

## God's Providence for this Time

**Editors Note:** *As we go to press, the City of Sun Prairie has requested that the sale of our Conference Office property in Sun Prairie be delayed until January 3, 2007. The reason for the delay is final work on the city's Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) District that they wanted in place prior to finalizing the sale. Our Conference leaders have accepted their request in good faith and have therefore granted the request. We will keep you informed of progress on our website <http://wi.adventist.org> and through announcements delivered to your pastor.*

In 1995, the State of Wisconsin announced their plans to widen and improve Highway 151N in the City of Sun Prairie. In accordance with State Statute, they sent a formal notice to property owners who might be impacted by the decision. As Secretary of the Conference Corporation, Elder Richard Habenicht received this notice. His responsibilities include property management as well as the buying and selling of church properties. Habenicht attended the announced meeting with State officials and received notice that the proposed widening of the highway would result in the State taking over a portion of the Conference office property.

Habenicht reviewed the details of the original land purchase in 1975 wherein the Conference secured the land for \$3000 per acre or roughly 7 cents per square foot.

He contacted a commercial realtor and an appraiser to give him an informal idea of the value of the property in 1995. They both suggested that the farmland had risen in value and could yield close to \$1.00 per square foot. Habenicht continued to attend State and City of Sun Prairie meetings on the subject of the highway development. He also began to talk to individuals in the business of commercial real estate. One of these contacts suggested that it might be wise to secure a development plan for the property through a company he knew. This might result in a higher value for the land when the time came for the State to take the property they needed for their right of way.

Habenicht reported his findings to President Don Corkum and then Secretary-Treasurer Brian Hamilton. They realized that the Conference property would have greater value to the State and to commercial development if it were treated as a block together with the property of the Sun Prairie Community Church. Our administrators therefore recommended to the Executive Committee a plan:

1. That we enter into discussion with the Sun Prairie Community Church and ascertain if they would be willing to place their property in a block with ours for development.
2. That we secure a development plan for the two properties.

The leaders of the Community Church were willing to participate in this process. The Conference, therefore, secured a development plan for the two properties for \$10,000. The Community Church paid one third of the cost.

Habenicht continued to attend meetings with State and City officials and told the City of the interest in development. He asked the City's Planning Department what their thoughts were for the Conference office area. He had the development firm write up three possible plans for our properties and brought all three to the City's Planning office and asked them which plan they preferred for this land. The City of Sun Prairie Planning Department chose one of

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Don Corkum

### **From the President's Desk**

The recent Elder's Conference at Camp Wakonda on November 17-19, was saturated with music. Praise and thanksgiving were prominent as people lifted their hearts to God. The theme of the weekend was on worship and music is central to the picture of worship evidenced throughout scripture.

Seventh-day Adventists have a



David Swinghammer and LaVonne Bussey lead out in song service at the Elder's Conference

mandate to be leaders in worship. As a prophetic people we gain our mission from Revelation 14. Central to that mission is the command, "Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." Revelation 14:7.

In a recent study by Monte Sahlin (reported in Adventist Congregations Today), inspiring worship is a felt need in many Adventist churches. People go to a worship service but many don't feel as though they worship God. Worship is experiencing God's presence and responding from our hearts to Him. It is more than going through an order of service—it is what we should be experiencing during that time that makes it worship.

Good worship takes good plan-

ning. It takes much prayer and creative thought to create the atmosphere where worshipers can sense God's presence. Without forethought and planning the worship service can lack unity in its theme and message.

When the worship is inspiring and dynamic, all age groups of our churches will be blessed. Guests coming to our churches will be attracted to return. I am not talking about trivializing the worship service but authentic worship that is creative, inspiring and heartfelt. Inspiring worship cannot happen with the contribution of one or two people, it is a team effort. Ultimately, every worshiper contributes to make the worship atmosphere appealing.

I have experienced the presence of God in many worship services in Wisconsin. However we always need to be asking if we can be more effective in this important area. It is my prayer that each church and church member in Wisconsin will experience God's presence on a regular basis and express this in corporate worship in new and fresh ways.

*Don Corkum, President*

### **Executive Committee Retreat**

The new Executive Committee elected at the Constituency Meeting met for the first time on the weekend of November 10-12. During the Sabbath, we experienced worship as well as studied

## **Ground Breaking at Last**



After working for months to secure all appropriate permits, Conference Leaders broke ground for the new Pavilion at Camp Wakonda on November 28. Left to right: James Fox, Roger Driver, Richard Habenicht, Don Corkum, Floyd Brock and Jim Johnson.

the mission of the Church. On Sabbath morning, we studied the first five chapters of the book, Acts of the Apostles to understand anew Christ's desire for His church and the mission He set before it.

On Sunday the Executive Committee went through an orientation for its work over the next four years. The new Executive Committee then went on to current items of business. The members of the Committee manifested a deep commitment to the church and an earnest desire to help fulfill its mission. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in January, 2007.



Executive Committee group discussion - Left to right going around table: Pastor Goia, Harlin and Shirly Carey, Ethel and Paul Conner, Steve and Carol Mertins, Floyd Brock



***Hmong Youth—Now Available  
to Come to Your Church!***

Now your church can have a part in the budding Hmong Ministry. By inviting the Hmong youth to your church to share songs and personal testimonies, you can give them experience that will help prepare them to share their faith with Hmong people around the world!

**The First International Hmong Youth Camp Meeting** will be held in Thailand this coming March 26 through April 8, 2007, with Hmong youth coming from Thailand, Laos, France, China and the United States. Pastor Ko Saelee, our Hmong pastor, has been asked to be one of the main speakers. He will escort the youth from the U.S. to the camp meeting and lead them in holding an evangelistic series in Thailand. The Wisconsin Hmong youth are eager to have a part. They have made and sold 500 egg rolls already to help raise funds for the trip. They are excitedly preparing for the trip physically and spiritually.

*“The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them.” (9T 82)* In view of this inspired counsel, Pastor Ko Saelee suggested that the youth offer to share their testimonies in our churches and ask for freewill offerings toward their trip to Thailand for the International Camp Meeting and evangelistic meetings they will help to conduct in Pongnok Village, Thailand.

For more information, contact:

Pastor Ko Saelee (651) 216-1785  
Terri Saelee ..... (608) 443-6575  
Jerry Xiong ..... (608) 469-1328

Please join us in prayer for God’s leading in this historic venture.

The church exists by service, as fire exists by burning.

*Terry Saelee*

***Committee’s for 2006-2010 Term***

***Executive Committee  
Members***

**Region I: Southeast**

Horace Gentle; Maria Lopez; Steve Mertins; Rodney Mills, Pastor

**Region II: Southwest**

Shirley Carey; Wayne Clark; James Fox, Conference Director; Pavel Goia, Pastor; Laura Larssen; William Ochs, Pastor; Julie Olson; Wendell Springer

**Region III: Northeast**

Ethel Conner; Debra Folkman; Jerry Mann; Dean Sigsworth, Teacher

**Region IV: North Central**

Sandy Miller and Ellsworth Moses

**Region V: Northeast**

James Wright

**Hispanic Coordinator and Conference Secretary Treasurer**

Ruben Rivera and Roger Driver

***Constitution and Bylaws Committee***

Roger Driver  
Keith Hendrickson  
Doug Myers  
David Sosa

***Standing Nominating Committee Members***

**Region I: Southeast**

Paul Freeman, Horace Gentle, Armin Sokolies, Alberto Torres

**Region II: Southwest**

Linda Bishop, Darry Campbell, Jim Carlson, Ed Klingaman, Bill Ochs

**Region III: Northeast**

Delmar Austin, Sandy Magray, David Rawls, Clint Shotwell

**Region IV: North Central**

Charles Kohley, Sandy Miller, Nate Skaife

**Region V: Northeast**

Roxanne Best, Norm Britain, Robert Mills



**Continued from page 1**

the plans as being very close to their concept for development in that area. From that time on, the City of Sun Prairie included our development plans on their maps for future development! The Executive Committee voted to list the Conference office property for sale in 1998. They listed it as a commercial real estate property at the high end for pricing for such property in 1998.

In 2002, the State of Wisconsin sent adjusters to secure the property for the expansion of Highway 151N. Elder Habenicht met with this team and made plain that we wanted a fair price for our land and would like this settled without the intervention of the courts or lawyers. The State made a preliminary offer for about 5 acres of land that was quite low. Elder Habenicht, in consultation with Administration and the Executive Committee, provided evidence of the development plan, the listing of the property for sale, and the inclusion of the development plan on the City of Sun Prairie's Planning Office documents. The adjusters acknowledged that the value of the land was much higher than they had first estimated and made a revised offer of \$5.95 per square foot plus additional compensatory payments. This was a six-fold increase in the estimated value of the property in 1995. The Executive Committee of the Conference accepted this offer, which resulted in \$1.5 million dollars for the land, which was taken by the State for their highway expansion.

In 2003, the City of Sun Prairie indicated that they might have potential buyers for the block of land including the Conference property. Habenicht again entered into careful talks with City planners and the Conference Executive Committee and Administration.

When negotiations were completed, the Conference signed an offer to sell our remaining property for five million dollars! This offer to purchase is scheduled to close on January 3, 2007. Until the sale closes, nothing is certain.

In God's Providence, these potential funds may be coming at a time of great need:

- The dormitories at Wisconsin Academy need renovation.
- The operating reserves of the Conference have been reduced due to unforeseen expenses and lowered enrollment at Wisconsin Academy.
- There was no funding available for growth initiatives to make our conference larger and stronger.
- There were no funds to fulfill Christ's Commission to preach the gospel through all the world.

"As we look back over the circumstances surrounding this sale, it seems as if an Unseen Hand has been guiding these events to assist us in our work," stated Habenicht. We pray that God's manifest leading in the work of the Conference might strengthen the work and empower us. May we continue to be faithful that the Lord might bless us.

*James Fox*

**Fond du Lac Group**

Saturday night, November 11 in Fond du Lac, the stage was set with baptism and beautiful candles for the final meeting of the Fond du Lac Evangelistic Series. By God's grace, our eyes saw "strange and

wonderful things." When the services ended, we went out "praising God."

Pastor Ric asked all those that identify with, would attend, and would be a part of the Fond du Lac church join those who were just baptized. The room seemed to empty; there were about 25 people smiling in front of the camera!

Later in the evening, after the baptism, there was an impromptu organizational meeting of the new group. I saw how each of the main leaders' contribution and efforts worked together to contribute to the whole, Ric Swaningson; Tim, Bonnie and Clair Tillman; Pastor Samuel Garbi and Cris and Le Suong Cina. I could not help but lead in singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!"

We left the parking lot of the Community Center at 11:30 p.m. exhausted but happy. "...and the Lord added to the church as many as would be saved." Fond du Lac now has a new center in which to worship.

A very special thank you to the Adventures in Prophecy team — Ric and Dawn Swaningson; Music Coordinator, Annette Campbell; Nancy Morauske and Jon Good!

*Pastor Samuel Garbi  
Fox Valley District*



*Nearly 25 people dedicate themselves to be part of the new Fond du Lac Fellowship Group at the close of the Adventures in Prophecy meetings*



## Senior Recognition at Wisconsin Academy

"Recognition is the time when we look back on our lives and remember the good things we've done," said Todd Wachoviak as he emphasized his main point of the weekend. Senior Recognition, November 17 & 18, 2006, was a time for Wisconsin Academy's Class of 2007 to be recognized for their accomplishments by their families, friends, and classmates. After exhausting hours of preparation, the weekend commenced with vespers hosted in the glowing pink-and-black chapel, led by the weekend's speaker, Todd Wachoviak. His message was continued the next morning as both he and Pastor G. Paul Foster I, extended the challenge to give willingly in faith. Following a prayer of consecration for the seniors, the church service concluded, and the students waited anxiously for the evening's events.

With masks, food and a castle, who could have guessed what was in store for the evening? Only a masquerade ball, of course. A sequel to last year's Sock Hop, this was the second themed dinner at WA. Parties were seated by masked and gowned ladies in the massive castle erected in the gym, where they then ordered their meals from servers in collared shirts and bowties. Chef Geraldo Fernandes orchestrated the supper, instructing the servers and kitchen staff in the proper serving and waiting techniques to effectively serve the mouthwatering gluten and vegetable kabobs to the waiting patrons. As the customers chatted and ate their meals by candlelight, live music was provided by Hannah Austin on the piano.

After three delicious courses, the main portion of the night began with the talent show. Diverse acts

ranging from musical vocalists, guitarist, and pianists, to magic shows and skits held the audiences delightful attention. "I loved the *Prima Dona – Habanera* duet!" raved Sarah Rekawik '09. "It was hilarious, especially when Jessica kept bowing at the end." During the brief intermission that followed, a scrumptious, beautifully garnished cheesecake was served.

All of this was merely a precursor to the night's main attraction, the one-act-play: "The Family Jewels." As viewers attempted to deduce who the imposter, the Purple Pussycat was, each character in turn revealed themselves as another. The audience chuckled at corny jokes and escaping camels and giggled at abrupt accent changes. After the jewels were exposed as the petrified jelly beans they truly were, the audience applauded as the class members were introduced.

Family and friends filed out beneath the lighted archway, passing the tinkling water fountain and glittering handmade masks. Freshman, Jenine Maquera seemed particularly impressed with the evening's events, "It almost seemed professional! I loved it."

Jessica Stotz



### Join your Friends in the 2007 "Walk for Life."

Walk for Life is a conference-wide program to improve the health of members by walking – one step at a time. While the purpose is to increase health, the incentive is to see how far we as a conference can walk in six months. (January 1 – Camp meeting)

We should be able to walk one or more times around the world.

You can walk outside, walk in the mall, walk on a treadmill, and climb stairs (Running also counts).

It's just a two-step process:

1. Walk
2. Report your distance on your local church's "Walk For Life" sheet.

Your mileage will be sent into the conference and added to the mileage your fellow church members from around the conference have walked and recorded on the web site: <http://wi.adventist.org>, Be a part of the action and "Walk for Life."

Mike Edge



### Want a Summer Adventure? Camp Wakonda 2007

Blind Camp	July 1-8	Ages 8-80
Junior Camp	July 8-15	Ages 8-10
Tween Camp	July 15-22	Ages 10-12
Teen Camp	July 22-29	Ages 13-16
Family Camp	July 29-Aug 5	All Ages



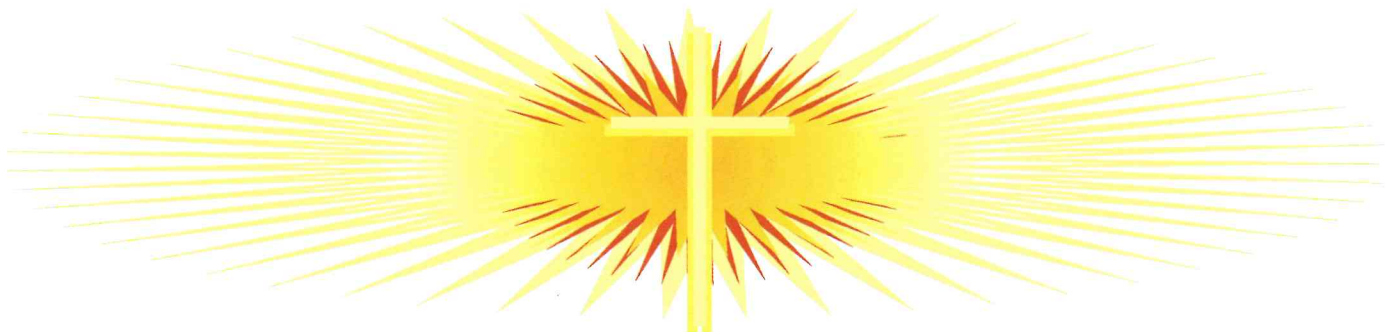
# Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## Financial Highlights

**October 31, 2006**

	2006	2005	Difference	% Change
1. Tithe - Month-to-Date	762,128.20	575,971.11	186,157.09	32.32%
Tithe - Year-to-Date	5,346,400.96	4,927,212.21	419,188.75	8.51%
2. Wisconsin Budget - MTD	17,509.23	22,098.02	-4,588.79	-26.21%
Wisconsin Budget - YTD	179,784.96	178,818.92	966.04	0.54%
3. Cash				
Checking	131,025.22	789,053.75	-658,028.53	-502.22%
Money Market Certificates	572,438.90	458,086.20	114,352.70	19.98%
Securities & Investments	1,854,292.95	622,570.35	1,231,722.60	66.43%
Total Cash and Investments	2,557,757.07	1,869,710.30	688,046.77	26.90%
4. Accounts Receivable				
Churches	26,185.04	25,754.55	430.49	1.64%
Schools (Including WA)	378,960.24	107,021.70	271,938.54	71.76%
WA (Separately)	300,291.49	46,723.89	253,567.60	84.44%
5. Current Ratio (Note 1)	10.80:1	6.34:1	N/A	N/A
6. Evangelism - Unrestricted Fund Bal	-89,646.12	-15,482.90	-74,163.22	82.73%
Evangelism - Restricted Fund Bal	173,578.50	109,701.37	63,877.13	36.80%
	<u>Actual - 2006</u>	<u>Budget - 2006</u>	Difference	<u>Actual - 2005</u>
			(Fav/Unfav)	
7. Income	6,438,211.00	5,541,107.00	897,104.00	6,039,010.00
Expenses	6,333,151.00	5,989,575.00	-343,576.00	5,917,280.00
Net Incr/(Decr) Before Transfers	105,060.00	-448,468.00	553,528.00	121,730.00
Fund/Funct Transfers	-87,782.00	-37,031.00	-50,751.00	249,067.00
Net Incr/(Decr) After Transfers	17,278.00	-485,499.00	502,777.00	370,797.00
Net Assets - Beginning	2,971,163.00	2,971,149.00	14.00	1,546,959.00
Net Assets - Ending	2,988,441.00	2,485,650.00	502,791.00	1,917,756.00
8. Expense (Selected Functions)				
Pastors	1,745,888.51	1,597,625.00	-148,263.51	1,700,442.39
Evangelism	234,869.93	274,717.00	39,847.07	93,449.00
Church School Opereration	1,253,992.98	1,217,201.00	-36,791.98	1,200,499.22
Academy Operation	495,803.14	384,679.00	-111,124.14	400,914.18
Group Medical Plan	-27,238.62	24,050.00	51,288.62	-25,513.61
General & Admin	299,400.48	341,616.00	177,318.96	198,773.74

Note 1 - The Current Ratio is the ratio of Current Assets to Current Liabilities.





## News From The Pews

### **Student Chaplain**

Pastor David Guerrero, pastor of the Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Almond churches; and a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) student in Oshkosh was recently featured in the Ministry Health Care *Outlook* newsletter of Saint Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. David will be in his last unit of preparation next year towards becoming a board-certified chaplain.

### **Free Paper**

Art paper and table covers available at no charge for your churches, schools, Pathfinder clubs, Sabbath schools and home schools. Please call Dave Ahlers at 920-623-4254 for more information.

### **Pathfinder and Camp History**

Do you have any items that help tell the story of the history of Pathfinders in Wisconsin, or Camp Nahdoon or Wakonda? We have recently designated the Pathfinder cabin at Camp Wakonda as our new Pathfinder/Camp Museum. The curator of the museum is Becky Ziesmer. If you have items that you would be willing to donate, or loan, please let us know. We would like to have the museum fully prepared by camp meeting. You may bring items to the conference office, or to Camp Wakonda.

### **Madison Community Church Branch Sabbath School**

On Sabbath afternoon, October 21, a group of dedicated church members held their first ever Branch Sabbath School in the Packer Apartments Community Center, a low income apartment complex near the Madison Community Church. Invitations were mailed to all the Vacation Bible School participants from last August and flyers were put up in the Community Center. The theme was a Vacation Bible School Fall

Fiesta Reunion, and was it ever a reunion!

The devil worked hard to put all kinds of stops on the program and discourage some of us who were organizing it. However, we serve a loving God who kept us focused and encouraged us to go forward despite the road blocks.

As the program started we had only six children, 3 of our own and 3 guests. It is not about the numbers . . . but it didn't compare to the 92 kids who came to VBS. So, needless to say, some of us were a bit disappointed as we had planned for at least 60. But we



*Lexi working on a craft*

serve a God who answers prayers. As we started the program with our six little cherubs, many of us prayed for more. Lo and behold they started coming in groups of 2 and 3. You can't imagine the joy we felt as the room started to fill up and in the end we had 24 children! The noise level while they sang songs about Jesus was deafening. The children listened intently to the Bible story and again for a health nugget, but their creative juices flowed while they worked on their crafts.

It was months in planning with many hours of hard work in preparation but it turned out to be a huge success. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the program



*Darwin Elmer playing guitar with children singing*

was reuniting with so many of our little friends who came to VBS.

Are we going to do it again? You betcha! We had our second Branch Sabbath School on November 16 with a roomful of our little friends waiting for us as we arrived. Plans are to meet on the third Sabbath of every month. Please help us by praying for this outreach.

*Terry Parisi  
Madison Community Church*



### **He is Born Child Divine**

A Dramatic Musical for Christmas  
Saturday, December 16,  
11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, 1414 Shawano Ave  
Green Bay WI





**Tell The World in Wisconsin  
2007 Camp Meeting  
June 15-23**

Some of the speakers for Camp Meeting are:

**Hal Thomsen**, General Vice President for the North American Division

**Lincoln Steed**, Editor, Liberty Magazine

**Dr. Denis Fortin**, Dean, Andrews University Theological Dept.

**Jose Rojas**, Director for Volunteer Ministries, NAD

**Richard Stenbakken**, Former Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

**Jan Paulsen**, President, General Conference

**Walter Wright**, President, Lake Union Conference

**Tom and Alaine Waters**, Family Life

**Fox Valley Women's Ministries**

Is hosting a formal dinner banquet for ladies 12 and up. Thursday, December 14 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM at Holiday Inn Neenah River Walk (123 East Wisconsin Ave, Neenah, WI)

The guest speaker is Lesa Budd.



Attire: Formal

Tickets cost: \$29.00 per person

For more information contact:

Carol Buchholz at 920-729-6112



**Men of Power Conference**

The Men's Conference is January 19-21, 2007 at Camp Wakonda. The speaker, Jim Hohnberger, is a popular author, who is known for his book "Escape to God." For more information about the Conference or to make your reservation (space is limited) contact Ken Kirkham at 608-241-5235 or email: [kkirkham@wi.adventist.org](mailto:kkirkham@wi.adventist.org).



**Public High Retreat**

All public high or home school students in grades 9-12 are invited to attend our eighth annual Public High Retreat. This is a Bible Camp. It's purpose is to connect youth with God and other teens who want to be Christians in the public school setting.

This Retreat will be at Camp Wakonda, January 12-14, 2007. For more information contact Aileen King at: 608-241-5235.

**Albany & Beloit Groups**

Ric Swaningson, Pavel Goia, and Patti Cohen, a lay evangelist from Greeneville, TN teamed up recently for an evangelistic series in Albany, Wisconsin.

There was rejoicing in heaven on October 14 as five precious people were baptized into fellowship in the new Albany Group.

Janet Strothman, her son Mike Manley and his wife Tammy Manley, with their 10-year old son, Devin Manley were among those baptized. They were former members of the Nazarene Church and were excited about the new truths they were learning. Janet's mother had been raised a Seventh-day Adventist, but had long lost contact with the church. She had always told Janet that the "true" Sabbath was the seventh day so when Janet heard about the Sabbath, it made complete sense.

Mike is a true student of the Word! As he had studied the Bible and believed what he had read, he wondered if anyone else believed what he had found, especially on the state of the dead. Mike and Tammy had lost a son just 22 months prior to their baptism. They were so excited when they came to the meetings and heard the truth! They had thought they were the only ones who believed that their son was "sleeping" until Jesus comes! Tammy says, "my son brought me to Jesus!"

Elizabeth Flood made her decision to be baptized but her boyfriend did not want her to. I told her she needed to stick by her decision and God would work it out.

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If her boyfriend walked from the relationship, then let him walk. God had something better for her.

For two nights, she did not come to the meetings so I called her and asked if she was going to be baptized and she said she didn't think so. I asked her if her boyfriend, Mike had anything to do with her decision and she said no. I told her she needed to pray about it, that this was an eternal issue and that I hoped to see her on Sabbath. Pastor Pavel, Ric Swaningson and I all prayed for Liz but she didn't come on Sabbath morning. I called and left a message on her voice mail that she should follow Jesus all the way and that I hoped to see her that night.

That evening just before the baptism was to begin, Liz walked in. She said she wanted to be baptized but didn't want any photos or videos of it. As the program continued she came to me and said she wanted to have photos and the video because this was something she wanted to remember.

Another set of meetings began in Beloit on October 20 with Patti Cohen as evangelist. Four souls have committed to baptism and another one will be coming into the church on Profession of Faith. There are four or five others who are waiting to make a decision on baptism.

Praise God for His blessings and the moving of His Spirit upon His people!

*Patti Cohen*

### **Conference Building Fund**

For many years, the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has experienced a rate of growth indicating an upward trend. A trend we would not want to see going in any other direction.

To accommodate all the new members, it is sometimes necessary to enlarge existing facilities or purchase new church facilities.

Typically, the Conference is involved with this process and even provides financial assistance (with the vote of the Executive Committee) to the local church for the acquisition of a new facility.

This year it seems like there is an unprecedented number of new church building projects being started. The challenge for the Conference has become how to fund all the requests that are coming in. The Conference funds available for these types of projects come from non-tithe dollars contributed from folks all around the conference. The non-tithe dollars contributed are getting smaller and smaller which means the pool of funds available for conference building project assistance is dwindling.

The Executive Committee took a careful look at the policy of providing church building assistance and has taken an action which our congregations should keep in mind as they plan for the future. The Executive Committee has placed a **temporary freeze** on the Church Building Assistance Fund. For those congregations who have already begun their projects, assistance will still be provided. Any new projects will not have the benefit of Conference help. When the pool of funds available for assistance has been rebuilt to an appropriate balance, the Executive Committee will provide notification that funds are available again.

Thank you for your support of the Wisconsin Budget program. May the Lord bless us as we strive to make our houses of worship a place that is inviting and warm!

*Roger L. Driver*  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

### **Interest to Donors Important!**

It used to be you could keep a record in your Bible of cash offerings and as long as you had a record, you could deduct it from your income tax. You should know that after August 17, 2006 you may no longer do this. You must have a receipt from the charity to deduct it.

*Richard Habenicht*  
*Stewardship Director*

### **Community Involvement 2006-2010**

On October 1, 2006, the Constituency Session for the Wisconsin Conference set goals for the next four years. One of those goals was to encourage each church in Wisconsin to be known for its involvement in its community.

Is your church involved in your community? Is it involved in such a way that if something happened to your church it would be missed? Some of our churches are involved in the community in a big way, some in small ways and some not at all. Each church is unique and has its own talents; what works in one church or community may not in another. But we all have talents to share.

Church leaders at your next Church Board meeting ask "What can we as a church do to make a positive mark in our community?" Make a needs study if needed to determine what your community needs. Visit the mayor, the police chief, the fire chief, or school administrator to see what they feel the greatest needs are and make a plan from that information.

If you need any assistance or ideas, I would be glad to help. Let your church be a bright spot in your community as Jesus wants us to be a light to the world.

*Floyd Brock*



**Family Ministries  
Wisconsin Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists**



Abraham  
Swamidass  
Family Life  
Coordinator

The mission of Family Ministries is to *empower the families of Wisconsin to live and grow in harmony with our Lord Jesus Christ and each other.* We believe strong

families create strong churches. A family doesn't become healthy simply by joining a church. While conversion and baptism do create change in a person's heart; a lifetime of learned habits can still strain family relationships. Even growing up or raising children in the church does not guarantee a healthy family situation. We must each learn how to be a good spouse, caring parent, or a healthy single.

This is what family ministries is all about. It exists to help our families become stronger and healthier because in doing that, our churches become stronger as well. A family ministries program is tangible evidence of a caring church. Our aim is to provide resources, training events, and networking opportunities for those working to strengthen or rebuild families.

**Family Ministries' Plans  
(2006—2010)**

- Work with pastors to assess family ministries' needs in each church by using a Family Ministries Interest Survey.
- Train and empower family ministry leaders to help their churches to become family friendly and do family evangelism.
- Provide seminar resources for pastors to give attention to the

needs of the wide variety of families that comprise the membership and the community around the church.

- Promote family life month in February of each year by providing a Family Ministries Handbook for pastors to offer seminars on different aspect of family life in their churches.
- Offer a Family Ministries Certification program for family ministries coordinators.
- Plan and conduct conference-wide married couples' retreat and family life seminars to strengthen relationships.
- The Family Ministries Advisory Committee of the Conference will work in cooperation with pastors and family ministry coordinators to promote, recruit and train volunteers to foster the growth of family ministry.

**October Tithe Increase**

We have many things to be thankful for. One of the most important things to be thankful for is how God works in the lives of those who are faithful to Him! Faithful not only in time and energy, but also in the talents we possess and/or share. Those talents can be in the form of an occupation or in the form of monetary resources available to us as individuals.

During this past year, many of you have given of your time and energy to show just how much you love the Lord through your participation in community service projects or through participation in either public or one-on-one evangelism. Each of these endeavors exhibits our love for our Savior as we "Go and Tell."

Others have felt impressed to share their financial resources to further God's work here in the Wisconsin Conference as their way

of showing gratitude to God. For that we are thankful also. Through the end of October 2006, with the inclusion of windfall tithe, we are showing an increase of 8.51% over this time last year. Praise the Lord!

As we draw close to the end of the year, don't forget to purchase your share of the riches of heaven! How does one do that, you ask? We can each do that by remaining faithful to the Lord in the return of His tithe and our offerings!

We have just finished celebrating the "abundance season." I would like to suggest that its time we let the whole world know just where that abundance comes from. It comes from our Heavenly Father who has asked us simply to "Go and Tell." Let's "Tell Wisconsin" shall we!

Roger Driver  
Secretary/Treasurer

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

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*Sign*



# February 2007—Family Life Month

At creation, God established two divine institutions—Family and Sabbath. Given to the human race before the fall, these institutions lie at the basis of human existence, conduct, and happiness even today.

Seventh-day Adventists have historically affirmed that ministering to families has a vital role in the final proclamation of the everlasting gospel and gives full support to the concept of marriage and family as a sacred gift from God. During this time of God's last call to accept Jesus, reaching out to families must become a vital and integral part of church life and community outreach. For this reason, the month of February in 2007 is designated by the Wisconsin Conference as a time to focus on Christian homes and families.

What can churches do to promote Family Life Month?"

## Here are ten suggestions:

- **Preach Sermons on Marriage and Family**—Sermon resources, stories and helpful program ideas are available in the Family Ministries Plan Book by AdventSource or Family Evangelism by Ron & Karen Flowers.

- **Film Festival**—show videos on different aspects of family life (Video/DVD series are available from the ABC or local Christian Book Stores—by Focus on the Family).
- **Special Dinner Evenings** for married couples combined with interesting marriage seminars.
- **Prayer Breakfasts**—Men of the church will cook and prepare.
- **Offer a Seminar for Single Parents** - recognize the single parents in the congregation with an appropriate gift or seasonal flower.
- **Seminars**—invite a guest speaker to conduct a Marriage Enrichment Seminar for the weekend (present an appropriate gift to the couple in the congregation who has been married the longest).
- **Valentine's Day February 14.** Plan a Valentine's Day dinner at the church. Perhaps have tables for couples according to the month in which they were married, a table for each month of the year. Let the youth of your church serve as waiters.
- **Recognize School Teachers** The second week of February is set aside to promote aware-

ness of the contribution of school teachers to students in elementary and high schools.

- **Parents' Sabbath Day** Enlist the youth to plan a special Sabbath for parents. Youth could have a Sabbath School or church tribute to parents. (Include a small gift, flowers, pictures or a certificate that children or youth design themselves).
- **Plan a Sunday Brunch** for parents with the youth planning the menu, cooking and serving.
- **Marriage & Family Recommitment** the last Sabbath of the month is designated for renewal of wedding vows and recommitment. Follow the format of a wedding ceremony.

Wisconsin Conference Family Ministries is in the business of helping to facilitate the development of stronger and healthier families. We believe that working under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, our efforts will help restore people to wholeness, unity with each other, and to be ready for the coming of the Lord.

Abraham Swamidass

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## **ABC Hours For December**

Regular hours for the Adventist Book Center are Monday thru Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm and Fridays, 9 am to 1 pm.

The ABC will also be open on Sunday, December 17 from 10 am to 4 pm and Thursday, December 21 from 9 am to Noon.

**Please note** that the ABC will be closed from December 22—January 1 due to the Holidays and Inventory.

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## **From all of us at the Wisconsin Conference Office**



**And a Blessed New Year!**



# Thank You, Wisconsin!

Thank you to the charitable members of the Wisconsin Conference Church family for your generous support of evangelism! As of October 31, we have receipted gifts of \$51,902.90 for use in public evangelism in Wisconsin.

Over \$27,000 was given in the month of June including our Camp Meeting Evangelism offerings. Because of your faithfulness, the work of winning souls has gone forward vigorously:

- 19 added to the church in Richland Center
- 9 added to a new fellowship group in Fond du Lac
- 4 added to the church in Sheboygan
- 5 added to the new fellowship group in Albany
- 5 added to the Beloit Church
- 10 added to the Milwaukee Southside Company

and so many more.

The work of reaching the lost is an intentional work requiring planning and effort. The apostle Paul states it eloquently: (Rom. 10:14-15 NIV) "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? {15} And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Your gifts for Evangelism make this work possible. At Camp Meeting 2006, over \$70,000 was donated or pledged for public evangelism in Wisconsin. Many of you will be fulfilling your pledge as we approach year-end. Still many more may want to give an *additional gift* to further the work of reaching the lost. You can do so by marking a tithe envelope for evangelism and placing it in the offering at your local church. You may prefer to send your gift direct to the Confer-

ence. If that is your desire, please enclose a short note stating that you want your gift to go for Evangelism and send your donation to:

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
PO Box 7310  
Madison, WI 53707

Thank you for **your faithfulness to God** in support of Evangelism. Thank you for bringing joy to the heart of Christ through your generous gifts. Thank you for being partners with Jesus for saving souls.

*James Fox,*  
*Evangelism Coordinator*

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