

# Lamp Letter

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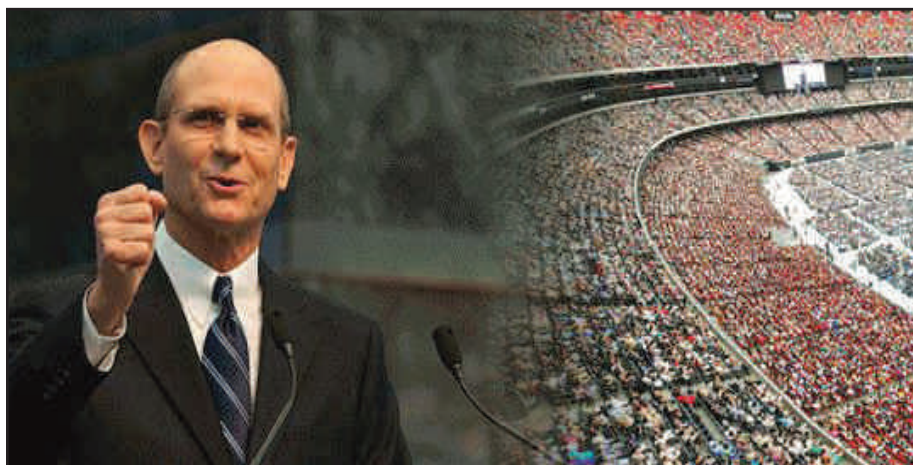
## From the Word

"Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory."

Psalm 73:23-24



## GC and Ministerial Meeting Report



*Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming! This was the theme of General Conference (GC) Session 2015, and the final challenge given on Sabbath morning by our newly re-elected GC President, Ted Wilson.*

An estimated 60,000 church members from across Wisconsin, North America, and the world gathered last month at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, to worship, learn, fellowship, and hold the 60th annual business session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Three of the 2,566 delegates chosen to participate in the General Conference Session were from Wisconsin: Mike Edge, president of the Wisconsin Conference, Titus Naftanaila, pastor of the Madison church district, and Alyssa Palmer, an Adventist attorney from Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

First on the agenda the delegates re-elected Ted Wilson, president of the world church, for another five-year term. Pastor Wilson accepted the position and then presented three goals he has for the next five years: 1) to completely lift up Christ in all things, 2) to be faithful to God's Word, 3) and to involve as many church members as possible in witnessing and evangelism. Wilson, age 65, has served as the Seventh-day Adventist world church president since 2010. He and his wife, Nancy, have three married daughters and eight grandchildren.

Daniel R. Jackson was re-elected to serve as president of the North American Division for another five-year term. Pastor Jackson has served the church as a pastor, teacher and administrator. He and his wife, Donna, have three children and four grandchildren.

The motion on women's ordination stated: "Is it acceptable for the division executive committee, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? The motion was denied with 58.4% voting no, and 41.3% voting yes. Following the vote, President Ted Wilson said, "Now is the time to unite under the blood stained banner of Jesus Christ....Now is the time to unify in the mission of the church ministry."

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## Mike's Sabbath Schedule

### August

- 8 ASI Convention
- 15 Sheboygan
- 29 Durand

### September

- 5 Lena
- 12 Lay Pastors
- 19 Pathfinder Camporee
- 26 Northern District Meeting

### October

- 3 Seeds
- 10 Evangelism in Portage
- 17 Evangelism in Portage
- 24 LUC Evangelism Convocation
- 31 NAD Year-end Meetings

### November

- 5 Elders' Retreat
- 14 Watertown
- 21 Marriage Retreat

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## Forward

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward." These words were spoken by David Livingstone, a Scottish doctor, explorer, and pioneer medical missionary in the heart of Africa.

We honor Dr. Livingstone for taking the gospel to the heart of Africa. Do our hearts burn with the same desire to take the news of Jesus' second coming to those in the heart of Wisconsin?

The Adventist world focused on San Antonio the first two weeks of July, as delegates and leaders from around the world met for General Conference Session. While the issue of ordination captured the headlines, other things happened that should bring us joy, and concern.

In the last five years our membership worldwide has risen by 1,556,081. Our baptism rate over the same time is at a rate of 2.2 members a minute. Our current membership at the end of 2014 was 18,479,257. Praise God for how He is leading.

Do you realize that in Jamaica there is one Adventist for every 11 people in the country? Did you know that in several countries where we have "work" going on, there are less than 50 members in countries where there are 3 million or more people?

As I reflect back on the recent General Conference Session I am proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist; proud that our church bases its teachings on the clear Word of Scripture, proud that we can peacefully work together to advance God's kingdom, and that we have been called to share God's last day message to a dying world. I am also humbled that God asks each of us, as imperfect Christians, to share the exciting news of Jesus's soon return to the world.

It's time to look forward. God has called us to let our lights shine. Recommit yourself to God. Be a witness for Him, reflect His character, and lead people to prepare for Jesus' soon return. May we each be willing "to go anywhere, provided it be forward."

*Michael H. Edge*

Wisconsin Conference President



Believe His Prophets is a plan to read the Bible and seven Ellen G. White books through over the next five years.

This online daily Bible-study blog is coordinated by the GC Ministerial Association, and is aimed at strengthening the spiritual experience of each church member.

The seven Ellen White books to read are Steps to Christ, Christ's Object Lessons, and the five-volume Conflict of the Ages series. We read one chapter of the Bible a day, and three pages of Ellen White books per week.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has founded its existence in the Bible. Nothing

can replace listening to God speak to us through His Word. Prayerful meditation on Scripture is our primary source of spiritual strength. "I invite every Wisconsin member to take the time and be transformed by this plan," says Wisconsin Conference President Mike Edge.

United in Prayer is a worldwide on-the-hour prayer chain designed to unite us in prayer any hour on the hour for the Holy Spirit's presence in our families, leaders, churches, and communities. "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

Learn more and sign up at [believehisprophets.org](http://believehisprophets.org), or [revivalandreformation.org](http://revivalandreformation.org)



## GC and Ministerial Meeting Continued



Wisconsin Conference pastors, families and office staff who attended either or both the ministerial meetings in Austin, and the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

Over 4,300 pastors and their families from across North America converged on Austin, TX, for the first ever North American Division Ministerium meetings on June 28.

After only two days into the ministerium meetings, Nate Skaife, pastor of the Waukesha District commented, "This is a camp meeting put on for pastors instead of by pastors."

The Ministerium was a series of meetings and over 200 seminars designed to foster in pastors and their spouses, professional growth, spiritual refreshment, and networking with colleagues.

Of the 27 pastors in the Wisconsin Conference, 24 were able to attend. Expenses for the event varied, but routinely exceeded \$2000 per family. Fortunately the Lake Union assisted each pastor with \$500, and the Wisconsin Conference assisted with as much as \$1,000 each, plus 11 days of work time toward attending both the ministerium and GC.

It was such a blessing to our pastors. There have been numerous comments asking, "When can we do this again?" There is already talk of another ministerium prior to the next General Conference to be held in Indianapolis, IN, in 2020.

James Fox, Ministerial Director

## Voted Theology of Ordination Statement

"Seventh-day Adventists understand ordination, in a Biblical sense, as the action of the church in publically recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global church ministry..."

It goes on to say, "While ordination contributes to church order, it neither conveys special qualities to the person ordained nor introduces a kingly hierarchy within the faith company."

Read the full Consensus Statement on the Theology of Ordination at [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org).



approximately 200 nationalities represented.

It was not an easy task, but the world leadership was elected, critical issues were discussed and voted, and the policy decisions were made. The Seventh-day Adventist church demonstrates once again that our worldwide family of believers can come together, worship, and remain focused on the mission Jesus has entrusted to us: proclaiming the Gospel until He comes.

Titus Naftanaila, Madison District Pastor

## Clarified Creation Belief Number 6

"God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent, six-day creation, the Lord made "the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" and rested on the seventh day. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of the work He performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was "very good."



As a committee member, selected by the North American Division (NAD) caucus, I valued NAD's interest to provide fair representation. The division strove to select committee members who best reflected the NAD church body. As

a young, minority woman and a layperson, I was heartened that my input and presence was valued and respected.

The task given to nominating committee members was not an easy one. It involved significant sacrifice, coupled with a huge responsibility to elect our church's worldwide leaders. Our days were often long, involving sequestration for much of the GC session. However, despite the sacrifice, one felt a sense of camaraderie to those who were also called to do the Lord's work and a deep sense of fulfillment.

Serving on boards and committees is a common experience in my line of work, as a project manager for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. However, the one distinguishing feature that separates my professional experience from that of the GC nominating committee, is the calling for the Holy Spirit's guidance through prayer. Before every major vote or after a lengthy discussion, prayer was offered for wisdom and discretion.

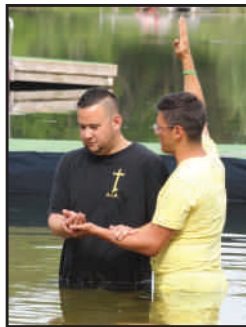
Alyssa Ricketts, Attorney, member of Milwaukee Central Church

# News and Events



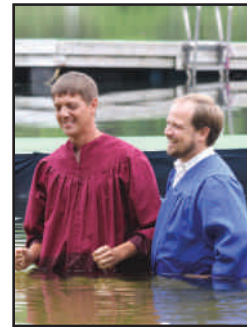
I have always prayed to God and He has faithfully stayed with me through a life of abuse, rebellion, and dark forces of spiritualism. He has made His presence known through many life saving interventions. Yet I continued down a path of self destruction. I was on a journey through the occult, losing everything including myself. I continued to pray and God protected and directed my path back to the Adventist faith. I choose now not only pray to the God of Heaven, but walk with Him in truth.

Kimberly Block, Albert Lea, MN



I got baptized at a young age without really understanding the importance of my choice. After years of falling away from Jesus, I have decided I want to recommit my life to Him. This last year I've become so much closer to God. I understand now the importance of this choice to stand up and say I love Jesus and I want to follow Him. I want to share my love for Him with the world. *"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."* 1 Timothy 4:12

Kurtis Lamb, Northwest Milwaukee Church



Brandon watched Roger Morneau's testimony on Youtube. It made a big impact on him. Because of the Roger Morneau video he had watched on Youtube, he looked up the Waukesha church online and decided to attend. He began regularly attending the Bible studies. He loved the studies as well as learning about the Lord! Brandon says he wants to follow the Lord for the rest of his life! *"You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."* Psalm 73:24

Brandon Coon, Waukesha Church



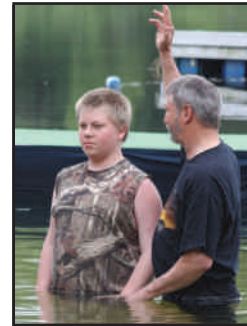
Pao Vang was a refugee from Laos. He met Pastor Ko Saelee when his family moved to a home in the country north of Madison. When his wife filed for a divorce and he could not live at home, he became very ill. Attending church, he was impressed with Jesus' command to forgive seventy-times-seven times. Through the prayers of the Saelee family and the encouragement of the church members he recovered from his illness and decided to commit his life to God and be baptized.

Pao Vang, Madison Community Hmong Church

## Camp Meeting Baptism Testimonies

Forty-two individuals were baptized and began their new life in Christ the final Sabbath of camp meeting, June 20, 2015, at Camp Wakonda. Reading these testimonies reminds us that God is still changing lives every day.

Find more and unabridged testimonies online at [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org).



Pathfinders was a big influence in my life. Another influence on my decision to be baptized was my brother and dad were baptized last year. My cousin Jacob and Joey gave me Bible studies, and now I've been taking Bible studies with pastor Rick Binford. My favorite Scripture is 1 John 4:7. It says, *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."*

James Michael Hoier, Shawano Church



Today I am here by the Spirit's leading. After a series of events I met Ken Wilson of the Almond Church. His friendship and love led me to thirst for what he had. I began to attend church and the acceptance of the Almond church was amazing! They took me in and showed me the love of Jesus! I resolved to become a member. Pastor David met with me and kindly and Biblically answered all my questions. Today I am ready to give my public confession to the glory of God!

Rick Felts, Almond Church



Aliyana has been going to church for a long time. She's been waiting to be baptized. "This is a very special day for me, for I have accepted Jesus into my heart," says Aliyana. "Mom, I thank you for keeping me in Jesus' arms. I also thank my pastor for teaching me about Jesus. I am looking forward to having Pastor Michael Ehm and Billy Otto baptize me today. I love Jesus." *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you shall go."* Psalm 32:8

Aliyana Yvonne Hurt, First Church, Southbend, IN



Nathaniel began to learn about Jesus from his parents. They read the Bible in their home and took him to church and Vacation Bible school. Nathaniel often received a new Bible every couple of years, from his family, and he witnessed prayer before every meal at home, and at his grandparent's farm. As he takes his stand as a Christian, he wishes to help his friends at school become Christian too. He has now decided to take the next step with Jesus by being baptized.

Nathaniel Silvia, Prairie du Chien



## Tom Michalski New Wausau District Pastor



Tom Michalski, new pastor in the Wausau District, comes from the Iowa/Missouri Conference where he has pastored the Moberly/Hannibal District since 2007.

Tom was born and raised in Wisconsin. At age 18 he and a buddy moved to Alaska. While there he met several Seventh-day Adventists. "They all shared the Bible truth with me," said Tom. "But I was a wild rebellious man, and it took me eight years to be baptized."

It began with Tom's wife, Melody, becoming interested in spiritual things. She read her Bible through from Genesis to Revelation and believed every word. Tom told her, "If you really want to learn about the Bible, go study with the Adventists. I don't know if they have everything right, but whenever I've asked them a question, they always gave me a Bible answer."

They started attending an Adventist church, but were moving at that time to live out in the bush of Alaska. The church gave them a Bible, a syllabus, and mailed them Revelation Seminar tapes. They studied themselves into the truth and were baptized on May 10, 1980.

"It's really exciting to move back home to Wisconsin," says Tom. "I feel the Lord has something planned for the Wausau District, and I pray He can use me to accomplish it."

Tom and his wife, Melody, a registered nurse, have been married for 36 years. They have three children, Joshua, Caleb, and Kesiah.

In his free time Tom enjoys being outside gardening, camping, and canoeing. "I try and make at least one 10-day trip a year canoeing the north country wilderness," says Tom. He also enjoys woodworking and building things with his hands.

Juanita Edge  
Communication Director

## Adele Marsh New Teacher in Green Bay



Adele Marsh has agreed to teach at Green Bay Junior Academy. She will be student teaching first semester, and employed as a teacher second semester.

Adele, a graduate of Hillside Christian School and Wisconsin Academy, is graduating this December with a degree in Elementary Education from Southern Adventist University.

"I want to be an elementary school teacher because I want to lead as many people to Christ as I can," said Adele. "Most people make decisions for Christ when they are young, and people are more likely to stay in the church if they have had a positive experience with it as a child. I also enjoy working with children and I have a passion for developing engaging learning experiences."

Adele has worked at Camp Wakonda for the past five summers; three as a girls' counselor and the past two as girls' director.

In her free time she enjoys biking, swimming, snowmobiling, and spending time with her family.

Juanita Edge  
Communication Director

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of this writing, treasury has now closed the books for the month of June. Our tithe increase we had experienced in the early months of this year had disappeared by May. June however was a different story with substantial gains in both tithe and Wisconsin Budget. As a result we now have a year-to-date tithe gain of 3.99% along with an 8.43% year-to-date gain for Wisconsin Budget. Your continued support of the tithe and Wisconsin Budget is what makes camp meeting and summer camp programming possible.

Wisconsin Academy (WA) has just closed their books on another school year. The fiscal June 30 year-end unaudited statement is showing a respectable gain for WA. While the bottom line is still underwater, it thankfully is heading in the right direction. This was accomplished with a smaller subsidy from the Conference as well. Please keep the Academy in your prayers as we look toward next school year. Prayerfully consider how you might help sponsor a student who would like to attend the Academy this fall.

We are continuing to work on viable options to bring to the constituency for the new waste water treatment plant needed at WA. While we had hoped to bring these ideas to you at camp meeting, there were still some unfinished studies and plans. We continue to meet with the city of Columbus and with engineers looking at alternatives that will fit our needs and budget. We hope to have a special constituency meeting spring of 2016.

Thank you for your faithful service and financial support of the Lord's work.

Brian Stephan  
Secretary/Treasurer

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2015	2014	% Change
June Tithe Income:	\$481,505.01	\$366,298.77	+31.45%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$3,076,106.06 (26 wks)	\$2,957,972.35 (26 wks)	+3.99%
June Wisconsin Budget:	\$28,387.85	\$14,551.40	+95.09%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$143,326.84	\$132,184.70	+8.43%



## WISCONSIN ACADEMY

### from the principal's desk **The Difference**



**H**ave you ever been sure of something and then later learned you were incorrect? In my own life there have been times, more frequent than I wish to admit, that I have been confident I was right, only later to learn I was wrong.

As I have talked with families about sending their children to Wisconsin Academy, I have discovered there are incorrect perceptions resulting from inadequate information. One of the most common of these is that the financial cost of studying at Wisconsin Academy is not affordable. Without having all the necessary facts in hand, this conclusion is not surprising. So what are the facts on this matter?

Almost all students are eligible for and receive some form of financial assistance. Fortunately, through the support of loyal alumni and friends, there are scholarships and need-based student assistance funds available to help many families. In addition, we are proud to make known the Youth Educational Scholarship known as the YES program. Church congregations around Wisconsin are stepping up to provide financial assistance to families that is then matched by the conference and the Academy to provide three sources of support. Churches are encouraged to give \$2,000 which after matching can grow to a total of \$6,000 in financial aid. Students also work on campus to earn an additional \$2,000-\$3,000 toward the cost of their education. In almost all

cases, after bringing these revenue sources together, the remaining family commitment is attainable.

If you know of a young person who should be studying at Wisconsin Academy, contact the principal or registrar today. If we work quickly, this student can still be enrolled at registration on August 16. For more information, visit our admissions page at [www.wisacad.org](http://www.wisacad.org) or call 920-623-3300.

Roger Dunder  
Wisconsin Academy Principal

### **"I Can't Say Enough Good About WA!"**



**W**hen I became a Seventh-day Adventist in 2006 it was hard. My husband was against it, but I poured my heart out to God and decided to persevere. I wanted to see my children saved.

Two years later my 12-year-old daughter, Hailey, agreed to come to church with me. A church family took her under their wings and soon Hailey was going to Camp Wakonda with their children, I could see she was beginning to grow in Christ.

When she was 13 she asked to be baptized. Then when she was ready for high school she asked to go to Wisconsin Academy. I didn't have the money, and just blew it off, but God kept it on Hailey's heart and she didn't give up. By her junior year, through a miracle of God, she finally got to go to WA. I thank God we had a church family that was willing to help support her through the YES program. I

gave what I could, and there were even some people I don't know that were willing to give. It is awesome how God just provides for us.

The support Hailey received at WA was amazing. She found Christian friends and was able to find a father figure in the male teachers that she was missing since our divorce. Her boss, maintenance director Kevin Carter, showed her how to change the oil in a car and many other things a father would do. She had many talks with the computer teacher, Steve Brown, and he was a real encouragement to her.

If I had kept Hailey at home, I am quite certain she would have gone down the wrong road. I saw some of the friends she was getting hooked up with. It was difficult, but I had to just let go and really ask God to provide.

Now as I see how God has grown her character, I know the importance of sending her there. She has struggles, we all do, but Hailey blossomed in the Christian atmosphere of Wisconsin Academy. I can't say enough good about WA!

I'm convinced Wisconsin Academy is where we need to send our kids. We may not see the benefits immediately, but if we just look down the road a ways we will see God's hand in it.

Vicky Hilgart, Marshfield SDA Church  
As told to Juanita Edge, Communication Director

### **See you at Registration!**

#### **Early Registration**

Wednesday, Aug. 12  
2:00-6:00

#### **General Registration**

Sunday, Aug. 16  
9:00-5:00

#### **Classes Begin!**

Monday, Aug. 17

More info online at [www.wisacad.org](http://www.wisacad.org)  
For updates, search facebook for *wisacad*.





## Brandon Baptist New Math Teacher



**B**randon Baptist is teaching Math at Wisconsin Academy this fall. He grew up in Rockford, Illinois, and attended Indiana Academy. As his dad was a teacher, Brandon felt like teaching was in his blood. He liked math, and did well at it, so he decided to study Math, graduating with a BS in Math Education from Andrews University in May of 2015.

"We need good Adventist teachers, said Brandon, "especially in math and science. I had really good math teachers in school, and I hope to make a difference."

Brandon enjoys outdoor sports, especially mountain biking and golf.

## Sara Gardner New English Teacher



**S**ara, a native of Berrien Springs, MI, graduated with a BA in English with secondary certification and a BA in Spanish K-12 Education from Andrews University in 2014.

After graduating, Sara spent a year in Spain as a Language and Cultural Assistant. "Being in a public high school, in a Catholic country, whose citizens in general are not very religious, taught me more than I could possibly convey in writing."

Sara likes to read, write, bake, sew, camp, knit, run, and spend time with friends.

The above picture was taken on Loch Ness.

## Dan Show New IT Director



**D**an Show is the new IT director at WA, and will also be teaching some science classes. A teacher of 22 years, Tom comes from Bakersfield, CA, where he taught math and physics.

A graduate of Wisconsin Academy, Tom earned a BS in Mathematics, a minor in Physics, and a MA in Education from Andrews University.

"My goal is to help the teachers by providing them the tools necessary to make their lives easier and do their jobs more efficiently." Tom enjoys scuba diving, golfing, playing the organ, and spending time with wife, Janine. They also have a family cat named Sammy.



## Tom Owiti New Business Manager

**T**om Owiti, the new Business Manager, was born in Kenya and received his BA in Accounting from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton. Then he moved to the United States and continued his education earning an MBA in finance from Western Michigan University.

"Finance is story-telling through numbers," said Tom. "They help you make decisions."

Tom has three children, Ryan, Melisa, and Enoch. In his free time Tom enjoys reading, Bible study, biking, photography, and spending time with his family. He also enjoys singing.

"I believe God has called me to Wisconsin Academy. I pray that by His grace I will be a faithful steward and missionary here in Wisconsin (I believe we are all missionaries where we are), and that the students, parents, and everyone I meet will be directed to look to Jesus and be ready for His soon returning. It is the blessed hope that burns within our hearts. Maranatha!"

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## Wisconsin Conference Calendar of Events

### August

- 5-9 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 9-11 Teacher In-service
- 16 WA Registration
- 17 First Day of School
- 26 Executive Committee
- 22-24 Hispanic Children's Day
- 28-30 Lay Pastor Weekend - Office

### September

- 7 Office Closed-Labor Day
- 8-10 Outdoor Education
- 11-13 Wisconsin Youth for Christ
- 18-20 Pathfinder Camporee
- 25-26 Adventurer Camporee
- 26 Northern District Meeting

### October

- 2-3 WI SEEDS Conference
- 2-4 Hispanic Couple's Retreat
- 10 Conference Ministry Training
- 16-18 Pathfinder Leadership - Wakonda
- 21-22 Pastor Meetings
- 24 LUC Evangelism Congress - Berrien Springs, MI
- 25 Family Ministry Training
- 30-11/1 JAHWI Retreat

### November

- 6-8 Elder's Retreat - Wakonda
- 13-14 Public Campus Ministry Retreat
- 20-21 Marriage Conversion Seminar
- 25-26 Office Closed - Thanksgiving

## Tomah Church Opens Community Food Kitchen



If you are in Tomah on a Thursday between 5:00 and 7:00 pm, stop by the Adventist church and enjoy a delicious vegetarian meal served by smiling church members, Pathfinders, and other community helpers.

This soup kitchen was a dream God gave Sharon Minette over a year ago. She longed for a church ministry that would show God's love to the community. Then God began to open doors. Vita-Mix Corporation donated a blender, Sam's Club gave money, someone donated a new refrigerator, another donor gave \$5,000 which provided two new stoves and a commercial dishwasher, as well as new cabinets, and Kwik Trip provides milk to serve.

State requirements were met, members were certified in food safety, and the ministry dream is in operation.

Abbreviated article by Bessie Kmiecik, Tomah Church

## INTRANSITION

**Richard Bergeson** is transferring to Milwaukee SDA School to teach the 7th grade this year. He is moving from Green Bay Junior Academy where he taught grades 4-8.

**David Guerrero** is serving as interim pastor of the Sheboygan church on a part-time basis, and will be continuing his Rekindle the Flame Ministries. He and his wife, Jacquelyn, have been pastoring in the Steven's Point District.

## Greetings From Wakonda!



The Lord has blessed with 693 campers the five weeks since camp meeting. Over 200 were first time campers. How exciting! The most growth was in Tween Camp this year, ages 10-12. We jumped from 92 campers last year to 120 this year! Praise God! This year's theme message, "Keep your Eyes on the Prize," was taken to heart as over 100 asked for Bible studies and over 100 asked to study for baptism. Thank you for your prayers!

Kim Taylor, Camp Wakonda