

Lamp Letter



Vol. 13, No. 1
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From the Word

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

James 1:17



Friends You Can Count On



Some customers at the Circle of Friends Mission Thrift Shop in downtown Elkhorn have found bargains. Others have discovered something priceless.

Six years ago, Florence Schacht of Delavan SDA Church was browsing at a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store. As she visited with the ladies who staffed the store, she listened with interest as they described how their store raised money to support their local Catholic church school. “Why can’t we Adventists do this?” Florence asked herself, and heard God telling her, “Do it!”

First, Florence found a church friend, Shirley Mason, to share her dream. They found a 900-square-foot store front for rent. But how was she to get the money? Florence describes what happened: “My husband and I decided to sell a piece of land and within two days it sold for \$33,000; 10% above listing price! That gave us the rent money. Then we cleaned out our house of everything we figured we didn’t need and put it in the store for sale. We heard the Delavan K-Mart had closed, and they gave us all the shelves we wanted for free. At church a lady donated a cash register and pricing guns. God just gave us everything we needed to get started!” At 5:00 a.m. each garbage day, Florence could be seen driving up and down the Elkhorn streets scouting for old discarded furniture left at the curb. With some fixing up, chairs, tables, and other furniture were ready for sale at what they decided to call “Circle of Friends Mission Thrift Shop.”

The store opened in November of 2004. Florence remembers her first customer: “This man came in and said he was just released from prison, and had a job interview lined up, but didn’t have dress clothes for the interview. He didn’t have any money. He said he would pay us back when he got a job. I had hoped for a sale, but told him if he found the clothes he needed they were better on his back than on our rack! He left with a shirt. The next time we saw him he was ecstatic! He had gotten the job, and insisted on paying for what we had given him. We refused. He turned out to be a carpenter by trade, and has come back many times through the years to help us when we needed some work done. He’s paid us many times over for that 50 cent shirt we gave him!”

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The Suitcase

Several years ago our son, Greg, went as a student missionary to the remote village of Paruima in Guyana, South America. He spent his last few days in the United States planning for his departure. I remember him laying things out on the floor that he felt were essential to take. It would be a two-hour plane flight (or four-month hike) from the nearest road or store, with no second chance to get needed items. For several days the collection of carefully arranged items changed as he added and removed things trying to guess his every need for the entire year. Then the day came. He packed the items into the suitcase and headed out. Whatever was in the suitcase would provide for his needs; whatever was left behind could not be later retrieved.

As we cross the threshold of the new year, we have an opportunity to evaluate ourselves. What are we packing into our lives? What are we leaving behind? If you were a suitcase, what would the contents in your life reveal about your priorities? Here are some essentials I'm making sure get packed into my life:

1. Connection with Jesus. I have found that daily connecting with Jesus through reading and prayer is vital. This year I am committing to reading through my Bible again and I invite you to join me. Many Bible reading plans are available. Other excellent devotional books include *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. A smaller, but also inspiring book is *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming* by Dennis Smith.

2. Generosity. God shows his love by giving. In my desire to imitate Him, He gives me opportunities to give as He does. This year, in addition to returning 10% of our income as tithe, Juanita and I have decided to increase our commitment, giving more than last year to the Wisconsin Budget. We're also continuing to give to local church offerings and other needs as opportunities arise.

3. Service. This year Juanita and I are looking for more tangible ways to serve, not only on the job, but at home, in our neighborhood and among friends. For Jesus, service was more than words, it was His way of life, touching others in a meaningful way.

These are a few of my priorities. What are yours? Like a suitcase, only so much can be packed into a life before something falls out. I encourage you to spend a few quiet moments here at the beginning of the year to think about your priorities. Maybe you'd like to write them out and post them on your refrigerator as a reminder. Maybe you'd like to develop priorities together as a family. *"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord" Lam. 3:40.* What's in your suitcase?

Mike's Sabbath Schedule

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 8 Milwaukee Convocation
- 20 LUC President's Cabinet
- 22 Emmanuel Company
- 29 Shawno Church

February

- 5 Wausau Church
- 12 Lena Church
- 19 Hispanic Training
- 26 AHS Mission Conference

March

- 5
- 12 Kenosha Church
- 19
- 25

To request speaking appointments contact Jane Gerndt at 920-484-6555 or jgerndt@wi.adventist.org

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Juanita Edge, editor

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"Every day you should learn something new from the Scriptures. Search them as for hid treasures, for they contain the words of eternal life. Pray for wisdom and understanding to comprehend these holy writings. If you would do this, you would find new glories in the Word of God; you would feel that you had received new and precious light on subjects connected with the truth, and the Scriptures would be constantly receiving a new value in your estimation."

RH, Nov. 9, 1886

Friends You Can Count On cover story

As more customers came, things started to sell. When the store got enough money, we bought a phone. When we had a little more, we put up some signs." Soon it became clear that God was abundantly blessing the efforts of Florence and Shirley. Within six months, the tiny storefront became so crowded with merchandise and enthusiastic customers that a larger facility was needed. Florence found another location four times as large and, soon, it too was bustling with blessings.



The shop always earns enough to pay expenses, tithe store profits, send money to the local Adventist school, Wisconsin Academy, several local Christian schools, and Hope Inc., a non-profit organization that assists low-income families. What remains is given to assist a variety of community and church programs.

People in need are regularly sent to Florence from Social Services, local churches, schools, and even medical clinics. "We require a letter of recommendation on letterhead from the sending organization," says Flo, "and then we give them what they need for free. The community loves this. Most months the value of what we give away is more than the value of what we sell!" When supplies were needed for Katrina, Flo sent them everything in the store, then prayed for God to fill it again. Within a week the store was filled with all new stuff from a single donation. This happened three times in a matter of months! "If we know of a need, we do not withhold." stated Flo, "The more we give away, the more God gives!"

The mission of Circle of Friends was formed to meet the basic physical, spiritual and social needs of the people, using the ministry of Jesus Christ as its model: "The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them 'Follow Me.'" MH 143

As the enterprise expanded, Florence began praying for help. She wanted to work with a staff of Adventist volunteers but, despite earnest prayers, none came; it seemed God had another answer. A network of business and community friends developed, and soon volunteers from all over the county began streaming in -- community leaders, unemployed, senior citizens, folks from the Christian League for the Handicapped, and even people on prison release or assigned community service.

Today, one to four people a day are assigned by the county judge to do community service at Circle of Friends. Ironically, the county judge, Judge Kennedy, is a loyal fan and volunteer at the resale shop. Often he finds himself sorting clothes right beside a guy he sentenced to do community service there. Flo has heard guys say, "Hey, judge, why did you give me so much time?" Kennedy will respond, "Well, I pray before I give

a sentence, I look at all the facts, and do what I feel is best for you and best for society." The relationship dynamics are incredible.

A few months ago, Claude Neault, a long-time member of the Delavan SDA Church, decided to become involved at Circle of Friends. Almost overnight, Claude became known as "Pastor Claude." Now, almost daily, Claude meanders around the store, making conversation and discovering divine appointments. His first day in the shop a lady overheard him comment about us living near the end of time and said, "Claude, tell me more about this. Help me!" Claude said, "I'd never held a Bible study with someone in my life, but I opened my Bible and read through texts I had highlighted." They studied together many times. Often other people noticed and asked to join them. "God's Spirit is in this store," says Claude. "It's not just a place to buy things, it's a place to come for help! I tell people, 'You're not here by accident. The Holy Spirit directed you here.' This store is set up for one thing, winning souls for the kingdom."

The ministry of Circle of Friends doesn't just extend to its patrons, but to its volunteers as well. Many have come back to volunteer after doing community service time, or being on parole, and have attended church with Claude and Flo. On Thursday evenings after the store closes, Flo has a prayer meeting in the store for anyone interested; usually 10-12 people come. They read the Bible, share prayer requests and pray for requests customers place in a can by the register throughout the week. "We become their family," says Flo, "and their church family if they don't have one."



God is still opening doors of opportunity for the Circle of Friends. Recently a local pastor friend donated an empty house on 6 acres to Circle of Friends. "I would love to see it developed into a house for men released from prison who need to be retrained and acclimated back into society." Flo said. Then, just this fall, the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs asked if Circle of Friends would be a regular supplier to its clearinghouse. She sent them 900 boxes of toys, shoes, clothes and bedding, and is praying God will lead in this new contact.

What began as a dream planted in Florence Schacht's heart has grown into a dynamic, thriving ministry. After six years, Circle of Friends continues to be a lighthouse of hope, bringing the presence of Jesus into ordinary lives through loving service.

as told to Juanita Edge

Learn how to get involved in Community Service, by contacting Floyd Brock at fbrock@wi.adventist.org, or 920-484-6555.

Wisconsin Budget Goals Through October 31, 2010

Church Name	Members	Goal for 2010	Goal Through 10/31/10	Amount Recieved Through 10/31/10	Amount Over (Under) Goal Through 10/31/10	Percent of Goal Recieved
Almond	55	1,949.72	1,624.77	2,608.66	983.89	160.56%
Antigo	39	585.61	488.00	1,526.57	1,038.57	312.82%
Ashland	57	1,196.22	996.85	1,122.10	125.25	112.56%
Baraboo	30	713.73	594.78	1,005.42	410.64	169.04%
Beaver Dam	30	3,584.20	2,986.84	2,837.39	(149.45)	95.00%
Beloit	60	2,256.45	1,880.38	740.63	(1,139.75)	39.39%
Bethel	114	2,749.63	2,291.36	2,037.72	(253.64)	88.93%
Chippewa Valley	198	10,363.35	8,636.12	6,551.70	(2,084.42)	75.86%
Christ Community\Lena	131	5,949.74	4,958.12	4,752.58	(205.54)	95.85%
Clear Lake	90	5,240.48	4,367.06	2,205.67	(2,161.39)	50.51%
Clearwater Lake	79	2,905.13	2,420.94	2,846.66	425.72	117.58%
Delavan	97	5,529.25	4,607.71	2,187.25	(2,420.46)	47.47%
Durand	61	3,649.33	3,041.11	2,061.68	(979.43)	67.79%
Evansville	21	1,093.32	911.10	1,466.21	555.11	160.93%
Everlasting Gospel Company	20	231.66	193.05	0.00	(193.05)	0.00%
Fish Creek	14	665.98	554.98	1,092.00	537.02	196.76%
Fond Du Lac Company	29	638.45	532.04	607.87	75.83	114.25%
Fox Valley	269	11,098.78	9,248.98	7,821.14	(1,427.84)	84.56%
Frederic	57	4,154.66	3,462.22	5,607.92	2,145.70	161.97%
Green Bay	556	30,350.53	25,292.11	11,702.44	(13,589.67)	46.27%
Green Bay Hispanic		211.67	176.39	25.00	(151.39)	14.17%
Hayward	26	2,740.57	2,283.81	555.00	(1,728.81)	24.30%
Hudson	27	1,550.01	1,291.68	318.00	(973.68)	24.62%
Hylandale	76	3,120.79	2,600.66	2,072.11	(528.55)	79.68%
Kenosha	55	744.03	620.02	387.93	(232.09)	62.57%
Kenosha Emmanuel Company	19	1,395.78	1,163.15	152.30	(1,010.85)	13.09%
LaCrosse	81	4,566.93	3,805.78	1,051.76	(2,754.02)	27.64%
Lakeland	39	1,245.53	1,037.94	480.12	(557.82)	46.26%
Lancaster	47	1,869.28	1,557.73	654.77	(902.96)	42.03%
Madison Community	225	9,198.49	7,665.41	6,194.93	(1,470.48)	80.82%
Madison	494	25,518.36	21,265.30	11,511.75	(9,753.55)	54.13%
Marshfield	113	6,287.58	5,239.65	2,824.91	(2,414.74)	53.91%
Menomonie	77	2,391.83	1,993.19	1,746.41	(246.78)	87.62%
Merrill	17	1,161.39	967.82	389.32	(578.50)	40.23%
Milwaukee Central	225	12,718.07	10,598.39	4,863.45	(5,734.94)	45.89%
Milwaukee North Spanish	135	4,716.90	3,930.75	1,996.82	(1,933.93)	50.80%
Milwaukee Northwest	190	10,098.65	8,415.54	2,751.99	(5,663.55)	32.70%
Milwaukee Maranatha Spanish	38	722.79	602.33	53.00	(549.33)	8.80%
Milwaukee Hayes Spanish	67	1,670.01	1,391.67	693.41	(698.26)	49.83%
Milwaukee Southside Fellowship	40	1,861.86	1,551.55	607.35	(944.20)	39.14%
Milwaukee C. Spanish	99	4,572.64	3,810.54	608.82	(3,201.72)	15.98%
Monroe	36	2,350.95	1,959.13	610.30	(1,348.83)	31.15%
Neillsville Company	35	957.18	797.65	86.00	(711.65)	10.78%
New London	61	1,639.30	1,366.08	1,144.91	(221.17)	83.81%
Oakland	40	2,711.66	2,259.71	1,537.95	(721.76)	68.06%
Oxford	89	7,566.98	6,305.82	9,327.99	3,022.17	147.93%
Platteville Christian Community	19	759.10	632.58	0.00	(632.58)	0.00%
Portage	83	4,451.94	3,709.95	2,072.52	(1,637.43)	55.86%
Pound	44	1,092.88	910.73	1,158.76	248.03	127.23%
Prairie du Chien	21	864.47	720.39	739.00	18.61	102.58%
Racine	131	4,325.01	3,604.18	1,522.48	(2,081.70)	42.24%
Racine Spanish	39	1,471.87	1,226.56	356.47	(870.09)	29.06%
Raymond	132	7,301.23	6,084.36	1,335.08	(4,749.28)	21.94%
Reedsburg	48	2,352.77	1,960.64	2,038.00	77.36	103.95%
Rhineland	120	5,433.54	4,527.95	4,395.78	(132.17)	97.08%
Rice Lake	151	7,881.23	6,567.69	6,322.90	(244.79)	96.27%
Richland Center	93	3,556.39	2,963.66	1,026.88	(1,936.78)	34.65%
Shawano	37	2,370.69	1,975.58	2,894.17	918.59	146.50%
Sheboygan	100	7,930.47	6,608.73	4,075.47	(2,533.26)	61.67%
Sheboygan Spanish	38	989.44	824.54	508.95	(315.59)	61.73%
Sparta	40	1,282.14	1,068.45	888.92	(179.53)	83.20%
Spooner-Trego	12	84.75	70.62	105.00	34.38	148.68%
Stevens Point	71	2,850.06	2,375.05	1,555.35	(819.70)	65.49%
Sturgeon Bay	32	2,282.87	1,902.39	3,644.50	1,742.11	191.57%
Superior	69	3,419.46	2,849.55	912.36	(1,937.19)	32.02%
Tomah	58	951.98	793.32	968.91	175.59	122.13%
Tomahawk Community	19	1,910.07	1,591.72	1,993.36	401.64	125.23%
Watertown	46	691.30	576.08	738.00	161.92	128.11%
Watertown Hispanic Company	33	677.56	564.63	496.74	(67.89)	87.98%
Waukesha	183	10,315.44	8,596.20	5,758.74	(2,837.46)	66.99%
Waukesha Spanish Company	14	900.00	750.00	302.53	(447.47)	40.34%
Wausau \ Shepherds House	124	8,614.42	7,178.68	6,945.20	(233.48)	96.75%
Wisconsin Acad.	299	19,610.00	16,341.67	13,026.95	(3,314.72)	79.72%
Wisconsin Conference	203	24,918.35	20,765.29	1,342.56	(19,422.73)	6.47%
Wisconsin Rapids	81	5,315.85	4,429.87	3,864.45	(565.42)	87.24%
Woodland Community /Janesville	228	7,206.20	6,005.17	1,913.12	(4,092.05)	31.86%
TOTAL	6,926	350,306.92	291,922.43	186,331.06	(105,591.37)	64%

Frequently Asked Questions About Conference Finances

Why is the church always asking for money?

When the Seventh-day Adventist church calls its members to return a faithful tithe and give offerings it is echoing the call of God found throughout the Bible. God, the owner of all, and the giver of all good gifts, knows that giving brings joy, not just to the recipient, but also to the giver. The greatest happiness we can experience is in the act of giving. God wants to share His joy with us. God calls his people to return ten percent of their increase to Him in recognition of His ownership of all. This is the tithe. He also provides us opportunities to exercise generosity by giving offerings to support His work locally and around the world. God does not need our money; we need His special blessings when we give. The Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to remind its members of God's call to be faithful to Him.

Where do tithes and offerings go?

The following charts offer an overview of the ways in which your tithes and offerings are put to use by the institutions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Chart A shows the proportional distribution of your tithe dollar to conference, union, and world ministries. Chart B shows how the tithe returned to Wisconsin Conference is allocated. Chart C shows how the offerings given to Wisconsin Budget are allocated.

Chart A - General Conference Tithe Use

- Local Conference
- Lake Union
- General Conference

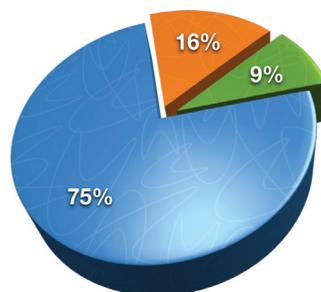


Chart B - Wisconsin Conference Tithe Allocation

- Church Programs
- Educational Programs
- Special Programs
- Other Programs
- Support
- Miscellaneous

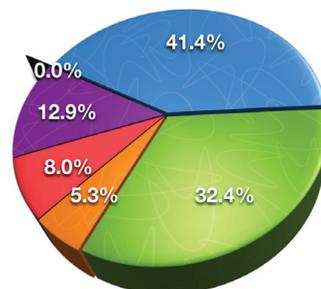
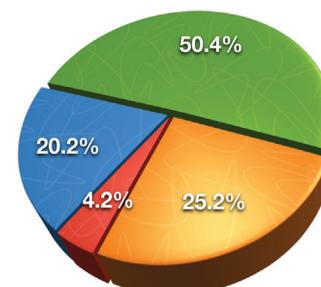


Chart C - Wisconsin Budget Allocation

- Evangelism
- Wisconsin Academy Operation
- Student Financial Asst. - W.A.
- Building/Equipment



Where do we stand?

The ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Wisconsin is being limited by several factors, including the following:

1. Tithe this year is 2.92% less than last year. (\$154,225.27)
2. Members are giving less to Wisconsin Budget.
3. Fewer members are sending their children to Adventist schools, including Wisconsin Academy.

As enrollment at Wisconsin Academy decreases, it relies increasingly on support from Wisconsin Budget to remain in operation. You may notice in Chart C, 75% of Wisconsin Budget is allocated to the academy through subsidy and student financial assistance.

As members give less to Wisconsin Budget, ministries such as evangelism, are increasingly limited in their ability to serve churches and their members.

As tithe decreases, the conference is forced to cut back on programs that benefit the churches. It may be we need to reduce our pastoral team to help our expense be in line with our income.

Although we trust God to supply our needs, we must take seriously the challenges that lie before us. Our commission is to expand the gospel work in Wisconsin, not reduce it. The work of God cannot continue at the level it has in the past if this situation is not remedied.

How can I help?

There are several ways you can help. A few are listed here:

1. Pray that God will guide our leaders as they seek ways to glorify Him in these challenging times.
2. Review your giving plan. Review the promises of Malachi 3. Return a faithful tithe and designate at least 2% of your income as offerings for Wisconsin Budget.
3. Encourage students in your church to attend Adventist schools, including Wisconsin Academy. God has given us an excellent school system. The Education Office would be happy to share ways you can support Adventist Education in your local church.

Greg Taylor - New Youth Director

Greg Taylor is the new youth director for the Wisconsin Conference. He comes from Indiana where he has been youth pastor for the Glendale SDA church in Indianapolis. Prior to that he served as Bible teacher/chaplain at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Maryland, and Grand Rapids Adventist Academy in Michigan for seven years. Greg graduated from Andrews University with degrees in Theology and Secondary Education.

"I have a passion to see youth knowing Jesus as their personal Savior, and to see them involved in the church," says Greg. "We need their influence, their creativity and their enthusiasm to do what we need to be doing in these last days of earth's history. I met Christ my junior year in academy at a prayer conference in England, and the thing that made it stick for me was that I was able to do something about what I believed. People

need to be able to act on what they believe, to know they are needed."

Greg met his wife, Kim, at camp. *"I guess you could say we are an extended camp fling,"* said Greg. *"We were impressed with each other's love for Christ and passion for reaching young people."* Kim, of Berrien



Springs, Michigan, also graduated from Andrews University with a degree in Elementary Education. She currently works part time as an on-line tutor for Griggs University, formerly known as Home Study Institute. She loves Pathfinding, and led a 27-member Adventure Club while living in Indiana. Greg and Kim have two boys, Matthew and Joshua, ages 7 and 3 respectively.

In his free time Greg loves to run marathons. He's ran in four full marathons and three half marathons in the past three years. He also loves sports, playing guitar, and hanging out with his boys.

"Kim and I are excited about moving to Wisconsin," says Greg. *"We sense God calling us here and look forward to serving."*

Juanita Edge

Jean-Marcel Clouzet - New Youth Pastor at Madison East

Jean-Marcel Clouzet is returning from seminary at Andrews University as youth pastor of the Madison East Church. Prior to attending seminary, Jean served the Milwaukee Central and Southside churches as youth pastor, and was a Bible teacher and chaplain at Milwaukee Junior Academy. *"Tammy and I missed Wisconsin very much,"* says Jean *"and are so excited to be back."*

Jean and Tammy met at Andrews Academy, and both graduated from Andrews University; Jean with a B.A. in Theology and Youth Ministry, Tammy with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. *"I promised myself I would never be a pastor,"* said Jean, *"and Tammy*

promised herself she would never be a pastor's wife. God had other plans. I am a fourth generation Adventist and she is third generation. We both have had slow steady growth



in our walks with Jesus. A pivotal point in my life came when I was colporteur. God really challenged me with that. Even though I had read the Bible through several times, that summer was the first time God's Word was actually real for me. I have a passion to see growth for the kingdom. I want to see youth shed their fear of being who they are as Christians. Sometimes it's really scary to be a Christian; even around another Christian!"

Jean and Tammy enjoy doing things together like walking, playing games, traveling, cooking and eating. They share a passionate love for Jesus and an infectious desire to build up the kingdom of God in Madison.

Juanita Edge

Roger Driver Transfers to Illinois Conference

Five and a half years ago, when Carol and I came to the Wisconsin Conference, we wondered what God had in store for us here. Moving always produces anxiety, and that time was no exception. However, once we arrived in Wisconsin, we soon realized this is a wonderful place to be. We feel God has blessed us by allowing us to get acquainted with many of you throughout the conference.

The folks we have met in Wisconsin have made this a very special place. Friendships have been made that will last for an eternity. It was a humbling experience to be re-elected as your Conference Secretary/Treasurer on October 3, 2010. The overwhelming show of support was very heart-warming.

Life has a funny way of providing twists and turns. On October 31, 2010, the Illinois Conference elected me to be their Treasurer. After careful and prayerful consideration, Carol and I made the decision to accept the call to the Illinois Conference. We moved to the Chicago



area on December 1, 2010. The Lord has blessed already by providing housing for us at an affordable rate. Now we are wondering what the Lord has in store for us in Illinois. Based on past experience, I don't think He will disappoint us.

I want to thank each of you for your dedication and support of the Wisconsin Conference, Wisconsin Academy and each of our churches and their respective programs. I have no doubt the Lord will continue to bless each of you now and into the future.

Instead of saying goodbye, I will say *"See you later"* - around the Sea of Glass. You will be there, right?

Roger Driver

A Long-Awaited Visit



“**W**hat took you so long?” asked Shirley as she opened the door and greeted Wayne and Genevieve Clark. For quite a while, Shirley Corral had been calling and writing various churches in the area seeking someone to come visit her. She had been studying the Bible and was baptized in a church, but now had come under the conviction she should have communion. Now, Wayne and Genevieve, were at her door.

Pastor Christian Ronalds came to Shirley’s home with the Clarks soon afterward and they all celebrated communion together. Then Bible studies were begun. It was evident that Shirley was familiar with her Bible. For the next several years, Shirley regularly attended church with Wayne and Genevieve. On November 6, 2010, Shirley Corral joined the Oxford SDA church on profession of faith. It was a day of rejoicing as she was welcomed into the church family!

Genevieve Clark
Communications Director, Oxford Church

In-Laws Find Family



Cheryl and her mother-in-law, Lyla Koch, have good memories of attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Delavan, WI a decade ago. Cheryl fondly recalls taking her children to Sabbath School there and the personal Bible studies that she and Lyla had with a church member.

Welcome to the Family!

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” Mark 16:15,16



Pictures of those being baptized during the past few months are not all available at this time, although records continue to show approximately 50 people are baptized monthly in Wisconsin.

Cheryl and Lyla’s contact with the Seventh-day Adventist church was temporarily suspended by a move to Whitewater, WI, but they never lost the desire to be part of a church family.

When they again relocated to Oxford four years ago, they resumed their quest for a church family. They visited and fellowshiped with several churches, but there was an abiding conviction they should return to the Seventh-day Adventist church. In response to the urgings of the Holy Spirit they decided to give the Oxford Seventh-day Adventist church a try in September of 2009. Cheryl states they were so impressed by the loving welcome they received that, from their first visit, they felt as though they were already a part of the family.

They started personal Bible studies in October of that same year and felt their love for God grow as their understanding of His Word deepened. Finally they knew they had found the church home they were searching for. Cheryl and Lyla Koch were baptized on August 14th, 2010, at Parker Lake in Oxford. They continue to grow in their faith as they worship, fellowship, and minister with their Oxford church family.

Genevieve Clark
Communications Director, Oxford Church

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:35

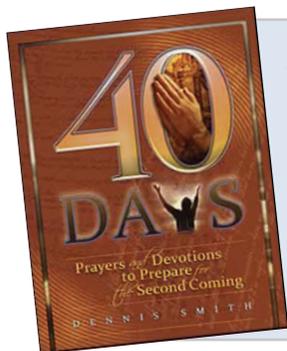
Helping MN Friends



On Nov. 23, the semi trailer of goods pulled into the parking lot of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Center in Cass Lake, MN. It was greeted by tribal members who started unloading the 53’ trailer full of everything from clothing to cribs, books to bikes, shoes to sewing machines, and everything in between.

The Chippewa Tribe has five bands scattered around northern Minnesota. By Nov. 29, they told me, they had already distributed a quarter of the goods to the different bands. They were grateful to receive the items, and *Circle of Friends* in Elkhorn, WI, was pleased to be able to share. Jesus helped people throughout His ministry here on earth and we, as His followers, should be following His example.

Floyd Brock
Community Services Coordinator



From the Education Desk

The *40 Days* devotional book for study and prayer emphasis is designed to prepare God's church for Christ's second coming. Teachers are studying their way through the *40 Days* book and have experienced many answered prayers. Seeing the Holy Spirit working in each of their lives is exciting! Some teachers have even implemented the lessons in their classrooms. As you read their stories, note how God is leading our educators and students on their spiritual journey.

Linda Rosen
Education Superintendent

Continued Prayer Makes a Difference in Frederic

I very much enjoyed reading the *40 Days* book and found it very practical. I think the whole church needs to read this book. We've been praying for my wife's brother, Earl, for years. Earl was a student of mine when he was a fifth grader. We've watched him in his roller coaster life; drunk, drugs, prison, depression, and wishing to die. We have talked to him many times over the phone, sometimes at 3:00 a.m. We've prayed with him, given him money, visited him in prison, sent him clothes, accepted his collect calls, and even let him live with us for awhile.

Recently we've been praying that Earl could get a job. He has a reputation of not showing up for work, and he doesn't have a driver's license or car to get to work. So, when an Adventist church member offered Earl a job in his new roofing business with a ride to and from work each day, we were thrilled. Earl's boss is a fine Christian man that Earl has known all his life. This relationship will be good for him. His boss treats him with patience, acceptance and kindness. It was an answer to prayer. Yet, we must never stop praying. The enemy is always there to take advantage of our weaknesses. The Bible says, "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

Ron Wood
Teacher, Frederic SDA Elementary

40 Days of Prayer Reaches Son's Heart

Right at the time of starting the *40 Days* challenge I picked my own family as the ones to pray for. Our son is a great guy who has gradually neglected church and God. He and several friends recently went on a camping trip. While on the campout, one of the boys stated they should all rededicate themselves to God. Afterward, our son joyfully called to tell us he had taken that step. My wife had the phone hot to all her relatives and friends spreading the news. Parents have no greater joy than having the assurance that

their children know the Lord. Our prayers still continue. Our son tells us of a Bible study group he has started at work for staff and youth he works with. He called to request Bible supplies, and we happily sent more than he requested.

We feel the *40 Days* challenge was one of the many tools God used to reach our son's heart. It encouraged me to intentionally pray for my family on a regular basis. Unfortunately, I gradually got too busy to continue working through the book. Now I wonder what blessings I have missed. I am planning to restart the project soon!

Frank Meidell
Teacher, Rice Lake School

Prayer Requests Answered at Milwaukee SDA School



Knowing the Lord's second coming is closer than ever, I felt the *40 Days* booklet was a spiritual source I could use in my third and fourth grade classroom.

The prayers of the children are so precious. Often their prayers center on requests, so I have them keep a prayer journal that includes praise, repentance, requests and submission. I encourage the students to list people and situations on their prayer lists even if they don't want to say them out loud in class. When prayers are answered, they place special stickers beside the answered request.

Among the 12 students, 45 answered prayers have been recorded so far this year! Citlalli said, "Prayer changes me, because it makes me feel better." Emmanuel said, "Prayer is a big privilege!" Erika said, "Prayer is great

because I can talk to God whenever I want to, and that's kind of fun!"

I pray the students will experience a more fulfilling prayer life and grow in their relationship with Jesus. Praying can change us!

Ellen Roburtus
Teacher, Milwaukee SDA School

Petersen Students Attend W. A. Gymnastics Clinic



November 5 was a fun Friday for Petersen students as we attended a gymnastic clinic at WA. After Mr. Burton had worship with the students, the WA gymnastic team, known as the *Knights*, helped the Petersen students learn some gymnastic routines. This was great fun and good exercise! The Petersen students also enjoyed the performance the *Knights* put on for them.

Kathy Hayhoe
Teacher, Petersen SDA Elementary

ADRA Penny War at Three Angels School



Our two classes had a penny war to raise money for ADRA projects in Pakistan. Each class had a gallon milk jug in the room. We put pennies in our own jug but would put silver coins and dollars in the other classes' jug. The silver and the bills value would cancel out the pennies in the jug. Who ever had the most pennies over all would win. It lasted a week and was a lot of fun. Sam's class had \$12 more in pennies than we did and won the prize of not having to wear the school uniform for one day. We raised a total of \$250 for ADRA.

Keith Hatcher
Principal, Three Angels School

Hillside Students Record CD



Early in November, Hillside Christian School was invited to record songs for a CD Pastor Puedivan is producing. The students had fun singing and learning how the studio records separate tracks. *"You don't have to do it completely perfect,"* commented one student, *"because they can cut and piece the good parts together!"* Another student said, *"It was cool. We got to do something that not a lot of people get to do!"* The inside flap of the CD cover will feature the students.

Charlyn Marsh
Hillside Christian School

Students Practice Leadership at Adventist Junior Academy



Thursday, October 28, Adventist Junior Academy went on a field trip to the Navarino Nature Center in Shiocton, WI. The students explored trees, mosses and lichens. They also learned to read a compass and navigate through the park with their guide.

Before we left school, the students were divided into groups of 4-5, each led by an older student. It was amazing to see leadership skills kick into high gear throughout the day. They kept track of younger students' mittens, zipped coats, and helped them navigate with compasses. At the end of the day, the guides asked if we taught leadership skills at school. They were amazed at how the older students took care of the younger students, and how well they all behaved!

If we can teach our students to serve and lift each other up, we help them develop a character just like Jesus. Isn't that the most important lesson we can teach?

Carmen Magray
Teacher, Adventist Junior Academy

Prayer Makes A Difference

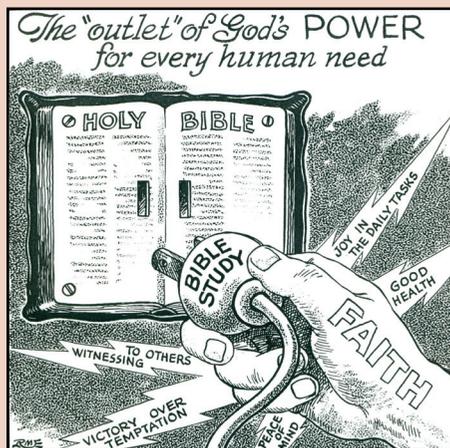
Madison East Church purchased 160 copies of the book *40 Days of Prayer and Devotions* and encouraged church members to study it in small groups. In September, Shaun and I decided to take part. The book suggested I choose five people to pray for. I chose family members because I have a huge burden on my heart to see my family in heaven. I was baptized four years ago, and my family has argued a lot with me about my new beliefs.

One of the people I'm praying for is my mom. She and her husband are having financial struggles, so I prayed that would be eased. In October Mom told me her husband got promoted to manager of his department. This was a huge answer to prayer! Then she felt God impressing her to study out God's truths and learn more about the Holy Spirit. I told her about the *40 Days* book and we are going to go through it together!

Another person I'm praying for is my dad. He has had some health issues and some serious financial challenges with his farm. In late October an organic company offered to buy his milk almost doubling his income! Then, Dad was able to get off his blood pressure medication and is feeling nearly 100% better!

Lastly, I've been praying for my older brother. We've been very close, but my joining the church has put a major separation between us. He said I'm no fun anymore now that I don't drink alcohol, and we argue over any Bible subject we bring up. One evening, after a family discussion on religious things, he pulled me aside and wanted to know if we could get together soon and study what Seventh-day Adventists believe. What blessings I have had the last 40 days!

Brittney Meier
Madison East SDA Church



Brotherhood Day 2010



Saturday, October 9, 2010 was Brotherhood Day for the Hispanic district of Pastor Freddy De Los Santos. His five churches gathered in Sheboygan for a celebration. The program started Friday at 7:00 pm and continued on Sabbath until 5:30 pm. The Sheboygan Spanish Church was filled to capacity as people from Green Bay, Wauwatosa, Milwaukee, and Sheboygan came to worship and fellowship. The speaker, Pastor Enrique Baez, a PhD candidate from Andrews University, preached four sermons on the Trinity. The celebration ended with a concert held by participants of all churches. God blessed us with nice weather, good music, great food, and powerful preaching. The presence of the Holy Spirit united us in a perfect brotherhood day. To God be the glory. Amen.

Freddy De los Santos
Pastor, Milwaukee La Hayes Spanish

Milwaukee Central Church Reaches Out to the Blind

On August 1, Milwaukee Central Adventist church bussed 70-80 blind people to a city park to enjoy free plane rides, paddle boating, tandem bicycling, food and fellowship. The new-member Sabbath School class, plus other church volunteers, helped by driving busses, serving food, and assisting the blind guests with activities. Two Adventist pilots provided 20-minute plane rides over the Pewaukee area. Pastor McKenzie commented, *"As a church we are learning to be more flexible and meet the needs of more people in our area. We're adding a braille Bible to our resource library, making plans to offer the church bulletin in braille, and have adjusted our communion service to accommodate special needs. We now have 3-4 blind people attending on a given Sabbath, and one studying for baptism as a result of our day at the park."* Melvin Sheire, director of the local church blind ministry says, *"Our goal is to create an environment for blind people to meet Seventh-day Adventist Christians and grow in Jesus."* A Christmas party and another event in the park are being planned.

Pastor Marshall McKenzie, Melvin Sheire
Milwaukee Central Church

Green Bay Pathfinder Club Holds Annual Food Drive



The Green Bay Pioneers collected 430 food items, \$390 and many clothing items in their annual food drive. They packed and delivered four Thanksgiving baskets, and helped provide food for 18 more baskets delivered by the Community Services Center. The Pathfinders enjoyed packing and delivering the baskets, learning first hand that it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Becky Zeisner
Green Bay Pathfinder Director

Sheboygan Pathfinders Induct Six New Members

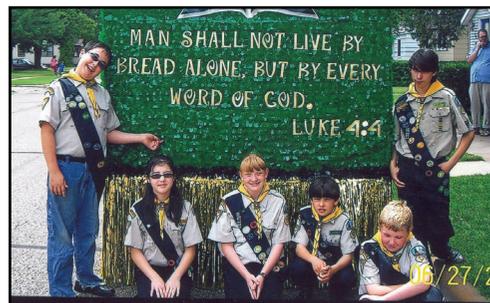


Six new members were inducted into the Sheboygan Shepherds Pathfinder club on November 5 for a total of 15 members. The Sheboygan Shepherds are in their 12th year and going strong. The club draws members from both English and Spanish SDA churches in Sheboygan.

During the last year we have been busy completing honors in pioneering, canoeing, and bicycling. We are currently working on the seed honor. We are also preparing a Christmas program which will be performed in area nursing homes and churches. We are rehearsing the skit *The Other Wiseman* by Henry Van Dyke, and preparing handbell choir pieces and other musical selections. We will also collect and distribute canned goods for needy families over the holidays.

Carol Wheeler
Sheboygan Shepherds Pathfinder Director

M.A.S.H. Pathfinders Share Hope at Festival Parade



On June 27, 2010, M.A.S.H Pathfinders entered a float in the local Cranberry Blossom Festival parade in downtown Wisconsin Rapids. As the float moved down the parade route, Pathfinders raced alongside passing out loaves of whole wheat bread, *Happiness Digest*, over 300 invitations to a Wisconsin Rapids Church open-house event, and a variety of children's papers to hundreds of eager bystanders. "We ran out of supplies way to soon," said club director, Anne Whetstone. "We could have handed out ten times more literature than we had. This was such a special way to witness to our community. We are already talking about next year's float!"

Anne Whetstone
M.A.S.H. Pathfinder Director

Bethel Believers Pathfinders Collect Bounty



Bethel Believers Pathfinder club, one of Wisconsin's smallest clubs, collected over 300 food and personal care items on November 13, 2010. Each of the four Pathfinders worked hard to distribute 100 empty bags and collect donations later. Several church members helped with the collection process. Delivering the empty bags and hanging them on the doorknobs of Arpin homes was an adventure. Pathfinders encountered a dog barking on a rooftop, a sign that read "Is there life after death? Trespass here and find out," and one boy who gave canned corn on the spot. All items were donated to "Soup or Socks", a community service organization.

Philicia Wyant
Bethel Pathfinder Director

Monroe Shares Faith at Cheese Days Festival Parade



The Monroe Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs entered a float in the local *Green County Cheese Days Festival Parade* September 19, 2010. This is the oldest festival in the midwest, beginning in 1914. Up to 150,000 people have been recorded as attending this year, which is 15 times the size of the community! The children gave out pens, balloons, and water bottles imprinted with the message, "Jesus is the Water of Life – from you friends at the Monroe SDA Church." The float featured the dairy and bee-keeping honors, with the theme: "Pathfinders on an Adventure to the Land Flowing with Milk and Honey."

Lisa Isensee
Pastor, Monroe SDA Church

Pathfinders and Adventurers Collect 3/4 Ton of Food



Pathfinders and Adventurers of Monroe collected 1,723 pounds of donated food, paper products and personal needs items for the local food pantry on November 9, 2010. This was well over three times the 450 pounds collected last year! The kids had a great time. One driver said, "Spotting the filled bags reminded me of Easter egg hunting!" Most people didn't just give a can or two, bags were filled to the top! In a time of economic concern, it was thrilling to see the generosity. What a privilege to act as God's hands and feet, helping those in need.

Lisa Isensee
Pastor, Monroe SDA Church

Jesus En Mis Sentidos



JESUS EN MIS SENTIDOS, fue el título, el ambiente y la experiencia que vivieron los jóvenes Adventistas hispanos de Wisconsin en su retiro anual en Wakonda, que se llevo a cabo del 22-24 de Octubre del 2010. Los poderosos mensajes fueron presentados por el Pr. Abraham Guerrero y la música inspiradora fue traída por el maestro Rolando Santos y su hijo Pablo, quienes elevaron nuestro espíritu y nuestros sentidos al trono de la gracia del Señor con esas alabanzas maravillosas.

No cabe duda que el Señor Jesús y sus mensajes penetraron todos nuestros sentidos y los jóvenes se gozaron en todas las actividades. El poder del Espíritu Santo se manifestó en todas las reuniones y las bendiciones del Cielo se hicieron sentir durante el retiro.

Al Celebrar en este retiro, los 10 años de servicio de JAHWI (Jóvenes Adventistas Hispanos de Wisconsin) todos alabaron Al Señor al saber como Dios ha dirigido a los Jóvenes Adventistas Hispanos de Nuestra Iglesia y como, a pesar de los desafíos juveniles, siempre hay jóvenes dispuestos a llevar, bien alto, el estandarte del evangelio de Jesús.

Recordamos y agradecemos con mucho amor y aprecio a los líderes juveniles que ha servido como presidentes de JAHWI y que han dejado su huella espiritual indeleble en aquellos jóvenes que vivieron, apoyaron y experimentaron su liderazgo. Tales como: Alex Ramírez, Dona Maldonado, Gerardo Medina, Javier Arce y Víctor Martínez

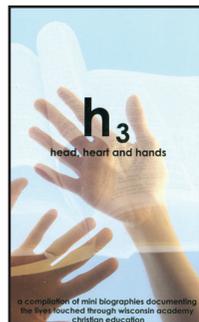
También le damos la mas cordial bienvenida a la nueva presidenta de JAHWI Mayra Cruz y la Junta Directiva. Estamos confiados que Dios bendecirá su liderazgo para llevar a los jóvenes mucho mas cerca de Jesús.

Evelio Miranda
Coordinador Hispano

Y será predicado este evangelio del reino en todo el mundo, para testimonio a todas las naciones, y entonces vendrá el fin.

Mateo 24:14

Head, Heart, and Hands



This book is a must. It is packed with stories of God's leading by W.A. students and faculty from the 1940's through 2008. To order send a check for \$13 to: Wisconsin Conference, Attention h3, PO Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932, or contact akking@wi.adventist.org.

“Justin Case” Visits School



One of the joys of being a pastor is the opportunity to spend time with young people on a regular basis. On most Tuesday mornings you'll find me at Petersen SDA Elementary enjoying their song service and giving a worship talk. A few weeks ago I even had a friend join me. I call him Justin Case. Justin and I enjoyed reminding kids that following Jesus is an excellent choice to make.

Adam Case
Pastor, Columbus SDA Church

TRAVELING WHERE MISSIONARIES CANNOT GO

Reach your neighbors in their language

1. Select a language from the list below. The list is sorted by region for your convenience.
2. To share programs with your neighbor, download and print an invitation in their language, then hand it to them with a smile.

www.awr.org/invite

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800-337-4297 [@awrweb](https://www.facebook.com/awrweb) [facebook.com/awrweb](https://www.facebook.com/awrweb)

Moments From the Past Icy Baptisms

In the mid 1800's it was not unusual for evangelists to hold week-long revivals during January and February. Rarely did the rampages of the badger winter affect the numbers of the faithful. Elder Mattson held well attended meetings on Washington Island in January. Elder Sanborn wrote from Mackford of two sisters who walked seven miles to the meeting, while the thermometer stood at 27 degrees below zero!

One of the worst blizzards of the century swept across the state in January, 1873. Some even lost their way between farm buildings and froze to death. Elder Matteson reported the severe weather had not cancelled his plans for a baptism following a series of meetings.

“The Lord favored us with mild weather after a very severe storm. Ten brethren and sisters came across the prairies, eight miles to be baptized. Three friends came afoot 15 miles to attend the meetings. The ice was about three feet thick, but after half a day's work, we obtained a suitable grave for baptism. Some were feeble persons, but all felt well physically as well as spiritually. One brother came 10 miles to be baptized.”

Elder and Mrs. White visited Wisconsin in February, 1862. While passing through Chicago, Elder White had purchased a rubber suit for baptismal purposes, and used it for the first time at Lodi, WI. A hole was chopped through the thick lake ice, and several persons were baptized on Sabbath afternoon.

That night an old-fashioned blizzard drifted them in for the next four days. Families shared their homes. Some people lived up to 60 miles away. The Whites wanted to head home, but after wading through drifts for three miles, they gave up and returned. Elder White reported, *“It is the fifth day since we came. We have been entertained with great kindness and hospitality.”*

At Bethel, some who walked to church in wintertime would carry a rope. If a blinding storm struck, they would tie themselves together for a safe return.

The practice of ice-breaking for winter baptisms prevailed in some areas on into the 20th century. As late as 1924, Poy Sippi members still held winter baptisms in the Pine River.

Adriel D. Chilson
Adapted from *Trial and Triumph on the Western Frontier: Thrilling Stories of Adventist Pioneering*

Church Ministries Institutes (CMI) Launched

The Wisconsin Conference is launching an exciting new training program called the Church Ministries Institutes (CMI). These training events give instruction in:

- Discipleship
- Church Planting
- ShareHim Evangelism
- Family Life Ministries
- Small Group Ministries
- How to Give Bible Studies
- Natural Church Development

CMI comes in two flavors:

1. *Regional CMI* – Twice each year, CMI team members will come to a different area of Wisconsin to give foundational training in ministry. They will fan out to area churches on Sabbath morning bringing inspiration and return for an afternoon program at a central location to provide introductory training in ministry.

2. *Conference-Wide CMI* – Each day during Camp Meeting, we will feature one CMI training module. Every fall, we will retreat to Camp Wakonda for a weekend intensive. Here, you will receive in-depth training in the CMI discipline of your choice. All CMI instructors will be present on that weekend..

The first regional CMI weekend comes in February to North East Wisconsin and will be hosted by the Green Bay Church. Watch for flyers in Churches from Fish Creek to the north and Fond du Lac to the south, New London and Shawano to the west and Sheboygan to the east.

Marshall McKenzie, Wisconsin Church Planting Coordinator, writes passionately on the subject of ministry for Jesus:

"The Seventh-day Adventist church has a lot of strengths and I praise the Lord that I, by His grace, can be a part of this wonderful movement, but it also has its weaknesses. We are counseled: 'Let every one who is seeking to live a Christian life, remember that the church militant is not the church triumphant.' Fundamentals of Christian Education p. 294 Beloved, this just means we cannot get comfortable and think that as individuals or as a church, we have arrived.

"Jesus is coming! We all know this but is it really affecting how we do our work? Christ is coming! But are we going? Are we doing a work that is second to none when it

The Gospel Message in Challenging Times

Challenges are nothing new to Jesus. When Jesus commissioned His disciples to go and minister, His counsel was simple: *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food."* (Matt. 10:8-10) The early disciples were dependent on the Holy Spirit for their very survival, never mind their ministry! This happened relatively early in Jesus' ministry.

After His resurrection, Jesus reiterated the sending forth. *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore . . ."* We need to ask a simple question – what's the *"therefore"* there for? Based on the fact that all power is mine in heaven and in earth, *"therefore go!"*

With unemployment high and people struggling to make ends meet, we have a message of hope and security in a time of uncertainty! We have a strong incentive to publicly uplift Jesus in our communities because people need Him now more than ever. I am so glad that challenges are nothing new to Jesus! He knows our needs and He promises to see us through. Moreover, He promises His blessing if we go forth with His power!

We must preach the gospel throughout the world independent of our financial challenges. We may be challenged in continuing our present practices. We currently pay the postman to do our witnessing for us and securing an evangelistic audience. The postman is generally faithful in delivering our advertising brochures but the delivery lacks the personal touch. In fact, the postman just delivers the mail and doesn't really care whether people read the advertising never mind come to the evangelistic meeting.

Each of us can do better! With the Holy Spirit guiding us, we can claim Jesus' promise, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) This was how the early church grew, with the Holy Spirit burning within each heart. This promise even includes Wisconsin!

We have set up an aggressive series of training events for 2011. From giving Bible Studies to conducting your own evangelism; from small group fellowship to family life seminars, from learning and implementing principles of Natural Church Development to a New Testament Witnessing program. These are all designed to help you become an effective witness for Jesus. As you unite your life in service to Jesus, all power in heaven and earth comes to you to be His witness! You may wish to attend a training event near you.

May God bless you that you will be a witness for Jesus . . . starting today.

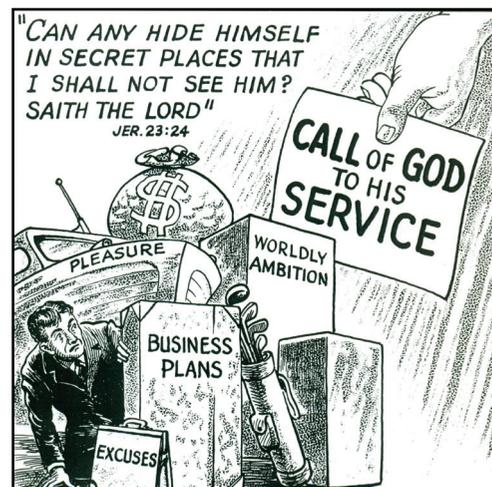
James Fox
Personal Ministries and Evangelism Coordinator

comes to enlarging our borders in Wisconsin? Let me ask you each a personal question. As a result of your personal witness, has your church grown?

"Friends, this is what witnessing really comes down to and everybody is to have a part. This is what the up and coming Church Ministries Institutes will try to achieve. These weekends will be few but very power-packed. Each will have a definite aim and focus, but the bottom line is they will be for the empowerment of each person and each church to plant seeds that will grow up and bear much fruit."

Keep your eyes and ears open for what God has in store for this New Year. I look forward to seeing you at a Church Ministries Institute soon!

James Fox
Personal Ministries and Evangelism Coordinator



Let it not be said of us as it was of Saul, *"Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff."* 1 Samuel 10:22. There is a work for others we are called to perform - a lost world to warn, the light of God's saving truth to bring to all mankind. We cannot hide from God's service call.

Church Ministries Institutes Coming Events

How to Give Bible Studies

Beaver Dam/Wisconsin Academy Church
Sabbath, January 29, 2011
Contact Pastor Adam Case
adamcase@sbcglobal.net

ShareHim Training

Monroe SDA Church
Sabbath, February 26, 2011
Contact Pastor Lisa Isensee
churchplants@tds.net

Lay Pastor Training

Wisconsin Conference Office
February 4-6, 2011
Contact James Fox
jfox@wi.adventist.org

CMI Regional

Green Bay SDA Church
2:30 pm, Sabbath, February 19, 2011
Contact James Fox
jfox@wi.adventist.org

How to Give Bible Studies

Waukesha SDA Church
Sabbath, March 5, 2011
Contact Pastor John Glass
johnfglass@gmail.com

ShareHim Training

2nd Generation Hispanic/Milwaukee Central Hispanic
Sabbath, March 12, 2011
Contact Pastor Gerzom Gomez
aagru@mixmail.com
or Donna Maldonado
dmaldonado.usana@gmail.com

ShareHim Training

Christ Community SDA Church, Lena, WI
Sabbath, March 19, 2011
Contact Pastor Ric Binford
drofnib@juno.com

OPPORTUNITY

Adventist member wishing to live at home is looking for someone to help with transportation and household help. Room, board and salary provided. Call 920-484-6555 and ask for Richard Habenicht.

Limited classified ads will be posted on the updated website appearing later this spring. Look for more information in the next edition of the Lamp Letter.

No Lone Rangers in Small Groups



Do you remember the old television western, *The Lone Ranger*? The Lone Ranger would appear each week on the scene, at just the right time with his trusty steed, Silver, and solve some dilemma. Since he always wore a mask, no one knew who he was in everyday life. Besides his sidekick, Tonto, he seemed to need no one. He faced life alone.

Isn't that the way many of us Christians live? We attend church, often wearing a mask to hide our true identity, and no one knows who we really are. And then Hi-ho Silver! Away! and we're gone until next Sabbath.

Church should be more than what happens once a week. At its heart, the church is called to relationships. In fact, our Heavenly Father created us with a relational gene.

That's what small groups in the church are all about. Small groups provide an opportunity to really connect with others in meaningful relationships; where we become more than members of a church - we become part of a family. None of us can do life alone. Without safe, loving relationships to support us when we are hurting we can get discouraged and disappear. Small groups are an ideal environment where we can grow in our understanding of how God works in our lives as we relate Scripture to our everyday lives. These kinds of small groups are great places to reach your friends and build, "forever relationships." Are we on the right track?

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented to me by One who cannot err." -- Evangelism p. 115

Learning to do small group ministry is just one of the many opportunities you will have when you attend one of our upcoming Church Ministries Institutes (CMI's).

Bill Ochs
Pastor, Madison East Church



Exercise is essential to health of body, mind and spirit. It has awesome benefits! We're starting the new year with a six-month conference-wide walking program called *Walk for Life*. Our goal is to walk around the world between January 1 and June 25. That's 24,901 miles! In the same amount of time, we walked 48,495 miles in 2003, almost circling the world twice! Maybe we can beat that old record.

Make a plan to exercise several days out of every week. If the weather is bad, try walking in the mall, on a treadmill, climbing stairs or using an exercise DVD. You may want to get a pedometer to measure your miles, or check the following chart to measure your equivalency miles for other activities. Turn in the miles you walk at your local church. Then, at camp meeting in June, we will tally our miles and see how far we have gone!

Thomas Jefferson once said, "*The sovereign invigorator of the body is exercise, and of all exercises walking is the best.*" Walking is also the least expensive exercise; all you need is a comfortable pair of shoes. So, find your tennis shoes and let's get started!

Juanita Edge
Health Ministries Director

One Walking Mile Equals:

Swimming ¼ mile
Walking/Jogging 1 mile
Cycle 4 miles
Snow skiing 60 minutes
Jump Rope 10 minutes
Nordic Track 10 minutes
Basketball 20 minutes
Racquetball 20 minutes
Rowing 10 minutes
Aerobics 20 minutes
Stationary Bike 20 minutes
Tennis 30 minutes
Golf (walking) 9 holes
Stair stepping 15 minutes
Chopping Wood 20 minutes
Raking, Shoveling, 30 minutes
Push mowing 30 minutes
Weight Lifting 20 minutes





Work--Eat--Sleep: Steps for Breaking the Cycle

For many of us, our lives are so wildly out of balance we can't remember what it feels like to be calm, rested, and clear-headed. CREATION Health breaks the "never-ending cycle" because it captures God's balanced and exciting plan for enjoying whole person health. Here is a review of the eight universal principles we find in Genesis:

C - Choice. Making healthy choices is the key to lifestyle improvement. Positive choices might include creating a personal mission statement, forming healthy habits, setting meaningful goals, and finding better balance.

R - Rest. Rest comes with both a good night's sleep and taking time to relax. It includes a weekly day of rest and enjoying a regular vacation.

E - Environment. Environment is what lies outside of us but affects what takes place within us. Everything - sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste - influences our health.

A - Activity. The goal is to be active physically, mentally, and spiritually. The best kind of physical activity also enhances the mind, spirit, and relationships. Activity should be enjoyable and a key part of our lifelong health.

T - Trust. Trust in God ensures our life is filled with purpose. It reveals the important relationship between spirituality and our well-being. Our faith, beliefs, and hopes all affect our health.

I - Interpersonal Relationships. Social support fortifies our resolve and improves our health. Research has demonstrated the importance of family, friends, and support groups in recovering from illness.

O - Outlook. Outlook colors our life perspective and influences how we view our world and the people in it. It also affects the amount of hope and joy we experience.

N - Nutrition. Research shows that a balanced diet produces energy and overall health. Of all the nutritional choices available, two are guaranteed to improve health and enable one to live longer: eating less and eating higher quality foods.

These eight universal principles form a blueprint for the health we yearn for and the life we are intended to live. As the pieces of the picture come together, you'll begin seeing a simple, yet profound unifying theme. You'll soon discover your own picture taking shape and with it, the tremendous potential to break out of the "never-ending cycle" and live life to the fullest! That's CREATION Health.

Monica Reed
CEO of Florida Hospital Celebration Health



Those Eyes ...

Those eyes... I'll never forget the eyes. Even five years later the dream is still so vivid that every time I share it, tears are hard to contain... because of her eyes.

The dream: The 1000 years had ended; the New Jerusalem had come down to earth. I found myself safe inside the walls of the Holy City. Gathered around me were my children, grandchildren, family, and friends - all the people I loved so much. We were all there, safe inside the city walls with God. I turned and looked out through the gold-tinted, transparent glass walls. Directly in front of me, and outside those beautiful walls of protection, stood my Jewish boss & friend, Heidi.

We just stood there staring at each other. She had her family gathered around her too. She stood there clutching her two children to her sides as only a mother can when she loves them and is afraid for them and is trying to protect them from eminent harm.

As our eyes locked. I quickly read and felt her pleading for help, her desperation, her unspeakable fear, the sorrow which was beyond expression, the total hopelessness of their situation, her anguish was beyond description. I shall never forget the look in her eyes.

Although we could have both reached out and touched hands on the glass wall between us, we both knew that wall was an eternity wide.

I woke up crying, praying and pleading with God to not do this to me. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't talk about Jesus to her. I could pray but sometimes prayer doesn't seem enough (like it's the lazy way out). It wasn't good enough for how desperate the situation was. That's how I felt.

Since I didn't have a clue what to do I did what I always do when there's nothing I can do, I prayed. "Lord, please help me. Don't leave me feeling this way. Show me what to do."

I read Luke 11:1-13. Verse 13 held the key: "...How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!" I need the Holy Spirit ... Today.

Throughout 2011, Prayer Ministries will use this space to continue searching Luke 11:1-13 to uncover what these verses say to Jesus' disciples today. Please consider God's call to His friends to journey together and ask for the promised gift of His Holy Spirit.

Lesa Budd
Prayer Ministries Coordinator

The Old Year And The New

"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves." 2 Cor. 13:5

Already has the new year been ushered in; (as) we greet its coming, we pause to ask, What has been the history of the year that with its burden of records has now passed into eternity? The admonition of the apostle comes down the lines to every one of us, *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."* God forbid that at this important hour we should be so engrossed with other matters as to give no time to serious, candid, critical self-examination! Let things of minor consequence be put in the background, and let us now bring to the front the things which concern our eternal interests.

Christian brethren, as Christ's ambassador I entreat you to inquire into the character of your thoughts, tempers, purposes, words, and works during the past year. What has been the nature of your experience? Compare the records of your religious life with the Bible standard, and pass judgment upon yourselves. Have the fruits of righteousness testified that you are in the faith, or have the fruits that you have borne, witnessed against you? This is a subject worthy of earnest, careful thought

No one of us can in our own strength represent the character of Christ, but if Jesus lives in the heart, the spirit dwelling in Him will be revealed in us. All our lack will be supplied. Who will seek at the beginning of this new year to obtain a new and genuine experience in the things of God? Make your wrongs right as far as possible. Confess your errors and sins to one another. Let all bitterness and wrath and malice be put away. Let patience, long-suffering, kindness, and love become a part of your very being; then whatsoever things are pure and lovely and of good report will mature in your experience....

Our time and talents belong to God, to be used for His honor and glory. It should be our earnest, anxious effort to let the light shine through our life and character to illumine the pathway heavenward, that souls may be attracted from the broad road to the narrow way of holiness ...

Strong men and women are needed in the church, successful workers in the Lord's vineyard, men and women who will labor that the church may be transformed to the image of Christ rather than conformed to the customs and practices of the world. We have everything to gain or to lose. Let us see that we are on the side of Christ - the gaining side; that we are making sure work for Heaven.

Ellen G. White
Signs of the Times, Jan. 4, 1883

Marcel Schwantez to Speak at Men's Conference



The annual Men's Conference will be held January 21-23, 2011 at Camp Wakonda. This relaxing and inspirational weekend offers Christian fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and great food! Marcel Schwantes, a certified professional life coach, will be the guest presenter. He helps people find growth and improved relationships personally and professionally. The weekend will begin with a light supper at 6:00 Friday evening, and conclude with a brunch at 9:30 Sunday morning. The cost will be \$90.00 for the weekend, \$35.00 for day rate. Plan to come, enjoy, and bring a friend! For a brochure, pre-registration, or more information, contact Floyd Brock at 920-484-6555, or email him at: fbrock@wi.adventist.org.

Young Adults Gather for Wisconsin Youth for Christ Event



October 1-3, 2010, twenty young adults gathered at Camp Wakonda for the annual Wisconsin Youth for Christ (WYC) retreat. Guest speakers Sikhu Hlatshwayo, from Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students, and Pastor David Guerrero of Stevens Point district, challenged us to go to a higher level with Jesus and step out in faith to make friends for our Lord in the world around us. The purpose of this group is to draw together a community of young adults who are passionate about having a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in becoming involved in future WYC events, please contact us at wiyouth4christ@gmail.com.

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!"
Education p. 271

Wausau Church Serve Homeless Free Meal

On October 19, the Shepherd's House church in Wausau had the opportunity to serve a free meal to local needy and homeless people. They are part of an ongoing multi-church ministry serving this segment of the community. Margaret Lalonde, who organized the event, commented, *"We served a vegan meal, and most people didn't even know. Two ladies said they were vegetarian and were delighted when we told them the whole meal was vegetarian. We were able to tell them we were Seventh-day Adventist Christians and give them literature. This was a whole church project. About 20 members came to help fix food, serve and mingle with the people, but other members were also involved through contributions of money and food. We've done this twice now and look forward to doing it again."*

Joy Sayjack
Shepherd's House

Whether you turn to the right or the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you,
saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21

Wisconsin Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
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Wisconsin Conference Calendar of Events

- | | | | | | |
|------|-------|---|--------|--|--|
| Jan. | 1 | New Year's Day | 21 | Presidents Day
Conference Office Closed | |
| | 8 | Milwaukee Convocation
WA Instrumental Ensemble-
Sharon Church | 26 | Bible Achievement - Area | |
| | 9-11 | Pastor/Teacher Meetings -
Conference Office | 27 | Snow L.I.F.T. - De Pere | |
| | 17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Conference Office Closed | March. | 5 | |
| | 21-23 | Men's Conference - Camp
Wakonda | | 6 | Conf. Level Bible Achieve-
ment - WA Church |
| | 22 | WA Choralairs/Bells Tour -
Bethel Church - 11:00 am | | 6 | Education Fair
Wisconsin Academy |
| | 24-28 | WA Student Week of
Spiritual Emphasis_ | | 10-20 | WA Spring Break |
| | 25 | K-12 Board - Wisconsin
Academy | | 13 | S.N.O.W. Day
Green Bay Church |
| | 26 | Executive Committee
Conference Office | | 18-20 | Childrens Ministries Work
shop - Camp Wakonda |
| | 28-30 | Public High School Retreat-
Camp Wakonda | | 26 | Union College Gymnastic
Team - WA |
| Feb. | 4-6 | Lay Pastors' Training
Conference Office | | 26 | Choralairs/Bells/Tour
Madison East Church |
| | 14 | Valentines Day | | | |
| | 19 | Church Ministries Institute -
Green Bay | | | |
| | 19 | WA Choralairs/
Bells/Gymnastics Tour-
Clear Lake | | | |
| | 19 | Hispanic Departmental
Training - Milwaukee North
Spanish Church | | | |

Public High School Retreat

This annual retreat for 9-12th graders is scheduled for January 28-30, 2011, at Camp Wakonda. This is a great opportunity to network with other high school and home school teens, enjoy great food and spiritual activities. The cost is \$58 per person (\$48 if paid by January 17). An adult sponsor must accompany each youth gender group. For more information contact: Aileen King, akking@wi.adventist.org or 920-484-6555 x304.

Diet Planning Guide: *The Full Plate Diet*



All diet books claim they are unique, but you'll notice the moment you pick up "The Full Plate Diet" there is something truly special about it. It's loaded with four-color pictures, information, and examples to tailor your own lifestyle program. It is built on the principal of adding high fiber foods to the diet you already eat. You'll be able to thumb through it, get the concept and try the diet at your next meal.

The book is available in bookstores nationwide for \$19.95, but you can purchase it now for \$10.00 through the Wisconsin Conference Health Department while supplies last.

Call 920-484-6555 and ask Aileen King for details.