



Volunteers help build mission school

On Dec. 8, 1993, 14 Wisconsinites joined five other Lake Union volunteers and boarded a plane bound for the Dominican Republic.

None of them knew when they left that day that some would

have to wear the clothes on their

backs for nine days. Nor did they know it would take just as long for much of their food and tools to catch up with them. But that didn't stop the group from accomplishing what they'd set out to do: help build a school in the village of San Francisco de Macoris.

The 14-day trip was part of "Operation Amigo," the Lake Union Conference's church- and school- building project in its sister union, the Dominican Republic (now officially named Dominican Union Mission).



Members of the LUC Youth Group ranged from ages 9 to 78.

Groundwork for the school was provided by Maranatha Volunteers International and Lake Union ASI members.

The luggage mishap occurred when 19 of the group's bags were detained in Miami, to be shipped later by cargo plane. Until the bags arrived more than a week later, the missionaries had to make do.

"We shared everything," said group leader **Dale Ziegele**, Wisconsin Conference youth director. "The team was fantastic."

Sara Mankowski, a junior at Wisconsin Academy, said despite

losing her sleeping bag, the trip was "a blast." She hopes to go on future mission trips.

The new school the team worked on will be well used. A recent report listed 8,000 new Dominican Mission members for 1993, giving a union total of 88,000!

Wisconsin volunteers:

Dustin Budd, Wisconsin Academy
Duane Bennett, Hylandale
Don Evans, Clearwater Lake
(construction supervisor)
Deris Evans, Clearwater Lake
Sally, Sheldon, Seth, Staci and
Shelli Johnson, Clear Lake
Sara Mankowski, WA
Darcy Rosen, WA
Jill Stringer, WA
Marty Wood, WA
Dale Ziegele, Youth Director

For future trip dates, see page 2. ■

“Nearly Over. . . Almost Here”

Not too long ago TIME magazine had on its front cover a picture of our planet, covered in clear plastic and tied with rope. “Endangered Earth,” the caption read.

As we move into this new year, we have reason to believe as never before that history has nearly run its course for old Planet Earth in its present state. The long night of sin is “nearly over”; the day of our Redeemer is “almost here.”

Let us move into this new year thoughtfully, with seriousness and concern, yet with hope. The Christian view of history takes into account not only the past, where we see God's hand over and over again, but also the revealed future. God is going to bring all of history to a conclusion one day soon, and then to a new beginning which He has designed:

“The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

“The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.”

Romans 13: 11, 12, NIV.

— Arnold Swanson, President ■

Upcoming mission trips

March 16-26 South Dominican “Operation Amigo” Trip

Fred and Sandy Miller, Madison East, take a group of 60-70 volunteers to the villages of Tamayo and Uvillia in the South Dominican, about 3 1/2 hours from Santa Domingo. They will be building two churches.

March 16-29 Mexico Youth Trip

Pastor Bob Stauffer, Bethel, leads some 30 young people on a trip to the Mexican town of Huizache, 400 miles south of Larado, Texas. They will be finishing a church building begun in 1992.

April 19-24 Appalachian Mountain Trip

Pastor Gaylan Herr, Wisconsin Academy, takes about 20 academy/public school students and adults to the mountains of Western North Carolina. They will repair homes for low-income families.

Pastor-teacher council notes 150th anniversary of 1844

“A good mix of current issues and early Adventist history,” was how one pastor described the Pastor-Teacher Council which met Jan. 10-11 at the conference office. The session focused on 1994 as the 150th anniversary of the Great Disappointment of 1844, the year many believers thought Christ would return.

Guest speaker **Dr. James Nix**, associate secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference, shared little-known stories of the Church's pioneer days. The audience enjoyed singing from his songbook, *Advent Singing*, which included such early hits as “The Smoking and Chewing Song” of old temperance rally days.

Nix spoke further on “Our Adventist Heritage” Monday night at Wisconsin Academy for students, faculty and local church members.

Discussing current church issues was **Dr. Bert Beach**, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department for the General Conference. He encouraged his listeners by showing how Church growth exceeds current population growth rates.

This is a significant year for Adventists, President **Arnold Swanson** noted. “It is important we take the time to study our spiritual roots,” he said. “Let us reflect on how the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” ■

Blessings continue from Milwaukee crusades

Ida Ortiz, a Pentecostal for many years, is now a member of the Milwaukee Southeast Spanish Church. Longtime member **Muriel Bukant** was thrilled to see her husband **Joe** baptized in the Milwaukee Central Church. **Patty Blatz** joined the Waukesha Church after her former mother-in-law, **Mina Niles**, also a member there, passed away.

The stories continue of the many individuals who have joined Milwaukee area churches since last summer and fall's crusades in that

city. Local pastors report over 125 baptisms, many ongoing studies, and the return of several former SDAs resulting, directly or indirectly, from the crusades. A new Lake Region Conference church is also being formed.

"The Holy Spirit brings someone new each week into the Waukesha Church," says Pastor **Duane Brown**, who baptized 51 people in 1993. "Please pray that we will make these new members feel welcome and accepted." ■

Tithe and Budget Offering Up in 1993

The Lord has blessed the Wisconsin Conference in 1993, as we have tried to operate your conference carefully and conservatively. Since this is written mid-January, the full financial picture is not yet available, but I would like to share some good news about incoming funds:

Total tithe was up 4.67% for 1993 over 1992. During the same period, our Wisconsin Budget Offering showed an increase of 1.88%. This was exciting news, since for most of this past year Wisconsin Budget was behind 1992 figures. It was also good to see that Ingathering funds gained 8.2% over last year.

Thank you for giving in 1993. By continuing to be faithful stewards—returning the Lord's tithe, giving 2% to Wisconsin Budget and supporting our local church and World Budget, we can do the work the Lord has given us to do.

A complete financial report will be given at the Lay Advisory on Sunday, March 13.

—Ken Wright,
Secretary/Treasurer ■

Wisconsin couple experience California quake

"Like being on a carnival ride" was how **Kitty Crary**, Madison East, said her shaking bed felt the early morning of Jan. 10 in Loma Linda, CA. Kitty and her husband **Bert** had flown west to visit friends just days before the quake hit.

While Kitty says the experience was "very frightening," fortunately Loma Linda, 80 miles away from the earthquake center, sustained no severe damage. The Crarys had been in the worst-hit area the night before the disaster occurred.

In response to the quake all ACS units have been mobilized. To give donations call **1-800-253-3000**. ■

Help! ABC freezer needed

The Adventist Book Center is searching for a commercial display freezer for its camp meeting sales. A new freezer will cost about \$7,000; a used one should run between \$2-3,000.

If you know of a store in your area that is upgrading its freezers, or if you would prefer to give a tax-deductible donation to this project, please call **Roy Hunt** at 1-800-765-6955.

1993 WISCONSIN BUDGET REPORT BY CHURCHES

Church	'93 Goal	Dollars Raised	Dollars under Goal **	Percent of Goal
Wisconsin Conference *	17,759	37,464	(19,705)	210.96%
Frederic	5,295	7,412	(2,118)	140.00%
Fish Creek	1,071	1,439	(368)	134.32%
Reedsburg	2,757	3,040	(283)	110.27%
Oxford	5,717	6,109	(393)	106.87%
Sturgeon Bay	2,907	3,037	(130)	104.48%
Eau Claire	5,114	5,151	(37)	100.73%
Tomahawk Co.	683	683	(683)	100.00%
Chippewa Falls	2,142	2,052	90	95.81%
Superior	3,202	3,002	200	93.74%
Rhineland	6,226	5,715	510	91.81%
Almond	5,431	4,978	453	91.66%
Watertown	3,092	2,651	441	85.75%
Stevens Point	5,546	4,208	1,338	75.87%
Beaver Dam	2,947	2,200	747	74.65%
Crandon	517	383	134	74.06%
Evansville	2,119	1,561	558	73.67%
New London	3,496	2,515	981	71.94%
Wisconsin Academy	18,741	13,357	5,384	71.27%
Baraboo	2,713	1,912	801	70.47%
Janesville	3,195	2,209	986	69.14%
Delavan	5,830	4,021	1,810	68.96%
Green Bay	25,472	17,173	8,299	67.42%
Rice Lake	8,567	5,730	2,837	66.89%
Madison	31,816	21,064	10,752	66.21%
Marshfield	8,109	5,329	2,780	65.72%
Neenah-Fox Valley	13,153	7,427	5,726	56.47%
Sparta	801	436	365	54.45%
Antigo	2,489	1,331	1,158	53.46%
Milton	12,022	6,162	5,861	51.25%
LaCrosse	4,858	2,377	2,481	48.93%
Durand	2,680	1,260	1,420	47.03%
Oakland	3,490	1,629	1,861	46.68%
Spooner	853	380	473	44.60%
Lena	8,055	3,562	4,493	44.22%
Waukesha	10,203	4,381	5,821	42.94%
Merrill	1,544	637	906	41.28%
Beloit	2,784	1,098	1,686	39.45%
Poy Sippi	1,970	741	1,229	37.60%
Tomah	2,130	798	1,332	37.44%
Oconto	2,182	810	1,372	37.14%

1993 WISCONSIN BUDGET REPORT BY CHURCHES, CONT'D

Church	'93 Goal	Dollars Raised	Dollars under Goal **	Percent of Goal
Menomonie	1,964	710	1,254	36.16%
Milwaukee Central	23,450	8,399	15,051	35.82%
Moon	1,470	518	952	35.22%
Sheboygan	5,335	1,840	3,495	34.50%
Adams-Friendship	2,645	880	1,765	33.27%
Racine	3,919	1,293	2,625	33.01%
Portage	4,958	1,616	3,342	32.60%
Hylandale	2,581	824	1,757	31.93%
Bethel	13,936	4,440	9,496	31.86%
Galesville/Ettrick	367	116	251	31.63%
Ashland	2,104	641	1,463	30.47%
Wausau	6,226	1,758	4,468	28.23%
Madison Community	8,622	2,377	6,245	27.57%
Lakeland	3,108	849	2,259	27.33%
Pound	2,898	749	2,149	25.84%
Raymond	6,894	1,764	5,130	25.58%
Hayward	2,186	540	1,646	24.70%
Prentice	236	50	186	21.17%
Gillett	3,124	647	2,477	20.70%
Clearwater Lake	4,993	997	3,996	19.97%
Lancaster	2,230	444	1,786	19.93%
Prairie du Chien	2,265	449	1,816	19.82%
Milw. S.E. Spanish	3,114	608	2,506	19.53%
Wisconsin Rapids	5,387	1,032	4,355	19.15%
Milwaukee N.W.	12,286	2,088	10,198	17.00%
Shawano	2,972	483	2,489	16.25%
Clear Lake	7,921	1,138	6,783	14.36%
Richland Center	5,140	679	4,461	13.21%
Milw. Central Spanish	5,468	564	4,904	10.32%
Milw. N. Spanish	3,445	353	3,092	10.25%
Lake Country	2,033	195	1,839	9.58%
Kenosha	3,848	339	3,509	8.82%
Wautoma	527	40	487	7.55%
Racine Spanish	4,122	301	3,821	7.29%
Alma Center	454	10	444	2.28%
Wittenberg Co.	508	10	498	1.97%
Franklin	536	0	536	0.00%

* Includes all alumni money not credited to the churches.

** Figures in parentheses are over the goal.

Misuse of God's funds?

Misuse of God's funds—it's going on all the time! But not always where one might think. Our church organization has a system of checks and balances. On the local level, the church board watches the treasurer's reports to see that funds are properly accounted for. Conference auditors try to examine treasurers' books yearly for irregularities.

Checks and balances

At the conference level, the Executive Committee, composed with a majority of lay people (at least in Wisconsin), guides the work and use of funds in the conference. This committee approves all budgets and major expenditures. One or two union conference personnel often sit in on conference committee meetings to share their experiences and wisdom—and to verify that church safeguards relating to fiscal policies are followed.

Imperfect leaders

This concern for proper and careful use of God's money exists at all church levels. This does not mean that mistakes are not made. Leaders and boards are human, and occasionally use bad judgement. Or they press plans and expenditures without asking God's will or the counsel of other members.

However, there is still a great misuse of God's funds, and it happens where there are no checks and balances, where there are no safeguards, where individuals have been given total freedom and are accountable to no human. You've guessed it! The greatest misuse of God's funds, I believe, takes place at the personal level in our own lives - yours and mine.

Principle to live by

This misuse is often unintentional. It is the result, most often, of a misconception of a basic stewardship principle. That principle is that **God owns everything**. We own nothing. Custodian is the legal term for possession of someone else's property. Every one of us is a custodial steward, entrusted with God's possessions:

"A steward identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master's stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master's interests become his. The position of a steward is one of dignity, because his master trusts him. If in any wise he acts selfishly and turns the advantage gained by trading with his lord's goods to his own advantage, he has perverted the trust reposed in him."

—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 246

And from *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 300:

"If he sees you use your entrusted means as a faithful steward, He will register your name in the books of heaven as a laborer together with Him, a partner in His great firm."

Heart-searching questions

How do we carry out this stewardship principle in our lives? If before we make a purchase or an expenditure, we ask, "Is this what God wants me to do with His money? Am I being a good steward? Will my heavenly Partner approve?" If we asked these questions, would we choose differently?

I'm not talking about tithe, here. We are not really stewards over tithe. Tithe should not involve a decision on our part, other than to return it to God. Tithe is, in a special sense, His, but the rest is His, too. Is it possible we appropriate to our own use funds which God would have us use to support other aspects of His work—aspects like the local church? The conference budget? World missions?

Let's work together to see that God's funds are not misused.

—Richard Habenicht,
Stewardship Director ■

ABC Bookmobile Schedule—Spring 1994

Date	Day	Location	Time
February 26	Saturday	Green Bay	6-8 p.m.
February 27	Sunday	Sturgeon Bay	10-11 a.m.
February 27	Sunday	Fox Valley	3-4 p.m.
March 19	Saturday	Bethel	6:30-8 p.m.
March 20	Sunday	Wisconsin Rapids	10-11 a.m.
March 20	Sunday	Stevens Point	2-3 p.m.
March 25	Friday	Delavan	2-3 p.m.
March 26	Saturday	Woodland School	6:45-8 p.m.
March 27	Sunday	Beloit	10-11 a.m.
March 27	Sunday	Lancaster	1-2 p.m.
March 27	Sunday	Prairie Du Chien	3-3:30 p.m.
April 1	Friday	Tomah	2-2:30 p.m.
April 1	Friday	Sparta	3:30-4:30 p.m.
April 2	Saturday	Hylandale	7-8 p.m.
April 3	Sunday	La Crosse	10-11 a.m.
April 3	Sunday	Richland Center	3-4 p.m.
April 9	Saturday	WA Alumni Weekend	7:45-9 p.m.
April 10	Sunday	WA Science Fair	12-4 p.m.
April 15	Friday	Menomonie	11-11:30 a.m.
April 15	Friday	Frederic	3-4 p.m.
April 16	Saturday	Superior	8-9 p.m.
April 17	Sunday	Ashland	10-11 a.m.
April 17	Sunday	Hayward	11:30-12 p.m.
April 17	Sunday	Spooner-Trego	1:30-2 p.m.
April 23	Saturday	Clear Lake	8-9 p.m.
April 24	Sunday	Rice Lake	10-11 a.m.
April 24	Sunday	Eau Claire	2-3 p.m.
April 24	Sunday	Durand	4-5 p.m.
May 1	Sunday	WA Pathfinder Fair	12-4 p.m.
May 6	Friday	Almond	10-11 a.m.
May 6	Friday	Clearwater Lake	3-4:30 p.m.
May 8	Sunday	Lakeland	10-10:30 a.m.
May 8	Sunday	Tomahawk	11:30-12 p.m.
May 8	Sunday	Merrill	2-2:30 p.m.
May 8	Sunday	Wausau	3:30-4:30 p.m.
May 15	Sunday	Milwaukee Northwest	9-10 a.m.
May 15	Sunday	Milw. Spanish Central	11-12 p.m.
May 15	Sunday	Raymond School	2-3:30 p.m.
May 15	Sunday	Racine	4-5 p.m.
May 15	Sunday	Kenosha	6-7 p.m.

What's happening in your conference ...

Personnel Changes

• **James Johnson**, Loveland, CO, has accepted an invitation to serve as camp caretaker. He replaces **Don Antisdell**, retiring this spring. James and his wife Linda are expected to arrive mid-March. They have one grown son, Jim.

Because of the significant growth of the Waukesha Church, these district changes have been made:

• Milwaukee Northwest has been moved from the Waukesha District. **Duane Brown** continues to pastor Waukesha and Lake Country.

• **Steve Cook** now pastors Milwaukee Central and Milwaukee Northwest.

• **Cal Johnson** pastors the Sheboygan Church part-time. He also serves part-time as assistant ministerial director.

The LAMPLETTER is a bimonthly report to the members of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Please address all correspondence to Communication Department, Laurie Herr, editor.

Calendar

Feb. 11-13 Young Adult Retreat
Whispering Pines

Feb. 21 President's Day
ABC & Office closed

March 13 Lay Advisory 10 a.m.
ABC open

March 16-26 South Dominican
Mission Trip

March 16-29 Mexico Trip

Looking ahead:

April 8-10 WA Alumni Wkend
ABC Bookmobile at WA

April 10 Elementary
Science Fair at WA
ABC open

April 17 WA Auction

May 15-19 Camp Go Seek
Work Bee

June 17-25 Camp Meeting

Announcements

• **Single youth ages 18-40** are welcome at the Winter Youth Retreat, Feb. 11-13 at Whispering Pines, Frederic, WI. Come for hiking, skiing, indoor games, fireside chats and more. Speaker: Pastor **Marvin Clark**, Green Bay. Cost: \$45. Contact: Cindy and Leon Bunker, 414/822-5463.

• **Vacation Bible School leaders:** Viewers can call in questions during the **live VBS Workshop**, presented via satellite by the N.A.D. March 6. The program showcases the new VBS materials, "Earthmaker Mysteries." For details call Kitty Crary, 608/241-5235.

Wisconsin's VBS Workshop will be held **April 24, 10-4 p.m.** at the conference office. The satellite broadcast on video will be shown.

• **Items in good condition** are still being accepted for Wisconsin Academy's spring auction, April 17. Contact Leroy Rappette or Floyd Brock, 414/623-3300.

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