

# Lamp Letter

News for our Wisconsin church family

Dec '95-Jan '96

## Corkum becomes Wisconsin's new president



Don and Phyllis Corkum

When Arne and Millie Swanson announced their retirement this fall, the search began for a new conference president. As of Nov. 15, the search is over. Donald Corkum, president of the Alberta Conference, and his wife Phyllis will move "south" in January. Elder Corkum will then begin serving as Wisconsin Conference president.

"You've chosen a very fine person," said Elder Swanson at the Triennial Session on Nov. 12.

Phyllis Corkum will work in the conference office. The Corkums have three children: Sheri Lynn, Rhonda Michelle, and Brian Scott.

*Elder Corkum's resumé highlights:*

- 1987-95 President, Alberta Conference. Also served as Ministerial, Stewardship director and ASI secretary.
- 1985-87 Director, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, Alberta Conference. Coordinated strong lay outreach program.
- 1975-85 Pastor, Alberta.
- 1974-75 Conference evangelist, Maritime Conference.
- 1970-1974 Pastor, New Brunswick. Membership: 150.
- 1966-1969 Pastor of four small churches in New Brunswick before entering the seminary.

## Balance and growth: an interview with Don Corkum

*What were some of the factors that influenced you to come to Wisconsin?*

I had been aware (through the Swansons) of some of the ministries going on in Wisconsin. I had heard positive reports about the field and about the involvement of members in many churches here. I felt my interests in ministry matched Wisconsin's, and I felt I could make a contribution. I thought my pastoring experience in both small and large churches could be a help.

*You've been a conference president for several years. What do you emphasize in your administration?*

My priorities are to expand the work, so that means growth. At the same time, I am concerned that we disciple the people brought into the church—that there's a balance between evangelism and discipleship. We'd like to see every member find their ministry for Christ in service. We'd also like to see more youth involved in service.

*How will your position here differ from working in Canada?*

Basic ministry is not different, but there are organizational differences. Working in the Lake Union will be different because in Canada we have only one union, which covers

about 5,000 miles. Here we have union involvement in many things.

*What are some of your first impressions of Wisconsin?*

It's very beautiful! We like the balance between rural and urban living. Our first Sabbath here [in Sturgeon Bay], we thought the fellowship was beautiful.

*What else would you like us to know about you?*

That together we can take some significant steps toward completing our mission here in Wisconsin. I enjoy working toward that goal from a team point of view.

## 30th Triennial Session meets

A pleasantly lighthearted spirit prevailed at Wisconsin's 30th Triennial Session, which met Nov. 12 at Wisconsin Academy.

"I can tell you folks like these meetings," joked President Arne Swanson in his opening remarks. "I've been here six and a half years, and this is my eighth constituency meeting!"

Though the mood was light, several serious issues were on the agenda: the election of a new president; the reelection of the secretary-treasurer and departmental and service directors; and the possible sale of Rhodes Bake-N-Serve, a major employer of WA students, to Rhodes International.

Arne and Millie Swanson received a standing ovation for their 46 years of denominational service.

"We just want to look at you one more time," Lake Union President Don Schneider said with affection. The Swansons, who have served in Wisconsin since 1989, are retiring to their home in Maine the end of this year.

### Ballots counted

Delegates elected Don Corkum, president of the Alberta Conference, to replace Swanson.

"I have worked with Elder Corkum," noted one delegate. "You will not find a more Christian man."

Delegates then reelected Ken Wright as secretary-treasurer. Departmental and service directors were reelected as follows:

ABC Manager	Roy Hunt
Education	Herbert Wrate
Communication	Laurie Herr

ASI, Children's Ministries, Family Min., Health & Temperance, Community Services, Sabbath School, Youth Min. Dale Ziegele

Ministerial, Personal Min. Steve Gallimore

Public Affairs, Religious Liberty, Trust Services Richard Habenicht

Women's Min. Kathy Freeman (volunteer)

### Sale of Bake-N-Serv

Constituents also voted to sell the Rhodes Bake-N-Serv plant in Columbus to Rhodes International for \$600,000. The alternative was to build a new freezer in order to alleviate costly monthly rental of storage space.

Ken Farnsworth, president of Rhodes International, assured delegates that the sale of the bakery would not affect employment of Wisconsin Academy students.

"That's why we're here. . . We need *more* students," he said. Bake-N-Serv relies on student labor largely because it is cheaper, and because the school year coincides with the bakery's heaviest production schedule.

A surprise announcement came when Farnsworth made a pledge of \$210,000 from Rhodes International over a five-year-period to support Wisconsin Academy. These funds will go to the Quasi-Endowment Fund, with the interest being used for the operation of WA.

The day closed with strong support for our academy and our conference. After calling special



Rhodes President Ken Farnsworth: "We need more students!"

constituency meetings annually for six years, delegates agreed not to meet again, unless a need was indicated by the Executive Committee, until the next Triennial Session in 1998.

### Executive Committee:

Region I	Sonja Nottelson Naty Perez Nelson Boon Steve Cook
Region II	Mick Burrington Dale Bossenberry Sandy Miller Kathy Bricker Herb Wrate
Region III	Sam Bass Don Mann Marvin Clark
Region IV	Sandra Halverson Walter Schroeder Donovan Davis
Region V	Larry Stotz Norm Yoder

### Constitution, Bylaws Committee:

Kenneth Wright, Jr.  
Robert Kuntz  
Earl Peters  
Don Knepel



## Pastor Cal Johnson dies

Pastor Calvin Johnson died from complications of a quadruple bypass on Thanksgiving Day in Appleton. He had retired in October.

"He was a pastor to many of us pastors," said Elder Gaylan Herr (Columbus). Since moving back to Wisconsin from Michigan in 1988, Cal had served as a part-time assistant to the ministerial director. He was also an interim pastor and regular speaker in many churches around the conference.

Funeral services were held Nov. 27 in the Fox Valley Church.

Cal was born Oct. 2, 1923, in Appleton to James and Lulu (Ferguson) Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Mazie; two sons, Ross (Sue) and Kim (Nancy) Johnson; two brothers, Sheridan (Agnes) and Gwyn (Patricia) Johnson; four grandchildren; one step-grandchild; nieces and nephews.

During World War II, Cal served in Europe and the South Pacific. He received a purple heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and numerous other medals.

Cal worked in private construction and sales for 30 years before entering the ministry. He and his brother Sheridan built several schools and churches in Wisconsin.

In addition to pastoring in Wisconsin, Cal served churches in New Mexico, Washington, and Michigan.

## WA wins third yearbook award

For the third year in a row, Wisconsin Academy's yearbook has earned the ALL KEMPA AWARD from the Kettle Moraine Press Association, reports WA secretary Sue Rappette. WA's newspaper, the *Wisconian*, moved up to a second place rating in the competition.

Judges commended the publications for excellent photography and layout. "It's great to see a religious school not hide their religion," the judges wrote.

Many schools, both public and private, throughout Wisconsin and Illinois entered the competition sponsored by the Continuing Education of the University of Wisconsin. Yearbook editor was Kristin Smith; Nick Sigler was editor of the *Wisconian*.

## Treasurer's report: how much does a constituency meeting cost?

What's the average cost of a constituency meeting? About \$2,500 for each of the Special Constituency Meetings held in 1993 and 1994, estimates Wisconsin Treasurer Ken Wright. The Triennial Session cost roughly \$7,500. This is only an estimate, notes Wright, as all bills are not yet received.

Our Wisconsin tithe is up 4.93 percent over October of last year, Wright reports. "This represents very good news, since it includes one less Sabbath than last year," says Wright.

## Men's retreat planned

"Bringing Meaning to Life" is the theme of the Just for Men Retreat scheduled for Jan. 26-28 at Camp Go Seek. The weekend will feature comfortable, interactive experiences designed just for men.

Meals, dorm-style lodging, and seminar materials are included in the \$48 early registration fee (must be received by **Jan. 8.**)

"We need such a retreat because men's needs are dramatically different from those of women," says Family Life Director Dale Ziegele. The retreat is designed to

meet the needs of husbands and fathers who desire more meaning in their lives.

This event is open to single and married men 18 and over. A money-back guarantee applies! Reservations are limited to 30; for more information call 608-241-5235, or write Just for Men, P. O. Box 7310, Madison, WI 53707.

## Sandy Miller honored

Sandy Miller (Madison) was one of ten ASI women honored by the General Conference and North American Division offices of Women's Ministries at a luncheon held during the 48th annual convention.

Both Sandy and Margaret Jean Harris of Burtonsville, MD, were named 1995 Women of the Year in Church Ministries.

Sandy is active with ASI in Wisconsin and in the Dominican Republic, where she has helped build churches and schools. At home, she recently organized a women's Bible study group and a special prayer group for young mothers. She is school board chair for the Madison Elementary School and an active member of the K-12 Board. —*ASI Magazine*

## ACN Bulletin

Jan. 13—Starting a Youth Ministry in Your Church, 3-5 PM Central Time, Galaxy 4 Channel 7. Learn how to start a successful program in your church and community.

Jan. 21—Conflict with Your Teen, 6-8 PM Central Time, Galaxy 4 Channel 5. A live and interactive outreach seminar. Invite friends and neighbors.



## Calendar

### December

12 Executive Committee

15 Christmas Concert,  
WA chapel, 8 p.m.

21-Jan 2 Vacation, WA

22-Jan 2 Vacation, K-10

24 ABC closed

25 Christmas  
Office/ABC closed

### January

7-10 Minister-Teacher  
Council

15 MLK Birthday  
Office/ABC closed

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Editor: Laurie S. Herr

## Announcements

### ■ Swansons' new address:

17 Cross Street, Camden, ME 04843  
(207) 236-8183.

■ **Missing:** The 15 videos that make up *Dimensions of Prophecy for Today* by Ken Cox. If you or your church has them, please notify the conference office.

■ **Personnel:** Welcome to **Pastor David and Janet Hoover**, from the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. Elder Hoover is the new pastor of the Janesville District. **Isaac Park** now serves on a stipend basis as lay leader of the Waukesha Korean Group. Congratulations to conference secretary **Jackie Wilson**, now married to **Dick Saunders!**

## Women's Retreat brings record attendance

Meetings rooms at the Chula Vista Resort were pleasantly crowded as the annual Wisconsin Women's Retreat took place Nov. 3-5. A record 373 women attended.

Weekend highlights included a variety of breakaways along with presentations by Millie Case, nursing instructor at Atlantic Union College. Millie spoke at Wisconsin's first retreat in 1989.

Fresh flowers, fruit, and a ribbon-tied "prayer rock" on each pillow made women feel welcome.


"My husband has a brand new wife!" exclaimed one non-Adventist after the inspirational weekend.

Sunday morning featured a farewell for Millie Swanson. "I don't remember ever before feeling like



*Above: Millie Swanson, left, and retreat co-planner Aileen Patton (Columbus) hold up the angelic afghan given to Millie at the retreat. Besides serving as Conference Church Records Secretary, Millie has helped plan several past retreats and helped with women's ministries in many other ways.*

I would miss a conference president's wife," said one woman.

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