

Lamp Letter

News for our Wisconsin church family

April/May 1996

GRACIAS, WISCONSIN AMIGOS!

"*Gracias*" (thank you) was heard many times as Wisconsin Conference administrators recently traveled throughout the Dominican Republic. They, along with other Lake Union personnel, visited churches and schools that Lake Union funds and members helped to build and looked at current needs for possible future projects.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is growing rapidly in the Dominican Republic. With nearly 100,000 members among the island's eight million population, it is the largest Protestant denomination. In Santo Domingo, the capitol city, 120 Adventist churches meet each Sabbath! And 65% of the city's 24,000 members are under age 35. They greatly need a large youth center for worship, recreation and fellowship.

The North Dominican Conference, sister conference to Wisconsin, is currently holding 10 evangelistic crusades in the city of Santiago with tremendous success. Hundreds of new members are joining the church. Their big challenge is to provide places of worship. Wisconsin members have a great opportunity to help with these growth needs--by giving funds to OPERATION AMIGO, or by actually helping with construction. Those who go say, "It's a life-changing experience!"

Yes, "*Gracias, Wisconsin amigos!*" comes to you from the hearts of the Dominican people for your support in their mission of sharing the gospel.

-- Don Corkum, President



"We thank you for your assistance for the enhance in the physical and spiritual life of each of our students," school children tell Wisconsin OPERATION AMIGO donors.



Student body of the San Francisco de Macoris School, built by Lake Union member donations, with Wisconsin visitors. Enrollment increased from 60 at the old school to 240 in the new facility, with most coming from families not members of our church.

**CAMP MEETING TEACHERS NEEDED
for Cradle Roll, Kindergarten and Primary**
Please contact Kitty Cray at (608) 241-5235 for details

MINISTRIES MEETING MEMBER NEEDS

Twenty men braved blowing snow and bitter cold to join Family Life Director **Dale Ziegele** at Camp Go Seek for the first annual Wisconsin Men's Retreat in January.

The group focussed on strengthening relationships to God, spouse and family. "Staying in the new lodge was great, and the food was wonderful," commented **Gary Schultz**, Eau Claire. "I'd come again." (His normal three-hour trip to camp took six hours!)

Women, Teen Girls' Retreats

"It's Worth the Wait," a one-day retreat sponsored by Women's Ministries, drew 82 teen girls in March. Meeting at Petersen Elementary School, they heard Indianans **Judy Jordan** and **Debbie Barcella** sharing ways to handle the gift of sexuality.

Wisconsin Academy hosted over 200 women on the same day, with a variety of topics: **Dee Kessen**, Milwaukee, on the Biblical story of Ruth; child psychologist **Susan Boon**, Raymond, on relating to the special needs child; personal testimony by **Yvonne Thomas**, WA assistant girls' dean; child development by **Jeannie Buchholz**, WA teacher; Scripture memorization by sisters/teachers **Vonda Seals**, WA, and **Tami Lewis**, Portage; and hospitality by **Becki Knobloch**, Oconto Falls.

"I can't leave my three children for a weekend, but one day is great!" said one participant. Another confessed, "I thought the women's retreats were just for the younger ladies. Now I know they're for all ages. This was my first time--but it won't be my last!"

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO TOMAHAWK?

After the 1992 conference constituency vote to close the Tomahawk Church, what has happened?

April 9, 1993, the reorganized, seven-member Tomahawk Company met in reconsecration.

"We have not only kept our church going, but we generously support ADRA, the academy Y.E.S. program, and H.A.V.E.N. (area home for abused families)," reports clerk Candee Kuhn. "We've had video outreaches, personal Bible studies, musicals, literature distribution, and a baptism." The group is also involved with Net '96 in sending 5,000 Bible study course cards.

WA ALUMNI WEEKEND

April 12-13

Theme: "More Like Jesus"

Guest Speakers

Pastor Jeff Cinquemani ('76)

Chaplain, Florida Hospital

Elder Don Schneider ('60)

Lake Union Conf. President

NEW LAY ADVISORY OFFICERS CHOSEN

New Wisconsin Lay Advisory chairman, elected at the March 10 meeting, is **Merlin (Sam) Bass**, Fox Valley. Serving with him are **Jerry Mann**, Sturgeon Bay, vice chairman, and **Steve Mertins**, Watertown, secretary.



Sam Bass

Bass, an elder in his church, was a member of the Florida Lay Advisory before moving to Wisconsin in 1994.

He hopes the Lay Advisory will become more active, providing positive suggestions to improve local churches, schools, and the conference operation.

About 45 delegates to the annual session heard reports from conference president Don Corkum and secretary-treasurer Ken Wright. The group also shared ideas about how the conference, its churches and members, can best fulfill their mission.

Bass urges churches without Lay Advisory delegates to elect a representative. A second Lay Advisory Council is planned at campmeeting, Sunday, June 23.

NEWS BRIEFS

Van Ministry -- A joint meeting of churches in the Milwaukee area on April 13 will explore the possibility of a van ministry to the homeless and disadvantaged.

Awareness -- Communication director Laurie Herr photographed pastors greeting the new conference president in January and submitted a photo and article to numerous local newspapers. The resulting news clippings increased community awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

(Note: Laurie and her husband Gaylan, WA district pastor, welcomed their first child, Emma Wallace, on March 5. This *Lamp Letter* was edited by others during her maternity leave.)

Bible Worker -- Through the generosity of a former Menomonie church member, Pastor Art Miller will be assisted by a Bible worker this fall. Three of the four churches in his district are planning for Net '96.



Derailment -- Twenty victims of the recent trail derailment accepted the invitation of the Fox Valley church to a special fellowship meal on Sabbath, March 9. (Photo courtesy of Dr. G. Rodriguez)

VBS Visitors -- Ten children regularly attend Sabbath School at the Clearwater Lake church as the result of Vacation Bible School, according to Pastor Bill Ochs.

VBS WORKSHOP NEXT MONTH

A VBS Workshop will be held Sunday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the conference office. Guest speaker Judi Rogers, children's ministries resources, Review and Herald, will share new ideas for VBS and new Bible lessons. She is the co-creator of the VBS program, "Jesus' Kids in the Kitchen."

Even if a church hasn't decided to hold Vacation Bible School this summer, Children's Ministries Director Dale Ziegele encourages coming to the workshop to see the materials available.

"I believe families contacted through VBS will be more interested in attending Net '96 meetings because of their positive impression of Seventh-day Adventists," says Ziegele.

Call the conference office, (608) 241-5235, for reservations to the VBS Workshop.

PREPARING FOR NET '96

Over half the churches in the Wisconsin Conference are participating in Net '96 fall evangelism this year.

Local community friends can join them, listening as Mark Finley of the "It Is Written" telecast speaks to a live audience in Orlando, Florida, and also via satellite to over 2,000 churches throughout North America, October 5 through November 9.

In preparation for this exciting event, church members and pastors all over Wisconsin seek God's guidance. And the 38 churches involved are busy! Many will order Bibles, organize Bible correspondence schools, mail and distribute door to door Bible course enrollment cards, purchase and set up equipment, compile interest names, and upgrade church facilities as needed.

Net '96 Conventions

Major regional meetings to help get ready for Net '96, are slated for four Sabbath afternoons:

May 4 -- Wausau

June 8 -- Milwaukee

September 7 -- Madison

September 21 -- Green Bay

Conference personnel will serve as discussion leaders of the following seminars:

"Greeters and Ushers--Welcoming Net '96 Guests"

"Developing Friendships and Receiving Sabbath Guests"

"Making Your Net '96 Facility User-Friendly"

"Financial Record Keeping"

"Child Evangelism and New Member Follow-up"

"Visitation of Interests and Attendance Records"

"Understanding and Operating Net '96 Equipment"

Last year, eight Wisconsin Adventist churches participated in Net '95, resulting in many new friendships and baptisms.

WA YOUTH RALLY COMING IN MAY

"A fun-filled weekend of music, activities, praise, and worship!" That's campus chaplain Oliver Archer's description of the third annual WA Youth Rally coming May 3-4.

This year's theme, "Time's a Tickin'," focuses on the urgent need for a radical, Spirit-filled, Christian experience. "But that's not all," says Archer. "Stay the whole weekend, enjoy the WA tumbling team home show Saturday night and Academy Day on Sunday."

Rooms are free (bring bedding or sleeping bag, towels, etc). There is a charge for cafeteria meals plus a \$3.00 registration fee to help cover costs.

"A whole group from your local church can enjoy this experience together," Archer invites. "Just have an adult sponsor come along, and register as soon as possible to reserve space in the dorms."

Registration forms are available at your local church, or call WA at (414) 623-3300.

Guest speaker LeClair Litchfield has a creative way of speaking to young people that holds their attention and grips their hearts, according to Archer. "Litch" is campus chaplain at Collegedale Academy in Tennessee. Many former Pathfinders will remember him from the Dare to Care Camporee in Colorado.

Youth Rally check-in time is 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 3 first meeting at

7:30 p.m., closing by 5:30 p.m. Sabbath evening.

"Why not invite your community friends to come with you," Chaplain Archer suggests. "The WA Youth Rally is an excellent way to introduce a friend to the gospel."



From a previous Youth Rally, pictured above are the group "Second Choice"

MONEY TALKS...

And it told conference treasurer Ken Wright that January was a cold month when many didn't attend church! The January 31 report showed tithes down nearly 15%. Fortunately, February brought a cumulative gain of 6.06% over the first two months of 1995.

"Wisconsin Budget continues to be a challenge," says Wright. "We need to show gains there, too, rather than being slightly lower for the first two months of this year than last year."

Employee costs increase this year also--per diem, medical catastrophe insurance, retirement, etc. "But with God's help and the faithfulness of each member, our conference will continue to grow."

CAMPMEETING PREVIEW

If you haven't experienced an old-fashioned campmeeting, your opportunity is coming June 21-29, as Wisconsin Seventh-day Adventists and scores of visitors from other states gather near Westfield for a family vacation in the pines.

Daily and evening tent meetings for children, youth, young and older adults bring spiritual refreshing. *"I always come expecting a blessing, and I always come away with much, much more."* -- **Claire Mattson**, Michigan.

There's outdoor recreation for all ages, fun and fellowship in addition to the meetings. *"Campmeeting is the highlight of my year!"* -- **Becky Boehm**, Portage.

*The LAMP LETTER is produced bimonthly as a report to the members of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Please address all correspondence to the Communication Department.
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Guest speakers to the adults at this year's campmeeting include:

Dr. C. Raymond Holmes, Andrews University Theological Seminary (retired); **Elder James Nix**, associate director of E. G. White Publications; **Lewis Walton**, attorney and author; **Elder Dan Matthews**, director/speaker of Faith for Today's "Christian Lifestyle Magazine"; and **Elder Cyril Miller**, North American Division Vice President for Evangelism/Global Missions.

Tent and RV campsites are still available. Contact the conference office at (608) 241-5235 for reservations.

SUPPORT TEAM WORKING FOR WA

Ways to provide long-term support for Wisconsin Academy are being studied by the WA Support Team, a lay group selected by the conference Executive Committee. Members include Chairperson Aileen Patton, Sandy Miller, Kathy Bricker, Dan Ringwelski, Nelson Boon, Steve Mertins, and invitees Steve Brown and Don Corkum.

Calendar

April	
13-14	Wisconsin Academy Alumni Weekend
21	VBS Workshop Conference Office
28	Pathfinder Fair, WA
May	
3-4	Youth Rally, WA
4	NET '96 Rally, Wausau
5	WA Academy Day
17-18	Hispanic Brotherhood Days Milwaukee
26-27	Memorial Day Weekend, ABC & Conf. Office closed
31-June 2	Wisconsin Academy Graduation Weekend
June	
8	NET '96 Rally, Milwaukee
21-29	Camp Meeting

Special offerings to help fund needs at Wisconsin Academy are scheduled this year for March 30, August 31 and November 30.

If you have other ideas for the WA Support Team in their work, please contact Aileen Patton at (414) 484-6204.

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