



# LAMP LETTER

*A publication of the Wisconsin Conference*

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**December 2008**

## How **MUCH** does it cost?

You have probably asked this very question many times in your life. Sometimes the answer can be quick and straight forward. Sometimes the answer can be elusive or hard to discern. And sometimes, we may never know what the cost will be, or has been in the past.

Let's take a specific question and answer it as simply as possible. I suspect this question is one that many have contemplated, yet are uncertain of the answer.

Okay, Okay, you are saying! What is the question?

The question is this. How much does it cost to educate a student at Wisconsin Academy (WA) for a year?

The quick answer is \$??,???.00 for the 2008-2009 school year.

The hard to discern answer is a little more involved. But, I will do my best to satisfy your curiosity.

The Wisconsin Conference, led by many of your forefathers, decided that the cost of Christian education was a sacrifice they were willing to make to ensure their children received the best education possible. Through planning and a lot of prayer, Wisconsin Academy opened its doors in the year 1947.

Many changes have taken place over the years at Wisconsin Academy. Faculty have come and gone. The work experience has definitely changed. And more classes are being required (and perhaps less work allowed) due to state policy changes and/or governmental influence.

However, the educational experience offered is very similar to what it was decades ago. An experience that offers a student the chance to mingle with their peers buoyed up in an atmosphere filled with Christian teachers and fellow Christian students. An experience that allows them to be... teenagers!

Currently, we have 89 students (See Sidebar) attending Wisconsin Academy. Each student comes from a different background, with different upbringing, with different skill levels, and a different expectation as to what life is all about. The academy staff tries their best to meld all of that with the academic offerings into an educational program that meets the needs of as many of our students as possible.

The present operating expense for Wisconsin Academy is \$2,206,000 annually. I

### Wisconsin Academy Current Enrollment As of 10/28/08

	Fr		So		Jr		Sr		Totals	
	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Dorm	7	7	5	6	17	12	9	11	38	36
Village	2	0	1	3	1	4	1	3	5	10
<hr/>										
	9	7	6	9	18	16	10	14	43	46
<hr/>										
	G=Girls		B=Boys		Total Students		89			

can see many of you have gotten your calculators out of the drawer, (blown off the dust), and are dividing \$2,206,000 by 89 students. The average is \$24,786.52 per year. That's what it costs to educate my student for a year at Wisconsin Academy,

you ask? Yes and No. Yes, that is the average. No, there is more to the story.

The Wisconsin Conference strongly believes in Christian education, so strongly in fact that an annual subsidy to Wisconsin Academy is provided in a couple of different ways. First, a direct subsidy is provided to WA in the amount of \$453,600.00 annually. Some years it is more.

Second, the Wisconsin Conference provides an additional subsidy to Wisconsin Academy in the amount of \$50,000.00. This subsidy is given in the form of Worthy Student funding and is distributed based on an individual family's need.

Many of you may be asking, "What does that do to the price of an educational experience for my student at

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## Reaching “The Common People”



*Don Corkum*

The election of a U.S. president this year will be reviewed and evaluated for many months and even years. It was a historic moment to have the first African-American person elected to the chief leadership position in the country. Other people groups were also keys to the victory of the election: youth and young adults of all cultures, immigrants and

working women with children.

The ministry of the church also needs to emphasize the involvement and importance of all people groups. Jesus in His ministry did not overlook anyone but regardless of the person's background or social standing ministered to that person. He was often criticized for spending time with people that others felt were worthless. Mark 12:37 states of Jesus that the “common people heard Him gladly.”

When commissioning the church for ministry in various parts of scripture, Jesus asks us to reach out to all people groups. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus asks us to “go to all nations.” In Revelation 14:6 we are asked to take the everlasting gospel to “every nation, tribe, language and people.” NIV

Our 21<sup>st</sup> century world is very diverse. We are not only asked to go to all the world but to minister to the world that has come to us. One of the ways that we can complete the ministry of Christ on earth is to reach out to all people groups in our community. We may have to go out of our comfort zone to mingle with these groups and invite them into our worship service. We may have to study their culture and understand keys to reach their hearts. We may need to change aspects of our worship and methodology to be successful. I am not talking about compromising on principle but rather applying the principle of reaching all people for Jesus.

One of the people groups that we need to have on our hearts is the youth and young adults of our communities. Do we seek to include them in our ministry and worship? Are we willing to accept their ways of expression to God so they feel the church is for them? Too many of our youth and young adults do not feel the church is concerned about them. They are absent from our fellowship, worship and ministry which brings pain to the heart of Christ. The recent election illustrates the power of youth and young adults when they are inspired.

May the Lord help us to have the eyes of Christ as we seek to reach out for Him always—especially as we focus on the year of evangelism 2009.

*Don Corkum*

## Retreat for Pastors' Wives

The eighth annual Retreat for Pastors' Wives was held at Camp Wakonda September 12-14, 2008. The ladies look forward with anticipation to a weekend of fellowship, spiritual blessings and fun, but not much sleep. The blessings of the weekend outweigh the liabilities in lack of sleep.

JoAnn Davidson, Professor of Systematic Theology at Andrews University Theological Seminary, was our guest presenter. She provided insightful and inspirational messages on the Law of God and women in the Bible.

Pictured are ladies participating in the Saturday evening activity, making wreathes from pine cones collected at Camp Wakonda as well as other places in the United States.

*Phyllis Corkum*



*Left side front to back: Carmen Mahlum, Tracey Denney, Phyllis Corkum  
Right side front to back: Cherry Habenicht, Lisa Isensee, Judy Fox, Jollet Springer and  
Xiomara Ancheta*

### Challenges, What Challenges?



Roger Driver

I don't have to tell you that our world is experiencing more than its usual share of challenges. You can see it all around us. In the midst of all this, God still wants us to remember that He is in control. Even though the United States just elected a new President, God is still sitting on His throne overseeing the inner-workings of this entire world.

Recent developments in the financial sector have given each of us a chance to reflect on God's challenge in Matthew 6:20 where He says "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal". Notice the little word "nor". It is bad enough if the thieves break through. It is something entirely different if they are able to "steal"! Don't permit the thief to steal from you!

The financial situation we find our country in has also affected our churches and the conference operation as well. Total conference tithes is currently showing a decrease of 1.48% compared to last year at the end of September. That decrease is causing some challenges for the conference operations as well. Currently the conference is experiencing a decrease to our operating net assets of \$245,110 through the end of September. By the time you read this, we will have completed the October church remittance process. We hope the percentage will swing the other way as a result of each of the churches sending in their remittances, especially those that have late remittances to submit. A substantial tithes influx for December would have a great impact on our operating results for 2008 and on our budget for 2009. Times are tough!

Historically, for the past 12 years, the growth rate for local church ministry funds has mirrored the rate of tithes growth. If the percentage of tithes decrease holds true for offerings kept at the local church level, then several of our churches are probably challenged also, especially those churches supporting an elementary school. Times are tough!

The conference is currently going through the process of building its budget for 2009. The current budget printout for 2009 indicates we would be out of balance by \$595,963.00. The budget is structured anticipating NO

cost of living increase for the employees. Yet costs continue to rise. Times are tough!

Because of conference operating structure, many expenses (liability and property insurance, etc) are paid for by the conference and then billed out to churches or schools on a prorated basis. The current global financial situation has placed some entities behind in their reimbursement to the conference for these expenses. This has caused a cash shortage for the conference Operating Fund. Luckily, we have been able to borrow internally from our Plant Fund. However, with the turn in the economy, we are unable (at this time) to repay those funds back to the Plant Fund that were borrowed. This could put us in a challenging position once we get closer to starting the Girl's Dormitory. Why you ask? Because, the money we have borrowed represents a majority of the funds anticipated to be left over after the Boy's dormitory is completed and was earmarked for assistance with the Girl's Dormitory project. Times are tough!

Progress on the new Boy's dormitory at Wisconsin Academy is continuing daily. All of our sub-trade contractors are doing their best to complete the project by the first of the year. Recently, there have been employees from six of the rough-in sub-trades all working on the project at the same time, on the same day. It is a real beehive of activity. Please visit [www.wisacad.org](http://www.wisacad.org) for pictures taken throughout the construction process. The pictures were last updated on November 3. By the time you read this, there will probably be more up-to-date pictures posted. We do have the structure completely roofed at this time. Weather delays could set us back a few days on outside work. But inside work continues to progress nicely. Pray for good weather!

In spite of all our challenges and tough times, God still hovers over each one of us. He sees each of our individual challenges and our corporate needs. He desperately wishes we would turn these challenges over to Him and allow Him to create opportunities. Golden opportunities that show God has a special answer for each of our challenges.

Have you let Him solve your greatest challenge - yet? Let Him do it - TODAY! Tough times are coming to an end! HE'S PROMISED!

Roger L Driver

***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27***

## Doing Church Well in a “Bad” Economy



James Fox

Since August, the airwaves have been dominated by “bad” economic news. Whether we talk about Wall Street or Main Street, jobs are being lost and retirements are being jeopardized. People are hurting!

This usually implies that the Church will soon be hurting, too. Thank you, dear reader, for your faithfulness during

trying economic times! But when your income goes down, so does the tithe and offering you return from that income go down.

You might imagine that this is a gloomy article filled with dire warnings for the next fiscal year – far from it! God is still in charge and he has given us hope during these trying times. What is the basis of our hope?

**1. People are more open to the Advent Message during times of trouble** – Laodiceans (Revelation 3:14-20) tend to be rich, increased in goods, and very complacent because of their prosperity. The Holy Spirit is touching people right now with their deep need for Jesus.

**2. God has promised to bless His people with material prosperity when they are faithful!** (Mal. 3:10 NIV) “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Can we really afford not to be faithful in tithe in times like these?

**3. We are preparing a great number of harvesters!** In 2009, every district in the state is planning public evangelistic meetings. We have pastors, lay pastors, ShareHim boot camp graduates, Conference office workers, and professional evangelists all doing meetings in 2009. Jesus said we should pray for courage for the harvesters and more of them. (Luke 10:2 NCV) “There are a great many people to harvest, but there are only a few workers. So pray to God, who owns the harvest, that he will send more workers to help gather his harvest.”

**4. 2009 is just like 33 AD!** The parallels are striking:

- a. The disciples of Jesus were fearful and timid.
- b. There was jealousy among the disciples as they jockeyed for position and influence.
- c. The common people felt a deep need for Christ and His blessing in their lives. It was the fullness of time (Gal. 4:4 KJV) “But when the **fullness** of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,” with **God preparing the way for the first Coming of Jesus. He is now preparing the way for the second Coming of His Son.**
- d. The disciples had no big donors -they could not afford mass media communications, employing Bible workers and assistants, or using multi-media technology. They felt inadequate to seize the opportunity that God had arranged for them.
- e. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in 33 AD as they tarried in Jerusalem in prayer and fellowship and everything changed. **The Holy Spirit is ready to come upon His people today as we pray and humbly ask to be used of Him.**

In the light of trouble in the economy, how do you see the Church in 2009? Is the *glass half empty* and draining fast or *half full* and gaining every day? Let’s unite with Jesus and one another in making 2009 the greatest year for Christ and His Church.

James Fox

## *“Adventures in Prophecy” Comes to the Marshfield Area!*

The Bethel/Marshfield/Neillsville church district held public evangelistic meetings with Ric Swaningson and his “Adventures in Prophecy” team. On opening night, August 22, 120 people attended with almost half being visitors.

In the end, 22 new members were baptized and 2 others were rebaptized. Judy Gray, the Director of Sales for the Clearwaters Convention Center with whom we booked the meetings, was one of those impressed to attend Ric’s meetings. The Holy Spirit spoke to her and she was baptized! Praise the Lord!

Distance was no hurdle for those who were hungering for the Word of God - Adam and Patty Drinka traveled about 30 miles one-way every night. Mindrin Chang traveled almost one hour’s drive one-way to attend. Stephanie Weinke came the greatest distance to the meeting – she had just come from Costa Rica as the meetings began and she was baptized!

Shannon Rolfs traveled almost 30 miles one-way to the meetings each night. Shannon sat every night on the front row and absorbed the messages. He asked me how the Lord might want to use him if he was baptized. I then asked him, “How would you like to do what evangelist Ric is doing?” I then told Shannon about the Share Him Boot Camp. Shannon was baptized and then attended the boot camp and is planning to present his first harvest meeting early in 2009!

Britni Conrad and Noah Kunz are students at Bethel Jr. Academy in Arpin and attended baptismal classes at the church school. They then attended Ric’s meetings and were a couple of very excited kids – they were baptized at the conclusion of Ric’s meetings. Praise the Lord for Christian education! Each church: Bethel, Marshfield, and Neillsville saw individuals baptized into their respective fellowship. Each church reaped wonderful benefits from these meetings.

One candidate, David Drabek, had become an Adventist back in the 1960’s but had drifted away and joined other churches. When Ric’s meetings began, the Spirit was calling David back and he was baptized. Welcome home!

Thank you Ric and the rest of the “Adventures in Prophecy” team for your efforts in helping bring Christ and His truths into the lives of many. Thank you to all the members from each church who supported the meetings with their attendance and to those who contributed liberally to this effort both financially as well as with their time and effort. The Lord be praised! And thanks to the Wisconsin Conference for helping

fund 2/3’s of this effort. Let us all remember Wisconsin Budget as we give our offerings. Your dollars can be a part in the winning of souls for Christ’s kingdom!

*Pastor Armando Camacho*



*(front row, left to right) – Patricia Wyant, Saide Oliver, Ananda Wyant, Noah Kunz, Britni Conrad  
(middle row, left to right) – Pastor Armando Camacho, Shannon Rolfs, Dorothy Bidwell, Mildred Rolfs, Judy Gray, Martha Tews, Cindy Dowdy, David Drabek, Pastor Ric Swaningson  
(back row, left to right) – Jeff Simpson, David Radlinger, Katie Clements, Stephanie Weinke, Adam Drinka, Patty Drinka, Mary Borofka, Kathy Zalabak, Ralph Zalabak, Jeff Fox  
\*not pictured: Travis Nelson and Maia Schmidt*

### ***Men’s Conference “As Good As It Gets”***



*David Smith*

**January 16-18, 2009,** at Camp Wakonda in Westfield, WI

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. David Smith, President at Union College in Lincoln, NE.

**Rates: \$70.00** early bird rate sign up before January 10. After January 10 the rate is \$80.00. This rate includes your lodging

and meals. Lodging is dorm style.

**Day Rate: \$35.00** This rate includes your meals.

For more information call Carol Driver at 920-484-6555 or e-mail: [cdriver@wi.adventist.org](mailto:cdriver@wi.adventist.org)

## Summer Camp 2008

A tired camp counselor sits around the room at staff worship. When it came time for prayer requests she requested that we pray for a certain girl in her unit whose parents are getting divorced. Another counselor shares that for the first time she was able lead a timid camper to pray out loud in the unit prayer. A boy's counselor asks that we pray for God to give him patience with a certain camper who shows no interest in working together with others in his unit.

Every morning this summer, all the staff gathered at the beginning of the day to pray for one another and to re-commit themselves to leading each camper to Jesus.

Does it pay off? A resounding yes! Of the 335 campers who attended this summer, 133 made a commitment to love and serve Jesus. Ninety-three made a re-commitment, and 48 requested Bible studies to prepare for baptism.



Many of our campers come from SDA or other Christian homes. Some come with little background in Christianity, coming from Muslim, Animist, or non-religious homes.

This year, because of the popularity of Family Camp, we added a second week, and it too filled up. "I am a different person" a family camper exclaimed to a relative, after his week at Family Camp this summer.



This summer our theme was "Run the Race" based on the Bible passage in Hebrews 12:1, 2. In addition to all our regular activities we featured the Olympic look, and highlighted "Heroes of Faith" who throughout history have shown faithfulness in sometimes very trying conditions. Please

pray that God will guide each camper to be faithful to Jesus who has called us to "run with patience the race set before us looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

*Mike Edge, Youth Director*

*"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrew 12:1,2 NKJV*

### continued from page 1

Wisconsin Academy. Well, I'm glad you asked. Instead of costing you \$24,786.52 per year for a Christian Education, it costs you only \$13,470.00 per year. Where else could you get a 46% discount?

Other financial aid programs available through the academy business office can, in some cases, reduce that cost even further if a family meets certain criteria. Please call Darin Gottfried, our new academy Vice Principal of Finance, for more details: 920-623-3300

Historical figures at Wisconsin Academy indicate a flat or downward enrollment slope over the years. Now, I will admit families are having fewer children than before. But how do you account for the fact that there are scores of academy-age students not attending Wisconsin Academy at the present time.

Many fear that academy is not affordable. I would like to suggest that if more parents sent their students to Wisconsin Academy, the operating costs could be spread over a larger enrollment thereby reducing costs to the point where Christian Education would be affordable for every student.

Many constituents around the conference still believe that Christian education is vital to the development of a child. As you consider what you have just read, please remember one thing.

**"Christian Education is not expensive,  
IT IS... PRICELESS"!**

*Roger L. Driver*

***New Territory PTL***

The work is expanding in Central Wisconsin and God is good.

As of yesterday, November 5, it looks like we will start a new young adult small group/church plant in Wautoma. With our Bible worker, Josh Jurassic, Mike Tess and I have been working with a group of young adults in Wild Rose. They have friends in Wautoma and so we followed God's lead. For some time we have studied with them and now they have accepted the Sabbath message and other Bible truths. Last night we (Stevens Point and Almond churches) spoke about the possibility of starting an "official" work there. We have a nice space that the local library is allowing us to use for \$5.00 a week. We will meet there twice a month on Saturday's at 1:30 pm and then the other two times at the Almond SDA Church for services. This is only the beginning of our planning so please do pray for us.

Lem Lowry laughed after a meeting and said, "Pastor, now you will have five churches." I responded to him with a chuckle and a no, God has opened the door for more laborers.

*Pastor David Guerrero*

***Public Campus Ministry***

50,000 Seventh-day Adventist young people attend public university and college campuses across North America. The Wisconsin Conference working with the Madison Community and Madison East churches are beginning a new campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This will enable us to provide spiritual support for Adventists on the campus, as well as an outreach to other students. We are thankful to the North American Division which is providing one half of the funding for this two year-project. We hope that this will be the beginning of a spreading movement across many campuses in Wisconsin.

*Mike Edge, Youth Director*

***Pathfinder Camporee***

"Neither wind nor rain..." will dampen the spirits of Wisconsin Pathfinders. Although the September 2008 Pathfinder Camporee was wet and cold, the Pathfinders and their leaders had a great time. This year our theme focused on learning about Native Americans, and the "Indian Lore" honor. Our special guest was Caterina

Tsyosha?ah Delgado-McLester. She is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. She and her two teenage children shared many of the customs and values of the Native peoples. We played Indian games, made plaster casts of animal prints, and shared what different clubs had learned about Native tribes across North America. Our Pathfinders gained a deeper appreciation of the Native people who live among us.

*Mike Edge, Youth Director*

***Did The Nominating Committee Ask You To Be The Stewardship Leader?***

You can get a free Stewardship Kit with resources for your department by calling AdventSource at 1-800-328-0525 and mention promo code AW08.

***Country Living near Camp Wakonda***

Would you like a beautiful 5 1/2 acre lot, part wooded, some open land, great building site. It is located one mile south of Camp Wakonda in Marquette County. It is properly zoned for recreational use or building a home. Contact Elder Habenicht at the Conference Trust Department for more information: 920-484-6555.

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

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## Mark Your Calendar

### January

- 10 Milwaukee Convocation at the Milwaukee Sharon SDA Church. For more information contact Pastor Adam Case at 920-803-5144
- 16-18 Men's Conference at Camp Wakonda. Dr. David Smith, President at Union College, is this year's speaker. For more information contact: Carol Driver at 920-484-6555 or e-mail: [cdriver@wi.adventist.org](mailto:cdriver@wi.adventist.org).
- 30-Feb 1 Lay Pastors Meeting at the Conference Office. For more information contact: Kiitty Crary at 920-484-6555 or email: [kcrary@wi.adventist.org](mailto:kcrary@wi.adventist.org)  
Public High School Retreat at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact: Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail: [akking@wi.adventist.org](mailto:akking@wi.adventist.org)

### February

- 1 Educational Fair at WA Gymnasium. For more information contact: Carol Driver at 920-484-6555 or e-mail: [cdriver@wi.adventist.org](mailto:cdriver@wi.adventist.org).

### March

- 20-22 Women's Empowerment Weekend at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact: Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail: [akking@wi.adventist.org](mailto:akking@wi.adventist.org)
- 27-29 Education Visioning at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact: Ken Kirkham at 920-484-6555 or e-mail: [kkirkham@wi.adventist.org](mailto:kkirkham@wi.adventist.org).

### **Wisconsin Update Electronic Newsletter**

Keep up to date with what is happening within Wisconsin!  
If you would like to receive the Wisconsin Update, e-mail [cdriver@wi.adventist.org](mailto:cdriver@wi.adventist.org) to be added to the email list.  
If you have news about what is happening in your church and want to share it, send the story to [cdriver@wi.adventist.org](mailto:cdriver@wi.adventist.org).

### **Camp Meeting 2009**

June 19-27

Speakers: Dr. Philip Saaman,  
David Klinedinst,  
Dr. Neil Nedley, Elder Ron Clouzet  
Held at Camp Wakonda

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