

Lamp Letter

News for our Wisconsin church family

December 1997

Pathfinders Visit Ukraine



On November 2, a Pathfinder team left Wisconsin for the Ukraine with Berton Crary, president of Humanitarian Services, Inc. To serve the needs of the people, the mission focused on developing a Pathfinder ministry, determine medical needs, and set to long range goals for HSI.

Included in the team were two nurses, Linda Chism of Milton and Sally Johnson of Clear Lake. They served as advisors to help determine specific medical needs. Frank and Christine Chism, Sheldon Johnson and Elder Dale Ziegele completed the Wisconsin team. The group was joined by Lyndeen Wright, former Woodland Rangers Director, now from Southern California and three of her current Pathfinders, *Teens in Leadership Training*, Becky Allen, Westin Fronterra and Nathan Nichol.

Over 40,000 articles of donated clothing were recently shipped to the Ukraine thanks to your generosity along with items of bedding, medical instruments, medicines and other supplies.

A pharmacist friend of Linda's, upon hearing of the needs in the country, asked her, "what are you going to about this?" to which she replied, "I don't know." Then, he donated nearly a thousand dollars worth of insulin to be hand carried by members of the team.

One highlight of the mission was a visit to a 280 child orphanage near Melnik where children ages 3-18 face a difficult life. Gifts to the orphans were carried in personal baggage and distributed by the team. The 40 foot container of donated items had not been cleared at this point.

Of the forty to fifty participants in the Pathfinder training seminars, virtually all remained to complete them. On a Sabbath evening, the meetings were concluded with a candlelight induction ceremony. At conclusion of the service, a joyful round of photos, hugs and autographs filled the church at Vinnitsa, Ukraine. Thanks to donations from Wisconsin Pathfinders during their fall camporee; gift packages of a Pathfinder Staff Manual, AY Honor Manual and Friend Class Workbooks, all in Russian, were given to each graduating adult leader. The new youth leader for the Podolsk Conference estimates that within six months fifteen Pathfinder clubs will be serving the youth of their conference.

Ukraine leaders and members have cautiously evaluated Pathfinders because of the communist youth program which is modeled to some extent after scouting.

Faithful seed planting by others including the Rocky Mountain Pathfinders, youth leaders from Germany, *Dare to Care* sponsors for international guests and General Conference Pathfinder leadership are responsible for a strengthened ministry to a new generation in the Ukraine. Praise the Lord!



Berton Crary, president of Humanitarian Services, Inc. with two young ladies who had been living at the orphanage and are now living with church members. They have been recently baptized and are now involved in the Pathfinder ministry.

President's Message

Gift Wrapping God

In the recent issue of *Christianity Today*, a meditation is entitled *Gift Wrapping God*. Let me share a few thoughts on this same theme. Are all the lights, tinsel, juniper and holly of the Christmas season covering the picture of Christ as a baby coming into the world? Do we camouflage the reality that Christ became flesh to experience with us the realities of life--the joys and pain, the successes and the failures?

John 1:4 says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." It's amazing how powerful the simplicity of Christ's life was in revealing the glory of God. He didn't need the wrappings of an entertainer's platform, a politician's blessing, or an academic degree to reveal that He was God in the flesh. What He did spoke for itself.

Recently, I attended church in Rice Lake. A lady who is not a member was there and shared that she used to drive past the church which she considered small and feel sorry for the "deluded" people who attended there. Then one day she met one of the members of the church. She was intrigued by the appeal of this person's witness. Today she delights to experience the fellowship and worship with the members there. We do not need a lot of wrappings to reveal the power of true Christianity.

This Christmas season, let's allow people to see the picture of a God who came in the flesh. We may have simple decorations on our homes and experience the warmth of family fellowship. Let's also focus on ways that the God who came to bless people everywhere is revealed through our compassion, concern and kindness. God doesn't need a lot of wrappings to be attractive to people. The witness of His Word and love in genuine simplicity can reveal God best this season and always.

- Donald Corkum, President

*A Time of Refreshing*

by Jeannie Buchholz



Janelle and Sylvia Cray participating in a group activity at the Women's Retreat.

"A single rosebud lay resting on my pillow, greeting me as I entered my hotel room. A note tucked thoughtfully beside it welcomed me to the ninth annual Wisconsin Women's Retreat, Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. As a first time attendee I wondered what other treats were in store for this special weekend.

Before the first meeting, the hotel lobby buzzed with the delight of friends reuniting and sharing the joy of being together for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth. It was obvious that those who had been there before counted this as a special event that they did not want to miss out on. As we gathered in the main auditorium, the voices of over 300 women harmonized to lift their praises to God in song.

Throughout the weekend, the keynote speaker, Cherry Habenicht, guidance counselor, religion and French teacher at Wisconsin Academy, shared how we can live a joy filled life, with the realization that happiness is a thing of the present, not the past or the future; empowering each us to find the joy in our lives.

As we closed the Sabbath, Habenicht led in a "Liturgy of Bread" celebrating the unity of Adventist women all around the world. Women of various ethnic backgrounds presented bread from their country of origin and shared how God works through women in their culture. I was moved to tears as I watched this parade of women symbolized unity in Christ.

Breakaway sessions scattered throughout the weekend gave me the opportunity meet with smaller groups to hear life changing testimonies and practical solutions to areas of needs in my own life. Topics ranged from spiritual singleness to rejuvenating my love for my husband; from spiritual lessons learned from the story of Lot's wife to decluttering my own life. The presenters spoke from the heart and personal experience, giving the breakaways a feeling of authenticity.

The weekend was filled with sharing, fellowship, laughter and prayer. As I packed up Sunday afternoon, I had to ask myself, "Would I do it again?" Yes! Every bit of it! As I took my rosebud home to watch it bloom, I anticipated the joy of watching what I had soaked in over the bloom in my own life and spill over into the lives of my husband and children. I was truly refreshed!"

Happy Birthday

Philo Baker, Moon Church, celebrated his 95th birthday on November 3. Philo is treasurer of the church and has served as elder, head deacon, carpenter and custodian. He still lives at home, drives his car and sings in the Wausau Senior Citizen Chorus.



Is there anything you need?

That is not the usual questions to follow a major gift. Why had we not been anticipating other needs?

Recently, the donor of much needed structural steel was thanked again for the gift which, combined with volunteer labor, resulted in two attractive and highly functional lodges used almost weekly at *Camp Go Seek*. Once again the donor stated that if we had further needs to just let him know. This time the response was more carefully thought through. Yes, we are needing to upgrade our horse hitching area and around our corral at *Wakonda*. A big project? Yes! But with materials and a welding craftsman like Jim Johnson, this is a dream worth dreaming.

The donor responded immediately, "What if we send the materials this week for the horse hitching area and then materials for the corral next summer?" Just hours later the necessary steel arrived ahead of schedule. Ray Mundt, Tomahawk, frequent volunteer at the camp, assisted with thirty-three loads of necessary fill and we were on our way. Camp staffers removed former hitching materials, redug holes for the new steel posts, and cemented new posts securely. Other donors to camp provided funding for concrete floors for hitching, tack and hay barn facilities. Less than three weeks after the gift was delivered the project was ready for the welder.

Our God is familiar with the answer, and the question. He just waits to respond to our faith in Him. "Is there anything else you need...." My God shall supply all your need...in Christ Jesus." Dreams are worth dreaming when you know our God.

Executive Committee Actions

Three new Executive Committee members have been selected to fill vacancies within the committee. Wendell Springer will replace Norm Yoder, Mike Martinez will replace Steve Cook and Peter Trzinski will replace Donovan Davis. This keeps the pastor and lay representation the same because previously Orlando Vazquez, the pastor of the Spanish work was asked to replace a Spanish lay person who was not able to serve.

A big challenge to be faced at the campground is regarding the sewer hookups for Rvs. It was voted to proceed to install sewer hookups with a projected cost of about \$75,000. At present, the conference has about \$35,000 to meet this need. Studies are underway as to how the remaining funds can be met.

Lay Advisory

At the Lay Advisory meeting discussion took place about elder/lay training events. Several options were discussed as for time and location:

1. In September at Camp Go Seek.
2. In August at the academy.
3. In the spring at a rented facility that could accommodate that size group; and to have a meeting in the cooler part of the year. This last option is being pursued.

Another discussion took place regarding church evaluation. It was voted to encourage churches to do annual planning and then evaluate their progress at the end of the year. This would enhance the development of new plans and ideas for the future rather than just reviewing the present program.

Vacation Bible School

May 3 is still some months away, but we want our Vacation Bible School leaders to be thinking and planning for our annual Vacation Bible School Workshop. Guest speaker, Judi Rogers from the Review and Herald will be here to share ideas for VBS theme, *Earthmaker Mysteries*.

Welcome

Pastor and Mrs. Mike Martinez to the Milwaukee Central Church. Pastor Martinez comes to us from the Kansas/Nebraska Conference where he was youth director.

Campmeeting 1998

It's never too early to start planning for campmeeting. You may be wondering who will the speakers for next year. Here are some of them:

The first weekend **Clifford Goldstein** will be with us. He is the editor of *Liberty* magazine and a prolific writer. **Steve Darmody** will be the guest musician and will have a concert Sabbath afternoon. Early morning services will be by **Lowell Cooper** who is secretary at the General Conference. He spent most of his years in India. **Walter Wright** the new Lake Union secretary will have the 9 o'clock services during the week and he will emphasize family life. On Sunday and during the week at the evening meeting, **Morris Venden** will be speaker. **Keavin Hayden** who wrote the book *What the World Doesn't Know* and several other books will be the speaker at the 4 o'clock hour in the afternoon. The last weekend, **Mark Finley** will be with us. **Don Schneider** will lead a music and sharing time in the afternoon.

We still need a speaker for the Bible study hour at 11:00 and several seminar speakers. We appreciate the suggestions that have come in. If you know of a person who would be good for our campmeeting, please share that name with us.

Evangelism Note

Thirty-four people were baptized this year in meetings conducted by Bill Zima. Elder Zima is a retired evangelist who holds twelve meetings yearly across North America. His meetings this year in Wisconsin were held in Ashland/Superior, Milwaukee Central and Fox Valley. His main focus in evangelism is working with those who are already interests and former Seventh-day Adventists. We are grateful to Elder Zima for taking time from his retirement to work here in Wisconsin for Jesus.

ABC News

January is the month to buy your Ellen G. White books at the ABC. All E.G. White books (with the exception of ASI paperbacks for sharing) are 20% off. This includes the new version of E. G. White's writings on CD ROM. This special is for the whole month of January, and will be honored on phone or mail orders also.

Please note all the ways to order from your ABC:

By Fax	608-825-1592
By Phone Toll Free	1-888-266-5748
By E-mail	wisconsin.abc@pacificpress.com
In Person	3505 Hwy. 151N, Sun Prairie
By Mail	ABC, PO Box 7310, Madison 53707

Just in time for the holidays, Ellen G. White Quote books. All are 20% off.

Angels	Praying for Others
Assurance	The Quote Book #1
JOY	The Quote Book #2
Peace	

The ABC has just released two special issues of the *Signs of the Times* magazine. "The Bible's Book of Revelation" on the prophecies in the biblical book of Revelation was written by the associate editor of *Signs*, David C. Jarnes. Many readers find Revelation's strange and violent imagery--dragon, sea beast, harlot, locusts that sting like scorpions, blood, earthquakes, hailstorms, lakes of fire, etc.--discouraging or even repulsive. But its depiction of a new earth in which sorrow and pain and death have no part, in which God lives with the redeemed, entices us to persevere in our study of it.

"The Bible's Book of Daniel" was also written by David C. Jarnes. Daniel's book contains a mix of stories and prophecies. Both are important to its purpose. These magazines are only \$1.50 each and are designed not only for sharing, but for our own study. These are available now at the ABC.

Book review corner***BIBLE VERSIONS--A Consumer's Guide to The Bible***

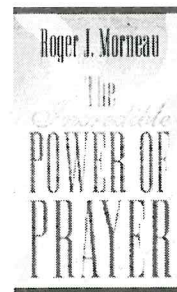
by Hugh Dunton

How did the Bible come to be written? Was there a margin of error in manuscript copying and translation? Are there "mistakes" in the Bible? Of the fifty or so versions in English, which are the most accurate, and which the most user friendly?

Is it possible to translate "word-for word" from ancient languages? Is there evidence of the biases and preconceptions of translators?

Discover the answers to these and many other questions. Find out the best way to study the Bible. Discover God, and a message for the third millennium in its pages.

Dr. Dunton's background in the Bible, in languages and as a skilled communicator make him uniquely qualified to write this book.

***The Incredible Power of Prayer***
by Roger J. Morneau

This is the 1997/1998 sharing book.. When Roger Morneau prays, things happen! Every year he receives thousands of calls and letters requesting intercessory prayer. As he shares God's amazing answers he'll show your friends and neighbors how they too can take hold of the incredible power of prayer.

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