Lamp Letter

From the Word

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."

I Cor. 12:4,6,7

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20 New Members Join Clear Lake



Can traditional evangelism still be effective in our busy society? Twenty people were baptized in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, a town of 1,200 people, when the Clear Lake Adventist church held prophecy meetings with evangelist Steven DeLong October - November of 2012. Here are a few of the newly baptized member's stories.

Jeff and Sheryle Colombo and their children regularly read the Bible and pray for God to guide their understanding. One day Sheryle discovered from her Bible that the seventh day, Saturday, was the Sabbath, not Sunday. She shared her discovery with Jeff. Both became convicted they should keep the Bible Sabbath, and shared their new belief with their Sunday pastor. The idea was not accepted by their pastor or fellow members. They began to keep Sabbath at home and had started listening to Doug Batchelor, a Sabbath-keeping pastor on TV, when the advertisement for Pastor Delong's meetings arrived.

Linea Mortenson had not attended church for several years. "I felt my spiritual soul was beginning to dry up," said Mortenson. "Yet when I received the advertisement for Pastor Delong's meetings, I felt a need to get back with God." When Mortenson realized the meetings were hosted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she suddenly remembered her mother telling her years earlier, "The Seventh-day Adventists are right."

Marvin and Cheryl Blok loved the Lord, but had not been attending a church for some time. Cheryl began to pray, "Lord, if you want us back in church, please show me where to go." The next day an advertisement for Pastor Delong's meetings arrived in their mail. Marvin and Cheryl didn't miss one meeting.

Mark and Linda Miller listened to religious services on TV rather than attending a church when they received an advertisement about Pastor Delong's prophecy meetings. Linda was hospitalized at the time, but Mark decided to attend the meetings. Mark went to work, went to the hospital, and went to every meeting save one, driving 264 miles a day. Linda joined Mark after her hospital stay and they faithfully attended every night, sitting in the front row. Mark said, "We learned more in those 30 days than we have in our entire lives."

Curtis Denney Rice Lake District Pastor

Wisconsin SAGE Ministry

President's Perspective



Mike's Sabbath Schedule

March

- 2 Shawano
- 9 Conference Office Retreat
- 16 Madison Community
- 23 Lake Union ASI

April

- 6 Vacation
- 13 Stevens Point
- 20 W.A. Alumni Weekend
- 27 Middleton

May

- 4 Reedsburg/Baraboo
- 11 Hispanic Brotherhood
- 18 Milwaukee Central Spanish
- 25 Middleton

June

- 1 Loma Linda
- 15 Camp Meeting
- 22 Camp Meeting

To request speaking appointments contact Elder Edge at mgedge@wi.adventist.org.

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Willing to be Used by God

We rejoice that this past year 270 people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wisconsin through baptism and profession of faith. Many would not now be Adventists if it wasn't for the friendship of faithful members who went out of their way to make friends for God. As you read this *Lamp Letter* I believe you will discover that God can use anyone, at any time, at any age, to lead someone close to Jesus. And often it starts with making a friend.

I am encouraged by the many avenues that are available to develop friendships that will lead people to Jesus. Danilo Colindres and Michael Ehm, are dedicated to training Milwaukee members to make friends through Bible workers. Pastors and lay people are planning to hold over 40 evangelistic meetings in 2013. Our schools and Pathfinder clubs are attracting young people from their communities who can be led to Jesus. Men and women are taking the ShareHim materials and beginning many small group Bible studies in their neighborhoods.

At the recent "Jesus, All or Nothing" youth congress, 98 young adults from Wisconsin were challenged to go back to their churches and share the love of God with their friends and communities. That Sabbath evening I sat in awe as I listened to many of our own young adults publicly share the plans they have to go back to their churches and lead people to Jesus this year. Through public campus ministries, small-group Bible studies, starting Pathfinder clubs, door-to door visitation, etc., we have at least a part of the "army of youth rightly trained," spoken of by Ellen White, that God can use powerfully right here in Wisconsin.

God is in the habit of taking people who are willing to be used by Him and doing great things through them. Think what could happen if each of our conference's 7,520 members responded to God's call and made a friend for God this year. May each of us be willing.

Michael & Edge

Wisconsin Conference President

Witnessing Advice from A Wisconsin Centenarian

Marie Hayden of the Menomonie Adventist church is 100 years old, but that doesn't keep her from sharing Jesus.

"I used to be ashamed of my religion and avoided talking about it." Says Hayden. "But I've gotten bolder as the years go by. If someone doesn't agree with me I just say, 'That's fine. Let's see what the Lord says about it.' I never want to get into an argument."

In 2012 she held Bible studies by telephone with a long-time friend who lives some distance away. Recently Hayden shared literature with her hairdresser and now they are making plans to start studying the Bible together in Marie's home.

"I've concluded that the best way to share Jesus is to be friends to start with," advises Hayden. "Let people know your religion is not going to affect your friendship.

"The other thing to do is tell them what the Lord has done for you. Also, every time I talk to anybody I try to draw the Lord into the conversation, saying, 'Doesn't it seem like the Lord is really helping you?' If someone comments on something I've done, or my age, I always let them know it is only by the power of God I'm able to do anything. We need to bring Jesus into everything we do and say.

"For a while I started getting depressed because all my friends were dying off. I'm the oldest person in our church and our community too, I think. But then I had to give myself an attitude adjustment. God has me here for a reason. I try to keep saying little things to point people to Jesus. I have a lot to be thankful for."

Juanita Edge Communication Director



Vews and Events

Peter Braun Baptized in Raymond Church



For a long time I felt like I didn't need to be baptized. I was baptized as a Catholic baby and have always been a Christian who believes in Jesus Christ. My wife, Kristie, was baptized a few years ago into the Adventist church. We both studied the Bible with Jim and Carie Hilt and attended church together, but something always held me back.

Maybe it was fear of the unknown. Maybe it was that I am very independent by nature and don't like to be told what to do. Maybe I could blame it on the fact that I am an analytical person and work as a scientist. Some of it was insecurity. I've always felt that my knowledge of the Bible and history was lacking even though I attended Catholic schools for 12 years. Whatever the reason, I needed time to study, think and pray.

Yet something kept me coming back to the Raymond Adventist church. The members encouraged me but they didn't push me. I am blessed with a beautiful wife and many Adventist friends. I see now that the Holy Spirit worked through them to help me realize I don't have to know everything in the Bible. What matters is that I accept Jesus in my heart and let Him be the guide.

I attended Cheri Ricchio's and Dennis Hulett's baptism into the Raymond Adventist church last year. As I stood there watching, I suddenly started to sweat a little, and it wasn't from the heat. I wasn't planning to make a decision that day, but as Pastor Ancheta asked if there was anyone else present who wanted to commit to Christ, the Lord put his hand on my shoulder and I stepped forward.

It was not a conscious decision, but as I stepped forward, I felt an overwhelming release of happiness. I am really excited to have committed myself to Jesus in baptism.

Weekly Conference Calls Share Gospel With Hmong



Pastor Ko Saelee is sharing the Adventist message on an ongoing basis with people he has never met. Every week 30 to 80 people join a conference call to hear Pastor Ko share the gospel in their own Hmong language. These "radio broadcasts," as the Hmong call them, provide question and answer times which often continue beyond the scheduled hours. They call for a two hour session on the weekends, and a one hour session each Wednesday. One session in January lasted into the wee hours of the morning.

When Pastor Ko first began speaking, there were many questions and objections. But over time, as Pastor Ko patiently shared Bible answers, regular listeners have become more trustful and open-minded. Several individuals, including a conference call host, are now very supportive of the Adventist message.

The weekend session is on a religious station, and the Wednesday session is on an entertainment station. While most listeners are traditional Hmong animists, involved in ancester and spirit worship, this entertainment station reaches a broader range of individuals, including people with Buddist and various Christian denominational backgrounds.

Share these "radio" conference call numbers with your Hmong friends:

Wednesday 9:00–10:00 pm Number: 206-402-0770 Code: 52#

Sabbath and Sunday 10:00 pm-12:00 am Number: 712- 432-5225 Code: 568490#

Learn more about these programs and how you can reach your Hmong neighbors: 608-772-1248 or *pksaelee@gmail.com*.

First LUC Youth Congress in 25 Years



C 'm all fired up," said Wisconsin young adult Owen, as he shared his idea to develop a motor cross as a witnessing tool in his community. "Let's get this going!" Owen was one of the 436 delegates at the *Jesus, All or Nothing* Youth Congress held in Chicago February 8-10, 2013.

Pastors across the Lake Union hand picked young adults from their churches to come receive inspiration, training, and practical tools to help them be witnesses for Jesus. The goal was to empower talented young adults across our union to use their talents and gifts for the Lord in their home churches.

Presenters shared practical ways they've found to get involved with local community people, like helping at food banks, reading to the elderly, providing support for new moms, public campus ministries, youth community services, and much more. The Lake Union even offered \$16,000 to support local young adult projects that are backed by their local church pastors.

Saturday night attendees met by conferences and young adults shared what ministries they felt called to begin. Then Elder James Fox shared how to make outreach proposals to pastors and church boards. Elder Mike Edge concluded by leading our 98 Wisconsin delegates in a powerful time of prayer.

These young adults have a genuine excitement to go do something great for God. Please keep them in your prayers and support them in starting these new ministries.

> Greg Taylor Wisconsin Conference Youth Director

Wisconsin Conference has a facebook page. Come like us at: *http://www.facebook.com/WI.Adventist.*



Walk for Life is Part of 3 Million Mile Project



Did you know Adventists walked 2 million miles of Michele Obama's 3 million mile *Let's Move* initiative to get people across North America more active? And we've done it the past two years in a row? It has some people asking, "Who are those Adventists?"

Here's how to get involved. Report your *Walk* for Life miles on the Wisconsin Conference website. We add your miles to the NAD's *In Step for Life* 2 million mile goal and then to Michelle's *Let's Move* initiative. Make a difference in your life and someone else's by joining *Walk for Life*. Learn how at *wi.adventist.org*.

Juanita Edge Communication Director

Free Laptops for Lay ShareHim Evangelists



The Conference in conjunction with Milwaukee Miracles has committed \$20,000 to equip approved people with laptop computers for evangelism. You commit to holding four ShareHim outreach events over two years, and the computer is yours for free.

Lay people must be equipped to do soulwinning, and finances are not to be a deterrent. Many ShareHim trainers are available in Wisconsin, and training events are being scheduled to teach approved willing persons in using the ShareHim software.

It you are interested, you may obtain an application by contacting your pastor or a trainer. Those receiving approval will receive the training and computer.

We have a commission. People need Jesus, and are waiting for someone to share Him. Milwaukee Miracles needs you to act on that call.

Melum Finds Disaster Response "Invigorating"



When disaster response training came to the Hudson Adventist church in October, 2012, Janis Melum wondered, "Is this something I should take?" She decided to take the class just to learn what everyone did to help in a disaster. "I never dreamed that I would go and work," said Melum.

When Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast in November, Melum decided to join a team of volunteers headed to New Jersey for a 10-day disaster response.

Melum started work sorting and packing goods side by side with other volunteers. Soon, however, Melum was supervising the volunteers from the area churches who had never been trained. "The volunteers were such willing workers," said Melum. "Some days we would have only 2-3 volunteers and lots to do, then other days we would have 20 volunteers. But God always sent us what we needed to get the work done."

Melum was fondly called "house mother" by the volunteers. Along with being work supervisor, she took care of transportation, cleaning bathrooms, helped fix food and even became a certified forklift driver. Melum was such a blessing, she was asked to stay on for another month, which she did.

When asked if she would ever volunteer to work in a warehouse again, Janis replied, "In a minute! It was so invigorating and I felt so blessed to be able to help. You always receive more that you give. If I can do it, anybody can!"

"Janis was a great team member and such a blessing," said Joe Watts, NAD ACS Disaster Response Director. "She's a great lady."

Learn more about Disaster Response. Contact Alice Garrett at *agarrett@wi.adventist.org.*

Wisconsin Adventist Community Service Coordinator

Alice Garrett

Whiseant Joins Clear Water Lake Church



Where are you going?" asked Ardell Whiseant as Wayne Powers walked down the apartment building hall. "To church," said Powers. "Want to come with me?" Whiseant went, and started attending the church regularly. A few weeks later Powers, along with Ray and Gail Cress, began studying the Bible with her using the "By His Word" DVD studies. On August 25, 2012, Whiseant joined the Clear Water Lake Adventist church. "I learned a lot in those Bible studies. Jesus means so much to me. I couldn't do without Him."

Communication Director

Hillside Students Reach Out to Sandy Hook



Hillside students helped Pastor Puedivan create a video for the parents of the children killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Each student drew a picture of one of the victums, wrote a short message, and Pastor Rowell took video and still photos of what the students created. He then made a video montage of those clips with background songs. "The video is amazing," said Charlyn Marsh. "I couldn't believe he made it in one afternoon!" DVD's were made and sent to the parents of Sandy Hook victims.

News and Event:

Scott Baker New Manager at Camp Wakonda April 1



n February 15, Scott Baker accepted the position of manager/ranger of Camp Wakonda. Scott and his wife, Tammi, have been in camp ministry for 18 years, serving at Camp Au Sable in Michigan for 11 years, and then Sunset Lake Camp in Washington where they have been for the past 7 years. They have two adult children, Kayla and Nolan. "It's a privilege to watch people grow closer to Jesus at camp in the beauty of nature," says Baker. "I'm excited to serve the folks in Wisconsin and look forward to meeting everyone."

Ehm New Bible Worker Trainer in Milwaukee



ichael Ehm is the new Bible worker trainer for Milwaukee Miracles. Ehm. a graduate of Wisconsin Academy, graduated with an AA degree in Bible Work and Evangelism from Arise, and an AA degree in Religion from Andrews University. "I'm excited to help people go out there and give Bible studies," says Ehm. "Lots of people want to share the Bible, they just need to be prepared. I'll show them how it's done. When we lift up Jesus, He draws people to Himself." Contact Ehm at mehm@wi.adventist.org.

> Juanita Edge Communication Director

Johnson Retires April 1 New WA Alumni President and Moves to Michigan



Linda Schroeder Skilton

inda Schroeder Skilton, class of 1970, is Wisconsin Academy's new Alumni Association president as of February 1, 2013. Linda's first responsibility is Wisconsin Academy's Homecoming Weekend, April 19-21, 2013. Pastor Bob Stauffer is the weekend keynote speaker. Linda is married to Bob Skilton, lives in Fall River, WI, and currently works as Director of Nurses for the Lake County Health and Rehabilitation Center in Oconomowac. She can be contacted at robertskilton@centurytel.net.



That a joy it has been to serve in the Wisconsin Conference these past 19 years. We love Camp Wakonda, our precious friends, family, and all the groups that have come to camp to draw closer to God. We thank all the precious volunteers who have worked beside us to make this camp a better place...you all are greatly appreciated. You have left footprints on our hearts that will never be forgotten. Looking forward to the day when we will be reunited in heaven, where there'll be no more goodbyes!

Three Youth Baptized in The Shepherd's House



n November 17, 2012, Maria Sajdak, Laura Chavarria, and Eric Schmalfus declared their love for Jesus by baptism into the Shepherd's House Adventist church. Pastor Rowell Puedivan has been studying the Bible with each of these young people. He reminded them, "Baptism does not mean that Satan will leave you alone, but with Jesus you will not fight the battle alone."

> Pam Krueger The Shepherd's House Church

Shepherd's House Plans Youth Events



outh members of The Shepherd's House enjoyed a horse-drawn sleigh ride in newly fallen snow on December 23, 2012. This was one of the many youth events the church is planning to provide encouragement, fellowship, and lasting relationships with each other and the church. The sleigh ride, hot food and bonfire created a great Christmas mood.

On Youth Sabbath, January 5, 2013, youth enjoyed a light breakfast at church. After Sabbath School Pastor Greg Taylor, youth director for the Wisconsin Conference, with his wife Kim, shared about how to have lasting relationships.

Juanita Edge Communication Directo

Juanita Edge Communication Director

Wisconsin Budget



News and Events



A s we work toward entering the final 2012 financial statement figures, we echo the Psalmist words, "O give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people." Psalm 105:1 (NKJ) As we look back we can certainly see the evidence of His "deeds" as reflected by your generous support of His ministry here in the Wisconsin Conference.

With this uncertain economy it was looking a few months back like we might experience a substantial tithe loss in 2012. As the final December donations came in, we ended up with a loss of less than ½ of one percent (.49%) compared with 2011. In actual dollars it amounts to under \$33,000.00. This is quite remarkable, for in 2011 we experienced an extra Sabbath and a 3.27% tithe increase over the previous year.

Wisconsin Budget last year had an increase of over 43%. That represents a dollar increase over the previous year of over \$104,000 with a total given of \$341,340.21. This year's Wisconsin Budget offering was down just over 12% for a total year amount given of \$298,804.87. While it is a decrease, it still represents a substantial gain over previous years' giving levels. Once again your faithful and systematic support of this important offering is appreciated and essential to evangelism plans and our academy.

The budget will still be tight in 2013. Rising pension, healthcare and everyday expenses with level or falling income makes a balanced budget difficult, however, with God's blessing and direction we know He will see us through. We already see His leading in several directions for 2013. Wisconsin Academy is diligently working to provide student labor that can bring in true income and provide meaningful work experience for the students. W.A. Industries opened a thrift store on February 11. This provides several student jobs and promises to be a positive outreach to the community. The store is located in a portion of the industries building just off Highway 16.

In addition, a small packaging business will provide another 6 to 8 student jobs. Plans are also underway for a summer work program that will include agricultural jobs in addition to the thrift store and packaging business. W.A. Industries committee continues to look for additional job opportunities for our students.

We are also about ready to launch a new registration process for camp meeting that will not only provide online registration but additional payment options like credit card and e-checks. We hope to have this up and running within the next two months. More information will be coming on this but we think this will not only make the process more efficient but more convenient for all as well.

God also showed us the evidence of His "deeds" by blessing us with 270 baptisms and professions of faith in 2012. Over 40 evangelism events are planned for this year. These meetings and studies will be conducted by both pastors and members. We are looking for many around our state to be introduced to a loving Savior through these efforts.

Please keep these plans and events in your prayers. Again, thank you for your continued support as we seek to spread the gospel in Wisconsin. Pray earnestly how God can use you to help in this great harvest time of earth's history. May many be waiting for the Lord's soon return as a result of our united efforts to reach souls for the kingdom.

> Brian Stephan Executive Secretary/Treasurer

19 Take Steps Toward Family Life Certification



Nineteen men and women from Wisconsin and Illinois are studying for their Basic Family Ministries Certification through the North American Division. Training is offered every three years, and equips family ministry leaders to present seminars and develop effective family ministry programs in their local churches. Wisconsin Rapids church hosted this training October 26-28, 2012.

"When I came to the meeting I didn't know what to expect," said Dean Thomas, seminar participant. "What I left with was a whole new understanding of family ministries and a strong desire to be a big part of the program. This is important to our church families."

Help your church grow a family ministries program. Contact Abraham Swamidass, Family Ministries Coordinator at aswamidass@charter.net.

Juanita Edge Communication Director



"Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness." Psalm 119:159

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2012	2011	% Change
December Tithe Income:	\$993,876.51	\$919,741.49	8.06%
2012 Tithe for Year:	\$6,510,563.41	\$6,543,198.71	[0.49%]
December Wisconsin Budget:	\$35,485.29	\$46,766.89	[24.12%]
2012 Wisconsin Budget:	\$298,804.87	\$341,340.21	[12.46%]

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

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Wisconsin Conference Calendar of Events

March

2	Pathfinder Bible Experience - W.A
3	Education Fair - W.A.
9	JAHWI Youth Rally - Milwaukee
18-22	Spring Break - W.A.
29-31	Hispanic Men's Conference

29-31 Church Planting Rally

April

4-6	W.A./Elementary Music Festival
7	Children's Ministries Conference
12-14	Women's Empowerment Retreat
14	Executive Committee
19-21	Alumni Weekend - W.A.
20	Pathfinder Bible Experience - NE
24-29	Home Leave - W.A.

May

- 4 Gymnastics Home Show W.A.5 Academy Days W.A.
- 11 Spring Concert W.A.
- 11 Hispanic Brotherhood Day
- 12-21 Senior Class Trip W.A.
- . 17-19 Pathfinder Fair - Wakonda
- 19-20 Wakonda Work Bee
- 24 Last Day of School
- 24 Youth in Action Retreat Wakonda
- 24-26 Graduation Weekend W.A.
- 28 K-12 Committee
- 29 Executive Committee
- 30 Teachers In-Service Meeting
- 31-6/2 Lay Pastor Weekend

Join Magabook Ministry this Summer in Milwaukee

Share Jesus and earn a scholarship for your Christian education by selling Magabooks this summer. The Youth Impact Literature Evangelism Program begins June 2, 2013. Last summer 21 youth worked Magabooks in Milwaukee and earned \$62,561.83, while 10,791 Adventist books were distributed. Learn more by calling 866-356-0832.

INTRANSITION

Jane Gerndt, administrative secretary for the Wisconsin Conference retired January 31, 2013, after 10 years. Jane and her husband, Don, plan to continue living in Wisconsin.

Pastor Bob Stauffer, interim pastor for the Fox Valley District, has transferred to the Texas Conference as an interim pastor.

Adventist Book Center Hours

 Monday - Thursday
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

 Friday
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

 2nd Sunday/Month
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: 920-484-3120, 888-266-5748 Closed Holidays

Wisconsin SAGE Ministry is Taking Shape



SAGE (Seniors in Action for God with Enthusiasm) is a group of seniors organized for service and fellowship to and by Seventh-day Adventist members age 50 and over. This ministry is designed to enhance the spiritual, mental, physical and social health of senior church members by providing:

1. Opportunities for continued active service for God and church (Wakonda, Wisconsin Academy, church/school work bees)

2. A chance to develop new friendships (picnics, concerts, day trips, banquets)

3. An annual event geared to SAGE members (retreats, mission trips)

Watch your church bulletin for SAGE meetings coming to your area this spring. Learn more, contact Carol Buchholz *carol. buchholz@yahoo.com* or Connie lattoni *ciiatt@yahoo.com.*

SAGE Coordinator & Trust/Stewardship Director

Check the website for more calendar and event details: http://wi.adventist.org