

LampLetter—Wisconsin

Volume 7, Number 4

December, 2004

God's Future for Wisconsin

Have you ever wondered what your personal future would be? Where will I live, what will my work be, whom will I marry, will I have any children, will I be alive at this time next year . . . ? The anticipation of the future is exciting when we are young, but potentially troubling if our health declines or relationships are stormy.

Individuals need to seek God's presence and plan for the future in harmony with His will. When we seek God's guidance and we align our lives in harmony with His will, His blessing is assured! (If you would like to plan a prayer meeting for Friday night, New Year's eve in your church, see **Taste of Heaven** on page 11).

Organizations need to seek God's presence and plan for the future in harmony with His will. Whether it be a local church or the academy or the whole Conference, we have the ability to make the future happen in cooperation with God.

We are not interested in an arrogant process where we ask God to bless **our plans**—we are seeking a manifestation of God's presence wherein we walk so closely with the Spirit that we live His life in the flesh. We are seeking incarnational Church life where the presence of God is clear and strong. We are seeking a future mapped out by God and entrusted to us as His stewards.

What are the Conference plans for this next year? *Not just programs, real plans, well thought out strategies for the future.* That is what this

issue of LampLetter is all about—what is God's future for the Wisconsin Conference?

There are some *givens* in the future of the Wisconsin Conference:

- Christian Education in Church Schools and Junior Academies will be a key component of the Conference's program
- Wisconsin Academy is a precious gift that God has entrusted to us and it needs to prosper and grow
- Public and Personal Evangelism will be a continuing emphasis that we might fulfill the gospel commission (Mt. 28:19-20) and please God
- Vibrant Youth Ministry needs to be enlivened in the local church so that our youth emerge as strong leaders in their local churches

There are also changes in methods that we need to consider for achieving our missions. As we prayerfully search the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy, we will discover new insights into **God's methods** for achieving His goals.

As we **learn from other believers** the means they employed in cooperation with God, we will discover God's arm is powerful and we can anticipate a blessed future.

In this issue, we examine the future from the perspective of Conference leaders. Local churches and groups need to prayerfully seek out God's future in

their sphere as well.

Pray well —(Mat 7:7 NKJV) "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Study well—(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Serve well—(Gal 5:13 NKJV) "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

James Fox, Ministerial and Communication Director

What's Inside

Fulness of Time & 125th Anniversary for New London	p. 2
Youth Ministry for the Future .	p. 3
Elder Corkum's View of the Future	p. 4
Stewardship for 2005	p. 5
Women's Ministries 2005	p. 6
News for the Pews	p. 7
2004 Financial Report YTD ..	p. 8
Community Services 2005....	p. 9
Education 2005	p.10
Evangelism Banquet and a "Taste of Heaven"	p.11
Evangelism 2005	p.12

Fullness of Time



"When the Fulness of the Time was come God sent forth His Son..." Galatians 4:4. As this Christmas season comes upon us let's

remember that God fulfills His promises to us in the "Fulness" of time. He came the first time—on time and He will do so the second time. "God's purposes know no haste or delay." DA 32.

Prophecies are being fulfilled. The Fulness of Time is approaching. Here is one example

On November 17 the wires of NewsMax.com presented this story. "The nation's Roman Catholic bishops voted Wednesday (Nov.17) to join a new alliance that would be the broadest Christian group ever formed in the United States, linking American evangelicals and Catholics in an

ecumenical organization for the first time . . . The alliance, called Christian Church Together in the U.S.A. is set to kick off next year. It would also include mainline Protestants, Orthodox Christians, and black and other minority churches. With about 67 million members the U.S. Catholic church would be the largest denomination." Knowing that religious coalitions will be a key factor in end time issues, news items as the above should get our attention.

This Christmas we can enjoy our family and friends. Let's also use the time to reflect on God and His purposes and plans. Let's reflect on the statement, "When the Fulness of the Time was come God sent forth His Son."

From the Conference office we wish your family a meaningful Christmas season and an inspiring new year.

Don Corkum

New London Celebrates 125th Anniversary

On November 13 the New London church reached an amazing milestone—125 years of active service.

The church was organized in 1879 and has been recognized as **the missionary church**. Many members of the New London church became missionaries for the Adventist church.

The church building that was built for the original church family is still the home for the present church family.

When the New London Church was established, the nature of the Adventist work was different. In 1879, there were:

- 260 employees in the Adventist Church worldwide
- 640 churches

- Worldwide tithe of sixty one thousand dollars

Today the world church has:

About 175,000 employees

53,000 organized churches

Two billion dollars

annually in
tithes and
offerings

Today the New London church has 57 members rejoicing in how God has led and seeking to do their part to hasten our Lord's return.

Small Group Training Event

When: February 11-13

Where: Camp Wakonda

Presenter: Milton Adams
..... Oregon Conference

Purpose: .. Train in Rationale and
..... Methods for Christian Small
..... Group Ministry

Contact Kitty Crary for more
information at 608-241-5235.

Small Groups

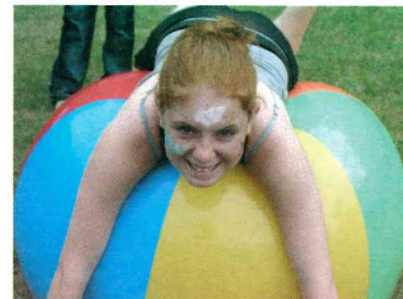
If the majority of Church members were integrated in small groups of about six members, if each of these groups would win just one new person to Christ each year, the size of the church would double in this way within five years! It is a realistic goal for a small group to win one new person to Christ every year. Also, small groups should not grow indefinitely, they should divide when they get too large. The best way to reach continuous multiplication of groups is to find in the groups those members who can start a new group as "pioneers." Find out how to work with small groups better at the February convention.



Don Corkum, Kevin Wilkerson and Loren Nelson hold a recognition plaque presented by the Wisconsin Conference to the New London Church

Youth Ministry – Pure and Simple

Youth ministry begins in the home. Christian parents showing loving relationships paint the first pictures of Jesus that children see. Parents have a profound impact on young people learning to love Jesus. Additionally they are the ones who lead their children to opportunities that allow others to also show and share Jesus. Many “traditional youth ministries” are designed to support families to raise their children for Jesus. This collaborative effort of Adventist education, Pathfinders, Adventurers, summer camp, Sabbath School and church helps young people meet, get acquainted, and commit their lives to Jesus. Statisticians tell us that the more opportunities that young people are exposed to the higher likelihood that they will continue to follow Jesus as adults.



Youth Ministry – Wisconsin

In Wisconsin we have 1875 young people under the age of 21 who are part of our church family.** What an army of youth! Of those 1,081, are between the ages of 8 and 18. The good news is that of these 1,081 youth, 429 have made the decision to follow Jesus as baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. That's 40%. The flip side is that 60% have not yet made that decision. We have a mission field right here in our state among our youth. From the graph below it is clear that most of our young people who get baptized are baptized by the age of 14. This is both a blessing and a challenge. We need to continue youth ministry to these

younger youth, and find ways to more effectively lead our older youth to Jesus.

Youth Ministry - Meeting the Needs

During 2005 we are providing more opportunities to reach young people.

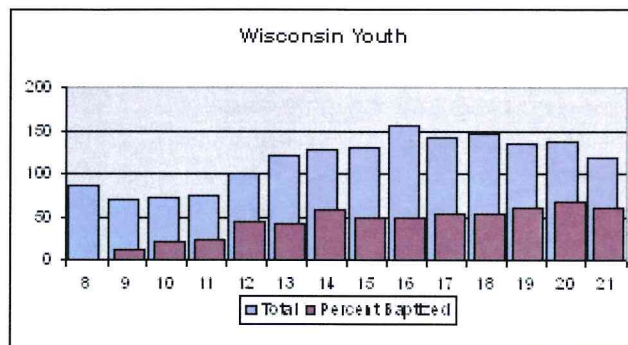
* Through the collaboration of our Education Department we are continuing to provide quality education that has as its focus leading youth to Christ.

* Through our Children's Ministries Department we are providing training to our youth Sabbath School leaders at the spring Sabbath School Workshop. (April 3).

* Through Pathfinders and Adventurers young people are guided on a week by week basis to be active in service and growing in Jesus.

* Through weekend events such as our public high school retreat, our conference/academy youth rally, and regional youth rallies around the state young people are brought together and challenged to love and serve Jesus.

* Through our summer camps youth join together for outdoor and nature activities that lead them close to committed and caring staff members whose highest goal is to lead campers to Christ.



Youth Ministry - Goals for 2005

* Currently we have 18 Pathfinder clubs, and 4 Adventurer clubs. Our goal by the end of 2005 is to have 21 Pathfinder clubs and 6 Adventurer Clubs

* To have a conference-wide youth rally sponsored by the Youth Department and Wisconsin Academy (April 29, 30)

* To have at least 2 regional youth rallies around the conference. Locations and dates to be announced later

* To have a public high school retreat at Wakonda to minister specifically to the majority of our young people who are not in our Adventist schools. (January 14-16)

* To have at least 10% growth in our summer camp attendance

* The Youth Director provide weeks of prayer in 6 of our elementary schools

* To continue effective young people's programs at camp meeting, with special emphasis on strengthening the Young Adult department

* To lend support to the JAHWA - federation for our Spanish speaking youth (Retreat October 14-16)

* To provide training opportunities for our youth leaders

Sabbath School workshop - April 3

VBS workshop - April 10

Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadershop

October 7-9



Wisconsin Youth

Our youth are the church of today and they are the most important asset of our church for the future. Leading them to love and follow Jesus is the most important responsibility we have. Our goal is to have all of our young people in God's kingdom.

** Based on Wisconsin membership database.

What is the Future of the Work in Wisconsin?

An interview with our President, Elder Don Corkum



A key element of our issue on the future of our church is the President's

perspective. He provides leadership and direction to the work throughout the state.

The LampLetter interviewed Elder Corkum regarding his vision for the future.

Editor: The year 2004 is nearly past—2005 is upon us. What is the future for the Wisconsin Conference?

Corkum: We have sought that our plans and programs be an expression of God's will. We have spent significant time in prayer both in the office and out in the field with our pastors and lay leaders. We are living in significant times. God has laid some plans on our hearts for these times.

Editor: What are the major events in the Conference during 2005?

Corkum: We have some truly significant events for the whole conference during this calendar year. In addition to our Men's and Women's Ministry Conventions, our Elders and Public High School Retreats and Summer Camp Programs, there are some wonderful training events in store for 2005:

- Small Group training will convene on February 11-13 at Camp Wakonda. Milton Adams, a pastor from Oregon who is immersed in Small Group Ministry himself, will be our trainer.
- Church Planting Training will be the featured training for March 19-21 in the Greater Milwau-

kee area. Tom Evans, Church Planting director for the Texas Conference will bring some of his team members with him to give us the latest inspiration and insights.

- Natural Church Development will be the focus at our elder's retreat this year. It will continue to be an important part of our consultation with churches throughout the coming year.
- Camp Meeting will be a major event of 2005. Our theme is, "Transformed in Christ" which is identical to the General Conference theme for 2005 in St. Louis. Our featured speakers will be Walter Wright of our own Lake Union; Mike Tucker, the new speaker for Faith for Today; Stephanie-Dawn, gifted gospel musician; Shawn Boonstra, new speaker for It is Written television; Randy Maxwell, Don Morgan on Health; Ranko Stephanovic from the Andrews University Theological Seminary and many other seminars and presenters. It will be a great program this year.
- Our education program features some major events particularly at Wisconsin Academy. Their recent "Walk through the Bible Lands" display, Alumni and Graduation weekends are tremendous events in the lives of our youth.
- There is ongoing training in public evangelism throughout the year in various regions of the conference. The Lake Union will sponsor another such training event August 26-27 in Merrillville, Indiana.

Editor: I'm sure you have plans and dreams for the future—What

are your dreams for our Churches?

Corkum: I see our church members transformed in Christ in this coming year. I long for the expressions of joy and gratitude on the faces of our people during this coming year as



Christ leads us into passionate spirituality and loving relationships. These two strong emphases are something we all need. Our religion must never become mechanical and rigid with only rules. We need a deep abiding sense of the presence of Christ that can alone transform the soul. We also need loving relationships and mutual respect and caring. In the heart of

Jesus, this would be the greatest evidence of discipleship, the love we have for one another.

I would like to see three areas of common



growth in each of our churches;

1. Involved youth
2. Inspirational worship
3. Churches and members who are engaged with their community.

Editor: The elders and officers of local churches are the backbone of our conference. What are your

Continued on page 9

A Vision for Stewardship for 2005

I have attended too many Church Board meetings and Conference Executive Committee Meetings over the years where the questions were:

"How are we going to meet these needs with the funds we have."

"Which of these good programs are we going to have to postpone or drop because we don't have the money to carry them through to completion?"

"Which pastorates or departments are going to have to be dropped?"

I've also been told, "Oh, you just need more faith—the money will come in." I wouldn't deny that may have been the case sometimes. If we were absolutely sure of God's direction, He would have provided.

One of the ways God gives direction to us is to withhold funds for projects we've dreamed up that are not His will at the moment. I think it is also fiscally responsible for a board to say we'll proceed with this direction if and when God provides the funds. Otherwise, we may be presuming God's blessing.

I know also that sometimes God makes His will clear but lets us move forward before He completely opens the way. It is similar to the Israelites at the Red Sea—God only parted the waters when their feet got wet.

My vision for stewardship for Wisconsin is that each of us be so close to Jesus that our lives, including all our assets, would be available to Him. How wonderful it would be if each member's faith was such that first of all, we return our tithe to Him, trusting Him to meet our needs and fulfill His promises to bless us and reward our faithfulness. I am saddened when I think of a significant portion

of our members who are not seeing God's miraculous provision:

- After tithing, He stretches the remaining 90% of our money to meet our needs
- He helps us change our priorities in our home budgeting

His miracles build our faith and will help sustain in the times ahead.

I have often thought about what it would mean to our church leadership on all the levels if we could experience the following:

"If all, both old and young, would do their duty, there would be no dearth in the treasury. If all would pay a faithful tithe, and devote to the Lord the firstfruits of their mercies, there would be a full supply of funds for His work."

EGW{AU Gleaner, December 14, 1904 par. 1}



God is not short on funds. The Bible says "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Psalm 50:10. Sometimes we forget that all we have is His and we need to be listening to Him so when He desires it, we make it available.

Wouldn't it be incredible when opportunities came up and we knew God was leading, we could say, "Go for it—the money is in hand." What if we could spend most of the time of our meetings seeking God's direction and planning outreach rather than

trying to figure out how to pay the bills.

My dream is that we might find and experience the following..



God requires no less of us than He required of His people anciently.

His gifts to us are not less, but greater, than they were to Israel of old. His service requires, and ever will require, means. The great missionary work for the salvation of souls is to be carried forward. In the tithe, with gifts and offerings, God has made ample provision for this work. He intends that the ministry of the gospel shall be fully sustained. He claims the tithe as His own, and it should ever be regarded as a sacred reserve, to be placed in His treasury for the benefit of His cause, for the advancement of His work, for sending His messengers into "regions beyond," even to the uttermost parts of the earth. CS 72

*Richard Habenicht
Stewardship and Trust Services*



Women's Ministries 2005

Green Bay S.N.O.W. Day

"Born to Soar" is the theme for the fourth annual S.N.O.W. (Spiritual Needs of Women) day retreat sponsored by the Green Bay Women's Ministries Department. The prayer is that you will be inspired to be all God intended for you when He created you. There will be three presentations: "Under Pressure" by Gail Krawczyk, a licensed psychotherapist who holds a certification in marriage and family therapy; "The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades" by

Jane Birr, M.S.; and "All My Fountains Are in You" where the presenters join talents and insights. Green Bay Church men will serve attendees by serving



Jane Birr

them breakfast and lunch, parking their car and a bit of entertaining. It's a fun day in the middle of winter. Mark February 27 on your calendar. The cost is \$15. Send payment to

SDA Church, Attn: Elaine
1414 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay WI 54303

For more information contact
Becky Kraft by phone 920-833-
6856 (day), 2648 (evening) or
bkraft@goodshepherdservices.org



The ladies band together on S.N.O.W. day as
Snow Angels to enjoy winter fun



S.N.O.W. Ladies, 2004

Spring Women's Ministry Weekend

"Developing, Strengthening, and Sustaining Healthy Interpersonal Relationships" is the topic for an "Empowerment Weekend" at Camp Wakonda. The event is sponsored by the Wisconsin

Conference Women's Ministries Department; the time is April 29-May 1, 2005. Featured speaker is Gail Krawczyk. If you attend the Green Bay S.N.O.W. Day (or attended it last year) you will know what a dynamic speaker she is. She shares much practical information that addresses everyday

needs of many women. Gail is VERY excited about this presentation. She promises that ladies will leave the weekend feeling ready and "empowered" to make good relationships even better and to improve those that are



Gail Krawczyk

in need of a healthy "reshaping".

The lodges have been reserved! The cooks have been notified! The planners are busy putting together the details! The first meeting will start on Friday evening and the last will end on Sunday at noon. Please watch for registration information coming to

your church in early February. The first 90 applicants will be accepted so plan to return your registration forms quickly.

For more information contact Susan Boon via email boon@toast.net or phone 262-835-4914.

The seventeenth annual Time of Refreshing at Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells is scheduled for October 28-30, 2005. The guest speaker will be Shelly Quinn. Mark your calendar for that also and begin planning for it financially. Consider a friend or neighbor who you could invite to accompany you. It is a comfortable setting for introducing (or re-entry) into the Adventist family.

If your church group would like to do some Women's Ministries activities/events please contact Aileen King at the conference office for ideas and resources (speaker ideas, small group activities, reclaiming material, Bible study guides, etc.)

akking@wi.adventist.org or 608-241-5235, ext. 104

News for the Pews



Brian and Diane Hamilton

have been in Wisconsin since 1995. Brian has most recently served as Secretary-Treasurer and Office Manager while Diane has been Secretary to the Education Department.

Don Corkum, Conference President, reports, "It has been a joy to work with both Brian and Diane in the conference office. As a fellow administrator, Brian has been both trustworthy and effective in leadership. He has given outstanding financial guidance to the conference at a very important time. Diane has also given excellent support to the work of education as secretary to the department. We will miss them in Wisconsin. We pray God's richest blessings to them as they relocate to California."

In early November, Elder Loren and Sue Nelson accepted a call to pastor the Mishawaka, Indiana district. The Nelson's have served in the Green Bay, and most recently, the Fox Valley District. Sue has been the teacher-principal in the Fox Valley Elementary School.

While we recognize that workers must respond to the call of the Lord and leave us, we also realize that they will be sorely missed.



Loren and Sue Nelson

On November 30, 2004, Brian and Diane Hamilton announced that they had accepted a call to the Southern California Conference as Undertreasurer. The Southern California Conference is primarily the Los Angeles area with a few communities to the west and north of the city.

The Hamilton's

Mark Finley to be in Milwaukee in January

The weekend of January 14 and 15 marks the third annual Greater Milwaukee Convocation. The Convocation is a time for praise, worship, and fellowship for the churches in southeastern Wisconsin. It is like a mini-camp meeting as members have gathered together. The Convocation has helped to foster community between the churches of greater Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha.



Mark Finley

This year's speaker for the Convocation is Mark Finley, speaker/director of It Is Written and vice president for Global Evangelism at the General Confer-

ence. Elder Finley will be speaking at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening and then again at 11:00 and at 2:00 on Sabbath, January 15. This year the convocation will be held at the Pitman Theatre, at Alverno College in Milwaukee. The theatre seats about 950 people and it is hoped that many from the surrounding churches and districts will come for this time of fellowship.

For those staying for the afternoon service, there will be two options for the noon meal. One option will be to purchase tickets for a catered spaghetti meal served by Alverno College. The second will be to bring your own lunch and eat in a designated area.

Alverno College is located on the south side of Milwaukee at 43rd and Morgan. For more information please email Pastor Rodney Mills at rjmills@wi.rr.com or call 262-424-1325.

*Rodney Mills
Pastor, Milwaukee Central S.D.A.
Church*

2004 Finances - Heading to the Finish Line

The year 2004 is almost history. From an accounting standpoint, we have two months of financial data yet to record, that of November and December. Our tithe gain as of October is 5.39%, which leads the Union. However, this increase includes one extra Sabbath as compared to the same period last year. When discounted for the extra Sabbath we have a 3.02% gain over last year. Given the state of the economy in the Midwest we praise God for the gain.

Included in this report you will note an "Income & Expense Summary" which will give you a thumb-nail view of the Conference operation. As you compare totals, you may want to note that actual income and expenses compares quite favorably to budget. I might also point out that as you look at operating costs for 2004 as compared to 2003 you can see that we have been able to contain or in many cases reduce operating expense in

a number of categories. This is good news in that we could end the year in an improved financial position compared to what we anticipated.

On the challenging side, our employees did not received a 1.2% inflationary cost of living raise in July as many of their counterparts did in other conferences. We will seek to make this up in 2005. Also, Wisconsin Academy experienced a

Continued on page 9



Income & Expense Summary

Year to Date October 31, 2004

	Actual	Budget	+ Favorable - Unfavorable	Prior Year
Total Tithe	\$4,847,874	\$4,541,148	\$306,726	\$4,599,732
	Less Remitted to:			
General Conference 16.5%	\$799,899	\$749,284	-\$50,615	\$781,955
Union Conference 9%	\$413,837	\$408,701	-\$5,136	\$425,575
Special Assistance Fund	\$17,159	\$17,720	\$561	\$14,737
Net Retained Tithe	\$3,616,979	\$3,365,443	\$251,536	\$3,377,465
Non-tithe Income (Temp Restricted)	\$751,756	\$552,250	\$199,506	\$777,250
Non-tithe Income (Unrestricted)	\$1,608,660	\$1,299,490	\$309,170	\$1,505,619
Total Non-tithe	\$2,360,416	\$1,851,740	\$508,676	\$2,282,869
Total Income	\$5,977,395	\$5,217,183	\$760,212	\$5,660,334
	Less Operating Expense			
Church Programs	-\$2,204,468	-\$2,150,417	-\$54,051	-\$2,212,650
Education	-\$1,973,544	-\$2,051,212	\$77,668	-\$2,164,642
Publishing	-\$61,651	-\$53,330	-\$8,321	-\$80,260
Special	-\$314,543	-\$300,530	-\$14,013	-\$288,925
Other	-\$460,548	-\$457,970	-\$2,578	-\$425,475
Support	-\$490,850	-\$559,280	\$68,430	-\$623,465
Unallocated	\$12,516	\$0	\$12,516	\$4,476
Total Operating Expense	-\$5,493,088	-\$5,572,739	\$79,651	-\$5,790,941
	Less Nonoperating Expense			
Depreciation Funding	-\$59,622	-\$80,416	\$20,794	-\$71,238
Capital Funding (Fireside Lodge)	-\$150,481	\$0	-\$150,481	-\$165,639
Total Expense	-\$5,703,191	-\$5,653,155	-\$50,036	-\$6,027,818
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$274,204	-\$435,972	\$710,176	-\$367,484
Beginning Fund Balance	\$1,304,115	\$1,304,115	\$0	\$2,031,908
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,578,319	\$868,143	\$710,176	\$1,664,424

Merry Christmas through Community Services

Christmas time is a time when everyone gets into the giving spirit, except Mr. Scrooge. But did you know Community Service people are in the business of helping people all year long; not just at Christmas time? Community Service volunteers are giving out clothes, food, money, furniture, appliances and help during disasters every day. Furthermore, Community Service volunteers are looking for more ways to be of service to their communities.

This new year we are hoping to be even more helpful in our communities. We plan to do more training to equip you for times of disaster in the area of warehousing donated goods. We are researching the possibility of starting several chainsaw crews located strategically around the state to help in times of a natural disaster.

We will be encouraging members to become more involved in their communities in meeting the needs of their neighbors.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment. And the second is like this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30, 31

*Happy Holidays
Floyd Brock*

The end of year and Grim Reaper time - ah, I mean tax time is coming quickly to a close. Tax laws are changing in 2005. Get the most value for your donated vehicle by donating before the end of the year.

Call Floyd at 920-623-2055

President Cont. from page 4

dreams for our lay leaders in this coming year?

Corkum: We want to provide lay pastor training and certification for our elders in particular. We believe this will cause our people to be more involved in shepherding and outreach ministry. We would like to provide more training and experience in small groups. Thriving small fellowship groups are the common denominator for most growing churches in North America.

We are seeking to follow the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the role of the pastor. Therein, the pastor is to become more of a trainer, equipper, evangelist and church planter. Growing

congregations today look for visionary leadership from their pastors while the lay leaders manage the **spiritual and the material** needs in the operation of the church.

The pastor would still be the pastor of the district but there would be a distinct shift in emphasis. Every member needs to do work for God.

Editor: Elder Corkum has cast a vision for the future with a strategy for growth. Has the Holy Spirit been speaking to your heart about being more involved in God's work? You can be a part! Speak to your pastor about your desire to serve.

James Fox

Church Planting Training Event

When: March 18-20

Where: Milwaukee, WI

Presenter: Tom Evans & The
..... Texas Conference Team

Purpose: .. Train in Rationale and
..... Methods for Planting New
..... Churches in Wisconsin

Contact Kitty Crary for more
information at 608-241-5235.

Church Planting

The beginning years of the work of the Adventist church in Wisconsin were characterized by the development of new work. Groups were established in community after community. New people were reached, new communities were entered. As we prepare for the final harvest of God's work on the earth we need to be reaching out to new areas and not just serving existing churches. How can we do this best? The church planting convention in March will provide insights.

Finances Cont. from page 8

decline in enrollment that left them in a \$240,000 deficit for this school year. This once again will put a significant strain on the already much depleted conference finances.

As we look to the future; one of the greatest challenges facing our conference is how to fund Christian education; both on the local level as well as conference level. Almost 60% of our children do not have the privilege of attending one of our schools. How does one communicate the value of Christian education to the parents of this 60%? What price can one put on having our children in an environment where moral and spiritual values are part of the learning experience? In light of the times in which we live is this important? I think so!

We will give a more complete financial report after year end.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in returning to God your tithes and free-will offerings.

Brian Hamilton, Treasurer

Our Vision For Education 2005

As the year 2004 draws to a close it is time to take stock; it is time to ask questions . . . Where do we stand? Have we reached our goals? Have we reached the standards the Lord desires for us to meet?

We have seen our opening enrollments decline in recent years. Our opening 2004 enrollment dropped 13% from the previous year. The largest portion of that decline was due to a drop of 21% in the academy enrollment. It is true that we had an extremely large senior class graduate in May, but that still does not totally account for the large drop that did occur.



In November of 2003 An Education Taskforce was formed. The purpose of the taskforce was

to provide recommendations for the K-12 Board to consider as they planned for the future of education in the Wisconsin Conference. Several things have happened as a result of those recommendations:

- A phone survey of church members with children was conducted so that we could gain a clear picture of how the constituency felt about our educational program.
- Each year every K-10 school in the conference which is not going to have a full evaluation will be conducting a study and developing their own objectives for improvement to better meet the needs of their constituency.
- The Lake Union Conference has granted us a three year subsidy totaling \$45,000 for development. A substantial portion of that money has been

set aside for recruitment purposes. Study is being given to the best way to use the balance.

- At the August workers meeting, pastors and teachers met together to discuss the importance of mutual support in



the total ministry of the church and to see how both groups can work to prepare our children for the kingdom.

- Every school has been asked to form their own school marketing committee to seek ways to build enrollment by appealing to constituent parents and reaching out to the community.

We learned some important lessons from the parental survey that was conducted:

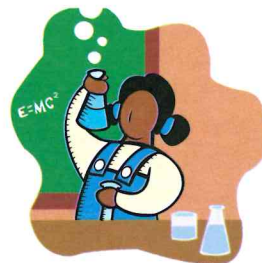
- Children today have a much larger say in where they will attend school.
- The parents are not sure that our small schools can provide the quality education that the large better funded public schools can provide.
- Parents have become *consumers* who are looking more for convenience, the lowest cost, and their child's desire for more extracurricular activities.

There is encouraging news for concerned parents:

- Academic achievement test scores in our school system have improved steadily over the past four years.
- Testing has shown that academically, our schools are in the top 23% of all schools nationwide (that includes both

public and private schools).

- Low cost and convenience does not usually provide us with the **best** of



anything. Most anything that is in our best interest requires effort and sacrifice.

The Conference Education Marketing Committee is working to change misconceptions and to open parents' and students' eyes to the times in which we live. We have a vision that includes:

- 1) Having a much higher percentage than the present 40% of our children enrolled in our schools.
- 2) Seeing schools opening in new areas and schools reopening in areas where interest has waned.
- 3) Parents realizing that our schools (though small) provide just what our youth need, a quality education and every opportunity to meet their Savior, Jesus Christ.
- 4) Providing for all academy age youth—not just those who are college bound. We need to provide vocational training for those who are so inclined.
- 5) Each of our schools seeking to determine the needs of their constituency and doing everything in their power to meet those needs.
- 6) Funds being provided so that every family who wants their children to get a quality education and meet Jesus will be able to enroll their children in

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

our schools no matter what their financial situation is.

- 7) Sending recruiters to every home to help families work through any problems which are keeping their children from attending our schools.
- 8) Each local marketing committee working to see that every constituent child possible is enrolled in one of our schools.

We must realize that the times in which we live are perilous for us and our youth. Jesus Christ is coming again! We have no time to waste. We must prepare ourselves and the children God has given us to meet Him when He comes. He has given everything for us—Let's not disappoint Him when He comes for His children.

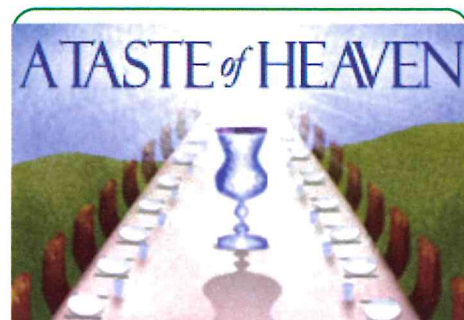
***We must remember:
Adventist Education is
not expensive, it is
priceless!***

*Ken Kirkham
Education Superintendent*



***From the Conference Family
to our Church Family
May You Experience All of
God's Best Blessings during
this Holiday Season***

May God Bless You!



A Taste of Heaven

2005 has a special beginning—with the Sabbath. How could a Special Sabbath Blessing anoint the whole year?

Churches in Wisconsin are inviting members and guests to "A Taste of Heaven"—a special Sabbath of music, prayer, study of the Word, fellowship and reconciliation.

God desires us to have ***passionate spirituality*** and ***loving relationships***. We pray that as we worship on Sabbath, January 1, 2005, the Holy Spirit will lead us into a closer walk with God and with others in the body of Christ.

Watch for the announcements in your church for this special weekend. This ***Taste of Heaven*** will contribute to a transformation of life, which is God's objective.

First Annual Evangelist Affirmation Banquet a Huge Success



Rodney Grove

Over eighty persons gathered at Fireside Lodge at Camp Wakonda to affirm the work of public evangelism. Elder Rodney Grove, Executive Secretary of

the Lake Union Conference, gave the devotional and added his affirmation to the gathered pastors and lay people.

Evangelists received certificates of appreciation from the Conference,

shared their stories, and gave glory to God for victories won.



James Fox and Don Corkum listen intently as Horace Gentle, elder of the Kenosha Church shares his experience

The LampLetter is the Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Donald Corkum	President
Brian Hamilton	Secty/Treasury
James Fox	Editor
Kitty Crary	Secretary

Your comments and submissions are welcomed:

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Madison, WI 53707
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jfox@wi.adventist.org**

Is there a Future for Public Evangelism?

In the mid-1980's, there was a sentiment among some Christians that the day for public evangelism in North America was finished—Scores of pastor and lay evangelists in Wisconsin would be inclined to disagree.

In 2002, we launched Hope for the Homeland with over 70 public evangelistic meetings in one year. God blessed our Conference with over 330 baptisms as a direct result of that initiative.

But public evangelism is not a stand alone event:

- It works best where there is a solid Church School with dedicated Christian teachers
- It works best where members have been active giving Bible studies in the Community
- It works best where there has been Health Ministry outreach and people know the Adventist Church is seeking their best good
- It works best where church members have been praying and laboring consistently in sowing the gospel seed.

Public Evangelism can be best understood as a counterpart to harvest time on the farm. Farmers don't try to harvest where no seed has been sown.

Growing churches seem to follow a cycle of activities in their body life:

1. Revival—Growing churches schedule, pray and plan for a deliberate time of revival and passionate spirituality
2. Training and Equipping—In growing churches, 60-80% of the members are active in ministry and there is a deliberate process of training to increase effectiveness
3. Outreach—Growing churches reach out to their communities. Through health ministries, community services, Bible studies, cooking schools, and C.H.I.P. programs, new people are brought into the church's orbit of influence
4. Harvest Evangelism—Growing churches invite people to make decisions for Jesus and His Church based on Bible truth

5. Nurture—Growing churches plan on an effective plan of nurture for new and existing believers. This often includes small group ministries, visitation programs, and *spiritual guardian* relationships.

Surveys have discovered that growing churches plan their events out over an eighteen to twenty-four month cycle . . .

and then they start it all over again.

We are helping an increasing number of pastor and lay-evangelists to grow in their skills and efficiency. Is God calling you to be one of their number?



I envision an army empowered by the Holy Spirit hastening to the final harvest. If you would like to be part of that army, call Kitty Crary at 608-241-5235 for assistance in the new year or you may email her at kcrary@wi.adventist.org.

James Fox

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