



# LAMP LETTER

*A publication of the Wisconsin Conference*

[wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org)

September 2009

## **Hope for Wisconsin**

Whether you call it *Milwaukee Storm* or *Operation Noah* or its rightful title, **Hope for Wisconsin**, October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the kickoff for the largest evangelistic outreach to southeastern Wisconsin in Adventist history.

**What:** Hope for Wisconsin is a “more than city-wide” evangelistic outreach to the greater Milwaukee area—it spans from Sheboygan in the north to Kenosha in the south. It reaches from Beaver Dam and Watertown to the west and fully embraces greater Milwaukee.

**When:** All meetings begin on October 2 at 7:15 pm.

**Where:** To find a meeting near you, go to the meeting website <http://www.hopeforwisconsin.org> and select **Choose a Site** from the menu. You will be guided to a meeting close to your home.

**Who:** Professional, pastor and lay evangelists from all over the United States will be leading out in the preaching of God’s Word.

**Why:** God has commissioned us to give His last day invitation to the people of Wisconsin.

The Everlasting Gospel is not “one option for people to consider!” Acts 4:12 states that the name of Jesus is, “the only name given under heaven whereby we must be saved.” We must schedule big events from time to time to capture

the imagination of the people and share the message of the Scriptures. Hope for Wisconsin is huge!

Ric Swaningson, our Conference Evangelist, has been giving leadership to this outreach but it is really the work of the Holy Spirit! And it has become the work of the whole conference team:

- ♦ **Pastor Don Corkum** will be joining **Pastor Ric** in visiting each meeting, supporting the workers, and praying diligently for interested people.
- ♦ **Elders James Fox and Richard Habenicht** from the Conference Office will be conducting evangelistic meetings in Raymond and Watertown respectively.
- ♦ **Pastor Armando Camacho** is on loan from his district in Bethel/Marshfield to conduct a series in Spanish in Waukesha.
- ♦ **Pastor Ko Saelee** together with new Hmong task force workers, Linda and Choua Lee, will be conducting meetings for the purpose of establishing a new Hmong Church plant in Milwaukee.
- ♦ **Dion Laurence**, co-leader of Milwaukee Youth in Action (YIA), will be leading in an outreach for kids, by kids. Youth in Action is a community acclaimed

outreach to inner city youth combining sports with Christian spirituality and Bible Study. It has been a huge success in reducing crime in the community and enhancing quality of life. This outreach, if blessed by the Lord, could lead to a new YIA Church plant – a congregation for youth by youth.

- ♦ **Horace Gentle**, local elder and lay pastor in the Kenosha Emmanuel Church, is leading out in meetings in the southernmost county for Hope for Wisconsin. This is his second evangelistic campaign this year. He wrote, “This e-mail is to inform you that the funds

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## President's Message



Don Corkum

God wants to raise our sights about what He can do through us. Jeremiah 33:3 says, “call upon me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

Prayer unleashes the power of God in our behalf. That has been obvious this year in the Wisconsin Conference.

The economic times indicate that we don't

have the resources to do big things for God. However, big things are happening in spite of limited resources.

On Sabbath August 29 a new company of believers was organized in Fond du Lac with 25 charter members. A dedicated group has been meeting there and prayed for a facility for their fellowship. God answered in an amazing way. An Adventist musician who loves pipe organs bought a Catholic cathedral in Fond du Lac with a school, convent and rectory attached. This was my first experience organizing a company where pipe organ music was played. The group prayed for a meeting place—God answered with a cathedral!



God was blessing the camporee

Some thought that the Pathfinder Camporee this year would be less in attendance than previous times because of a difficult economy. Many prayed for a successful experience for our youth. The leaders of the Camporee, however, faced a problem when more people wished to come than they had planned for. Over 35 thousand were in attendance at the Camporee. Over 500 youth were baptized. A tremendous impact was made for God. On the final Sabbath evening, as people gathered for worship, a cross was seen in the cloud formation overhead. It seemed that God was bestowing His visual blessing on that great convocation.

This fall will witness Milwaukee Storm. Milwaukee Storm is an area-wide effort with fifty evangelistic meetings taking place simultaneously in the Milwaukee area. How can this be done in a time of economic hardship? God's Holy Spirit is moving upon His people to do something special for Him. Of course, evangelism is not only happening in Milwaukee, but throughout the conference in an outreach called Hope for Wisconsin. We hope you will be a part of this great outreach.

God invites us to call upon Him and He will show us great and mighty things. Let's call upon Him and watch how He can perform His miracle working power through us.

Don Corkum

## The Commission and the Commandment – Both need to be Great

The future of the Wisconsin Conference will remain strong if our hearts beat in unison with Christ's heart. Our mission is defined by His mission.

Two central focal points define the mission of Jesus—The Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) asks us to go into all the world and make disciples for His kingdom. This means establishing work with new people groups and in new territories. It means *winning, building and sending people* for His kingdom. It means keeping our churches and schools focused on saving lost people. It means to never stop evangelizing. Jesus wants everyone to know His message and feel the warmth of His love.

The Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31) says that we should love God with all our heart and love other people. If we preach and teach without demonstrating His love, we don't fulfill the mission of Jesus. Jesus says that love and unity are *trademarks* that we are authentic Christians. Vibrant, united and loving churches are places where Christ's Spirit is evident. It is this atmosphere where His mission flourishes.

Any church or school that is not *possessed* by both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment needs to review its ministry. It is by possessing both of these that Christ is able to fulfill His mission through us.

Don Corkum

### Together We Can



Roger Driver

Many of you know that we are in the process of building a second new dormitory on the campus of Wisconsin

Academy. The first was the boys' dorm which has already been completed.

Now we are concluding our capital projects as voted at the last Constituency Session back in 2006 by constructing the new girls' dormitory. At that time, it was explained that the new conference office project and the boys' dorm would be paid for by sale proceeds from the old office property. Both projects have been completed and paid for.

For the girls' dorm, the situation is a little different—it is going to require several different funding sources to be able to completely pay for this project. At the beginning, the Executive Committee hoped that fundraising would accomplish the bulk of the cost of this project. However, who could have predicted the financial mess the country is in now? Due to the financial struggles the country and now many of our constituents are experiencing, the Conference has had to come up with an alternative funding scenario from what was previously planned.

The Together We Can campaign exists to accomplish the fundraising for the dormitory project. In the month of July, we transferred \$325,000 in Together We Can gifts to the Plant Fund (it had been

recorded in the Operating Fund). This transfer has had an effect on the conference financial statement. Any time you reduce your cash balance, your net assets go down. (You have personally experienced this, I'm sure!)

Another piece to the dorm funding puzzle comes in the form of unrestricted, matured trust money - the Conference Executive Committee has opted to dedicate these funds to the completion of the girls' dorm. The Executive Committee hoped to use those funds elsewhere but they felt there were fewer and fewer viable funding options available for finishing the girl's dorm. The movement of these assets to the Plant Fund will further reduce the net assets of the conference to a level lower, much lower than we are accustomed to.

**It will be imperative that the pledges for the Together We Can campaign be completed as promised.** Even if all the pledges keep coming in as promised, we will most likely reach a point where we will need to borrow money to complete the dorm project as we await the fulfillment of the pledges that have been made.

If you have been faithful in keeping up with your pledge, we THANK YOU! If you have not made a pledge yet, we would invite you to do so as soon as possible. Together We Can has the ability to make this new girls' dormitory a reality—a reality we can all say we played a part in - large or small.

*Roger L Driver*

### Our Economic Outlook

The national economy is facing some real challenges. Some might argue we are not facing them head-on! We will leave that discussion for another time and place.

The economic times we are living in effect everyone, including the conference. Cash flow is very important in times like these. The Conference is being challenged from many fronts:

#### Cash Flow:

- One challenge comes in the form of receivables from schools and/or churches. The conference has paid a bill on their behalf and now the conference is waiting to be paid back. The longer the conference has to wait, the tighter our cash flow becomes.
- Another challenge comes in the form of monthly remittances from churches that have been collected and processed at the local level, yet have not been passed on to the conference. If your church is in this category, please do what you can to get your remittances up-to-date as soon as possible. This backlog adversely affects the conference cash flow as well.

#### Recession:

The recession certainly plays a part in our situation. Many of our investments have gone down in value, some showing an unrealized loss - others have experienced an actual cash loss. Each of our investment's are bought in accordance with denominational policy. Yet we are not totally isolated from market forces that affect their value.

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## Fox Valley Church Ministers to Mission Aviators



*James Fox*

In early August every year, thousands of pilots converge on Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the EAA Show. The

Experimental Aircraft Association Airventure gathering is a combination of air shows, static displays, family reunion and aviation innovation events that is compelling to thousands of pilots and their families. It is also a gathering point for Christian Mission Aviators of all denominations.

The Fox Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church and MASA, the Missionary Aviation Support Association, has made it their mission to minister to the Missionaries. Carol Buchholz, Fox Valley Church secretary, calls it, "the largest group of missionary pilots congregated in one place at

one time ever in the world."

The Fox Valley Church ministered on multiple levels:

- ♦ On Sunday morning, July 31, the Church provided breakfast to 225 mission aviators and their families
- ♦ Members loaned missionaries their cars for the week of EAA Airventure
- ♦ Members opened their homes to provide lodging and food for missionaries

Some statistics from MASA and Fox Valley Church:

- √ 387 missionaries and their families attended (totaling around 420 attendees).
- √ "We" served 7,242 meals (about 345 people per meal).
- √ "We" placed missionaries in 114 homes.
- √ "We" loaned 44 vehicles.
- √ There were 25 on-call drivers available to chauffeur missionar-

ies as needed.

- √ "We" placed 85 missionaries in church worship services.
- √ Missionaries also spoke in 12 small groups as well as civic groups.

What is the *value* of what MASA offers? These are conservative estimates:

- √ \$100 per night lodging = \$700
- √ \$5 per meal for 7 days = \$105 (A frozen lemonade on grounds cost \$4!)
- √ Car rental for 7 days = \$200
- √ Total minimal cost for the week = \$1,005 per person X 387 missionaries = \$388,935
- √ Plus those who received free dentistry and salon hair cuts

Praise God for Mission Aviators!  
Praise God for the Fox Valley Church and those who support mission aviators!

*James Fox*



*Members of the Missionary Aviation Support Association worship and praise God at the Fox Valley Church*

*The EAA Airventure at Oshkosh is a rallying point for mission aviators from around the world, nearly 400 in number in 2009.*



*continued from page 1*  
**Hope for Wisconsin**

originally assigned to Emmanuel SDA can be assigned to another location as we will not require any funds from the conference at this time.” Churches not needing funding from the Conference—surely this is miraculous!

- ♦ **The Lake Region Conference and the Wisconsin Conference are united in this outreach** sharing planning, fellowship, prayers, and labors for kingdom growth and the advancement of the work.
- ♦ **Dennis Ross, Ralph Ringer, Eddie Allen, and Wesley MacDonald** are professional evangelists who are coming to assist us in this great endeavor because it is bigger than we can handle on our own.
- ♦ And so much more!!!

Please do not misunderstand – we do not imagine for a moment that all of our organization, planning, and labors will be the secret to success. Success comes, “not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts.”

- Each church is organizing prayer vigils begging for God to reach the hearts of the people
- We covet the prayers of all God’s saints here in Wisconsin to pray for this outreach throughout the month of September but especially as October 2<sup>nd</sup> approaches
- Add your personal attendance at a meeting near you
- Invite a friend or relative to attend the meeting with you

By God’s grace, we believe the Lord could give us over 500 souls in this outreach! That is nearly

twice the annual baptisms for all the churches in our conference (see Adam Case’s article on p. 10, “That’s Impossible.”) This needs to be a God-thing in all of its parts.

Please join in with your **prayers**, with your **finances** (mark WI evangelism on your tithe envelop), and with your **attendance and influence**. May we be able to say in early November, “To God be the Glory, Great things He hath done!”

*James Fox*

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**Economic Outlook**

**Capital Projects:**

As we complete our capital projects, we are exchanging liquid assets (cash) for fixed assets (buildings). While this exchange is expected, this too can put a strain on cash flow.

These are some of the challenges that face the conference at this time. We **are** facing these challenges head-on and are being proactive in minimizing their effects as much as possible.

**Blessings:**

Throughout the last few years the Lord has seen fit to bless the Wisconsin Conference in many ways:

- He blessed us with the sale of the old conference office property at a time in the market cycle where we could receive the most benefit.
- He blessed us again with a quick turn-around time in the construction of the new office and the boys’ dorm. This enabled us to convert the cash

into a fixed asset before it lost much, if any, of its value.

- We are constructing the new girls’ dorm at a time when contractors are motivated to provide their best bid possible. This allows us to conserve the cash we do have available to work with.

I have no doubt that God will continue to bless His people as we claim His promises and live by His precepts. God is still in control, even in this economy.

*Roger L Driver*

## Wisconsin Education

### **Pastors and Teachers for Mission Driven Schools August 9-10, 2009**

On Sunday morning August 9, Elder Don Corkum presented our keynote address. His message focused on the fact that our schools are failing to accomplish our mission. Schools need to do more than teach academics and have Bible class, they must be mission driven; they must help the students develop relations with Jesus Christ and teach them the joy that comes from serving others. There must be a revival of our educational mission which is "Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into Eternity." The rest of the day was spent in discussion of how teachers and pastors can support each other and work as a team to accomplish this mission.

On Monday morning Elder Corkum presented "The Dream: Each District With a Thriving Church School." He then led the workers in a discussion of setting goals. Ken Kirkham presented the concept of developing Action Plans

that were practical and thorough. For the final 2 ½ hours the workers were broken into four groups of pastors and teachers:

1. **Established, Well Functioning Schools** led by Ken Kirkham
2. **At Risk Schools** led by Elder Corkum
3. **Districts with No Schools** led by Elder Fox
4. **Wisconsin Academy** staff and selected youth pastors

It was wonderful to watch these groups work with excitement and joy as they developed action plans to meet the needs of their particular group. Pastors and teachers with established and solid school programs developed plans to work as a team to improve their school's efforts to become more mission driven. Pastors and teachers in schools which are "at risk" made actions plans to increase enrollments, gain financial stability and become more mission driven. Pastors with no schools in their districts worked to develop action plans to start at least one

school in their district in the next five years. The Wisconsin Academy staff, including Jimmy Carter our new academy chaplain and selected youth oriented pastors developed action plans to provide the students with a more spiritual environment and involve them more in the campus church and the work of evangelism.

The Union has supplied funding so the pastors and teachers can build a working relationship. The teachers and pastors will be reminded regularly to build this working relationship and to carry out their action plans. At the January workers meeting they will be asked to report on progress and the focus will be on allowing the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. It is essential that the team be "Spirit led" as they work to save the souls of our youth and enlist them in the work of serving others and spreading the word that Jesus is coming soon.

*Ken Kirkham*

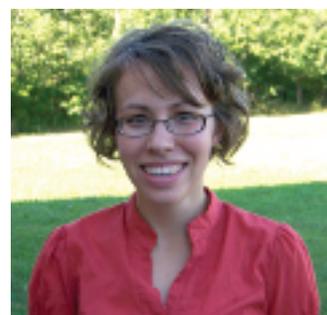
## Meet The New Staff For K-12



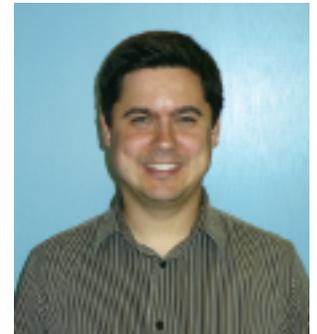
*Jimmy Carter, WA Chaplain, Junior and Senior Bible, WAY Team and Sophomore class sponsor.*



*Lenny Plank, WA Food Service Director.*



*Bobbie Zenner is the Principal and teaches grades 1-8 at Meadow Creek School in Rice Lake.*



*Greg Edge is the Principal and teaches grades 3-8 at Otter Creek Christian Academy in Eau Claire.*

*Not pictured: Kris Isensee, WA Assistant Food Service Director*

**Sunday, August 23**

Registration begins at 9:00 AM. The gym is ready, the staff members are scurrying around to make sure *they* are ready. Students began to arrive — expectant, nervous, excited and ready for another school year. Parents arrive — happy, some stressed, feeling overwhelmed and a bit apprehensive. As the day progresses and registration is completed, you hear happy chatter and laughter coming from the dorms as students unpack and meet friends and get acquainted with new classmates.



*WA Handshake*

**Monday, August 24**

Classes begin at 7:00 AM. Spanish II, English II and Bible III all meet and start the students on their journey to excellence in learning and growing in Jesus. Today three more students arrive on campus, unable to get here on Sunday.

**Tuesday, August 25**

Already the routines are becoming established with students going to classes and to their work assignments. The “Soap Slide” activity is scheduled for tonight but because of thunderstorms it is being postponed.

**Wednesday, August 26**

Another new student arrives today. The temporary girls’ dorm is getting full. The dean reports there are rooms for only a few more. We hope to fill all the beds and need more space! Tonight is the

first chapel of the year. We spend a lot of time talking about the expectations and some limitations for life together on a school campus.

**Thursday, August 27**

Everyone is settling into the routines. Some classes are having their first quiz today. The cafeteria food is good. Statements are heard such as, “I am way too full, but the food was really good.” Prayer groups begin spontaneously and staff find students praying together.

**Friday, August 28**

It is the end of the first week. There are lots of plans in place for our first weekend together. At our first vespers we attend a prayer walk around the campus. Students and faculty pray for the people, the activities and most importantly for God’s Spirit to be here with us as we study, work and worship together this year. We end the evening with cookies and fellowship time in the cafeteria.

**Sabbath, August 29**

We go to a park just outside Columbus for outdoor church. It is a cool day, but no rain. We spend



the day studying God’s word, going on a scavenger hunt for God’s creation, eating good food and enjoying a bonfire with friends. In the evening we have relay games in the gym. This is class competition and cheers and laughter are enthusiastic from the exuberant students.

**Sunday, August 30**

We get to sleep in a little later

today. The girls spent a day in activities off campus. We need a slower day to relax, do laundry and get our school work done for tomorrow.

**Second Week**

We are definitely into a routine now. New students are still arriving. We now have 92 students. It sounds like a few more are still coming. We are anxious to meet them next week.

**Friday, September 4** Today classes end at noon. Bake ‘n Serve employees need to stay until the afternoon shift is done. Seniors are going to Camp Wakonda for a weekend of bonding and relationship building. They call it “Senior Survival.” All other students will go home for a weekend. Classes resume on Tuesday, September 8.

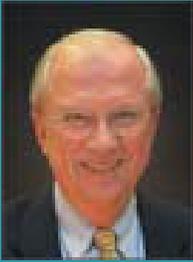
When we get back there will be many more activities in which to participate.

- October 1 – 4  
Leadership Conference at Camp Au Sable in Michigan
- October 5 – 16  
Test week for standardized testing
- October 5  
NAD College visitation at WA
- October 16  
Faculty Family Vespers
- October 17  
Decorate for Fall Festival
- October 18  
Fall Festival and we will begin Senior Class play practice
- October 21  
End of First Quarter

Please pray for the students, the faculty, the progress in the construction of the girls’ dorm, for financial assistance for many who need help and for God’s Spirit on this campus.

*Lois Bowers*

## 2009-2010 School Year Begins



*Ken Kirkham*

As the new school year begins we face more challenges than we have in the past. Some of these are due to the state of the economy and some are due to the state of the world in general. If we look around us we can find many things that would cause us to be discouraged. We can also find much that can make us excited. We can be discouraged by the suffering in the world, natural disasters, the cruelty of mankind and the apathy in our own church or we can be excited by the fact that all of this is a sign that our Lord is coming soon to take us home!

The pastors and teachers have chosen to be excited. You could see this as they worked together during the worker's meetings. Each school pastor/teacher team has made plans for this new school year. Their plans have only two objectives; to bring all of the students into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and to prepare them to serve others in a Christ-like manner. It is their hope that by setting an example, all of our students will become actively involved in fulfilling our mission of declaring God's great love for man and preparing them for His Second Coming.

We have started the year with eleven K-10 schools and 23 teachers. The unofficial starting enrollment is 243 K-10 students, only 4 less than last year. This is actually higher than expected for which we are grateful. The Woodland School in Janesville had to close due to financial difficulties. However, the Three Angels School and the Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy enrollments were up substantially. The academy has started the year with 92 students. The number of girls is actually up from last year despite the fact that they face less than ideal living conditions until the girl's dormitory is completed.

*Ken Kirkham*

## Camp Wakonda Summer of 2009

Bleeding profusely from many cuts, a counselor lies waiting for help. Within moments, 5 campers arrive on the scene, assess his injuries and begin applying the knowledge of wilderness rescue they just had learned in their outdoor living class. Soon the counselor is as well as new, including cleaning up the fake blood that had smeared his body. This was just one of over 20 classes and activities that 350

campers could be a part of this year at Camp Wakonda. Candle making, model rockets, archery, horseback riding, and water-skiing, were just a few of the others.



One camper said, "No matter where you come from or who you are or what your relationship with God is, when you leave Camp Wakonda you are a changed person. It's a beginning to your journey with God."

*Mike Edge*



From our pastor's devotionals and memory texts, to our evening dramas, campers were challenged and encouraged to follow the "Trail Guide", Jesus Christ. This summer 129 campers committed their lives to Christ, while 104 made recommitments and 47 campers indicated they want to prepare for baptism.



## Courage to Stand Pathfinder Camporee

Combine wonderful weather, tents, trading pins and camp food with 35,000 Pathfinders at Oshkosh, Wisconsin and you have memories that will last a lifetime. August 11-15, 2009 Pathfinders and leaders from around the world gathered for the Courage To Stand Pathfinder Camporee. Three hundred fifteen Wisconsin Pathfinders and their leaders enjoyed days packed with activities ranging from earning honors, marching in a parade, doing community service projects in the commu-

nity, trading pins with other Pathfinders around the world, and enjoying wonderful evening programs that featured the life of the Biblical character Esther; a young person who had the "Courage to Stand" for her people and her God. Among the 500+ who were baptized Sabbath afternoon were Tara Lorenz from Wausau, Branyely

Vega from Milwaukee, and Carlos Aguillar from Eau Claire.

One cannot capture on paper the energy, joy, enthusiasm and excitement that was at the Courage to Stand Camporee. If you really want to understand the impact of Camporee, however, find a Pathfinder who was there and have them share with you this life-changing event that brought young people who love Jesus from around the world to Oshkosh this summer.

*Mike Edge*



## Green Bay Pathfinders

The Green Bay Pioneers recently returned from the 2009 International Camporee, "Courage to Stand." Memories of the camporee include:

- ♦ Hot, sticky weather
- ♦ Dust from marching feet
- ♦ Tired feet and aching legs from so much walking
- ♦ Hauling water
- ♦ Collecting trash for community service
- ♦ Long lines for showers
- ♦ Generators running from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- ♦ People walking everywhere
- ♦ Daily parades
- ♦ Constant pin trading
- ♦ Drum corps playing each evening to and from the meeting
- ♦ The inspiring story of Esther
- ♦ Countless honors and activities.

We're also very pleased to share the news that Michelle Paulsen was invested as a Master Guide!

One of our pathfinders made a

decision to prepare for baptism; another said, "This was the best week of my life!" That's what makes it all worthwhile!

Many thanks to the church family for all your support.

*Becky Ziesmer, Club Director*

### ***That's Impossible***

My ears perked up when I heard the name of Elder Ron Clouzet. Elder Clouzet was one of my favorite professors at Southern Adventist University when I was there. Since then he has moved on to the North American Division and is in charge of the Evangelism Institute located at Andrews University.

Elder James Fox was sharing with the pastors in our conference a vision he caught from Elder Clouzet. This vision was simply impossible. You see Elder Clouzet and the dedicated pastors and church administrators working with him were stepping out in faith suggesting that for 2009, the year of pastoral evangelism, we set as a goal a growth rate of 10%.

A growth rate of 10% is simply impossible. I say that because the church in North America has been growing at a rate of less than 2.5%. By the time Elder Fox shared this vision with me, it was obvious that this wasn't a goal we could achieve, it was a goal that only God could achieve. Through Elder Clouzet's leadership we have accepted the challenge to achieve a goal that only God can achieve.

I have no idea how we are going to see this many souls won to Jesus, but I sure am excited to see how God is going to use us this year.

Some people get bent out of shape when we talk about numbers like 10%. Personally I'm not bothered by this, because that number represents something to me. It's not a cold, impersonal number. Instead it's my brother-in-law, my uncle, and my neighbor who desperately need Jesus. It's your son or daughter who you haven't seen in church for years. It's your father or mother who have avoided

God every chance they get. Ten percent isn't simply a faceless number; it represents your friends, family, and neighbors.

I have been sharing this with my congregation for months. We are going to reach for a goal that only God can achieve. We can't do this ourselves. It was the fact that I had been preaching this to my churches that makes what happened next so ironic.

I was sitting around a table with a group of pastors as a preliminary budget was passed out indicating what each church needed to raise to be a part of Hope for Wisconsin (a Milwaukee city wide evangelistic outreach consisting of over 50 simultaneous evangelistic meetings being held this October). I looked at the budget numbers listed next to my churches and my mouth dropped open. I was on the verge of raising my hand to say, we can't do this. There is no way we can raise this kind of money. It was at that point that I remembered the sermons and articles *I had been sharing* with my members about setting a goal that only God can achieve. These budgets certainly came into that category as far as I was concerned.

I took them to my churches and they approved them, not because they knew where the money was going to come from but because they too are looking forward to seeing God reach this impossible goal. As of this writing both churches have raised over 90% of the funding needed towards this impossible goal.

I don't know how God is going to work in the next few weeks and

months but I know it's going to be exciting. I'm thankful that I am able to be a part of it. There simply is no way that *we* can reach this goal, only God can.

*Pastor Adam Case*

### ***Superior Church's Lost Offerings Returned***

Members of a church in Superior recently had a scare when the church's treasurer lost a bag with all of the week's offerings. So, they did what they always do in times of worry, they prayed that the money would be returned.

A man from hundreds of miles away helped answer their prayers. "I was in a hurry and I went to unlock my car and I had so many things in my arms that I set some on the trunk," said Dolores Monberg, treasurer for Seventh Day Adventist Church in Superior.

What Monberg set on the trunk was a bag full of cash and checks collected from the last week's offerings at the Church.

"I've done the books for almost 40 years and it's never happened before and I really cried and I prayed out loud," she said.

The Church Pastor, fellow congregants and even Superior Police helped look for the bag but had no luck. All they had were prayers.

"I said don't worry, they are God's money, God will take care of it," said Pastor Titus Naftanaila.

"Because we are a church, we started to pray."

Four days after the prayers began, Dolores and Pastor Titus say they were answered:

Two men driving home to Chicago

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after a Canada fishing trip saw the bag about two miles from the church. Hank Hawerbier was one of the men who later called the church to return the money:

“I must admit when I unzipped the bag first and saw cash, first thing I thought was, ‘okay that was a free vacation,’” he said. “It was church money, it was hard-working people. I’m not an angel, but I just couldn’t do it.”

Hawerbier may not consider himself an angel, but for Monberg... “I think that man is jewel,” she said. The act was a heavenly one.

“I was so excited and so happy, right away I said thank you Lord,” she said.

*By Kim Johnson*

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Hubbard Broadcasting Company*

### **From Radio to the River**

Jim and Barbara Hom were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church in Rice Lake Wisconsin on June 27, 2009. Jim and Barbara had been listening to WWJP in Rice Lake, a 3ABN radio affiliate, and started visiting the



*Len Fast, Jim and Barbara Hom*

church in November 2007. When Jim discovered that I was the radio manager, his first question was, “Can we turn up the power so it

reaches farther, everyone needs to hear that message”. “Oh, I wish and I agree” was my reply. As Jim and Barbara continued to visit our church and discovered that the Bible was the textbook and Jesus was the central theme they grew more and more excited about the simple and yet profound truths found in the pages of scripture. With the Bible as the focus of study, Jim and Barbara *drank in* the bible studies like someone in the desert would drink fresh water, often doing two a week. As I studied with them, Jim who was Lutheran and Barbara who was Catholic repeatedly exclaimed “we had no idea that was in the Bible, we have never heard anything like this, we are thrilled”. Jim and Barbara chose to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord and to follow him in baptism. Jim and Barbara wanted to be baptized in the river like Jesus was so that their sins would be washed away and forever be gone. Jim and Barbara ask for your prayers for their kids and grandkids as they work to share with them the good news of the Bible.

### **A Seventh-day-Adventist Presence Formally Re-opened In Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**

On Sabbath August 29, Elders Don Corkum, Conference President, Roger Driver, Conference Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and James Fox, Conference Ministerial and Evangelism Director officiated at a special worship service attended by 58 people, marking the formal organization of Adventist believers in Fond du Lac as a Company.

An Adventist Church existed in Fond du Lac as part of the Fox Valley District since 1904, but with dwindling membership, the Church had to be closed in the late 1970’s. Since then, an Adventist presence



*Clair Tillman signs in as a charter member as Don Corkum and Roger Driver look on.*

was maintained through the few members still living there, but it was the dream of many to reestablish an Adventist Church there as soon as possible. Fond du Lac is the county seat with a population of 100,000, on the South Shore of beautiful Lake Winnebago, approximately half-way between Milwaukee and Green Bay.

“The events of Sabbath August 29 marked the culmination of the work of many,” says Fond du Lac Pastor Samuel Garbi: “Since my arrival in the Fox Valley District in 2005, I have seen how all who’ve been involved in the Adventist work in Fond du Lac have had a crucial part in the re-birthing of an Adventist Company here.”

To mention just a few:

- Tim and Jennifer Tillman and Roy and Tammy Erickson and their families, led in a Branch Sabbath School there up to 2006

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- The work of Literature Evangelists such as Paul Presley and Bob Buchholz from Fox Valley SDA Church
- The vision of Elders Don Corkum and James Fox at the Conference, the support of Lisa Isensee as Conference Church Planting Coach Steve Aust, as well as the labors of Evangelist Ric Swaningson and his Adventures in Prophecy team as he led in an evangelistic effort here in the Fall of 2006
- Linda and Paul Schmitz from Sheboygan SDA church, LeSuong and Chris Cina and their families, Pastor Clair and Bonnie Tillman formerly from MN, the Sturms (from MI), and now, the Muranyi (from CA), Conti (from IL), Mally (from Delavan SDA Church), Ackles (from Beaver Dam SDA Church) and Kwon families (from Fox Valley SDA Church).
- Ric Swaningson's 2006 evangelistic effort transformed Fond du Lac from the Branch SS it was into a Church Plant
- The Cinas carried the full burden of leadership for the 2 years since the 2006 Seminar; and now, with the Muranyi's move to the community in 2008 and the continued contribution of all, the group has found the remaining elements needed for becoming a Company."

The Fond du Lac SDA Company currently meets downtown at the former Saint Patrick's Church. Arpad and Estie Muranyi were led to purchase this property in the summer of 2007 and to move their family there, with a desire of using the beautiful pipe organ and attractive facilities for fine musical performances and

quality educational programs. In gratitude to God, they have accepted to open this property to the Church as well. Among other features, the well-located compound includes a large parking lot, meeting rooms, and a school with a gym, which may, down-the-line, be used for an Adventist School.

Immediately following this special Sabbath, evangelistic plans are in



*Members of the Fond du Lac  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Company*

place for a Daniel Seminar to be held from September 11 to November 22 under the leadership of Dorothy and Pearo Ackles, head elder of the Beaver Dam SDA Church, with Pastor Samuel Garbi co-teaching. This effort is mostly funded with NAD Church Planting Seed monies made available to the Church Plant through James Fox's applications. The group is hoping that this well-advertised effort will boost the membership of the Company to where it fulfills all of Conference requirements to become a full-fledged church. Some new members from North Dakota, Chicago, and many other places have recently found their "church home" in this blossoming Church Group. Plans are also in place for this group to support other Church-Planting efforts in Fond du Lac, within one year of the Company acquiring church status.

A moving moment symbolically bridging the past of the Adventist Church in Fond du Lac to its present took place when, after the delicious fellowship lunch prepared by the ladies of the church, a delegation of the charter members of the newly formed Company went to visit with the former head elder Floyd Watts and his wife, who now are shut-in because of age, offering them the privilege and joy of once again joining their names to the official membership roster of the new company. The believers in Fond du Lac were praying for the requirement of at least 15 charter members to be met on that Special Sabbath for the group to become a Company. With the Watts family signing the list, it brought the number of Charter Members to 25, only 5 short of the 30 members required to qualify towards recognition as a church in the Wisconsin Conference.

There is a bright future for the work in Fond du Lac as the membership continues to simultaneously work at clarifying its identity, inclusiveness and support of new ministries in this rapidly changing world and community. It is only through the participation of very different people finding common ground that this exciting project came to this present level of fruition. Pastor Samuel Garbi offers the twin observation that: "Only through a balanced church program that is intentional about outreach, mission and evangelism, **and** an inclusive stance that will give practical and willing support to different outreaches with different target groups in the community, will our new Fond du Lac Company reach the full potential God has in mind

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for His work in this location in preparation for the soon coming of Jesus.”

*Pastor Samuel Garbi*

### **Peru Mission Trip**

The Wisconsin Conference will be sending over thirty missionaries to Peru in December of 2009. This is one of the largest Conference sponsored mission activities in Wisconsin Conference History.

Quick Facts:

- The group will be leading out in “Futuro con Esperanza”, or “Facing the Future with Hope”, in the city of Lima.
- Lima is the capital city of Peru and has a population of 7-8 million people.
- In all of Peru, there are 28 million people of whom 1 million are Seventh-day Adventists.
- The Adventist work is growing rapidly in this country, nearly 20% growth per year.
- We are partnering with ShareHim and the Quiet Hour in this Mission Outreach.
- The South Central Peru Conference welcomes our assistance in meeting their evangelism goals for 2009.

Many churches have financially sponsored missionaries for this trip! Many are continuing to give financial and prayer support for the missionaries and their work.

“We will be learning from the people of Peru as much as we will be teaching them about evangelism. They have pioneered the establishment of small groups as the single most important organization of the local church. A person cannot serve as an elder unless he

leads in a small group each week. A person cannot be a member of the church board unless they lead in a small group each week. A person cannot be a church officer unless they lead in a small group Bible study each week,” said Justo Morales, Illinois Conference Hispanic Ministries Director, and sponsor to our Wisconsin Group. “Even now, the small groups are preparing people for church membership and baptism in anticipation



*Machu Picchu, Peru*

of our evangelistic meetings,” he stated.

Between December 1 and December 21, thirty nervous missionaries will be dedicating their lives and their talents in service to God. Please pray for safety, for Holy Spirit blessings, and for an abundant harvest.

*James Fox*

### **Personnel Changes**

On August 31, 2009, Pastor Larry Mahlum retired from Pastoral Ministry in the LaCrosse District. He is the first of a significant number of retiree’s who will depart from our workforce in the next twelve months.

- √ Pastor Edgar Mendoza of the Milwaukee North Hispanic District plans to retire in December of 2009

- √ Pastor Don and Phyllis Corkum from our Conference Office plan to retire in March of 2010
- √ Educational Superintendent and Men’s Ministries Coordinator Ken Kirkham plans to retire in June of 2010
- √ Kitty Crary retired in August 2009. Kitty was a secretary to Don Corkum and James Fox.

Pastor Michael Tuionetoa, Youth Pastor for the Green Bay Church, has accepted the call to pastor the LaCrosse District.

According to Elder Corkum, Elder Don Livesay, Lake Union President, will work with the Wisconsin Conference Executive and Nominating Committees to select a new President beginning in January of 2010. There may also be some realignment of responsibility in the Conference Office personnel assignments.

Exciting though this is, it could become even more exciting! Some others are eligible for retirement in this same 12 month time frame but have not formalized plans. It seems that the only thing that is consistent in the work of God is change.

We wish all of our retiring workers God’s abundant blessings for health, blessings, fellowship with Jesus, and continued service to God in a more relaxed manner.

*James Fox*

## Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Financial Highlights

**July 31, 2009**

	2009	2008	Difference	%Change
Tithe - Month-to-Date	548,134.92	553,515.31	-5,380.39	-0.97%
Tithe - Year-to-Date	3,537,477.17	3,420,954.94	116,522.23	3.41%
Wisconsin Budget - MTD	19,275.15	19,522.93	-247.78	-1.29%
Wisconsin Budget - YTD	118,327.21	113,848.99	4,478.22	3.78%
<b>Cash</b>				
Checking	127,827.86	144,744.97	-16,917.11	-13.23%
Money Market Certificates	420,088.95	560,765.21	-140,676.26	-33.49%
Securities & Investments	1,418,679.93	1,833,639.92	-414,959.99	-29.25%
Total Cash and Investments	1,966,596.74	2,539,150.10	-572,553.36	-29.11%
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>				
Churches	8,251.63	97,350.98	-89,099.35	-1079.78%
Schools (Including WA)	697,440.68	697,733.22	-292.54	-0.04%
WA (Separately)	584,342.98	553,984.61	30,358.37	5.20%
Current Ratio (Note 1)	2.30:1	3.53:1	N/A	N/A
Evangelism - Unrestricted Fund Bal	301,643.18	108,238.61	193,404.57	64.12%
Evangelism - Restricted Fund Bal	143,007.26	75,355.49	67,651.77	47.31%
	<u>Actual - 2009</u>	<u>Budget - 2009</u>	Difference	<u>Actual - 2008</u>
			Fav/(Unfav)	
Income	4,570,679.00	4,013,651.00	557,028.00	4,161,058.00
Expenses	4,569,046.00	4,572,852.00	3,806.00	4,389,282.00
Net Incr/(Decr) Before Transfers	1,633.00	-559,201.00	560,834.00	-228,224.00
Fund/Funct Transfers	-748,946.00	-40,297.00	-708,649.00	-29,714.00
Net Incr/(Decr) After Transfers	-747,313.00	-599,498.00	-147,815.00	-257,938.00
Net Assets - Beginning	2,124,224.00	2,124,212.00	12.00	2,948,213.00
Net Assets - Ending	1,376,911.00	1,524,714.00	-147,803.00	2,690,275.00
<b>Expense (Selected Functions)</b>				
Pastors	1,202,271.40	1,261,079.00	58,807.60	1,213,307.26
Evangelism	92,829.95	134,513.00	41,683.05	84,009.81
Church School Oper	894,775.16	902,646.00	7,870.84	929,115.16
Academy Operation	334,626.93	286,415.00	-48,211.93	324,712.97
Group Medical Plan	-26,354.46	12,519.00	38,873.46	-56,593.89
General & Admin	243,552.96	209,258.00	-34,294.96	235,529.95

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

## *This and That*

### **Lost and Found**

Several items are at the Conference office that were found during camp meeting and haven't been claimed. They include:

Cell Phone, Walkie Talkie, Book, Eye Glasses and several sets of car keys.

If you lost these items and can identify them, please call Carol Driver at 920-484-6555 to claim your treasures.

### **Camp Meeting DVDs, CDs and MP3**

It is not too late to enjoy Camp Meeting 2009! The conference office has DVDs, CDs and MP3 recordings available for most of the meetings. DVDs are \$7 each; CDs are \$6 and MP3 are \$75. To order or to see what is available go to our website at [www.wi.adventist.org](http://www.wi.adventist.org); under announcements click on "camp meeting order form for DVDs & CDs." You can also order by calling Jane Gerndt at the conference office 920-484-6555 x1. These recordings are great for sharing the gospel message.

### **Camp Wakonda Junk Yard**

The baseball field at Camp Wakonda is beginning to look like a junk yard. Several camp trailers have been placed there and do not ever seem to move. As an owner

of one of those trailers, it is your responsibility to remove them immediately. If you have placed your trailer there temporarily (until next camp meeting) you should be submitting your annual storage fee of \$75.00 per year regardless if it is parked at your paid site or not. Complaints are mounting about the unsightliness of this area. Please do what you can to help us beautify the baseball field by removing ALL of the old unused trailers by October 31, 2009.

*Roger Driver*

### **Wisconsin Academy**

Wisconsin Academy began its 2009-10 school year on August 23 by enrolling 92 enthusiastic students! The boys excitedly moved into their brand new dormitory rooms; while the girls cautiously explored their temporary living arrangements in the gymnasium. Once the students registered, settled into their rooms, and said their goodbyes to mom and dad, everyone met for the traditional "Handshake". This was a great opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. The Student Association also arranged activities that served as ice-breakers to help the process of getting acquainted.

The student's first weekend together began Friday night with "Prayer Walk" where students and faculty walked around campus and

prayed over specific areas. On Sabbath they enjoyed "Outdoor Sabbath" held at *Astico Park* in Columbus. This was a student-planned, student-led worship service that involved singing, mixer activities, small group Bible studies, and a Bible photo scavenger hunt. Students wrapped up Saturday night with "Class Scramble" in which students rallied their classes together and played games and relays against the other classes.

As we begin this school year, please keep the students and faculty in your prayers. This is the Lord's school and, by His grace, His work continues on this beautiful campus.

*Teresa Harrison  
WA Parent Correspondent*

#### **The Lamp Letter is the Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

Donald Corkum                      President  
Roger Driver      Secretary Treasurer  
James Fox                                      Editor  
Carol Driver                      Layout Editor

*Your comments and submissions  
are welcome*

Wisconsin Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists  
Attn: James Fox  
N2561 Old Hwy 16  
Fall River, WI 53932

**[jfox@wi.adventist.org](mailto:jfox@wi.adventist.org)**  
<http://wi.adventist.org>  
Phone: 920-484-6555  
Fax: 920-484-6550

### **Together We Can Special Offering**

Plan now to participate in the December 26, Together We Can offering. To be "over the top" for the project \$170,000 is needed. With much prayer and everyone participating we can achieve victory by the end of 2009!

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
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**2009 Highlights** **ABC Bookmobile Schedule**

Please place these on your prayer list—the ongoing girl’s dorm building program and these events:

October 2	Hope For Wisconsin Begins
October 9-11	Women’s Retreat at Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI
October 30-Nov.1	Share Him Boot Camp Wakonda
October 23-25	Hispanic Youth Federation Wakonda
November 1	Educational Fair at WA
November 6-8	Lay Pastor Training Wakonda
November 13-15	Elder’s Convention Wakonda
December 1-21	Mission to Peru
December 26	Together We Can Offering
<b>January 2010</b>	
January 9	Milwaukee Convention— Speaker Shawn Boonstra
January 15-17	Men’s Conference at Wakonda
January 29-31	Public High School Retreat Wakonda

Area delegate meetings (which are open to everyone—it helps orient people to the conference session) will begin on March 30. There will be meetings in ten locations over several weeks. The session convenes on October 3.

<b>October</b>	
3	Green Bay SDA Church at 7:00-8:30 PM
4	Christ’s Community SDA Church (Lena) 10:00-11:00 AM
	Fox Valley SDA Church 12:30-1:30 PM
9-11	Women’s Retreat. See posted hours.
17	Bethel Jr. Academy 6:45-8:15 PM
18	Wisconsin Rapids SDA Church 10:00 -10:45 AM
	Stevens Point SDA Church 11:45-12:45 PM
24	Shepherd’s House (Wausau) 6:30-7:30 PM
25	Rhineland SDA Church 10:00-11:00 AM
	Clearwater Lake SDA Church 12:30-1:30 PM
	Antigo SDA Church 3:00-3:30 PM
31	Milwaukee SDA School 6:30-8:30 PM
<b>November</b>	
1	Racine SDA Church 10:00-11:00 AM
7	LaCrosse (Location TBD) 6:30-7:45 PM