

Lampletter — Wisconsin

Volume 2, Number 1

March, 1999

General Conference President Resigns

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA ... [ANN] Robert S. Folkenberg, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, announced his decision to resign at a specially-called meeting today (February 8) at the Church's World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Folkenberg chose to personally inform staff of his decision to tender his resignation to the Church's Executive Committee.

Citing the controversy over allegations arising from an ongoing lawsuit, Folkenberg said that this was "detracting from God's work" and so in order "to avoid pain and conflict to my family and the church I love I am removing myself from the controversy." Concerns over business relationships with James Moore, the plaintiff in the lawsuit filed in Sacramento, California, had led the Church to set up, with Folkenberg's support, a special committee to address the church-related issues. This committee reported to the Church's Administrative Committee on January 27, 1999, which referred the issue to the Church's full Executive Committee, the body authorized to deal with such matters.

The son of missionaries, Folkenberg was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in the U.S. and Cuba. He began working for the Adventist Church as a pastoral intern in 1963 and has worked as evangelist, missionary

pilot, and in a wide range of leadership roles. He was elected president of the Adventist World Church in 1990, at its executive session in

Indianapolis, Indiana.



Folkenberg resigns

Folkenberg's years as leader of the Adventist Church have seen major advances in global mission and

the effective blending of cutting-edge technology and evangelism. He personally led in developing strategies to use satellite broadcasts and the Internet in gospel outreach. As the Church's "communication president," Folkenberg has devoted a significant portion of his time to visit and support the Church's mission around the world. He emphasized the active role of laity in ministry and witness as well as greater personal and professional accountability at all levels of the Church.

In his formal statement addressed to G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the Executive Committee, Folkenberg said, "I will continue to give my all to advancing the mission of the church." According to the Church's working policy, Thompson now serves as acting president until a new president is

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New President Elected

Jan Paulsen was elected president of the General Conference of



Seventh-day Adventists today (March 1). The election occurred as part of a special meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee, which

continues through Friday.

Pastor Paulsen has been vice-president of the General Conference since 1995. Prior to that he was president of the Trans-European Division from 1983 to 1995. Pastor Paulsen has been a pastor,

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The Presidential View



Together We Can

Would you like to see young people and adults praying for each other and asking forgiveness for any misunderstanding that may have

occurred between them? This was the response following Jose Rojas' meeting in Milwaukee on Sabbath, February 6. It was a powerful meeting of reconciliation. About 600 were present to participate in the event.

The Milwaukee area churches are embarking on a two year evangelistic outreach called FORWARD 2000. On February 5 and 6 they met at the Milwaukee Junior Academy auditorium to launch this weekend. It was an inspiring time with Elder Rojas as the featured speaker. Together, the churches and members will be more successful in this outreach than if they worked independently. The motto is true that when we operate by God's Spirit and in cooperation with one another—

Together We Can!

Together We Can is also the name chosen for the cafeteria project. Raising one million dollars seems a huge challenge for Wisconsin. However, if everyone gives sacrificially as they are able, it will be accomplished. This means equal sacrifice, not equal giving.

During September and October the appeal to the general membership will take place. Prior to that time visits and contacts will be made on a more personal basis. Every person needs to be praying how they can help make this project a reality. There is no doubt that

Together We Can!

Many plans are underway to make 1999 a year to honor and glorify our God. Let's remember the motto in all our activities—**Together We Can!**

www.adventsource.org

AdventSource is on the *web*!! Although we are a long way from completing our web page, version 1.0 is available for local church leaders to use.

Our current goal is to put each of our resource catalogs on the web making it easy for local leaders to place their orders or ask questions electronically. Orders and questions have already started to roll in... As with everyone involved in electronic communication and commerce, we have found that many of our orders and requests come from the other side of the world. What a fantastic opportunity to share the wealth of resources we enjoy here in the North American Division with local church leaders around the world!

Here is what you can expect [adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) to do in the future:

Search by key word

Sort by ministry

Send you ministry specific information

The web provides a great opportunity to connect ministry leaders with resources. At AdventSource we want to empower local leaders to reach others for Jesus Christ.

"The opposite of love is not hate—it is indifference."

Joe L. Wheeler (1936-)

With Sadness . . .

In this issue of the Lamp Letter, considerable space has been devoted to the resignation of Elder Folkenberg as General Conference President. This is the first time a president of the General Conference has resigned for other than health reasons. Therefore we want the Wisconsin Constituency to be informed of the matter.

Elder Folkenberg has made a tremendous contribution to the mission of this church. He has been the "communication President" travelling around the world and every week sending a report that has been circulated to leadership in every field. His leadership in the technological development of the church has been significant.

This is not an easy time for the Folkenberg's and I know they would appreciate knowing we have them in our prayers. We had hoped that Elder Folkenberg would be our main speaker for the first weekend of Campmeeting this year but a change will need to be made in this plan.

It is encouraging to realize that Christ is the leader of the church. He guides it through its most difficult moments. He leads it on to victory.

Donald Corkum, President

Wisconsin's Newest Congregation

Excitement filled the air as members and friends of the Sheboygan Spanish Company gathered at the Sheboygan Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 23—a new church congregation was being born. Twenty-seven church members signed the membership roster as charter members including one person baptized during the service.

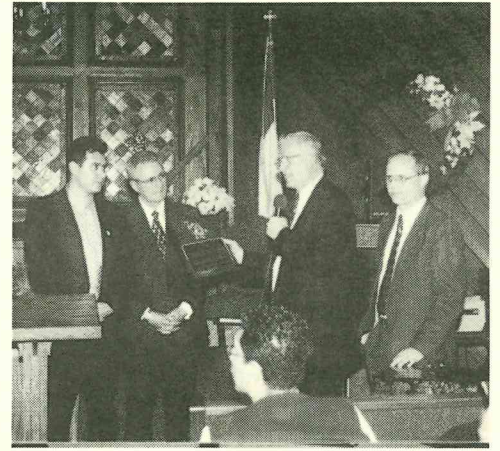
The Sheboygan Spanish Company has demonstrated good growth through capable leadership. Small group ministry has been an integral part of its success. One group introduced on January 23 had eighteen members with only two being church members. Most of the group were in their teens or early twenties.

Pastor Vazquez then made an extraordinary invitation for people to come forward who planned on becoming members of the new company—twenty five friends came forward to sign the roster showing their interest in being a part of the Adventist fellowship. We praise God for this positive response.

The Spanish congregation expressed heartfelt thanks to the English speaking church. They attributed a lot of their success to the support and cooperation of their English brothers and sisters. Sheboygan Spanish Company have benefited from the use of a Chapel in the English Church.

We praise God for this new congregation and hope it will continue to grow and reach out in the Sheboygan area.

Donald Corkum, President



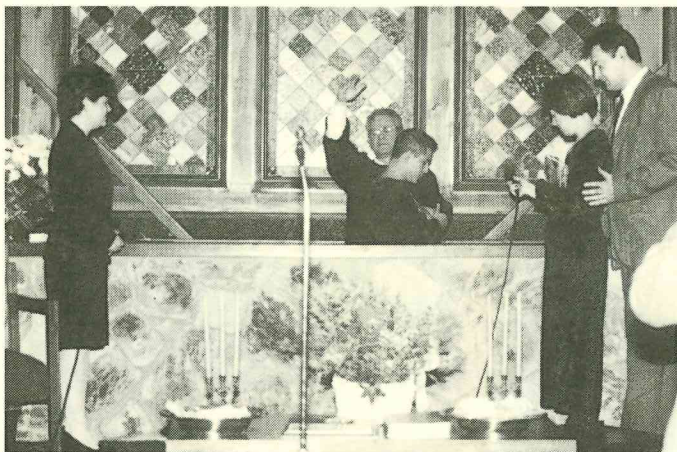
Elder Corkum presents a plaque of recognition to the Sheboygan Spanish Company



New members and friends of the Sheboygan Spanish Company



Members sign the roll of the new company



Edgar Martinez is baptized by Pastor Vazquez as members of his small group gather in support



Prayer of Dedication—Brian Hamilton, Don Corkum, Orlando Vazquez, Sylvestre Torres, Michael Hansen, Hector De Armas, Steve Gallimore

People in Transition

Farewell



Pastor Orlando & Raquel Vazquez

Many tears were shed as Orlando and Raquel Vazquez announced that they had accepted a call to be Spanish coordinator of the Indiana

conference. They are greatly loved and appreciated by the members of the Spanish community in Wisconsin.

Orlando and Raquel have provided excellent leadership for the Spanish work during the past eight years. There has been significant growth to the established churches and new companies have been formed. On January 23 a new church was established in Sheboygan under Elder Vazquez's pastoral leadership.

In recent years, the Spanish churches were organized to participate in the NAD Net evangelism program. This will continue to be a strength to the Spanish work. Elder Vazquez' understanding of technology along with talented lay members, enabled the churches to get the equipment and reception necessary for the events.

Perhaps the greatest emphasis of the past two years has been the successful small group program among the Spanish churches. Elder Vazquez leadership has been a key in this success. In 1998 he was asked to be a presenter at SEEDS 98 at Berrien Springs, Michigan. His topic was on how to develop a small group program within a congregation.

We will greatly miss the Vazquez family in Wisconsin. We wish them God's richest blessing as they minister in Indiana.

Welcome

Pastor Jeff and Melanie Coleman join our Conference family as pastor

to the Durand Church and Chaplain for the Chippewa Valley Hospital and Oak View Care Center.

The Hispanic Churches of Milwaukee have already welcomed Pastor Ruben Rivera as the new coordinator for Hispanic Ministries.

The Rivera family moved to the Metro Milwaukee area from Indiana and took up their work as of March 1.

Pastor Mikhail Kulakov, Jr. and his wife Lyudmila began their ministry in the Superior District. The



Pastor Mikhail Kulakov, Jr., Lyudmila, Tanya and Constantine

The newest member of our Conference pastoral family is Albert Malones. He has been finishing his doctoral studies at Andrews University and will pastor the Lena District. Pastor Malones will relocate his family from Alberta and will take up his work around the first of May.



Pastor Albert Malones



Pastor Ruben Rivera, his wife, Areli, Jodari, Arisleidy and Reuben Jr.

Notices

BETHEL JUNIOR ACADEMY is celebrating its 100th year alumni weekend on April 24. All former students are urged to attend this celebration. Friday night vespers, Sabbath church service, planned fellowship lunch followed by afternoon and evening programs. Guest speaker will be Pastor Paul Johnson.

Does your Church Need a New Organ? Marshfield church has an organ for sale. Just had it gone over & will sell for the highest offer. Contact Pastor Terry McComb for details 715-652-3353

Woodland Adventist School celebrates its 25th year. Set in Southern Wisconsin, surrounded by pine and oak woods and rolling farmland, a shared vision was realized in building a school committed to Christian education. Now we celebrate 25 years in a one day event on **May 15, 1999**. Come to enjoy the reminiscence by bringing your memorabilia, photos, and such to share with your friends (bring them too). If you have never been here before, what more perfect time to find out more about us, as we continue to provide quality Adventist education. Pathfinders, past and present, will also be highlighted in pictures, old collections, projects, and current events. We will be interested to see the oldest Adventist photos or documents from the old two-room school on Vernal Avenue in Milton as well. There will be a fellowship dinner, and a light supper. Bring a dish to pass, along with your family, friends, and memories.

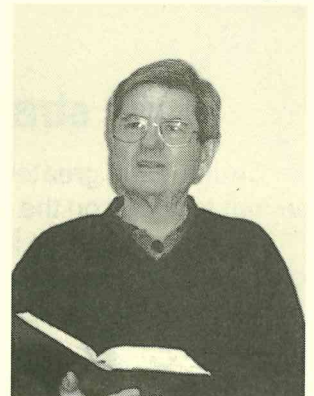
All of the 15,000 Discover the Power Camporee tickets have been sold. There is however still a need for volunteers. International registrations are arriving daily. Call 608-241-5235 for information on volunteering.

Convention of Men is a Huge Success!

The "*Meaning for Men*" convention at Wakonda hosted 90 men in an exciting weekend February 5-7. Featured speakers Henry Martin of Weimar Institute in CA, and Steve Yeagley from Andrews University, MI, highlighted the fourth annual gathering.

Inspiration from the story of the temptations of Christ and personal sharing from life and God's Word changed lives and recharged energies. Participants expressed a profound gratitude for the experience together. Darwin Elmer, Tim Crary and Terry Goss led the group in *choir like* praise.

According to Jim and Linda Johnson, the event was an exciting opportunity for ministry which stretched the capacity of our winterized facilities at camp.



The Many Faces of Henry Martin



*Men's Retreat wouldn't
be the same without a
delightful hostess like
Linda Johnson*



Men gathered to pray



*Real Men do it right—Terry
Danaher of the Milton Church sets
the lodge right before leaving*

Did you know . . .

That camp meeting is just three months away!

1999 Speakers:

- ✓ Benjamin Reaves
- ✓ Kenneth Cox and the VOP team
- ✓ Kay Kuzma
- ✓ Harold Friesen
- ✓ Mike Ryan & Gary Krause
- ✓ Donald Corkum

1999 Seminar Presenters

- ✓ Russell Burrill
- ✓ Kay Kuzma
- ✓ Kenneth Cox
- ✓ Ben Maxson
- ✓ Homer Trecartin

Be there—June 19-27.

The Extreme Team is coming!

The Extreme Team is coming to Wisconsin camp meeting! Youth and Teens will meet the five member team of youth devoting a year to evangelism as they rove over North America in a new venture for the Center for Youth Evangelism. The team consisting of two young women and three young men are scheduled to share at our June 18-26 convocation.

Forward 2000

Our strategy for reaching men and women for Christ

The Churches of greater Milwaukee met together on the weekend of February 6 & 7 to be inspired and to chart a course towards the new millennium—**Forward 2000**:

Forward 2000 is ministry-based evangelism!

Forward 2000 enlists all members to become involved in ministry, kids, youth, adults and seniors.

Forward 2000 enlists all of our members to work together in unity to prepare to meet Christ

February 6 & 7, was a featured weekend to kick off **Forward 2000**. Elder Jose Rojas, Youth Director for all North America, spoke to the Youth on Friday night. Over two hundred kids (Wisconsin Academy sent two bus loads) came to hear strong Biblical messages mixed with appropriate humor and challenge. Sabbath School gave way to a Mission Pageant featuring local ministries—Pathfinding to Street Ministry; Bible Studies to Bible Labs . . . and Small Groups.

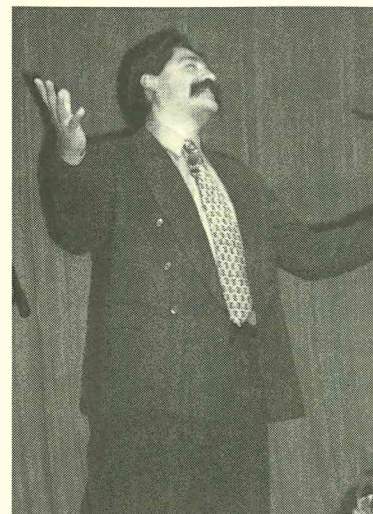


When teens are involved, there is energy and "they know computers, too!"

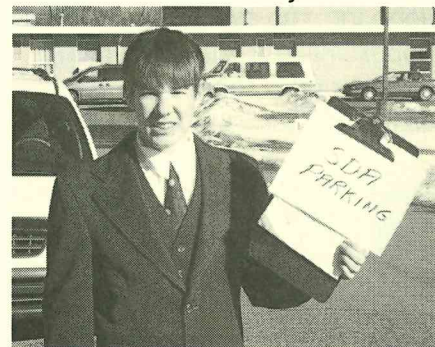
A highlight of the weekend came as Elder Rojas closed the worship service with an invitation to young people to join him in service to Jesus—Scores of youth leapt from their seats to join. He then asked if any adults wanted to join the youth and support them—the platform quickly filled with Christians dedicated to ministry.

And that is **Forward 2000** in the fullest sense - ministering in the name of Christ.

James Fox, Editor



Dynamic Preaching from Jose Rojas



*Josh McCutcheon of Milwaukee
Central Church welcomed
people from out on W. Mill Road*



*Adventist Street Ministry met the
needs of this hungry man on a cold
February afternoon*

A Church Home for the Homeless

For over a year, four Churches have teamed up to provide a ministry of food and clothing for homeless people in Metro Milwaukee. On Sabbath, January 23rd, Carol Pitzka rented a school bus to bring guests from the downtown to the Milwaukee Northwest Church for Sabbath Services. The Youth of the church went down to ride back with our guests. They also sat with them during the Church service and dinner.

Dee Kessen, Kathie McFadden and John and Judy Carr prepared a luscious, hot, vegetarian meal. The Church also shared two gifts of toiletries with their guests, one for them and one for a friend.

The Sabbath project was a wonderful success. Our guests were so impressed with Pastor Steve Aust's sermon of God's love for us and the friendliness of the Church that they were, "going to tell our friends so plan on more coming next time."

Helen Gibson, Milwaukee Northwest Correspondent

Public High School Retreat—Awesome

Some people expect the worst from kids — Can you just imagine the headline, "Fifty High School kids descend on Westfield—Havok Follows?" That was not the case when those high school kids were Adventist Christians.

Fifty-one students, sixteen sponsors, eighteen Andrews University presenters plus Elder Dale Ziegele gathered at Camp Wakonda for a "Public High School Retreat" from February 6 to 8. One sponsor later wrote, "Thank you for having the camp with the youth this last weekend. Our only request from this end . . . is, why not have this once a quarter?"

The Andrews University students led out in the weekend's activities. There were trust-building exer-

cises, singing, studying, praying and playing. And then there was food (they are still teens, remember?).

Some invited their unchurched friends to be their guests. Brooke Wing of Madison asked her friend, Hillary to go with her and she said yes. Hillary is a very positive person who has very little if any church background. She had a great time and was full of questions when the weekend was over.

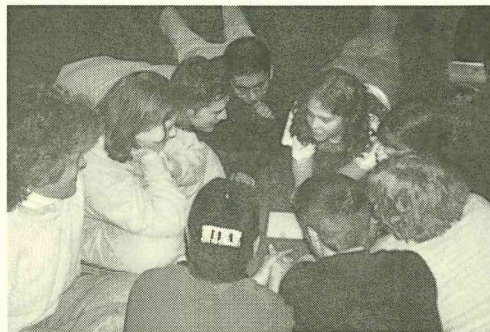
Every quarter? Every month? Public High School presents its challenges to our kids. Let's pray with them and for them as we support them in living for Jesus.

Looks like a blessing—why weren't all your church's kids there?

James Fox, Editor



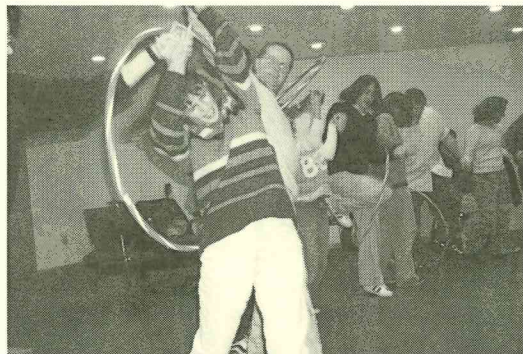
They sang



They studied



They prayed



and they played

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elected by the full Church Executive Committee in its meetings beginning March 1.

Adventist News Network

Text of Elder Folkenberg's Statement

"From my early childhood as the son of missionary parents in Inter-America, to my ministry as General Conference President, my entire life has been tirelessly and singlemindedly devoted to advancing the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church. However, over the last few weeks it has become apparent to me that the controversy surrounding the allegations of James E. Moore, made in the context of his lawsuit against the church and me, is detracting from God's work.

While I have repeatedly and publicly acknowledged mistakes in my dealings with Mr. Moore I rejoice that the integrity of my motives has not been called into question. However, to avoid additional pain and conflict to my family and the church I love I am removing myself from the controversy by tendering my resignation through you to the General Conference Executive Committee.

I will continue to give my all to advancing the mission of the church and I pray that through this action the church can maintain its focus on the task our Lord has entrusted to us."

Robert S Folkenberg

Bible Bowls

Pathfinder Bible Bowl enthusiasm has taken a big leap since last year with twelve clubs participating as compared to four at the local conference level last year. Teachers, pastors, parents, grandparents and others have come to support these young scholars.

The purpose of our Bible Bowl is to encourage Pathfinders to study the Bible. Every club has the potential to place First and move on to the Conference Level and then to the Union Level. The higher the level the more difficult/technical the questions become. First, second and third place awards are based on percentage of correct answers.

Teams are composed of six Pathfinders arrayed in full dress uniform with a scribe who writes the agreed answer and displays it in full view of a panel of judges. They are drilled on 90 questions with 10 seconds to answer each.

The book of Luke, New King James Version, is the subject of study. Conference Level Bible Bowl - Wisconsin Academy—March 13, 4:00 PM

Union Level Bible Bowl—Andrews University—April 10

Bible Bowl Standings

Third Place

- ← Frederic Northern Lights
- ← Fox Valley Eagles
- ← Lena Wildcats
- ← Sheboygan Shepherds
- ← Bethel Songbirds

Second Place

- ← Wisconsin Academy Voyageurs
- ← Madison Mustangs
- ← Pine View Foresters

First Place

- ← Woodland Rangers
- ← Rice Lake Skywatchers
- ← Dairyland Doers
- ← Green Bay Pioneers

Aileen King



Blake & Jon Martin of the Woodland Rangers focus intently on Michelle Danaher's answer



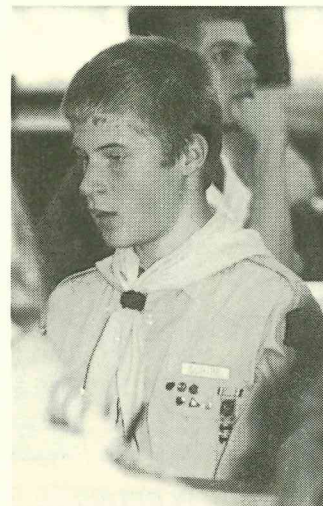
Jerry Miller, Jr. and Rachelle Ochs of the Pine View Forester's Club pen their answer while D.J. Patton, volunteer scorekeeper, monitors



Sandy Magray and the Green Bay Pioneers enjoyed a light moment during a break



The Central Wisconsin Songbirds team were ready for action



Patrick Lynaugh of the Madison Mustangs contributes to his team's answer

Continued from page 1

a departmental leader, a teacher, and a college president.

A native of Norway, Paulsen becomes the first European to be president of the world Church. He has academic degrees from Andrews University in Michigan and Tübingen University in Germany.

The committee of 244 registered members from more than 90 countries met for the full day, with the entire committee serving as the nominating committee. They spent almost two hours discussing the qualifications they expected in a president, and turned to prayer on four occasions.

In the process of selecting a president, the committee considered more than 10 names and spent almost four hours in discussion.

During the morning, the committee heard a devotional message by George Brown, former president of the Inter-American Division of the Church, and a statement presented by Robert S. Folkenberg, former president of the world Church.

Folkenberg spoke approximately 30 minutes, thanking the committee for giving him the opportunity to lead the Church for more than eight years. He noted that church membership had grown from 6 million in 1990 to more than 10 million today, and that contributions to the Church now total more than \$1.5 billion a year.

After discussion, the committee voted to formally accept Folkenberg's February 7 resignation. A full text of Folkenberg's remarks is posted on the Seventh-day Adventist Church's web site at www.adventist.org

Wisconsin Conference Wins Approval to Write Charitable Gift Annuities

The Planned Giving department was notified in December that its application to write charitable gift annuities has been approved by the Wisconsin Insurance Commission.

That notification marked the end of a year long project by the Planned Giving department to gain approval. Many states do not regulate the writing of charitable gift annuities, but Wisconsin does. This adds an excellent financial tool with which to serve our constituents.

Under the terms of a charitable gift annuity, the donor can contribute cash or stocks or other assets acceptable to the charity in exchange for a set amount of income for the rest of their life. This helps those who have a need for increased income while at the same time allowing them a current charitable deduction for part of the gift.

For example, Mrs. Member is 86 years old. She had two \$10,000 CD's accruing 5.0% giving her \$1,000 per year income. She would like to do something for the church, but really needs the income from the CD's. If she would get a charitable gift annuity for that \$20,000, she could be guaranteed 10.8 % (by all the assets of the issuing organization) for life or \$2,160 a year income. In addition, she would be allowed to claim a charitable contribution of

	Age	Payout Rate	Gift Amount	Income Taxed	Return of Principal
\$10,800 in the year she purchases the annuity.					
This might provide additional tax savings.	60	6.7%	0.33	58.7%	41.3%
	65	7.0%	0.37	54.9%	45.1%
	70	7.5%	0.41	50.4%	49.6%
She would also have the security of knowing that	72	7.7%	0.43	48.7%	51.3%
even if expenses (nursing home, etc.) would	74	8.0%	0.44	46.7%	53.3%
use up all her assets she	76	8.3%	0.46	44.7%	55.3%
would always have this	78	8.7%	0.47	42.5%	57.5%
income and know she	80	9.2%	0.49	40.8%	59.2%
has done something for	82	9.6%	0.51	38.6%	61.4%
the Lord's work.	84	10.2%	0.53	36.2%	63.8%
	86	10.8%	0.54	33.8%	66.2%
	88	11.4%	0.56	31.2%	68.8%
	90	12.0%	0.58	28.7%	71.3%

*Richard Habenicht
Planned Giving*

100th Anniversary Celebration—Home with Jesus

Wisconsin Academy celebrates its 100th Anniversary on the weekend of April 16-17. The Academy anticipates several thousand guests and they have a great program planned.

Speakers for the weekend include Danny Shelton of the ~~_____~~ Broadcast Network (attended WA in 1969), Buz Menhardt of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, and Don

Schneider, Lake Union Conference President.

Friday Night: Danny Shelton
Why I Believe in Miracles

Sabbath Worship Buz Menhardt
Crowded Halls and Home Again

Sabbath Afternoon Don Schneider
100 Years of Reflection

For information, call 920-623-3300 or e-mail to princ@wi.net.



Adventist Book Center "Ticket to Savings Sale"



March is Music Month at your A.B.C.!

Save up to 20% on songbooks, music, and videos.

Hymnals - reg. **\$13.99** now **\$10.99**

All **CD's and Cassettes 10% off** (in stock items)

All **Video's 15% off** (excluding sets)

Chapel Music samplers **\$2.00** (Reg. \$4.99)

Food Specials!

Cedar Lake Quick Burger	\$2.19/can
Cedar Lake Hostess Cuts	\$1.99/can
Cedar Lake VegiScallops	\$1.99/can
Loma Linda Sandwich Spread	\$1.99/can
Worthington Tuno	\$2.19/can
Dinner Roast	\$7.99/pkg
Grillers	\$1.97/pkg
Corn Dogs (MSF and LL)	\$2.99/pkg



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