

# Lamp Letter

Vol. 13, No. 3  
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## From the Word

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25



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*The Lamp Letter is a bi-monthly publication of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

*To view past issues, visit the communication department on the conference website at: [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org).*

*For information or to submit articles or pictures, contact Juanita Edge, editor, at: [jedge@wi.adventist.org](mailto:jedge@wi.adventist.org) or 920-484-6555.*

## Special Camp Meeting Issue



*Thousands of Wisconsin Seventh-day Adventists gather at camp meeting each year for Biblical training, spiritual growth, and fellowship with believers.*

It was around midnight when I was jolted awake by a series of jarring blasts from the camp siren at Camp Wakonda. The walls of my spacious tent had come alive with fast-moving, strobe-like flashes. A sober and serious voice warned that a dangerous thunderstorm, with possible tornadoes, was bearing down upon Wisconsin Camp Meeting, 2010. We were advised to quickly find shelter in the more substantial buildings. Since my vulnerable nylon home sat right next to a tree-tall pole, and since atop that pole was fixed a pointed metal spike (an old-style lightning rod), and since its connecting electrical wire grounded within a few short feet of my sleepy head, I dressed quickly and joined a pajama-clad crowd moving purposefully towards the main pavilion.

In three decades of being an Adventist Christian, this was the first time I had ever fully attended an entire camp meeting with complete freedom to attend any meeting and bask in the blessings offered. And what a rich and rewarding experience! The preaching services and seminars were powerful and nourishing. The excellent music was uplifting and moving. The friendly spiritual fellowship was a positive, blessed encouragement. And the precious new books purchased at the Sunday sale were already being consumed with interest. I determined I would not miss a thing. I even filled a journal with 58 pages of handwritten notes so I would not forget it afterward!

Before it was over I purposed that I would make Wisconsin Camp Meeting an annual pilgrimage. I knew from studying denominational history how crucial these meetings had been for us as a people. Anciently God's people were commanded to attend three camp meetings each year (see Ex 23:14). God still has camp meeting blessings reserved for His people today, and I don't want to miss any of them.

Oh, and about that storm? It providentially headed in another direction, and we all safely returned to our sleeping quarters. There is another storm coming, however, the worst the world will ever experience (see Matt. 24). Camp meeting just might be one of the best places to prepare for it.

Pearo Ackles  
Beaver Dam SDA Church



# President's Perspective



## Mike's Sabbath Schedule

### May

- 7 Middleton Company
- 14 Hispanic Brotherhood
- 21 Madison Community
- 28 Wisconsin Academy

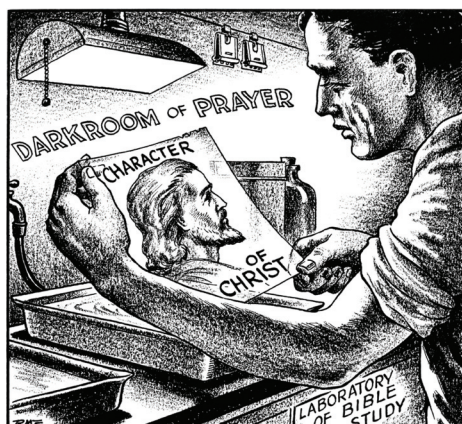
### June

- 4 Raymond Church
- 11
- 18 Camp Meeting
- 24 Camp Meeting

### July

- 2
- 9 Vacation
- 16 Vacation
- 23 Superior Church
- 30

To request speaking appointments contact Jane Gerndt at 920-484-6555 or [jgerndt@wi.adventist.org](mailto:jgerndt@wi.adventist.org).



## I Want This Year To Be Different

In just a few weeks, Adventists from around Wisconsin will be making their annual trek to camp meeting. I am eager for it to begin as I have many fond camp meeting memories:

- Sitting on a moss covered log listening to H.M.S. Richards Sr. tell stories to us eager juniors
- Mom, Dad, and all of us kids sleeping together in one of those old canvas umbrella tents
- Taking turns jumping into a bucket of water trying to keep cool in the 105+ degree heat
- Listening to the King's Heralds and the Heritage Singers - all at camp meeting.

For the past 10 years, my camp meeting memories are of Camp Wakonda, that special "set apart" place. It is exciting to see a grove of pine trees come alive with people moving into cabins and setting up tents. I've heard great preaching that stirred my soul, enjoyed music, friends, and witnessed many people commit their lives to Jesus and be baptized.

We have an opportunity at camp meeting to listen to storytellers, theologians, and musicians. We can take in meetings from before the sun comes up until after it sets each day. More than 25 speakers will share God's Word with us throughout the week.

Yet, I long for this year to be different. I want to see our camp meeting theme, *Revival and Reformation*, be more than a slogan. I want it to be the experience of everyone who enters the campgrounds.

This year can be different as each of us opens our hearts to the Holy Spirit's promptings; if we are more passionate about connecting with Jesus than ever before; if we spend time on our knees, and with our Bibles, until we can honestly express to God, "Thy will be done in every area of my life."

I want to remember Camp Meeting 2011 as a time when God started something wonderful. That it was the beginning of a new era in the Wisconsin Conference as men, women and children opened their hearts to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead completely. That with renewed commitment Wisconsin Adventists returned home alive with the Holy Spirit.

Join me in praying that each of us will experience the *Revival and Reformation* God longs to give us this camp meeting.

*Mike Edge*

Wisconsin Conference President

## Sunday Seminars

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. "By His Word" Bible Lessons | Chuck Kohley         |
| 2. Children's Ministries       | Linda Rosen          |
| 3. CHIP Seminar                | Robyn Sandin         |
| 4. Church Planting             | Marshall McKenzie    |
| 5. Church/School Websites      | Lonny Nelson         |
| 6. Clerks At Work              | Cindy Stotz          |
| 7. Community Services          | Floyd Brock          |
| 8. Family Ministries           | Calvin Thomsen       |
| 9. Homeschool Connection       | Linda Rosen          |
| 10. Small Groups               | Bill Ochs            |
| 11. Writing Class              | Gary Burns           |
| 12. Trust/Planned Giving       | W. Steward, Attorney |
| 13. Women's Devotions          | Marti Schneider      |
| 14. Youth Ministries           | Greg Taylor          |

For more information about Sunday seminars, visit [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org).

## Department Leaders

- |              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Beginners    | Caryn Erb           |
| Kindergarten | Christine Rorabeck  |
| Primary      | Jennifer Ogden      |
| Junior       | Christian Ronalds   |
| Teen         | Jean-Marcel Clouzet |
| Youth        | Mike Tuionetoa      |
| Young Adult  | Bill Ochs           |

## Sabbath School

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st Sabbath Feature      | Pathfinders           |
| 1st Sabbath Lesson Study | Lisa Isensee          |
| 2nd Sabbath Feature      | Fred and Sandy Miller |
| 2nd Sabbath Lesson Study | Arlen Mekelburg       |

## CAMP MEETING SPEAKERS 2011

### Weekend & Evening Speakers



**Don Schneider**  
*Former North American  
Division President*  
1st Weekend Speaker  
Dates: Sabbath, June 18



**Don Livesay**  
*Lake Union Conference  
President*  
2nd Weekend Speaker  
Dates: Friday, June 24 -  
Sabbath, June 25



**Ron Clouzet**  
*North American Division  
Evangelism Institute Director*  
Weekday Evening Speaker  
Dates: Monday, June 20 -  
Thursday, June 23



**Mike Edge**  
*Wisconsin Conference  
President*  
1st Friday Evening Speaker  
Dates: Friday, June 17



**The Anderson Trio**  
1st Sabbath Afternoon Concert  
Dates: Sabbath, June 18



**True North**  
1st Sabbath Afternoon Concert  
Dates: Sabbath, June 18

### Weekday Morning & Afternoon Presenters



**Greg & Lesa Budd**  
*Prayer Coordinators*  
Early Glow Sharing & Prayer  
Dates: Sabbath, June 18 -  
Sabbath, June 25



**Chuck Kohley**  
*Rhineland District Pastor*  
"By His Word" Bible Lessons  
Dates: Sunday, June 19 -  
Tuesday, June 21



**Marshall McKenzie**  
*Church Planting Coordinator,  
Milwaukee Central District  
Pastor*  
Church Planting Seminar  
Dates: Sunday, June 19 -  
Tuesday, June 21



**Titus Naftanaila**  
*Superior District Pastor*  
Early Morning Speaker  
Dates: Tuesday, June 21 -  
Wednesday, June 22



**Lonny Nelson**  
*Adventist Church Connect  
Technical Support*  
Church/School Website  
Development Class  
Dates: Sunday, June 19 -  
Thursday, June 23



**Jim Nix**  
*Ellen G. White Estate Director*  
Weekday Morning Speaker  
Dates: Monday, June 20 -  
Friday, June 24



**Bill Ochs**  
*Small Groups Coordinator,  
Green Bay District Pastor*  
Small Groups Seminar/  
Early Morning Speaker  
Dates: Sabbath, June 18 -  
Thursday, June 23



**Christian Ronalds**  
*Portage District Pastor*  
Early Morning Speaker  
Dates: Thursday, June 23 -  
Sabbath, June 25



**Linda Rosen**  
*Superintendent of Education*  
Children's Ministries Seminar  
Dates: Sunday, June 19 -  
Thursday, June 23



**Robyn Sandin**  
*Family Practice Doctor at  
Chippewa Valley Hospital*  
CHIP Seminar  
Dates: Sunday, June 19 -  
Friday, June 24



**Ranko Stefanovic**  
*Professor of New Testament at  
Andrews University Theological  
Seminary*  
Morning Speaker  
Dates: Monday, June 20 -  
Friday, June 24



**Cindy Stotz**  
*Conference Clerk/Asst.  
Treasurer*  
Clerks At Work Seminar  
Dates: Sunday, June 19,  
Thursday, June 23



**Calvin Thomsen**  
*Pastor for Family Life Ministries  
Loma Linda University Church*  
Family Ministries Seminar  
Dates: Sunday, June 19 -  
Friday, June 24



**James Fox**  
*Ministerial, Evangelism, Per-  
sonal Ministries Director*  
ShareHim Training/Lay Pastor  
Orientation  
Dates: Monday, June 20 -  
Thursday, June 23

#### Camp Meeting Media

Audio or video recordings of most meetings and presentations will be available for purchase in either DVD or MP3 format. These may be purchased during camp meeting through the Adventist Book Center, or later through the conference office.



# Camp Meeting

## Hallelujah Hustle: Building Community & Encouraging Wellness



Friends watch as Wayne, village resident, rolls a virtual ball in Wii Bowling.

Lace up your shoes and get ready to go! Spring is right around the corner. That means camp meeting will be here before we know it. And with camp meeting comes the Hallelujah Hustle 5k run/walk. On Sunday, June 19, runners and walkers will line up for the fifth-annual Hallelujah Hustle.

Each year, proceeds from the Hallelujah Hustle are used for wellness-related donations to the village of Westfield. On February 8, members of the Hallelujah Hustle planning committee presented Nintendo Wii Fit exercise equipment, along with money for the senior meals program, to the new Senior/Community Center. Megan Hockerman, deputy clerk and treasurer for the village, said, "The seniors are so excited. We are in the process of putting a bowling tournament together. We so appreciate everything your group has done for our village."

While most camp meeting attendees do not know anyone in Westfield, the community knows us. The thousands of visitors during camp meeting week do not go unnoticed. Dean Alexander, village board chair, said how grateful the community is to have the extra business from visitors during the summer. And, something as simple as grocery shopping habits makes an impression. "I used to own the grocery store, years ago," Dean said. "When your church started coming here, we had to change our model at the store and order more fruits and vegetables."

We encourage you to participate in this year's run/walk. Register before May 14 and you'll be guaranteed a limited-edition race t-shirt, as well as saving on your race fee (\$12 before May 14, \$15 thereafter). This year's race will feature separate men's and women's divisions. For a race application, visit [www.hallelujahhustle.com](http://www.hallelujahhustle.com) or call 608-882-5432. For updates or to join the community of race participants, search for Hallelujah Hustle on Facebook.

Kristi Brown Lust  
Hallelujah Hustle Coordinator

## Camp Meeting Notices

### Wakonda Workbee - May 22 & 23

Please join us to help prepare our beautiful facility for camp meeting and summer camp 2011. Meals provided. Lodging provided if you work both days. For more information on what to bring, call:

Jim Johnson - 608-697-8188  
Floyd Brock - 920-344-9600  
Steve Aust - 920-219-0113

### Meal Tickets

Meal tickets will be available during camp meeting at the administration office. Tickets may be purchased and mailed to you prior to June 8. Meal tickets will not be available for purchase during Sabbath hours. To order, call Jean Schwark at 920-484-6555.

### Meal Ticket Prices

	Adult 11-59	Child 3-10	Senior 60 & up
Breakfast	\$6.75	\$5.75	\$6.25
Lunch	\$7.25	\$6.25	\$6.75
Supper	\$7.25	\$6.25	\$6.75

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, June 23, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Cedar Lodge at Camp Wakonda. Sign up for an appointment in the administration office before 10:00 am on Thursday.

### ABC Sunday Sale

Take advantage of some great buys on Sunday, June 19 at 9:00 am in Pioneer Pavillion. Prices good only during this limited time sale.

For a complete camp meeting menu, visit us on the web at:

[wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org)

### Camp Meeting Choir & Orchestra

Enjoy singing? Enjoy playing in an orchestra? Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy both as we combine the two for the second Sabbath of camp meeting. Practices will be held in Pioneer Pavillion. Times will be announced. See you there! - *Lavenda Tuionetoa*

### Get A Camp Meeting Cabin

Would you like a camp meeting cabin? Jump to the head of the waiting list by purchasing a cabin (1/2 of one) for the camp. Your regular rental rate will be waved for three years. You get a cabin and you bless the camp. The cost is \$2,000. For more details call Elder Habenicht at 920-484-6555.

## Help Wanted

### Restroom Janitors

Several more restroom janitor positions are open. If interested, call:

Kevin Inglett - 608-566-4910  
Jerry Minett - 608-745-1378

### ABC Truck Driver

The ABC Is looking for a truck driver to make a few trips between WI, MN, and IL. Must have a commercial driver's license (CDL). Call:

Lynette Miller - 920-484-3120

### Cafeteria Workers

If you are interested in working in the cafeteria or dish room during camp meeting, contact:

Jean Schwark - 920-484-6555  
[jschwark@wi.adventist.org](mailto:jschwark@wi.adventist.org)

### Food Demonstrators

The ABC is looking for people to do food demonstrations during camp meeting. If interested, call:

Lynette Miller - 920-484-3120



## Camp Meeting Policies 2011 (abbreviated)

As you prepare for Camp Meeting 2011, you may find this abbreviated list of policies helpful. A complete list of current camp meeting policies is available at [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org) or in the camp meeting program.

### RENTAL POLICIES

1. Please come prepared to present your camper ID card to the attendant at the entrance or to the locating office upon arrival.
2. Accommodations unoccupied Sunday morning will be available for rental to others unless the locating office is notified.
3. Each campsite is designated for one family only.
4. The rental of a cabin or campsite is for the duration of camp meeting only.
5. Our electrical service is limited. Please limit multiple use of electrical devices. Running either A/C or microwave is appropriate. Running both simultaneously is not.
6. Cabins and full service sites can be sublet only twice before they revert back to the conference. All subletting is to be processed through the conference. Remember, private subletting by-passes those on the waiting list, and makes "first renters" liable to forfeit rental privileges.
7. If you reserve a site, then find you cannot attend, your payment may be transferred to the next year. The office will sublet your site for the year you are gone. This allows someone to attend who needs a place to stay.
8. Cabin locks and keys are maintained by the camp. A \$5 key deposit is required. Keys are to be returned at the end of camp meeting. Private locks will be removed.
9. Cabins for 2012 must be paid for in full by Wednesday, June 22, 2011. Failure to do so makes the site available to another on Thursday morning. To hold non-cabin sites, 50% must be paid on June 22, 2011.
10. Any renter shall lose his or her rights to re-rent or remain in any accommodation if it is found to be occupied by minor children or young people without proper chaperonage.

### GENERAL POLICIES

1. Golf carts are allowed for the transportation of handicapped people only. Driver must be 18 or older. Permits are issued by security and must be displayed on carts at all times.
2. For the health and safety of all campers, pets of any kind are not to be at camp meeting. See website for listing of area kennels.
3. One vehicle may be parked by your designated campsite, facing out. All other vehicles should be parked in designated parking lots. Vehicles must not be used to sleep in overnight.

### THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED

1. Tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drugs
2. Fishing
3. Using candles or campfires
4. Firearms and fireworks of any kind, including BB guns and slingshots
5. Water guns, squirting toys, and water balloons except as provided by the camp for organized events
6. Bicycles, scooters, or skateboards
7. Unicycles (except in designated area and time)

### CAMP MEETING RATES FOR 2012

Daily Rates		Weekly Rates	
Cabin	\$26	Cabin	\$220
Full Service	\$26	Full Service	\$220
Water/Electric	\$18	Water/Electric	\$175
Electric/Sewer	\$14	Electric/Sewer	\$115
Dorm Room	\$12	Dorm Room	\$89
No Electric	\$8	No Electric	\$78

## Hawk Visits Pathfinders



Licensed falconer, Jim Herron, brought his red-tailed hawk to demonstrate falconry lessons with the Wisconsin Valley Falcons Pathfinder Club in Wausau.

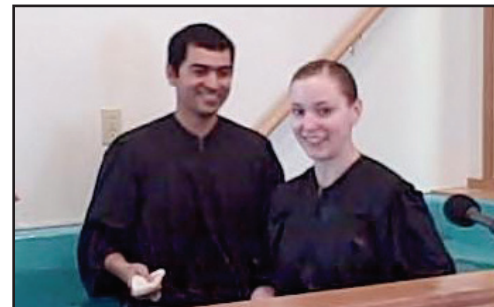
"When Mr. Herron released the hawk, it swooped down and flew just a few inches over our heads," reported Kelly Lorenz. "We could feel the wind from its beating wings on our heads!"

Emily Anderson said, "Mr. Herron gave me a leather glove and a piece of quail meat. When the hawk saw the meat, he flew from the basketball backboard and landed on my gloved hand. It was really cool!"

Before the demonstration was over, each pathfinder was able to hold the hawk.

Charlyn Marsh  
Wisconsin Valley Falcons Pathfinder Club Director

## My New Life in Christ



I was raised Catholic. However, the older I got, the more questions I had and many of the answers I got did not satisfy me. After my confirmation, I stopped going to church almost completely. Yet, I still wanted to learn more about Jesus and the Scripture. That is when I started attending the Baraboo SDA church. At first, it was a lot to take in. The lifestyle was quite different from what I was used to, but as I grew closer to God, it got much easier. I started praying more than I had in years. I was beginning to feel at peace with myself.

However, not every aspect of my life was so easy. I managed a restaurant and it was extremely hard to get Sabbath off. The company I worked for tried to demote me because of the scheduling conflicts, but God had other plans for me. Soon, I was blessed to find a new job with all Sabbaths off. Many other wonderful things have happened over the past few years and I know it was God who made all of these things possible. I began studying for baptism with Pastor Christian Ronalds, and Debbie and Bruce Yngsdal. Everyone at the Baraboo SDA church was so supportive and welcoming.

When I was baptized on January 8, 2011, I felt like a whole new person. I am convinced that the decision I made to get baptized was exactly what I needed in my life. I could not be happier. I thank God everyday for all of the wonderful people in my life. They have helped me through everything and given me support through this amazing transition into my new life in Christ.

Tonya Laufenberg  
Baraboo SDA Church

## Wakonda Wish List

As you do your spring cleaning this year, keep Camp Wakonda in mind. We would like to build up a supply of ice skates, cross-country skis and boots, snowshoes, and sleds. This way, groups that come out in the winter can enjoy it to the fullest.

If you have any of these items unused in your garage and would like them to get good use, bring them with you to camp meeting this year. Your donations will be greatly appreciated!

Greg Taylor  
Youth Director



### Brian Stephan New Executive Secretary/Treasurer



On March 26, 2011, Brian Stephan accepted the call to serve as executive secretary/treasurer for the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He currently serves as undertreasurer and association treasurer in the Michigan Conference.

"It is a real privilege to be able to serve in Wisconsin, and very humbling," says Brian. "We look forward to serving and will do everything we can to be what the Lord wants us to be. We're excited about this opportunity."

Brian was born in Eau Claire, WI. His father pastored in Eau Claire, and later Green Bay. "My father took me into a department store in Madison," recalls Brian. "Bart Starr was there signing his black and white pictures. I stood in line to get one, and have been hooked on the Packers ever since." Brian's father became principal of Wisconsin Academy in the 1960's, while Brian attended Peterson Elementary. Brian graduated from Andrews University with a BA in Business Administration in 1978 and an MBA with an accounting emphasis in 1980. He was hired as a business intern by the Michigan Conference in 1980, and has continued to serve in various treasury positions there for the past 31 years.

Brian and his wife Cindy were married in November of 2003. Cindy has worked in various secretarial roles for the Michigan Conference for the past 8 years. She enjoys cooking, camping, and being with her family. Brian has a daughter, Jessica, who lives in Denver, Colorado, and a son, Craig, who will graduate from Southern Adventist University this spring with a degree in nursing. Cindy has one son, Dalton, who will be a sophomore in academy this fall.

Brian's number one hobby is bird watching. He also enjoys running, watching sports, and spending time with family.

Juanita Edge  
Communication Director

### Keith Nelson New Principal for Wisconsin Academy

On March 18, 2011, Keith Nelson accepted the call to serve as principal at Wisconsin Academy. Keith comes to us from Greeneville Adventist Academy in Tennessee, where he has been principal for the past ten years.

"The Lord has great things in store for the future of Wisconsin Academy," says Keith. "I believe Adventist education is not a luxury, but a responsibility and an obligation we have to the youth of our church. It will be my privilege to work hand in hand with Wisconsin churches and schools to market and maintain quality Adventist education for all of God's children."

Keith and his wife, Andrea, have two children. Their son, Ryan, will be a sophomore at Wisconsin Academy this fall. Their daughter, Kari, will be a freshman.

Keith was born in São Paulo, Brazil, and grew up in a medical missionary home. "Father was an outdoor enthusiast," recalls Keith. "He instilled a desire and sparked my love for nature. Two of our pets were a boa constrictor and a scarlet macaw." After his family returned to the United States, Keith graduated from Forest Lake Academy and attended Southern Adventist University, earning a BA in Biology with secondary teaching endorsements in religion and the sciences. He also worked as nature director and later, as camp director at Camp Kulaqua.

"I met Andrea, my wife, in biology class," says Keith. "We were both biology majors. Later, she applied to work at Camp Kulaqua and I hired her as a girls' counselor. One Friday night in June of 1990, I packed a picnic lunch, canoed her out to 'Tree House Island' and proposed to her."

After they married, Keith and Andrea moved to Bismarck, ND, where Keith taught science and later served as vice principal from 1993-2001. Andrea, realizing she and Keith would always be competing for the same jobs, returned to school and became certified to teach elementary, kindergarten and pre-kindergarten. In 2001 Keith accepted a call to be principal of Greeneville Adventist Academy, a PreK-12 school in Greeneville, TN, where he has served for the past ten years. In 2007 Keith earned a MS Ed. in Administration and Supervision.

"I love anything to do with aquatics and sports," says Keith. "I love canoeing, and have always dreamed of canoeing the boundary waters. Now I'll be close enough to do it." He also likes mountain biking, soccer, floor hockey, and disc golf.

Keith enjoys public speaking and looks forward to preaching in area churches. "My relationships with Christ and with people are what's important to me."

The Nelsons plan to move to Wisconsin this summer in preparation for the 2011-2012 school year.

Juanita Edge  
Communication Director







## God's Second Book

The other day I saw a commercial for a video game that required you to strap on electronic bands so you could participate in a game by running, jumping, kicking, throwing and all else. Though I applaud the improvements from the normal junk that we see in games these days, I kept thinking, "If you are gonna do all that, why not play the actual game?"

In 1999 I fell in love with camp ministry. At first it was difficult for me to pinpoint what made camp ministry so special. I have been involved in a variety of ministries throughout the years, but summer camp has always held a special place in my heart. Now, looking back on it, I think I know the answer. Camp provides the opportunity to explore God's first book (the Bible) while being surrounded by God's second book (nature). I'm reminded of Psalm 19:1-3:

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.*

*Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*

*They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.*

The first time this passage truly impacted me was on a beautiful summer's night at camp. I was able to connect with David's words realizing that long ago he looked at the same stars in the same sky.

Camp provides the opportunity for young people to unplug the headphones, sign out of Facebook and take a break from texting so that they are able to fellowship with friends and commune with God in His creation. Camp provides leadership and ministry opportunities for our senior youth as well as a safe family environment to enjoy together.

Let us pray for the ministry at Camp Wakonda this summer. We hope to see you there.

Greg Taylor  
Youth Director

## Our Gift Annuity



We heard at the Lay Advisory meeting that our conference offers gift annuities. We were getting hardly anything on our CD investments, and when we went to renew them, they offered us even less. We decided a gift annuity would be a good way to meet our needs and benefit the Lord's work.

It just involved a simple call to the conference office and filling out an application. We went from receiving 2% to a fixed rate of 7.6%. This rate is available as long as either of us lives, and we don't have to worry about reinvesting. Part of the return is tax-free as well.

Another important reason we purchased a gift annuity is the conviction that we are living in the end of time. The time will come when our money is worthless. This gift annuity is an answer for us.

For more information on gift annuities, contact Richard Habenicht, (920) 484-6555 ext. 311, or [dickhabe@wi.adventist.org](mailto:dickhabe@wi.adventist.org)

Everett & Isabelle Edminster  
Oxford SDA Church

## The Impossible is Possible With God

When I look at the children of Israel trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army, from a human standpoint, they were doomed. There was no way they were prepared to fight Pharaoh's trained soldiers and there was no way they could get across the Red Sea. And even if there was no Red Sea, with all their flocks, their children and their old people they couldn't move fast enough to escape from Pharaoh's army.

But God had an answer. He made a way of escape through the sea for the Israelites and then God used that same way of escape to destroy Pharaoh's army. What a God!

We face a big challenge to fund our local churches, our conference, and our academy in these tough times. We may at times feel like we are between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea, but we have a big God who wants to grow our faith as we see what He can do through us.

If you have not been contributing to Wisconsin Budget I want to appeal to you to join your fellow members across the conference and test God. See if He will continue to meet your needs if you add 2% to your giving for Wisconsin Budget.

Richard Habenicht  
Stewardship Ministries Director

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2011	2010	% Change
March Gross Tithe Income:	\$520,277.38	\$501,468.23	3.75%
YTD Gross Tithe Income:	\$1,540,167.29	\$1,519,101.27	1.39%
March Wisconsin Budget:	\$25,930.24	\$17,064.49	51.95%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$87,719.08	\$51,246.58	71.17%

### GROSS TITHE INCOME

Our conference uses 61% of gross tithe to support pastors and other ministries in Wisconsin. We send 39% of gross tithe on to higher church organizations, such as the Lake Union, North American Division, the General Conference, and Andrews University where it is used for wider ministry including world missions.

(Year to date tithe includes a significant one-time tithe contribution in January)

### WISCONSIN BUDGET INCOME

Each dollar received as Wisconsin Budget stays in Wisconsin and is distributed as follows:

Wisconsin Academy Operations	65.63%
W.A. financial assistance	17.19%
Evangelism	13.75%
Church, camp, W.A. capital funds	3.43%

(Percentages voted March 27, 2011 Statistical Review, Executive Committee)



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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## Wisconsin Conference Calendar of Events

May	10	Pastor's Meeting - Video Conference
	14	W.A. Spring Concert
	14	Hispanic Brotherhood Day
	15	W.A. Academy Day
	17	K-12 Board - W.A.
	18	Executive Committee - Conference Office
	20-21	Pathfinder Fair - Camp Wakonda
	20	Seventh-dawn - Madison East
	21-28	JAHWI Week of Prayer
	22-23	Wakonda Work Bee Conference Office Closed
	27-29	W.A. Graduation Weekend
June	2	Teacher's Inservice - Conference Office
	3-5	Hispanic Youth Ministries Training - Andrews University
	3-5	Lay Pastor Training - Conference Office
	13-16	Camp Pitch

July	14-18	SEEDS - Blue Mountain Academy
	17-25	Camp Meeting
	26	Camp Staff Training
	3-10	Junior Camp
	10-17	Tween Camp
	10	JAHWI Sports Day
	17-24	Teen Camp
	24-31	Family Camp I
	29-31	Hispanic Couples Retreat - JC Plaza Hotel

### More Calendar Information

Further information about many upcoming events is available on the conference website. Some events are accessible directly from the front page. For the rest, visit the conference calendar and click on an event to learn more. We will provide detailed information as it becomes available.

[wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org)

## Wisconsin Academy Visitation Day - May 15

Wisconsin Academy invites all students currently in 7th through 11th grades.

This day involves games, tours and introductions of current students and staff.

10:00 – 10:30	Brunch will be provided for all
10:30	Registration in the Ad Bldg
10:45 – 11:00	Worship in the Chapel
11:00 – 2:30	Tours / Activities
2:30 – 3:00	Assembly

Come spend a great day on the campus of Wisconsin Academy.

Each student who attends must be accompanied by an adult.

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