

Bob Nohr's Testimony

When I met my wife, Dee Piekarek, we were both working as counselors at a residential treatment center for children. I had recently left the Catholic priesthood and was pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology. As we dated, I understood that I was (hopefully!) on my way to landing this extraordinary Christian woman as my wife. I could not have known then that I would also be gaining an extraordinary family of faith in the Seventh-day Adventist church. For this year, I was baptized by Pastor Sheldon Bryan at Milwaukee Central SDA Church.

My journey reflects many of the features of a modern Christian seeker, for it has been guided above all by the quality and depth of relationships. There were many precious steps where, in hindsight, I can see God's hand at work. God worked through Ron and Rose Anglin, who were the first people to greet me at Central, and they just never let go! God worked through Nelda Womack, who found a connection with me through the hometown of Merrill that she shared with my grandfather and father. God worked through Pastor Rodney and Pamela Mills, who took the time to show me the Biblical basis of Adventism, and in an amazing surprise, travelled back from Texas to Milwaukee to be present for my baptism. God worked through my in-laws, Karl and Anita Piekarek, who've shown me the strongest marriage I've ever seen. God worked through my wife, Dee, who has a passion that all the kids at Central shall be members of Christ's church...and shall be members of the



Bob Nohr, PhD and Dee Piekarek, PhD are a husband and wife team of clinical psychologists in private practice at Cornerstone Counseling Services. One of their great joys is to see families strengthened by God's power and love. Bob and Dee are members at Milwaukee Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, where they serve as Family Ministry Coordinators.

remnant who keep the commands of God. And God worked through so many of the other families with whom we are raising our seven-year-old daughter, Delaney--A family of families raising our children together. This year, God worked through Pastor Sheldon Bryan, who ignited an excitement in me by showing me the thoughtful and intellectually rigorous ways that the Adventist church is presenting the eternal truths of the gospel, while simultaneously translating it to the historical moment of today. In him I recognize the wise steward about whom Jesus spoke, the one who can bring forth from his storeroom both the old treasures and the new. There are exciting things happening at Milwaukee Central, and I

know there will be many more baptisms administered through Pastor Sheldon's hands!

Above all, though, what has always been irresistible about this church is the love. The people of God at Central have stood by me and Dee on some of our most joyful days, and they have stood by us on some of our toughest days, as we lost two of our children to a neurological disorder, our dear sons Nicholas and Matthew. As I told the congregation on the day of my baptism, "Most miraculously, you have always loved me as I am...and not merely for what you hoped I might one day be." That is miraculous love. That is

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From the President's Desk

Is Your Church a Mission?

When I read stories of missionaries of days gone by I am struck by those few things that are common among them.

They had vision and passion
They saw beyond the immediate
They were willing to do what ever was necessary

Their names may not be remembered in our history books, but are in the lives of the people they touched. These missionaries invested their lives in others, seeking to represent Jesus to them, whether they were pulling teeth, cleansing wounds, mopping floors, teaching from picture rolls or facing imminent dangers.

Today God is calling us to be missionaries right here in Wisconsin. Ellen White told us: "There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort... The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power

of the love of God, this work will not, and cannot, be without fruit." Ministry of Healing 143-144.

"It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world. Every man or woman who has tasted of the love of Christ and has received into the heart the divine illumination, is required of God to shed light on the dark pathway of those who are unacquainted with the better way." Ministry of Healing 496

As members of your church work together, ministering to the needs of your community and building relationships, you will win their confidence and lead them to Christ Jesus.

As 2018 is still fresh and new, I challenge you to choose to have your church be a mission in your community; serving people, with vision, passion, and a commitment to do whatever is necessary to reach those around you for Christ's kingdom.

Michael H. Edge

Wisconsin Conference President

The President's Sabbath Schedule

February

- 3 Office Retreat
- 17 LUC Youth Congress
- 24 Antigo

March

- 3 Almond
- 17 Vacation
- 24 Green Bay

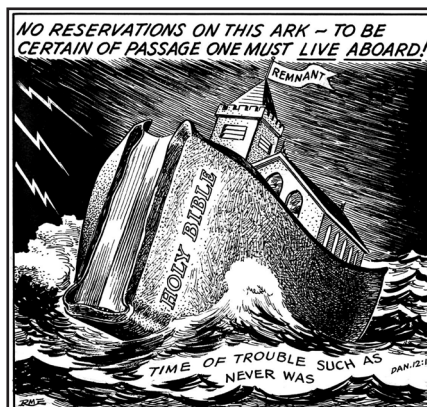
April

- 21 LUC ASI
- 28 Shawano

May

- 12 Hispanic Brotherhood
- 26 WA Graduation

To request speaking appointments contact Mike Edge at mgedge@wi.adventist.org.



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Constituency Session Delegate Orientation

On October 7, 2018, we will have our 38th Wisconsin Conference Constituency Session. This is a time for delegates from every church in our conference to hear reports, elect officers and departmental directors, set goals for the next four years, and conduct any other necessary business. In preparation for this meeting all delegates to the session, as well as any interested church members, are invited to delegate orientation meetings held in six locations around our conference. This will be a time for delegates to learn about their responsibilities as delegates and listen to preliminary reports. This will also be a time for members to ask questions and provide input to conference leaders. You are welcome to attend the meeting at your most convenient location. Times to be announced.

| Date | Location |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| February 15 | Madison East |
| February 27 | Green Bay |
| March 25 | Waukesha - English |
| March 25 | Milwaukee Central Spanish |
| March 29 | Wausau |
| May 14 | Rice Lake |

What Is Planned Giving & Trust Services (PGTS)?



PGTS provides information to individuals that will assist them in using gift planning documents such as Wills, Trusts, Gift Annuities, Power of Attorney and Health Care Directives; that will provide for and protect family members. Certified personnel and Accredited departments are available in the Wisconsin Conference.

Why Planned Giving?

The principle of planned giving - recognizes God as owner of all and we as His stewards is seen in scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

Do I have to be rich to use Planned Giving & Trust Services?

No! On the conference level, Planned Giving & Trust Services is designed to assist with a simple will, regardless of income.

Planned Giving & Trust Services isn't just for the wealthy, and it isn't just for seniors. We discuss your changing needs to build financial security, protect loved ones, and sustain the causes you love.



Cindy Stephan
Planned Giving and Trust
Services Director

Redistricting in Central Wisconsin

Over the past several months conference administration has been working with pastors, head elders, and church members to create three pastoral districts from four districts. Conference leadership sought to do this to reduce some costs and be financially responsible during these challenging times.

After a great deal of conversation with individuals and congregations involved, the Wisconsin Conference Executive Committee voted the following redistricting configuration, which went into effect January 1, 2018. Thank you to all who were involved in this process.

| Joseph Perricellia | Tom Michalski | Justin Spady |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Wisconsin Rapids | Shepherd's House | Portage |
| Marshfield | Stephen Point | Reedsburg |
| Bethel | Antigo | Almond |
| Neillsville Company | Hillside School | Oxford |
| Bethel School | | Wautoma Company |

Register Now for an Unforgettable Week at Camp Wakonda this Summer



Summer 2018

| CAMP | DATE | AGES |
|---------------|------------------|----------|
| BLIND CAMP | JUNE 27 - JULY 1 | ALL AGES |
| JUNIOR CAMP | JULY 1 - 8 | 7 - 10 |
| TWEEN CAMP | JULY 8 - 15 | 11 - 13 |
| TEEN CAMP | JULY 15 - 22 | 13 - 17 |
| FAMILY CAMP 1 | JULY 22 - 29 | ALL AGES |
| FAMILY CAMP 2 | JULY 29 - AUG 5 | ALL AGES |

REGISTER ONLINE: WAKONDA.ORG



Green Bay Students Hand Out Smiles For Christmas



This past month, the students in grades 3-6 participated in Operation Christmas Child – an organization set up by the Samaritan’s Purse. Students packed a shoebox for either a boy or a girl with books, craft supplies, clothing, toys and toiletry items. Some students wrote a letter or put their address in the boxes so the child could write to them back. Then the shoeboxes were delivered to needy boys and girls in the U.S. and other countries in time for Christmas. It felt good to do something nice for someone else!

Every month we visit the nursing home as part of our Bible labs. On our last visit we decorated (and ate!) Christmas cookies. Students enjoyed interacting with the residents and helping them decorate the cookies. In the past, we have read books to the residents or brought gifts. The residents have requested that we bring our chimes and play for them sometime. We will be organizing that soon. It gives us joy to bring a smile to their faces!

Helping the less fortunate is a key part of our philosophy of education at Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy. We are training young leaders who will follow the example Jesus set while on earth — helping those who are overlooked or ignored. *“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”*

Adele Inglish, Teacher for Grades 3-6
Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy

The Shepherd's House Welcomes 5 Members



The Shepherd's House conducted a prophecy evangelistic series from September 22 to November 4. These meetings were led by Pastor Tom Michalski, along with ancillary member involvement for registration, music, and childcare -- a first which brought in many young families.

A large part of the membership actively prayed for the Holy Spirit to bless the meetings, whose presence was shown in high attendance and five individuals requesting baptism. On November 11, 2017, we welcomed the following brothers and sisters in baptism: Cory Durbin, Melissa Pilecky, Kurt Howard, Joseph Levickis, and Alan Schwantes. Seasoned members were assigned to mentor and assist them, providing one on one prayer, encouragement, and guidance.

Pastor Tom also began a new member Sabbath class and a mid-week prayer meeting focused on the book of Revelation.

Diana Speith, Communication Secretary
The Shepherd's House



Have you ever wanted to do something big? Well you can do just that today! The Wisconsin Youth Department has organized its very own mission group called "Mission 28:19." It's based on Jesus' last charge to "Go ye into all the world." We want to offer opportunities to do just that; Go ye!

We will be in Puerto Rico March 16-23, 2018. We provide you a bus ride to Chicago, for a direct flight to Puerto Rico! For seven days we will work with the East Puerto Rican Conference rebuilding roofs destroyed in the hurricanes, helping ADRA pass out clothing and food to those still in need, and provide an afternoon VBS program for the community where we will stay.

What is the cost for all this fun and excitement? Only \$1,450.00! That is a steal when you think of all that this trip will offer! You don't need a passport, only a state ID for entry and exit. We only have 11 spots left for this trip so hurry and register today!

Click news at www.wakonda.org to save your spot! Learn more by contacting me at (806)341-2005 or echavez@wi.adventist.org.



Eric Chavez
Youth Director



It is hard to believe we are already at another year's end. Looking back on 2017 it has had many challenges as any year does. However I believe it is also a good time to reflect on the many blessings that God has provided as well. In a world full of change and fear I am so thankful we have a God who is 100% reliable and never changes.

We have now received the final remittances for 2017. December's tithe came in at 3.71 percent lower than December 2016 tithe. This is as result of a "one time" large tithe gift received in December of last year. I am happy to report that the tithe for all of 2017 increased by 1.52%. This is despite having one less Sabbath and the windfall tithe received in 2016 mentioned above. While a modest gain, we are also experiencing a 2.13% decrease in expenses, the result of an unexpected drop in healthcare costs this year. These are just a few of many blessing witnessed this past year in our conference.

The Wisconsin Budget enjoyed an increase in giving for December of 7.21% However, with the loss coming into December; Wisconsin Budget has ended 2017 with a small decrease of 2.71%. This represents a drop of just over \$8,000 in giving over 2016. Again, we had one less Sabbath and a "windfall" donation that came in for Wisconsin Budget last year as well, making it difficult to maintain the 2016 level.

The budgeting process is nearing completion for 2018. While it continues to be a struggle to maintain the services we all see as essential for our conference, I am encouraged how the Lord continues to bless showing His hand is over His church.

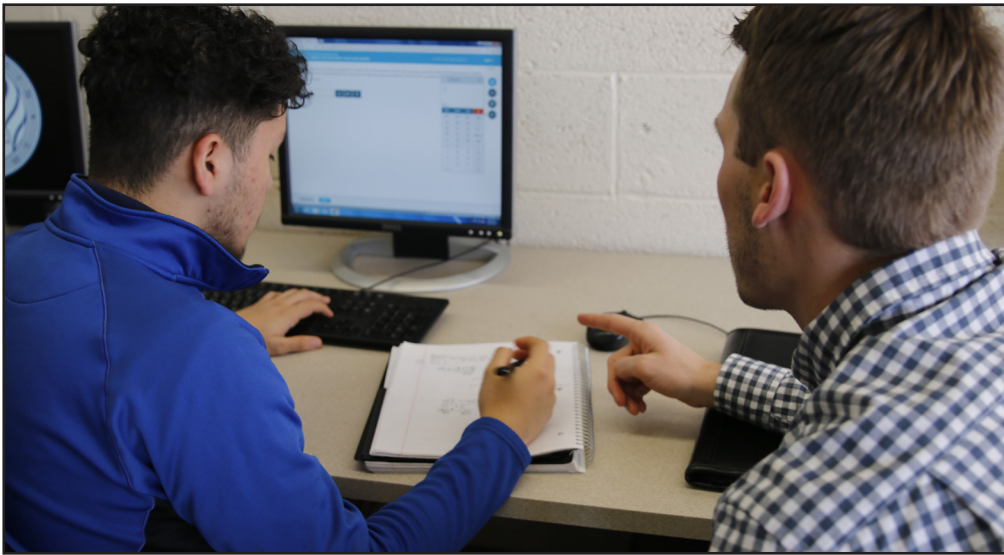
Thank you for your faithfulness to God in the support of our conference.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| | 2017 | 2016 | % Change |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| December Tithe Income: | \$1,187,552 | \$1,229,510 | -3.41% |
| YTD Tithe Income: | \$7,200,288 (52 wks) | \$7,092,530 (53 wks) | 1.52% |
| December Wisconsin Budget: | \$47,639 | \$44,437 | 7.21% |
| YTD Wisconsin Budget: | \$296,794 (52 wks) | \$305,094 (53 wks) | -2.71% |



from the principal's desk

Center for Student Success

Innovative Learning Center Boosts Student Test Scores

I am happy to report preliminary results from our Student Success Program. Still in its first year, this innovative program is already addressing the academic needs of students who are struggling with reading and mathematics.

The hub of this program, the Center for Student Success, is coordinated by its own full-time director, Janine Show, who is doing an exceptional job in this pioneer work. The center is equipped with ten computers and offers instruction in reading using Fast ForWord and instruction in math using ALEKS. Each of these programs individualizes course content and delivery to meet the student's needs as identified through ongoing assessment.

In August, all students were administered MAP placement testing. The results guided the placement of students in classes appropriate for their level. Eighteen were enrolled in Fast Forward and 14 in ALEKS. As the semester progressed, many of these students began to sense improvement in their performance, which has in turn improved their attitudes

toward school and increased their enthusiasm for learning.

In January, all students were again given MAP placement tests. While more data is needed, the initial results are very encouraging. Of the 18 students enrolled in Fast ForWord, 12 have improved in their reading levels. And for the 14 students in ALEKS math, 10 have improved.

As individual examples of the progress made, one student improved in reading by 1.6 grade levels, and three students who struggled with math are now ready for Algebra 1.

Student feedback has been very positive. One young lady said, "I really like it, especially the math. It has helped me a lot." Another commented, "I feel I am learning more."

We are very pleased with the progress being made. This is pioneering work, as we are one of only a very few Seventh-day Adventist schools who are running a program of this kind. Please keep our students in your prayers as we work to develop their talents for God's service.

The Day We All Went Sledding!

One morning in January, the entire student body went sledding at Crystal Lake Park in Beaver Dam. We were blessed with temperatures in the mid-twenties and bright sunshine - a perfect day for a slide!





Preparations Continue for Mission Project



In a few short weeks, we leave for our spring mission project in the Philippines. In the community of Bonongan, two Bible workers (above) are holding Bible studies in preparation for the evangelistic meetings. The ground is ready for the church structure we will be building. Here in Wisconsin, students continue fundraising, passports are being worked out. Students and staff pray every day that God will pour out his Spirit in our lives and in the lives of the people in Bonongan. Join us in the mission by giving at www.gofundme.com/waphilippinesmissionproject.

Students Donate Gifts for Needy Children



One afternoon in December students loaded ten large bags of gifts into freshmen Bible teacher David Kabanje's car. These bags of gifts, bought with donations from students, were delivered to ten children in the Madison area who would not otherwise have gifts at Christmas. Students campaigned in the dorms to raise money and worked cleaning community homes to earn the funds needed to buy each child Christmas presents. This is one of the many ways Wisconsin Academy is training students to be "Fit to Serve."

Seniors Visit Four Houses of Worship



In early December, senior Bible students took a field trip to visit a Hindu temple, a synagogue, a Serbian Orthodox cathedral, and a mosque. At each, we were given a tour, and religious leaders explained the basics of their belief system. These tours generated a host of questions and meaningful discussions. This field trip was a part of the class's study of worldviews and religions. Our study included the major belief systems, with special emphasis on the beauty and uniqueness of Jesus Christ and biblical Christianity.



**WISCONSIN**
ACADEMY

**School**
Choice
WISCONSIN

IT'S TIME TO ENROLL

Open enrollment for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is going on now! **TAKE ACTION** today to ensure your child begins the **2018-19** school year in the **best school possible**.

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program gives parents the ability to send their child to the participating private or religious school of their choice **tuition free**.

*This **TUITION-FREE** program is available to incoming freshmen and students transferring from public schools or homeschool.*

MORE INFO AT

1-855-827-1372 **TAMBIÉN EN ESPAÑOL** **414-255-2834**

NOTE: General (non-choice) enrollment is ALWAYS open.

3 Steps

- 1 Apply to Wisconsin Academy
Apply at any time
www.wisacad.org
- 2 Apply to Wisconsin Parental Choice
Apply Feb 1st-Apr 20
<https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>
- 3 Call WA Coordinator Karen White
Call at any time for documentation processing
Cell: 608-345-2051

Wisconsin Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
PO Box 100
Fall River WI 53932

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

February

- 2-4 Lay Minister Training
- 3 Pathfinder Bible Experience
- 9-11 Public Campus Ministries
- 10 Hispanic Lay Seminary Grad.
- 13 Board of Education
- 14 Executive Committee
- 15 Town Hall Meeting/Madison East
- 16-18 LUC Youth Congress
- 23-25 Hispanic Women's Ministries
- 25 Lay Seminary
- 27 Town Hall Meeting/Green Bay

March

- 2-4 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
- 3 Pathfinder Bible Experience
- 3 JAHWI Youth Rally
- 4 Education Fair
- 16-23 Youth Mission Trip/Puerto Rico
- 9-25 WA Spring Break/Mission Trip
- 25 Town Hall Meeting/Waukesha
& Milwaukee Central Spanish
- 29 Town Hall Meeting/Wausau

April

- 3 Board of Education
- 5-7 Elementry Music Fest
- 12 Pastor's Meeting
- 15 Executive Committee
- 15 Statistical Review
- 20-21 NAD Pathfinder Bible Exp.
- 20-22 WA Alumni Weekend
- 27-29 Hispanic Men's Retreat

Bob Nohr's Testimony Continued From Cover

Divine love. I've seen a lot of churches in my day. I've never encountered one where so many people take their faith so seriously. Faith is not just one aspect of life alongside others; it is the central, organizing principle around which everything else is built: family, money, relationships, time, ministry—everything.

As a clinical psychologist, I'm trained to look carefully at actual results, not claims. And when I look at the Adventist church, I see a group of incredibly dedicated Christians, who come together to form the body of Christ that is described in the Scriptures. We know that, today, so many people in our culture feel alienated, isolated, lost in a competitive and lonely world that gives little to hope for. But within this body of Christ, there is love, there is support, there is hope, there is faith, there is purpose. This is what I have experienced at Central. This is what I want for our daughter Delaney. And so, in a world so full of distraction and business, I am proud and happy to join the church that proclaims Sabbath rest. In a world so full of addictions of every kind, I am proud and happy to join the church that decisively says that is not the way. I am proud and happy to do all I can to share this unique light in the city of Milwaukee.

Yes, when I started courting Dee, I knew I was making a great choice. But I could not have known then that I was glimpsing the first nuggets of a rich and deep gold mine, and was getting all of you as well. I'm so thankful for this gift from God, and look forward to many more years of ministry together.

Bob Nohr
Milwaukee Central Church



Jim VanArsdale is retiring the end of February. He and his wife, Carol, have been pastoring the Janesville District.

Nate Skaife has accepted a position to pastor in the Rocky Mountain Conference in Colorado. He and his wife, Rachel, have been serving in the Waukesha District.

Alcedio Leopoldino has agreed to serve as a full-time pastoral employee in our conference. He and his wife, Nechi, have been volunteer Bible workers in the Beloit Hispanic Church.

JeanMark A'Kessler completed his seminary training, and along with his wife, Abigail, began pastoring the Rhinelander District in January of this year.