

Wisconsin Conference Lamp Letter

A publication of Wisconsin Conference

May 2010 / Volume 12 Number 2

Mike Edge - New President for Wisconsin Conference



On March 23, 2010, the Nominating Committee of the Wisconsin Conference called Elder Mike Edge as the new President. After some days of prayer and supplication to God for guidance, Elder Edge accepted the call. We asked Elder Edge some key questions so that

our Constituency might get to know him better and understand his vision for the future of the Conference.

Lamp Letter: Tell us about yourself and your wife, Juanita – what is your ministerial background? What are your passions in ministry?

Edge: We began our pastoral ministry in the Washington Conference where we pastored small to medium sized churches for almost fifteen years. We became convinced that the key to a healthy church is an outreach focus. We also discovered the joy of working with young people. We have spent the last fifteen summers in Camp Ministry in the Arkansas-Louisiana, Indiana and the Wisconsin Conferences. Here in Wisconsin, we have been excited to see the youth grow from Pathfinders, to college students, to mature adult leaders in the Church.

In both pastoring and in youth work, I have been observant of good leadership – I have seen good and not so good and tried to learn the best practices. It was my joy to work with Don Corkum and learn from his effective and spiritual leadership.

Lamp Letter: Where do you see the Lord leading the Wisconsin Conference in the near future? What are the ministries and emphases you see the Lord impressing you to champion?

Edge: We need a strong evangelism emphasis, both personal and public. We need an increase in church planting; there are too many communities without an Adventist presence. If we want to have churches in the future, we must

effectively minister to our young people today. We are not yet doing an adequate job in providing training to our church family. We need more trained lay workers who will then become trainers themselves.

Lamp Letter: What changes are on the immediate horizon? How will these changes impact our Conference?

Edge: We are experiencing several changes in personnel. President Don and Phyllis Corkum, Educational Superintendent Ken Kirkham, and Evangelist Ric Swaninon have all accepted calls or are retiring. This has brought immediate change and we are reworking our organizational structure and staffing. We are fortunate that we can build on what we now have organizationally. I am encouraged as we turn to God for guidance. My supervisor in an Academy job told us often to, “Ask great things of God; expect great things from God.” We are trusting God to guide us through these changes.

Lamp Letter: If God were to grant you the fulfillment to any of your prayers for the Wisconsin Conference, what would you ask of the Lord?

Edge: My first prayer would be that we might all be in heaven rejoicing as a Wisconsin family. But if Jesus should tarry, my second prayer would be that each individual would make their number one priority to win one soul for Christ in the next year.

Lamp Letter: If God had His way in the state of Wisconsin, what would the church look like in five years and what would its members be doing?

Edge: If God had His way, the Church’s greatest challenge would be how could we find more room in our churches and schools. If each one could win just one soul for Christ, it would challenge us greatly. If we could experience just a 50% fulfillment of “each one winning one,” we would have over 3,000 new members these next 12 months. What a joyous challenge that would be.

James Fox

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President's Message

True Love

Norman Vincent Peale once stated, "Nothing is more confusing than people who give good advice but set a bad example." On the flip-side, it is true that nothing is more convincing than people who give good advice and set a good example.

In the closing days of Jesus' ministry on this earth He told His disciples, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35.

Jesus didn't say, all will know that you are my disciples if you have the theology all figured out, if you can explain the 2300 - day prophecy without flaw, or if you can recite large passages of scripture. He said people they would encounter on a daily basis would recognize them as His disciples if they loved one another.

The credibility of the words we say about Jesus are either confirmed or denied by the examples that we live. People marveled at the way Jesus taught, in contrast to the way the Pharisees taught. Jesus taught with authority. His authority was not the forcefulness of His speech but the way His life was in harmony with his teachings.

We will get confused if we look around our society seeking a clear definition of love. However, if we will spend time reading about Jesus, we will see not only a clear definition, but a crystal clear example of what true love is - love that touches hurting lives, love that goes the second and third mile, love that is a complete giving of self for the salvation of someone.

Today God is calling for a group of people to share the message of Jesus with the authority and credibility of love. "Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother." COL 384

I pray that our church family in Wisconsin will respond to God's call and demonstrate true love for one another.

Mike Edge, President

*"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:35*

New Employees for Wisconsin Conference

It has been a busy spring. Individuals who have retired or are planning to retire soon have created the necessity for the Wisconsin Conference to begin replacing key positions within the conference office.

On April 27, 2010 the Executive Committee voted to ask Linda Rosen to serve as our new Educational Superintendent. Linda brings with her many years of classroom teaching experience as well as a desire to be a lifelong learner herself. We look forward to having Linda settled and in place very soon.

Cindy Stotz has recently joined the office staff as one of our assistant treasurer's. Cindy also comes with a wealth of experience.

We will put her experience to good use as we ask her to take on our local church auditing program. Cindy will also have other duties within the office as well. Cindy has already begun her service and we look forward to working with her.

Since Mike Edge was recently elected president of the conference, that has left an opening for a youth director in our conference. Finding a new youth director this close to summer camp season presents a timing issue. The conference is looking to find someone who could run summer camp on an interim basis to get us "over the hump" so to speak. After summer camp season we will begin our search for a full-time youth director.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

We feel the Lord has led us to these very qualified and talented individuals. We are confident He will help us locate an excellent youth director as well. Please pray with us as our search begins.

Roger Driver

Cover photo: View of Wisconsin across the Mississippi River from Pikes Peaks State Park in Iowa.

Constituency Session 2010

For many of you, attending a constituency session is something you have done before - perhaps more than once. Others have not had the opportunity to experience a session and see the church at work.

As we have made our way around the conference holding the delegate orientation meetings, we have discovered that many of the delegates chosen from their respective churches for our session on October 3, 2010 have never been a delegate before. This session will be their first chance to see church governance in action. We want to ensure that the business of the church is done correctly and in order.

Each delegate orientation meeting has given us, at the conference, a chance to hear what is on the hearts of our constituents. The questions and comments from each meeting have been projected onto the screen as the questions have been asked or as the comments were given. We will

**Constituency Session
October 3, 2010**

be summarizing all of those questions and comments into a narrative format and will be including this information in the delegate packets. You may have some of your own questions answered by reading this material.

October 3, 2010 is swiftly approaching. Other key deadlines will be met as the date for the session gets closer. Let me outline a few of the important dates for you.

- **June 28, 2010** A notice will be mailed to each person who was elected to serve on the Standing Nominating Committee. The notice will contain the time, date, and place of the initial meeting. (These folks will have been elected at the 2006 session.)
- **June 28, 2010** A notice will also be mailed to each church board outlining the members of the Standing Nominating Committee and the time, date, and place of the initial meeting.
- **August 15, 2010** The initial meeting of the Standing Nominating Committee is scheduled to take place on August 15, 2010. It will most likely be held at the conference office.
- **August 30, 2010** Delegate packets will be mailed on or before this date.
- **September 7, 2010** Members of the Organizing Committee will receive notice of the time, date, and place of their meeting.
- **October 3, 2010** The 35th Constituency Session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will take place.

As a delegate, you should be planning now to be a part of this very important event. Reports will be provided at the

session outlining progress that has taken place since our last session. I think God has led us through some very interesting times. Pray that God will continue to guide us collectively on a path that will draw others to Him and to His kingdom!

Roger L Driver

Executive Committee and Lay Advisory Council Meet

March 28, 2010 was a special day. It was a day which brought together approximately forty-five individuals. The annual Financial and Statistical Review was attended by members of the Conference Executive Committee as well as members of the Lay Advisory Council. Each attendee wanted to know the plain and simple truth. They wanted to know, "How is the Conference doing"?

In an effort to satisfy their curiosity, the day was filled with reports from the various Departmental Leaders within the Conference explaining the progress that has been made in the last four years and the programs slated for introduction in the near future.

In addition to those reports, the conference finances were discussed and the budget for 2010 was shared. You may be happy to note that the 2010 conference budget was balanced with a very, very small surplus expected.

Wisconsin Academy also shared information about their current school year and shared their projected budget for 2010-2011. They are being challenged in some areas. As the economy tightens, parents are getting behind in their payments for tuition. This has led to a shortfall in cash flow.

By the end of the presentations though, the two groups had a pretty good idea where things stood within the conference. I believe it was fairly evident we are doing our best to strengthen both the conference and the academy. Could we do better? Absolutely! But, it will take all of us working together!

Pray that the Lord will help us figure out a way, (or provide a way), for us to help the Academy in a way that is meaningful and sustainable! A way that will ensure many more graduates for decades to come who have the desire to "walk with Jesus into Eternity"!

Roger Driver

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Financial Highlights

February 28, 2010

| | 2010 | 2009 | Difference | % Change |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Tithe - Month-to-Date | 482,315.81 | 641,849.70 | -159,533.89 | -24.86% |
| Tithe - Year-to-Date | 1,017,633.04 | 1,083,708.25 | -66,075.21 | -6.10% |
| Wisconsin Budget - MTD | 17,573.12 | 18,169.52 | -596.40 | -3.39% |
| Wisconsin Budget - YTD | 34,182.09 | 33,818.19 | 363.90 | 1.06% |
| Cash | | | | |
| Checking | 463,057.18 | 104,670.27 | 358,386.91 | 77.40% |
| Money Market Certificates | 328,716.87 | 556,921.81 | -228,204.94 | -69.42% |
| Securities & Investments | 1,015,816.81 | 1,409,410.42 | -393,593.61 | -38.75% |
| Total Cash and Investments | 1,807,590.86 | 2,071,002.50 | -263,411.64 | -14.57% |
| Accounts Receivable | | | | |
| Churches | 14,062.62 | 3,311.97 | 10,750.65 | 76.45% |
| Schools (Including WA) | 833,449.18 | 620,760.84 | 212,688.34 | 25.52% |
| WA (Separately) | 744,453.14 | 380,513.40 | 363,939.74 | 48.89% |
| Current Ratio (Note 1) | 4.51:1 | 8.27:1 | N/A | N/A |
| Evangelism - Unrestricted Fund Bal | 150,366.90 | 159,670.06 | -9,303.16 | -6.19% |
| Evangelism - Restricted Fund Bal | 16,801.41 | 19,875.16 | -3,073.75 | -18.29% |
| | Actual - 2010 | Budget - 2010 | Difference | Actual - 2009 |
| | | | Fav/(Unfav) | |
| Income | 1,257,013.00 | 1,182,015.00 | 74,998.00 | 1,188,262.00 |
| Expenses | 1,124,975.00 | 1,156,520.00 | 31,545.00 | 1,290,575.00 |
| Net Incr/(Decr) Before Transfers | 132,038.00 | 25,495.00 | 106,543.00 | -102,313.00 |
| Fund/Funct Transfers | -88,809.00 | -46,513.00 | -42,296.00 | -20,437.00 |
| Net Incr/(Decr) After Transfers | 43,229.00 | -21,018.00 | 64,247.00 | -122,750.00 |
| Net Assets - Beginning | 1,922,364.00 | 1,922,348.00 | 16.00 | 2,435,286.00 |
| Net Assets - Ending | 1,965,593.00 | 1,901,330.00 | 64,263.00 | 2,312,536.00 |
| Expense (Selected Functions) | | | | |
| Pastors | 315,520.92 | 357,624.00 | 42,103.08 | 357,346.11 |
| Evangelism | 48,324.94 | 18,101.00 | -30,223.94 | 16,383.15 |
| Church School Oper | 233,579.60 | 255,584.00 | 22,004.40 | 277,125.49 |
| Academy Operation | 76,013.00 | 75,997.00 | -16.00 | 108,823.77 |
| Group Medical Plan | -178,851.73 | -145,608.00 | 33,243.73 | 6,561.27 |
| General & Admin | 61,521.64 | 55,540.00 | -5,981.64 | 76,059.62 |

Note 1 - The Current Ratio is the ratio of Current Assets to Current Liabilities.

Wisconsin Academy Alumni Weekend 2010

April 23 – 25 was designated as alumni weekend and at least 800 people attended. There were 750 people who ate Sabbath lunch together provided by the academy cafeteria and donations from guests. Class reunions were alive with chatter and the renewing of friendships. What a great experience. It must be a fore-runner of heaven.

Decisions were made in regard to the operation of the alumni organization. Many voted their preference in regard to alumni weekend being held in the Fall vs. the Spring. There are many who would like to move to Fall, but a large majority still prefer to remain in the Spring. The alumni ratified the constitution which re-structured the election of the alumni officers.

New officers were elected. They will serve a two-year term, beginning April of 2010 and serving through alumni weekend

(April) of 2012. New officers are: President, Linda Herwick Rosen '70; Vice President, Duane Morauske '65; Secretary, Alicen Zalabak Thomas '97; Officers, Alice Cedzo Priser '60, Maynard Morauske '63, Linda Schroeder Skilton '70.

Thank you to all who participated in the election process. Please keep Wisconsin Academy in your prayers. Many monetary gifts were received by the academy during the weekend. Thank you for remembering the current students who attend classes and walk the halls each day.

Lois Bowers,
Development Director for Wisconsin Academy

Green Bay Adventist Jr. Academy Bible Labs Activity

On October 16, 2009, grades K-2 went to visit Mr. Robert Wery, a member of our church that was homebound. Home and School encouraged the students to dress up like scarecrows that day. The students brought Mr. Wery bread and fruit for him to enjoy and also sang him some songs. Mr.



Bottom left:

Seyli Martinez, Riley Halvorsen, Liz Hilario, Carter Wilde, Naomi Campbell, Erika Lopez, Maritza Matamoros, Alaina Halvorsen, and Kiara Frank, students from AJA center Mr. Wery

Wery loved seeing the students and listening to their songs. That same day grades 3-6 greeted residents from a local



From left Rachel Scray, Emily Anderson, Diana Kuklinski, Jose Carlos Paz, Taran Gillen, Madeline Konshak, Mason Wilde, and Maria Magray, from AJA, and nursing home resident center

nursing home as they arrived at the Adventist Junior Academy. The students served each resident pumpkin pie and apple cider. They also helped each resident pick out their own pumpkin from the fund raising pumpkin patch at the school.

Editor's Note: Since last fall, Mr. Wery passed away. Praise the Lord for Christian students who made a difference.

Hillside Students Serve at Salvation Army

Service projects are important to Hillside. Once a month, students from Hillside Christian School in Wausau, WI volunteer at the Salvation Army. Students serve food and clean up the dining area. "I really liked serving the mashed potatoes," reported third grader Laura Chavarria. "Sweeping the floor is the best!" said first grader Maria Sajdak.

Hillside students also visit Marathon County HeadStart once a month. Hillside students read a book to HeadStart students and help them do a craft related to the book. Fifth Grader Gabby Mengel says, "It is fun to go to HeadStart. You get to meet preschoolers. They are nice to us. Sometimes the HeadStart teacher gives us treats!" For more information about Hillside, call 715-241-7722 or visit www.shepherdshousewausau.com

Jody Marsh



Gabby Mengel fifth grader from Hillside reading to children

Elementary Music Festival

Wisconsin Academy's hall rang with the voices of 116 visiting young people April 8 – 10. They came for Elementary Music Festival and they came to sing praises to our God.

Practice began on Thursday evening, continued all day Friday and was followed by vespers that evening. Many of the visiting schools had performance pieces already and the students shared their talents for the evening program.

On, Sabbath afternoon, the Music Festival Choir along with the Choralaires from the Academy joined their voices together as they praised God with the theme of, "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands." *Bellissimo Cerchi*, the bell choir from the academy, also performed during the concert.

What a blessing it is to praise God in song and to worship together with such youth and enthusiasm. Thank you to all the schools, sponsors and parents for sharing your students with us.

Lois Bowers

Planning for Camp Meeting

All subletting should be done through the locating office. If your plans change and you cannot come to Camp Meeting call 920-484-6555 ext 304 or e-mail akking@wi.adventist.org. Private subletting bypasses those who have their name on a waiting list and makes 'first renters' liable to forfeit that privilege.

Send payment to:

Camp meeting, P O Box 100, Fall River WI 53932

Cancellation with 50% deposit – May 6-26

Loss of 100% of deposit after May 27

Camp meeting fees cover the use of your site during the ten days of Camp meeting – not the entire year. Daily rates apply to sites used before and after the ten day period.

Cabins and Full Service sites can be sublet only twice before they revert back to the conference.

Cabins for 2011 must be paid in full by Wednesday, June 16 of 2010 Camp meeting.

Electric Service and Full Service sites must be reserved with at least a 50% deposit by June 16, with the balance due by April 11, 2011. We love full payment!

Plan to turn your key in to the Locating Office at the end of Camp meeting each year.

The campers on the ball field at Wakonda will be disposed of before Camp Meeting. If one of them is yours please make arrangements to have it taken care of before May 18. Contact Jim Johnson (608-697-8188).

The electrical service at Camp Wakonda was never designed to handle the extra electrical devices now considered a necessity. Adequate service upgrades would cost the conference hundreds of thousands of dollars. We solicit your help during Camp meeting by plugging in to the appropriate service assigned to your space. During hot weather, you will have to make a choice between running an A/C unit or running the microwave. You can not do both without tripping the breaker. Please don't use more electrical outlets than are assigned to your space. Courtesy is always in order.

Aileen King

Do the Hallelujah Hustle for Your Health

The fourth annual Hallelujah Hustle is the perfect excuse to get out and enjoy the spring weather. Dedicate the next couple months to getting in shape for this 5k (3 mile) run/walk, which will take place on Sunday, June 13, at 7:30 a.m. during camp meeting at Camp Wakonda.

This event is for all fitness levels and age groups. Not sure how to get started training? Visit www.HallelujahHustle.com to download the training program designed for this event by



the Wellness Department at Southern Adventist University.

At the website, there's also a registration form and photos from last year's Hustle. If you participated last year, you can check out your finishing time by clicking on the Results link.

Register early and pay a discounted fee of \$12. The registration fee for those signing up after May 14 is \$15. Sign up early and you're guaranteed a race T-shirt, which features a fun new theme. Proceeds from the entrance fee and dona-

tions will provide exercise equipment and support for the senior meal program at the new Westfield Senior/Community Center. For more information, go to www.HallelujahHustle.com or email 5k@hallelujahhustle.com.

For the health and safety of all campers, NO PETS are allowed at Camp Wakonda.

Camp Meeting Choir—A Great Tradition!

Plan now to be part of the choir that will provide worship music for the June 19 Church Service in the adult pavilion.

Practices will be held the first weekend on Saturday and Sunday evenings following the service in the adult pavilion, as well as weekdays from 1:15 to 2:10 p.m. Second weekend practices will be Friday evening following the service in the pavilion and the second Sabbath morning at 8:00 a.m. in the pavilion.

We look forward to having all singers, trained and those not trained, join the camp meeting choir and help provide inspiring worship music during the Sabbath morning service.

Lavenda Tuionetoa, Choir Director

Camp Meeting Band—Another Great Tradition!

If you play an instrument, you are invited to join. Practice is at 8:30 a.m., Sabbath morning, June 12 and 8:45 a.m., Sabbath morning, June 19. The band will accompany song service for Sabbath School in the Adult Pavilion.

Camp Meeting Speakers



*Elder David Asscherick,
June 11-12, photo by © Alden J. Ho
Photography, aldenho.com*



*Dr. Miroslav Kis,
June 14-18 at
11:00 a.m.*



*C.A. Murray,
June 14-17
evening speaker*



*Rear Admiral Barry
Black, June 18-19*



*Monte Church,
June 14-18
at 9:30 a.m.*



*Dr. Benjamin
Schoun
Sabbath June 12 for
Sabbath School*



*Pastor Adam Case,
June 15-17 at 6:30 a.m.*



*Pastor Marshall
McKenzie, June 12-
14 at 6:30 a.m.*



*Pastor Armando
Camacho, June 18-19
at 6:30 a.m.*



Ted Struntz, Young Adults Speaker



Annette Campbell



Mark Ringwelski



Nestor Soriano

Guest Speaker for the Youth Tent is Matt Gal

**Local Artist Hold Musical Concert on
Sabbath June 12**

Camp Meeting Kitchen Helpers

Camp Meeting is swiftly approaching! I'm sure you have heard the saying, "Many hands make light work". Well, we have a lot of work that needs to take place during Camp Meeting this summer. What we specifically need are folks interested in helping in the cafeteria during Camp Pitch, June 7-11 and Camp Meeting, June 11-19, 2010.

Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have a valid work permit. Applicant's under 21 year of age must have a parent or guardian on campus with them.

If you would be willing to help out in the area of food service, please call the conference office at (920)-484-6555 and speak with Jane Gerndt. She will place your name on our applicant list. More information will then be sent to you at a later date. Thank you for your willingness to assist us in making Camp Meeting 2010 a memorable experience for everyone!

Roger Driver

Bathroom Cleaners Needed

Want to earn some ca\$h at Camp Meeting, June 11-20, and don't mind late nights. There are a couple of positions open for both men's and women's bathrooms. Must be 18 yr. or older. May become recurring position for future Camp Meetings. Please leave message for MO with your name and phone number at 608-477-8588.

Teachers and Helpers Needed

Camp meeting is just around the corner and we need teachers and helpers for Beginners and Kindergarten at Camp Meeting. If you are willing to be a helper contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 ext. 304 or akking@wi.adventist.org.

Aileen King

Food Demonstrator Needed

ABC needs people to do Food Demonstrations during Camp Meeting. If you are interested call Lynnette Miller at 920-484-3120.

Meal Ticket Pricing

| | Adult | Ages 3-10 | Senior (60 & Over) |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|
| Breakfast | \$5.75 | \$4.45 | \$5.25 |
| Lunch | \$6.25 | \$5.25 | \$5.75 |
| Supper | \$6.25 | \$5.25 | \$5.75 |
| Children two and under-no charge. | | | |

Cafeteria Serving Hours

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Breakfast | 7:30 - 8:15 |
| Lunch | 12:00 - 12:45 |
| Supper | 5:15 - 6:00 |

Meals for Camp Meeting 2010 are a flat rate.

Meal tickets can be purchased by calling the Conference office at 920-484-6555. Tickets can be used for Sabbath or weekday meals. Orders received prior to June 3 will be mailed to you. Ticket orders received after June 3 will be available at the Administration office at Camp Wakonda.

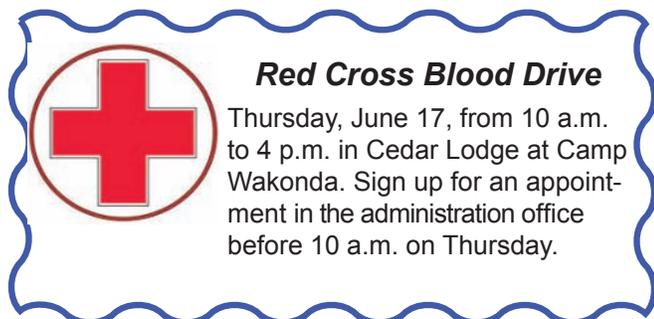
Tickets may be purchased at the Administration office beginning Friday, June 11. Please purchase Sabbath meal tickets prior to 7:00 p.m. on Friday.



June 13 at 9:00 A.M. in the Pavilion

| Title | Reg | Sale |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Esther: A Star is Born | \$ 12.99 | \$ 9.99 |
| Live Like You Mean It | \$ 15.99 | \$ 12.99 |
| Worship Africa | \$ 19.99 | \$ 15.98 |
| Tiny Tots for Jesus, 3V Set | \$ 14.99 | \$ 11.99 |
| The Indomitable Gertrude Green | \$ 24.99 | \$ 19.99 |
| A God Named Desire | \$ 17.99 | \$ 13.99 |
| Myths in Adventism | \$ 16.99 | \$ 12.99 |
| Pressing in to His Presence | \$ 14.99 | \$ 11.99 |
| Case for the Investigative Judgment | \$ 19.99 | \$ 15.99 |
| Second Chance | \$ 13.99 | \$ 10.99 |
| Soup, Salads, Sandwiches | \$ 16.99 | \$ 12.99 |

Just some of the items that will be at the Sunday Sale



Natural Church Development



Pastor John Strehl

I grew up in a city, and I know little about farming, but I do know that it is a group effort, and when everyone puts in their part amazing things come as a result. Even a city kid knows that when everyone is working functionally together and are passionate about what they do, then obstacles become possibilities.

In the book of Mark, chapter four deals with the idea of possibilities. He connects the seed with faith. As we move through the text

particularly verse twenty-six we find a description of what the kingdom of God will be like. Here the farmer casts seed on a ground that is prepared. No farmer would ever think of throwing seeds down on an unprepared surface. Yet, so often we do this, and the wonder why nothing has happened. Well, there is another part of the story that connects our work with the Creator's work.

Mark shares in verse twenty-seven that as the farmer nurtures those seeds planted that the miracle of life begins to become evident to him. He wonders how this can happen, but does not know. We know that it was nothing on his part that created life. This is Trinity working out their roles in the lives of people. You see as long as we plant seeds that cultivate the seed of life which is the wisdom of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we then can be free to allow life and/or growth to happen all by itself. We cannot change a thing, we can give it to God and ask Him to make the changes. This text is not about recognizing our role, but Jesus' role as creator. He has a work, but are we standing in the way telling him how it should be done. Or are we planting seeds to allow our churches to unleash the potential that God placed there so that His light of salvation can shine brightly to the world. This can happen naturally as the text tells us if we cultivate the soil through reflection, and ask God to give us options to find a solution to improve our effectiveness for Jesus.

Natural Church Development (NCD) is allowing churches to realize that they are not a business, but a living organism that will develop. Now, like any young child we want them to develop in ways that allows them to be healthy, to be a voice for God, and not just an echo of the World. NCD is a tool to help our church families release their potential by taking steps to explore the soil, open our hearts, and seek God for how we can grow His kingdom.

If you would like more information of implementing this in your church, contact Pastor John or Elizabeth Strehle. www.safchurch.org.

*John and Elizabeth Strehle are the
Conference NCD Coordinators - editor*

Free at Last!

This afternoon I was chatting with Blia, (pronounced lee'ah) one of our Hmong gardeners, in the doorway of our country home in Rio, Wisconsin, when a red van pulled up and a man rushed to my door. It was the head elder of our Hmong congregation in Madison, Wisconsin. "Do you have a lighter?" he asked without ceremony.

All I had was matches, and though I understood his question, (He was speaking in his native language-Hmong), I could not seem to think of the word for matches, so I dashed quickly to the kitchen, brought back the matches, and asked, "Can you use these?"

He said that he could, took them, and rushed out the door as quickly as he had come.

"He seems to be on a mission," I thought to myself, puzzling over the abrupt demeanor of this usually pleasant, cordial family man. As I walked Blia to the car as she left, we saw our two elders and their wives taking long boards with shiny gold paper on them from the back of the red van and rushing down the hill to a little wooded area where we sometimes enjoy bon fires.

Evidently sensing my curiosity, Blia offered an explanation. "They must have cast out the spirits for his parents," she explained. Then I understood. Yesterday at church, I had heard that our head elder's parents were considering leaving spirit worship and becoming Christians, something we had all been praying for now for at least three years.

Soon the head elder's wife came up over the little hill. "Hallelujah! Thank God!" she exclaimed as she hugged me joyfully again and again. She told me that she had spent most of the past three days with the family, and that today all the relatives had come together at her father-in-law's home to discuss the big decision. Many of the non-Christian relatives had been crying, not wanting the parents to become Christians, but her father-in-law didn't want to stay in spirit worship any longer. He had decided to become a Christian, so his son, our head elder, had taken apart the altar dedicated to spirit worship, and all the spirit charms and symbols out of his home to burn them. This is why they had come to our home in the country—to build a bon fire to burn all the symbols of spirit worship, including the altar, covered with shiny gold "spirit money".

They asked if I would watch to make sure it burned completely, while they hurried back to town to bring their sick father to their home where they could take care of him. "Please call Pastor and ask him to pray," they urged. They asked Blia to gather the members to join them at their home for prayer for the parents who, after a lifetime of living in fear of the spirits, have finally made the break.

This will be their first night without the "protection" of their "family spirits", and they will be fearful. They may not sleep. Please pray that they will have the faith to grasp God's promises and rest in the loving protection of the One who is "mighty to save" (Is. 63:1).

Terri Saelee

**The Shepherd's House'
First Annual Easter Drama!**

A powerful musical ministry was performed at The Shepherd's House over Easter weekend. The narrated play began at Calvary and the garden tomb, then moved through the turbulent first year of Christianity, culminating with the conversion of Saul and his electric first testimony to the astonished followers in Jerusalem. Church members of all ages participated in our first annual Easter production. Many days and nights were dedicated to practicing for this magnificent play. However, the secret to its success was the



dedication to Jesus. The cast did not make this self serving, but made it about the ministry of Christ's sacrifice for us. The message was clearly delivered with dramatic lighting, stage props, an authentic cross and costumes, glistening stars, and music. The choir and soloists moved us to tears, the look of pain on Jesus face put us with him that very day, the tomb rolled away transgressions, and Jesus resurrection humbled us.

Every seat was filled, every blessing felt, and every memory saved. We wouldn't have been able to deliver a moving and spiritual experience without our Lord. He gave us the strength, determination, and resources to make this successful! We hope that you will join us next year as we, once again, present the story of Christ's death and resurrection through music and drama. Remember, it is our responsibility to find relevant and meaningful ways to present Jesus to the world around us - and Easter is one of those special occasions where people are open to hear the greatest story of all. To God be the Glory and Praise!

Rowell Puedivan, Pastor of The Shepherd's House

Recent Baptisms In Wisconsin



Lisa Isensee along with Pastor Ric Swaningson welcomes new baptized members into the Monroe Church.



Pastor Carlos Ancheta baptizing Lon Holm into the Raymond Church

Summer Camp at Camp Wakonda

| Camp | Date | Price |
|----------------|------------------|-------|
| Junior Camp | June 25 - July 4 | \$224 |
| Tween Camp | July 4 - 11 | \$224 |
| Teen Camp | July 11 - 18 | \$224 |
| Family Camp I | July 18 - 25 | * |
| Family Camp II | July 25 - Aug 1 | * |

***Family Camp Pricing**

- Adults \$150
- Children 6-16 \$140
- Children 5 and under free
- \$525 family maximum-Family maximum is for a single family unit that includes parents and minor children.

Camper Application Forms are available at:
www.wakonda.org or call 920-484-6555.

What you've heard may NOT be true!

I've heard some interesting stories and wondered if there may be more out there as well.

Story #1: "If the conference does a Will for me I have to leave 50% to the conference."

Story #2: "The conference decides where my money goes if they help me with an estate plan."

In actual fact, nothing could be farther from the truth! I've been the sole person in the Trust Department for seventeen years and I don't think I have ever told anyone what to give to the Lord's work when we are helping them with Wills. I've had a lot of people ask how much they should give and my usual response is, "that's not for me to tell you; that's between you and God." I've had people say, "we were thinking of giving such and such a percent, is that OK?" and my response is something like, "That's fine, we're here to help you accomplish your wishes."

Our Group Legal Services Plan does require that something goes to a church entity; that is what qualifies you to be a member of the plan in order for the conference to pay the cost of the attorney contacting you and then drafting your estate plan.

If the plan you're envisioning involves a Trust where the Conference serves as the Trustee and may be managing the Trust for many years, then there is a required minimum percentage for the conference but even that is much less than the 50% mistakenly thought, by some, that we 'require'.

Give us a call. We're ready to help you accomplish your wishes.

Richard Habenicht

Women's Retreat

A time devoted to ladies for the purpose of refreshing their spirits of love and commitment to the Lord, without the daily life responsibilities associated with the many roles of women.

You do **NOT** want to miss the **22nd Annual Women's Retreat** to be held October 8-10, 2010 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Last year was the first year we held our annual women's retreat at the Osthoff. Organizers were concerned how ladies would accept being in a new location after so many years at our previous location. The organizers were pleasantly surprised to hear the many positive comments on the beauty of the Osthoff and being in an environment conducive to a spiritual retreat. If the weather cooperates, Osthoff grounds and surrounding areas will provide many opportunities for ladies to enjoy God's nature along with all the wonderful programming options available at the retreat. The speaker this year is Jo Ann Davidson. Jo Ann was our primary speaker only three years ago and the ladies learned much from her insight into the Bible and

the way God expects His people to live the principles of His Word. Registration forms will be available in mid-June; however, **NOW** is the time to start planning to attend. Registration forms will be due back into the Conference office late September, 2010.

Please contact Susan Boon via e-mail boon@toast.net or phone (262.878.5931) with any questions.

Empowerment Weekend

A weekend devoted to ladies for the purpose of encouraging them to seek and obtain power from the Lord to live according to His plan for each life.

The **Sixth Annual Empowerment Weekend** was held at Camp Wakonda April 9-11, 2010. The speaker was Marquita Klinedinst, a young wife and mother from Nebraska, who travels internationally to share God's messages with women. Marquita shares a ministry with her pastor husband and she presents powerful messages from the Lord, filled with Bible truths, spiritual nourishment and encouragement, and challenges to women to have a more God-shaped and God-directed life. She encouraged the attendees by openly sharing her personal testimony, which has shaped her life to be dependent upon a God who loves and cares for us all collectively, but also for each individual. The Bible truths she chose to share provoked thought and challenged ladies to serious consideration of their personal commitment to God. Women commented that the messages gave them much food for making positive life changes and encouragement to have a deeper commitment to our Lord.

Throughout the weekend, ladies also benefited from the inspirational music; the peaceful environment of the camp grounds; the fellowship, as well as time for personal reflection; small group discussions; and delicious food! Saturday evening ended with group exercises (for those health minded); a fun, blind-folded cookie preparation (for those not as health minded); and an entertaining video presentation on the differences between the male and female brains! The entire weekend contained tangible evidences of God's blessings and the attendees enthusiastically encouraged the organizers to continue having these life-changing meetings. Please mark your calendars for next year's Empowerment Weekend, April 8-10, 2011. Pray that our requested speaker, Virginia Holeman, who specializes in God-directed human relationships, will be able to clear her calendar to join us.

Susan Boon

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

May

- 14-15 Church Planting Rally in Fond du Lac. For more information call 262-567-1897
- 15 Wisconsin Academy Spring Concert and Gymnastics home show. For information contact Marshall Bowers at 920-623-3300
- 16 Academy Day at Wisconsin Academy. For more information contact Marshall Bowers at 920-623-3300.
- 21-23 Pathfinder Fair at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 ext 304 or e-mail at akking@wi.adventist.org.
- 23-24 Camp Wakonda Work Bee. For more information contact Jim Johnson at 608-697-8188.
- 28-30 Graduation Weekend for Wisconsin Academy.

June

- 11-19 Camp Meeting at Camp Wakonda. For more information call 920-484-6555.
- 27- Jul 4 Junior Camp at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail at akking@wi.adventist.org.

July

- 4-11 Tween Camp at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail at akking@wi.adventist.org.
- 11-18 Teen Camp at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail at akking@wi.adventist.org.
- 18-25 Family Camp I at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail at akking@wi.adventist.org.
- 25- Aug 2 Family Camp II at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 or e-mail at akking@wi.adventist.org.

6th Annual Cruising' For Christ Wisconsin Academy Motorcycle Rally



- Date of event: July 23-25, 2010
- Sponsor of event: Wisconsin Academy Alumni
- E-mail Address: cruisin4christ@gmail.com
- Web Address: www.Cruisin4Christ.org
- What: 6th Annual Cruising' For Christ Wisconsin Academy Motorcycle Rally
- Where: Richland County, Cazenovia, WI
- Cost: \$100/couple; \$60/single
- Why: Celebrate God's creation from two wheels

Join other Christian bike enthusiasts riding through the country roads of Richland County Wisconsin