



Lampletter

Volume 8

News for our Wisconsin Church Family

April 1993

Wisconsin Reaches Out!

Project Reclaim Seeks Former Adventists

How can the church win back former Adventists? The North American Division of the General Conference intends to find out. In a major reclaiming effort, the N.A.D. is working to "personally, individually appeal to every former and inactive Seventh-day Adventist in North America. . . to return to active participation in the Adventist Church."

The three-part plan involves gathering names and addresses of all former members; mailing information to their homes; and training the 4,600 congregations in the North American Division how to "visit, welcome, accept, nurture, and integrate the returning members into the community of Adventist believers."

As part of this appeal, we invite each member to turn in names of former or inactive Seventh-day Adventists living in the United States, Canada, or Bermuda.

Many of us have family members and friends who once worshipped with us. Let's

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Lake Union Launches Operation Amigo

"Operation Amigo", or "Operation Friend", a bold new mission outreach, gives members of the Lake Union the chance to adopt the churches, conferences, and missions of the new Dominican Union.

The program parallels "Operation Bearhug", in which conferences in the northwestern part of the United States have adopted the conferences in the Russian Union. The interaction between the conferences there has proved to be a blessing.

The Wisconsin Conference, the northernmost conference in the Lake Union, is, appropriately, adopting the northernmost conference of the Dominican Union.

Already workers have been visiting the Dominican Republic to help in medical and dental clinics and in building programs. In early March, officers from the Lake Union conferences toured the area on a fact-finding trip.

What they found was desperate need. San Francisco de Macoris



A family in the North Dominican Conf.

badly needs a new school, as authorities are closing the present, dilapidated building. It will take \$65,000 to build a new facility on the church-owned property for the 100 students currently enrolled. However, with volunteer help, the school could be built for half that.

Santiago needs several new churches in the outlying areas. With volunteer help, these could be built for \$10,000 each.

How can you help? The Wisconsin Conference Treasury Department has opened a special Operation Amigo Fund to which anyone can contribute. Or, if you'd like to join a work group in the Dominican Republic, please contact Dale Ziegele at the conference office (608/241-5235).

Project Reclaim, Continued

remember them in our prayers and turn in their names for the special mailing and visitation program that will take place later this year.

Earlier this year when Project Reclaim had just begun, the Idaho Conference reported over 500 names turned in during the first part of January! Let's do our part here in Wisconsin for this special reclaiming ministry.

Enclosed is a copy of the "Former Adventist Information Sheet" being used in this program. Please fill it out with the names of those you know should be included in this project. Additional forms may be photocopied or obtained from your church or the conference office.

--Arnold Swanson, President

ACT II Held in Milwaukee

The second in a series of Milwaukee area music festivals and soul-winning rallies was held Sabbath, March 27, at the Sharon Church. Robert Peck, Coordinator of Project Reclaim for the North American Division, spoke.

The third rally meets May 15 at Milwaukee Jr. Academy, 3:45 p.m. to 6:00. This will be a sharing time focusing on "Ministering to Strengthen the Family--Children and Youth."

ACT (All Coming Together) rallies are part of the 1993 Milwaukee evangelistic effort.

New ABC Manager Arrives



Roy and Earlenne Hunt

"The truck comes Monday," Roy Hunt, Jr. said over the phone from Bakersfield, California. "We should be in Madison by March 19. We can't wait!"

Hunt replaces former ABC manager Esther Nelson, who moved to Louisiana in December, 1992. During the interim, ABC employees Dianne Ondrejka and Sharon Plummer have shouldered much of the store's responsibilities, with Nelson commuting as much as possible.

Hunt brings with him years of management experience. Most recently he managed "House of Manna", a Christian health food/bookstore in Bakersfield, where he worked extensively with the Review and Herald and Pacific Press.

Hunt has also held management positions in various hospital settings.

A seasoned Pathfinder director, he enjoys camping and photography.

Hunt's wife, Earlenne, has been hired as secretary to the conference treasury department. In California she worked for the San Joaquin Community Hospital as director of volunteers and business manager for the hospital's gift shop. Her work with volunteers underscored her dedication to helping senior citizens maintain their purpose and independence.

The Hunts, whose new home is in Sun Prairie, have three daughters-- Karen, Kimberly, and Karla.

Lay Advisory Hears It Can Be Done!

About 30 churches were represented at the Lay Advisory Council held Sunday, March 14, at the conference office. A devotional by Ed Sajdak, chairman, opened the meeting.

Delegates heard reports from Arnold Swanson, president; Steve Brown, Wisconsin Academy principal; and Laurie Herr, communication director.

Two delegates, Jerry Minett from Sparta and Jerry Mann from Sturgeon Bay, told about outreach projects in which they are involved. Minett challenged each one to "put your faith into action," to get

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Academy Students Gain New Work Opportunity

Since the sale of its farm, Wisconsin Academy has searched for ways of employing its younger students ineligible for work in industries to help pay their tuition bills. Recently a call from a Chicago donor provided a partial solution.

"We were offered five greenhouses complete with heaters and other equipment," reported Wisconsin Academy principal Steve Brown.

These will join the three greenhouses the academy now

owns, which are filled. Students help raise the plants for sale to local nurseries.

Students will also help with dismantling the new greenhouses, transporting them to the academy, and rebuilding them, explains project manager Leroy Rappette. He hopes to have all five greenhouses installed by the end of the summer.

Currently three students work in the greenhouses, with four working in nurseries off-campus.

Academy Teacher and Students Honored

* **Cherry Habenicht**, Wisconsin Academy vice-principal and Religion/French teacher, recently received the Zapara Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was one of six elementary and secondary teachers in the Lake Union to win the award.

* Academy senior **Sara Rappette** has won the Good Citizen Award from the Monedoo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an honor awarded each year to selected Columbus area seniors.

* Nearly one-third of the academy student body has made the current honor roll!

Light Bulbs Help Students Read

Wisconsin Academy has registered for the **Save-for-Books** program sponsored by Sylvania. This program encourages families to read together daily, shows how to motivate children to read, and gets more books into the hands of young people.

You can help meet the academy's library needs by saving Sylvania light bulb UPCs/Proofs of Purchase and sending them to the academy. The school will redeem them at \$.10 per UPC. Wisconsin Academy will then receive a quarterly check from Sylvania that can be used toward book purchases.

Education Dept. Responds to Parental Choice Act

The Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is a member of WANS (Wisconsin Association of Non-Public Schools), an organization of private/parochial schools that has helped Adventist schools in many ways. Some examples are: help with asbestos inspection and management plans for schools; a school legal handbook; and a policy that can be adopted on bloodborne pathogens to comply with federal law.

WANS, along with a number of other organizations, is proposing a new Wisconsin law called "Parental Choice Act of 1993". This proposed law would give up to \$1,000 of state income tax credit to parents who send a child to a non-public school.

A one-page flyer promoting this law has been sent to Catholic schools, priests and parents. It lists the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, along with other organizations, as sponsoring this law. The Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has not taken any action at any time to sponsor or support this proposed law. Evidently our name was used because of our membership in WANS. The WANS organization has been informed that we are not sponsoring this law.

--Herb Wrate, Education Superintendent

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH 23, 1993

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Arnold Swanson, Chairman; Kenneth Wright, Jr., Secretary; Nelson Boon, Dale Bossenberry, Marvin Clark, Ron Crary, Carmen Holm, Louise Legreid, Robert Merickel, Archie Mitchell, Jess Nephew, Darrell Nottelson, Aileen Patton, Jerry Ringwelski, Dwight Rosen, Orlando Vazquez, Bonnie Wiedemann.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Johansen, Donald Mann, Herb Wrate.

INVITEES PRESENT:

Lake Union Conference: Robert Carter, Roy Roberts.
Lay Members: Sandy Halverson, Marvin Kuhl, Kathy Bricker.
Pastor: Ray Plummer.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATISTICAL REVIEW:

On March 23, the Wisconsin Conference Executive Committee conducted the annual Financial and Statistical Review for the year 1992. Elder Robert Carter, president of the Lake Union Conference, and Mr. Roy Roberts, assistant treasurer of the Lake Union Conference, were present. Three lay persons and one pastor had also been invited to join committee members and department directors for this special meeting.

Statistical records showed 206 persons joining with Wisconsin churches by baptism and profession of faith during 1992. The records also revealed that 288 persons have been dropped from membership in Wisconsin churches during 1992 for apostasy or as missing. This number, along with the 68 persons who passed to their rest during the year, were factors in lowering our net membership for the year from 5,982 as of January 1 to 5,878 as of December 31, 1992.

Financial reports showed a tithe income of \$3,545,545.52--a 4.29% gain over the previous year. There was an increase also in mission giving which totaled \$248,222.61. Wisconsin Budget Offering income, though short of the yearly goal, remained high and totaled \$193,847.32.

Along with the review of financial and statistical reports, the work of department directors and our conference evangelist for 1992 was also reviewed.

We thank Wisconsin members for their loyal, systematic financial support of God's work in this conference and for the world field; and we thank the many who are doing their part to bring others to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Following the review of the records for 1992, the Executive Committee then considered the agenda of regular business items. Actions of general interest include:

- To invite Sandy Halverson of the Rhinelander Church to replace Carol Kenyon as a member of the Executive Committee. Carol moved recently to the state of Colorado.

- To invite Robert Stauffer to serve as a member of the K-12 Board, replacing William Cowin who moved recently to the Michigan Conference.
- To give a donation of \$250 toward the expense of conducting an Eastern United States Campmeeting for the Deaf. (The Wisconsin Conference has been doing this annually for a number of years.)
- To honor the request of several members in the Tomahawk area to organize into a company and to begin meeting in the Tomahawk church.
- To honor the request of two families, one in-state and one out of state, to build a campmeeting cabin which they could rent in coming years according to regular conference guidelines for rental of the same.
- To recommend that the Ladysmith Church be disbanded due to lack of membership.
- To express deep appreciation to Elder and Mrs. Frank Bacchus for their ministry to families and individuals in the Wisconsin Conference, and to Elder Bacchus for his Christian counseling ministry.

However, due to various complications in the current pilot program, and in fairness to all, it was voted not to continue for the present time the current pilot program where the conference was receiving donations for this ministry and passing the same on to Elder and Mrs. Bacchus.

- To approve the 1993 budget as presented by the conference treasurer. (A secret ballot vote was taken and the budget was unanimously approved.) The proposed budget had previously been considered by the Lay Advisory Council and had been recommended by that group.

The 1993 budget is based on 97.89% of the previous year's tithe, according to the formula of North American Division guidelines. It is being balanced this year again by not fully funding depreciation. This being so mandates that conference administration continue to decrease employee staff and also otherwise endeavor to reduce expenses.

A similar budget for 1992, through careful management, provided a \$118,973.00 operating gain for the Wisconsin Conference, \$72,079.00 of which went to Wisconsin Academy as a special operating subsidy due to the fact that the Wisconsin Budget Offering goal was not met--leaving a net operating gain for the conference of \$46,894.04 for 1992.

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We are looking for people to provide housing for Wisconsin Academy and Andrews University students helping out during the Milwaukee area outreach this summer, **June 6 - August 10**. If you live in the **Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, or Milwaukee area** and could provide room and breakfast for one or more students for all or part of this time, please contact **Joe Straub**, 608/837-0468. Thanks!

Pathfinders Rewarded for Float Work

Thanks to the hard work of the **Chippewa Falls Indianhead** and **Watertown Sentinel Pathfinders**, the Wisconsin Conference has received a \$200 rebate. The money will go toward an evangelistic project involving Pathfinders and their ministry.

Both Pathfinder clubs earned their 1993 Witness Through Roses fundraising goals. Along with these two clubs, Pathfinders from the **Dairyland Doers** club in Clear Lake helped decorate the Adventist float for the Tournament of Roses Parade. Watertown Sentinel Naomi Soto rode the float as Lake Union representative.

"Your conference participation in the float decorating and the raising of funds along with the witnessing throughout your community was a blessing to all," wrote project coordinator Norm Middag.

Waco Update

Since the Feb. 28 shootout involving the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, the General Conference has released several statements disavowing ties between the Adventist church and the Waco sect. A detailed account is in the March 18 *Adventist Review*.

Parts of *It is Written's* telecast, "False Messiahs" (aired March 14) will be included in the next *OnLine Edition*, the *Adventist*

Review video. *OnLine* will also include interviews on cults with sociologists and other relevant information. The video is available to all churches who subscribe to *OnLine Edition*.

The entire "False Messiahs" broadcast is available on video for \$9.95 from *It is Written*. Write Sales Department, *It is Written*, P. O. Box 0, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, or call 805/373-7733.

Announcements

* The annual Wisconsin Women's Retreat is scheduled for October 15-17 at Chula Vista Resort near Wisconsin Dells. Featured guest will be Barbara Nelson, whose son Dwight Nelson pastors the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University.

* Pathfinder memorabilia is still needed for the conference office historical display. Please contact Kitty Crary.

* The Fox Valley SDA Church Christians Without Partners, along with Pastor Clint Meharry, will host a special day and potluck lunch for **all singles** Sabbath, April 10. Eleven o'clock service speaker

Wisconsin Conference of the
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P. O. Box 7310
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Address Correction Requested

Dr. Frank Bacchus, a family counselor, will give an afternoon talk on "Self-Esteem, Christian Values, and What to do with Loneliness."

Advisory, Continued

involved in sharing the gospel in their community.

As required by the constitution, the advisory members reviewed the 1992 financial statement. After considerable discussion of the 1993 budget based on the 1992 formula, the group voted to recommend the budget to the Executive Committee.

"Yes, we *can* have a balanced budget, easily!" Conference Treasurer Ken Wright said. "If every Wisconsin Adventist will support the monthly Wisconsin Budget offering with just 2% of their income, it will not only balance the budget but provide some extra money for evangelism and other needs."

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