

December 2003

Maranatha Miracle



On the second day, volunteers begin tipping up the walls of the Fireside Lodge.

On October 5, Maranatha volunteers converged on Camp Wakonda and twelve working days later, the "Fireside Lodge" stood framed, partially roofed and sided!

During those 12 days, almost 80 volunteers from 20 states and one Canadian province worked a miracle. Day one started with a flat slab of concrete. On the second day, volunteers were tipping up walls, and by day four they were setting the roof trusses. One volunteer commented, "We may be old, but we are like an army of ants. We just swarmed over the area and things happened."

Volunteers came from as far away as Alaska, California and Alberta, each paying for their own travel to spend 2 weeks working to make our dream a reality. For several, this was their first Maranatha project, while other volunteers had worked on 10-90 projects.

About 60 people from Wisconsin also participated in the building project, both during the time that the Maranatha team was present and during the work bee which followed. By the close of the work bee, the work on the roof was nearly completed, over half of the siding was on, and the windows were installed.

What was done in a few days by these dedicated volunteers could have taken many more weeks – and thousands more dollars – to complete. The Maranatha team worked 769 work days, putting in over 6152 working hours, all for no pay other than the joy of service.

There is much more work to be done before camp meeting comes around next summer, and you can become involved in this special project. We need your financial

support, your help at work bees, and most importantly, your prayers as we work together to build a facility which will bless people of all ages who enjoy Camp Wakonda.

For pictures of Fireside Lodge, visit www.wakonda.org and click on "Building to Serve."

For more information about Maranatha Volunteers International visit: www.maranatha.org.

Mike Edge, Wisconsin Conference Youth Director



Fifty members of the Maranatha volunteers stand in front of the new Fireside Lodge, where they raised walls, installed windows, and set roof trusses.



The new Fireside Lodge after 6152 hours of hard work by Maranatha Volunteers and many supportive Wisconsin church members.

What's Inside

Holiday Greetings	p. 2
Pastors' Wives Retreat	p. 2
Eden's Testing Tree	p. 3
Heritage Sabbath	p. 3
Lake Union Evangelism	p. 4
Academy Christmas Pageant	p. 4
Evangelism in 2003	p.5
Adventist Schools	p. 6
Women's Retreat	p. 6
Romania Mission	p.7



The Presidential View

Bringing the season's peace to a troubled world

As I write this article people in California are suffering with the loss of lives and homes through raging fires which have spread uncontrollably. More deaths are mounting through the crisis in Iraq. The threat of terrorism only seems to be growing and not diminishing. The future seems less secure.

Can we face this Christmas season and the New Year with confidence? The answer is yes. The only way we can answer yes is to also say when we face the future with Jesus. I am more and more convinced that we must concentrate our focus on lifting Him up. There is no other solution to the troubles of our world.

I love the words of Ephesians 2:13,14, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are

made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us..."

Jesus is the great recon-

barrier that Satan has created to prevent Jesus from having full control of their life. There are addictions, life challenges, traditions, that need to be overcome for Christ to have His way in the life.

Yes, Satan's work is evident. So why can we be so confident of the future? Jesus is in control. 1 Corinthians 15:25 says, "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet." I have shared that text previously. It is encouraging to know that Christ is in charge. All those who submit to Christ will be victorious.

The outcome has already been determined. We need to point people to the Solution.

This Christmas and New Year season, let's uplift Jesus. Let Him be the basis of people's hope.

*Don Corkum,
Wisconsin Conference President*

Peace on Earth

ciler; He is the healer; He is the enabler; He is the one who can help us through tragedy to triumph; He is the one who can bring hope.

During our recent series of meeting in Steven's Point, I became aware how everyone has some

PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT

September is beautiful at Camp Wakonda and the wives of our Wisconsin pastors took advantage of an opportunity to enjoy the beauty during the 3rd Annual Retreat for Pastors' Wives on September 19-21, 2003.

Lynn Ortel, the guest speaker, shared principles about establishing boundaries and meeting personal needs in our lives, as well as sharing personal testimonies of her life. Cherry Habenicht directed a meaningful Bible study on Sabbath morning and Juanita Edge led the women on a nature walk on Sabbath afternoon.

Another feature of the weekend was the sharing of ideas and activities for Women's Ministries and hospitality. Many women expressed their appreciation for the "bonding time" with other pastor's wives, as well as the time for sharing and prayer.

We in Conference leadership, appreciate immensely the pastors' wives, their support of local church ministry, and their commitment. This weekend of renewal and encouragement was an expression of our appreciation to them.

*Phyllis Corkum,
Assistant Treasurer*



Lynn Ortel, guest speaker shares her apple object lesson with the pastors' wives at Camp Wakonda.

Eden's Testing Tree

Giving God Your All

In the Garden of Eden God planted two trees. To one He gave man unlimited access as long as the other remained off limits. The fruit of the one tree promised eternal life, the fruit of the other death. The testing tree was a symbol of God's authority. It was a reminder to Adam and Eve that He was the Owner and they were the stewards of His property.

The Garden of Eden, with its testing tree is no longer upon the earth. So the testing tree can no longer serve as a reminder of God's authority and ownership. God has instituted a new authority/ownership symbol; the tithing system in which one tenth of the increase belongs to Him.

This system is based solely on our faith in God's ability to provide. Skimming 10% from the top of the income presupposes that God will extend the remainder to cover our need.

Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'" Malachi 3:10.

Any individual who does not trust God completely, who refuses to recognize God's sovereignty by not returning the tithe, is stealing the fruit from the forbidden tree all

over again.

As the end of the year draws near and a new year begins, we need to take some time to re-examine our hearts. Are we stepping out in a faith partnership with God? The promise of Malachi 3 is ours to claim. God is pleased when His children claim His promises and test His words. If tithing is a new concept for you or you've known about it but have been hesitant to give it a try, I challenge you to take God at His Word. You will not be disappointed.

*Brian Hamilton,
Secretary/Treasurer*

Community Service

Community Service in the Wisconsin Conference got a big boost with the week of Community Service Federation. Meetings in Rhinelander, Rice Lake, Sheboygan, Milton and Oxford filled the week, conducted primarily by Julie Hornbacker. Hornbacker founded the Neighbors in Constant Care Foundation (CCF) in Columbus, Wisconsin by helping one family at Christmas. This ministry has expanded into a year-round program which provides food, clothing, jobs and medical assistance. The meetings ended by sharing what community services have accomplished in Wisconsin churches. Many positive things are taking place - keep up the good work!

-Floyd Brock, Community Services Director

Heritage Sabbath Celebrated in Madison



Nineteen members of the Madison East Church were honored in a special Sabbath ceremony on September 20, 2003 for their lifelong dedication to the church. Each of the 19 members honored have been members of Madison East Church for at least 50 years. The service included a sermon by Elder James Fox which highlighted the long-term commitment of each member, the presentation of

plaques and medals to all honorees and a meal in their honor. The nineteen Madison church members recognized were Monetta Shippy, Joyce and Berton Crary, Otis Crary, Doris Grahn, Lillian Cox, Pat and Robert Adair, Allan and Carolyn Young, Betty and Howard Heisig, Richard Saunders, Donald and Lucille Harrison, Dale and Donna Bossenberry, Leonard and Carolyn Squire.

Going Crazy For Christ

Lake Union Evangelism Training Inspires Many Wisconsin Church Members



Mark Graham, a church elder from Rice Lake, Wisconsin, gives his testimony at the Saturday night meeting in South Bend.

During the weekend of October 23-25, 108 members of Wisconsin churches traveled to South Bend, Indiana, for the Lake Union Conference Evangelism Training Workshop. They joined with 1100 other delegates at the Century Center for a full weekend of training, inspiration and fellowship.

Wisconsin has joined the General

Conference initiative, "2004, the Year of Evangelism" in encouraging every church, every school, every geographic region to be involved in public evangelism beginning on September 11, 2004. Our faith goal for Wisconsin is one hundred and fifty reaping evangelistic meetings in 2004. This will require many trained lay evangelists as well as our pastors and conference office workers to lead out in meetings.

We learned during Hope for the Homeland that our lay evangelists were very competent in conducting meetings. The meetings in 2004 will be much more effective if people are positively impacted by the ministries of our church *before* evangelism begins.

On Saturday night, Elder Walter Wright, Lake Union President, led out in a recognition service for

those who had led out in Hope for the Homeland lay evangelism. Mark Graham, an elder in the Rice Lake Church who had just finished an evangelistic meeting in Rice Lake, gave his testimony of how Hope for the Homeland changed him, his church and their view of mission: He reported that soul-winning was becoming more of a way of life for the elders of the church in Rice Lake - "We need to be more involved in winning souls and the business of the church will take care of itself," he shared enthusiastically.

In the Sunday morning commitment service, participants pledged that they would begin their labors to prepare for 9/11/04 and the largest evangelistic endeavor ever in the Wisconsin Conference.

James Fox, Evangelism Coordinator

Your Cars Are Still Working!

Thanks to all who have made donations to our vehicle donation project at Wisconsin Academy. The good news is that we have been able to donate over \$9,000 to the Worthy Student fund at Wisconsin Academy. Unfortunately, our number of donated vehicles has decreased. Please take a long look in your driveway or garage. If you have a vehicle, car, truck or camper that the Lord is impressing you to donate, call Floyd Brock at (920) 623-2055. Your donation may help a young person continue their journey of Christian education at Wisconsin Academy.

Academy Students Bring Nativity To Life

A horse laboring under the weight of a pregnant woman, angels singing from the rooftops, and the three wise men pointing out God's promises among the starry sky. These are just a few of the scenes you might witness at the annual Wisconsin Academy nativity pageant on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6, 2003. Each program runs from 6:30-8:30 and includes the characters from the Biblical story in full costume played by academy students and faculty. Live animals, stunning sets, and inspiring music are all a part of the program which brings the Christmas story to life. The pageant is heavily attended by the community, so come early.

Wisconsin Academy is also hosting the annual Christmas musical program the following weekend on Saturday, December 13 at 11 a.m. in the chapel. You won't want to miss these special holiday presentations!



Wisconsin Evangelism 2003

Watertown, Minocqua, Birchwood and Rice Lake host meetings

Although the year 2003 is not a year of emphasis for evangelism in the Adventist church worldwide, several churches in Wisconsin are not letting the year end without hosting meetings to share the gospel with their community. The Adventist churches in Watertown, Minocqua, Birchwood, and Rice Lake spent significant time this autumn preparing for and hosting evangelistic meetings with encouraging results.

Pastor Ric Swaningson of Watertown spoke at meetings in the Hawk Center in Watertown. Pastor Swaningson's meetings on Adventures in Prophecy drew in about 30-40 participants nightly, which was a significant number for a small community like Watertown. At the end of the series, Pastor Swaningson had the privilege to baptize 9 new members into the church. He noted, "This is huge growth for the Watertown church. This has more than doubled the active membership of the church."



Pastor Ric Swaningson baptizes Holly Krummel into Watertown church.

The Adventist church of Minocqua also held Bible Prophecy seminars for the community during the fall. Pastor Christian Ronalds, the speaker and pastor of the Minocqua church, expressed pleasure at an excellent turnout of 6 or more visitors each night. The series resulted in 4 baptisms, 2 re-bap-

tisms, and 5 individuals who expressed an interest in studying for baptism.

In the north woods of Birchwood, two church elders and their wives hosted the New Beginnings evangelistic series which deals with prophecy as well as church doctrines. Larry and Kathy Beyreis and Pam and Dan Ringwelski spent considerable time preparing for the series which averaged 8-10 visitors nightly and featured a nightly health nugget at the beginning of each meeting.

In Rice Lake, church elders Jim Wright, Mark Graham, and Bob Simonson led a prophecy seminar based on Doug Bachelor's materials, although the three had to write all of their own sermons. Though there were no immediate baptisms, 3 women are attending the Rice Lake church regularly and have begun studying the Bible with Jim Wright.

Laura Larssen, Madison East Church



Participants of the meetings at Watertown listen intently to Pastor Ric Swaningson as he presents the Adventures in Prophecy series. The meetings resulted in a nearly 100 percent increase in church attendance.

Wisconsin Happenings

Why Does Our School System Exist?

At the August worker's meeting, teachers in Wisconsin Adventist schools were given a challenge. They were asked to do more than to work to raise the level of their student's academic achievement this school year. While academic achievement is important, this is not the most significant reason for the existence of our schools. The main purpose of having our children in Adventist schools is to help them build a love relationship with Jesus Christ so that they will want to develop their talents to their utmost for Him.

This year all students in grades 5 through 8 were given the book *Messiah*. This book is different from the other textbooks they received, as it is theirs to keep and to highlight as they see fit. It is being used as a part of the curriculum, but at the end of the year, we hope that the students value the book so much that they will take it home and continue to use it as part of their devotions. Some of the teachers are using the book as a part of their Bible curriculum. Others are using it as an element of their morning worships. No matter how it is used, however, the purpose is to help the students learn about God's unconditional love for them so that they will want to develop their talents for Him.

Our children need to know that there is absolutely nothing they could ever do that would cause the Lord to love them any *more* than He already does. With this understanding, their natural reaction is a desire to serve Him. They also need to know that there is absolutely nothing they could ever do that would cause the Lord to love them any *less* than He already does. If they understand this, they will trust Him enough to turn to Him each time that they fall. They must learn that the Lord accepts them just the way they are, but that He loves them too much to leave them that way.

If you want your children to experience God's love in the classroom every day, check out our church schools!

Ken Kirkham, Educational Superintendent

Over 300 Women Enjoy A Time Of Relaxation And Rejuvenation



Angela Ronalds and Arlene Gayle browse the ABC display at the annual women's retreat at Chula Vista Resort.

The 2003 Time of Refreshing brought 324 women to Chula Vista resort in Wisconsin Dells from October 31 through November 2. Hazel Burns, a pastor from Kettering, Ohio, was the featured speaker, and her theme for the

weekend was "Prayer Invading the Impossible." Other special features included numerous breakaway sessions on Bible doctrines, Christian growth, children, marital relationships, exercise, obesity, health, how to study the Bible, and the story of Jonah.

On Saturday night, women could choose from a number of relaxing options: shopping at the imported Adventist Book Center (ABC), relaxing with a video, swimming, joining a support group, experiencing a rededication, strolling in downtown Wisconsin Dells for an ice cream treat, reading a book, or visiting with friends.

Responses from the participants were overwhelmingly positive: they noted that the singing was inspiring, the food was great, and sleep was at a premium. Next year's time

of refreshing features guest speaker Ginny Allen, a registered nurse from Portland who comes highly recommended by Dale & Judy Ziegele. Be sure to mark next year's Women's Retreat in your calendars and join other Christian women for this time of refreshing on October 29-31, 2004.

Aileen King, Director of Women's Ministries



Sue Nelson and Debbie Scapardine enjoy a breakaway session on Saturday.

Wisconsin Happenings

Thirty Wisconians Make a Difference In Romania

While some individuals enjoy vacation time on luxurious Caribbean cruises or tours of European art, thirty Wisconsin church members chose to use their vacation time to conduct evangelism and construct a church in Sarmas, Romania. From October 2-15, members of the mission team spent their days laboring at the construction site and hosting a medical clinic in the village. Evangelistic meetings at the church for both children, youth, and adults filled the evenings, and the turnout for the meetings was very high. The Vacation Bible School was especially popular, averaging about 90 boisterous children per meeting by the week's close.

Although the culture and language of the Romanian church members was far different than that of the Americans, the mission team felt very welcome. "Never once did I ever feel that we were putting them out, whether it was my host family or anybody at the church," noted Pastor Bill Ochs of Madison. "They just went out of their way to be good hosts and take care of us."

Despite financial difficulties, the Romanians generously gave their own resources for the mission team. Pastor Jonathan Larssen of Madison shared, "Even though the Romanian church members were financially poor, they were rich in their close-knit families, their community, and their lifestyle. They gave sacrificially so that we could feel comfortable there." Kitty Crary, a member of the Vacation



The 30 members of the Romania mission team gather on their last day in the country.

Bible School team, also felt that the Romanians valued the simple pleasures more. "The children were just like children in America - loud and boisterous - but they appreciated the little things more, like the stickers we passed out and playing simple games. The people were so warm. Even while walking in the village, people would cross the street to shake your hand."

In addition to the evangelistic meetings and health clinics, the team from Wisconsin also left behind a special gift for the Romanians - \$24,000 to put towards the installation of a church furnace so that the Romanians could begin using the facility by the winter. The bulk of the money came from Wisconsin church members who did not get to see Romania for themselves, but felt impressed to donate money for the church building fund. Pastor Ochs stated, "It was very inspiring to see how our churches came forward to give. It wasn't only in Romania that we felt that generous spirit."

Laura Larssen, Madison East Church

YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

2004 is the 25th year since Camp Wakonda was purchased and we are looking for old photos the camp. If you have old photos of Camp Wakonda/Camp Go Seek, (people, buildings, or area) that you would be willing to have us make a copy of, please contact Mike Edge at (608) 296-1842 or at mgedge@wi.adventist.org.

The LampLetter is the Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Donald Corkum	President
Brian Hamilton	Secty/Treasury
James Fox	Editor
Kitty Crary	Secretary
Laura Larssen	Layout Editor

Your comments and submissions are welcomed:

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
P.O. Box 7310
Madison, WI 53707
Attn: James Fox or
jfox@wi.adventist.org



Adventist Book Center Holiday Highlights



New Books- Great Presents

Conflict of the Ages Set -Pocket sized This classic set also includes Steps to Christ, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, and Christ's Object Lessons. Boxed for gift wrapping

A Treasury of Christmas Gems - This book is a collection of poems and prayers capturing the meaning of Christmas. Bound in a beautiful hand made paper with real leaves.

HOPE: Daniel & Revelation's Message of Hope By Russell Burrill. Excellent sharing book with quantity pricing.

Messiah An adaptation of Desire of Ages, Hardback or paperback. Songs of the Messiah CD - variety of artists with a holiday theme. Birth of the Messiah - chapter on Christ's birth - great for giving as a Christmas card. Available in 10 packs with envelopes.

Foods for Thought set includes 152 pg lifestyle book, facinating 60-minute instructional video, audiobook CD for easy listening in the car or kitchen. Features nutrition's link with mood, memory, learning, and behavior.

A.B.C. Services

The Adventist Book Center is happy to provide the following services to our customers:

Bible Imprinting: Engrave your name or the name of a loved one on a Bible or Spirit of Prophecy book.

Shipping: We can ship right to your door!

Online shopping: Adventistbookcenter.com. Sign up for e-mail alerts on specials and new products

Toll-free ordering: 1-888-266-5748

Full line of meat alternatives available. Soy milk available, along with Emes Jel, Bakon seasonings, McKays Chicken.



Shop online at: www.adventistbookcenter.com
and Vegefood.com

For information, call toll free 1-888-266-5748

Store Hours

Monday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Holiday greetings from the staff at
the Adventist Book Center

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
P.O. Box 7310
Madison, WI 53707-7310

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLLEGE PLACE, WA
PERMIT NO. 10

Return Service Requested

****5-DIGIT 54235
-2 F15