

Lamp Letter

News for our Wisconsin church family

February/March 1996

Gearing up for Net '96

Net '96, the satellite-based evangelistic series featuring Mark Finley planned for this fall, was the main topic of discussion for pastors at the January Minister-Teacher meetings. In this interview, Ministerial Director Steve Gallimore discusses Wisconsin's main evangelistic effort for 1996:

How many churches in Wisconsin will participate in Net '96?

Right now there are about 30 churches participating.

How does that compare with Net '95?

We had eight churches in '95.

How long do they have to join?

There's still time to sign up by the first of April. To receive conference funding, churches must sign up by Feb. 15.

How will Net '96 differ from Net '95?

Net '96 is much more comprehensive. In '95 they did have a program preceding the main event, by way of member education and interest generation. But Net '96 is a more complete, year-long program that will lead up to the main event. Its goal is to elicit total church involvement and interest generation.

More churches around the world will be involved. This year roughly 2,000 churches in North America will participate, with another 500

in Inter- and South America, and some churches in Europe.

What were some of the problems with Net '95? How have they been corrected?

Given the fact that Net '95 was the first time satellite evangelism had been tried, things went amazingly well, but there were glitches. In Net '96 they have tried to identify those glitches and correct them. Probably the greatest problem was communication to the pastors on a technical level. They've recognized this problem and have hired someone just for full-time communication.

How will interests be generated?

Hopefully at least half of the names will be generated by the local church and about half by handbills. If a church will work with the pastor in having a year-long evangelism
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Pastors, literature evangelists, members, students—everyone can get involved with Net '96. Summer Chodak, right, a senior at Wisconsin Academy, is part of a special witnessing class. This spring the class will help prepare the Beaver Dam area for Net '96.

Current Net '96 sites:

Beaver Dam
Beloit
Clearwater Lake
Delavan
Durand
Eau Claire
Evansville
Fox Valley
Hayward
Janesville
Kenosha
LaCrosse
Madison East
Marshfield
Milton
Milwaukee Central
Milwaukee Northwest
Oxford
Pound
Sheboygan
Spooner-Trego
Stevens Point
Sturgeon Bay
Watertown
Waukesha
Wausau



Possessed by a

Vision



Wisconsin President
Don Corkum

Greetings to the Adventist church family in Wisconsin. My wife and I are happy to be joining you and working with you to fulfill the mission of this conference. We are eager to become acquainted with you and look forward to visiting your churches.

As I have read some of the Adventist history of Wisconsin, I have been impressed with the many dedicated people who have truly made a difference for God in this state. That work spans almost one hundred and fifty years. I sense that same spirit continues today. As I have visited in several churches, I have talked with people who possess a personal vision as to how God wants to minister through them.

These are people who are not satisfied with the status quo, but who want to see dynamic progress in God's work.

I consider these people trailblazers as they work to advance such programs as children's ministries, evangelism, Bible studies, youth initiatives, community service, etc.

Church congregations should also possess clarity of vision corporately to know how to impact their community for God.

What a thrill it is to visit a church that is mission driven and see the members excited about

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their ministry. No congregation should rest until it is possessed by this excitement.

Revive, Reach, Restore

As a conference, we want this vision to exist throughout the field. Recently I have thought of three words that could summarize the work that God asks us to do.

Revive. God wants every member of His church to be continually renewed by the Holy Spirit. We are told that revival and reformation is our greatest need. To fulfill God's will, we must not only be practitioners of religion, we must be spiritual people in a close walk with God.

Reach. The Church exists to bring salvation to a lost world. Much of the

work of the Church must be to save the lost. This may mean individual members sharing their faith with their friends; it may mean conducting public evangelism; it may mean planting new churches; it may mean enhancing the radio, television and satellite programs. Reaching out for God should saturate all that we do.

Restore. It is not enough to contact people or even convert them. Christ wants people to be restored into the Divine likeness. He asks us not just to go teach and baptize, but to make disciples for Him.

Restoring people who have been devastated by a world of sin into the likeness of Christ is a great goal of the Church. It is also our goal to restore church bodies to the spirit and ministry of New Testament Christianity.

God is not satisfied just to have organized churches. He desires these churches to be fulfilling the Biblical patterns described in the New Testament.

These congregations are to be characterized by love and unity. They are to have Spirit-filled members. They are to be faithful in proclaiming God's message for this hour.

May God bless each of you as we work together to honor and glorify our Savior in this beautiful state.

Your help is needed! Several Adventist Cuban families have moved recently to the Milwaukee area and need items such as dishes, cookware, silverware, furniture (especially beds), towels and linens. If you can help and live near Milwaukee, call Pastor Vazquez, 414-764-6553. Those living near Madison can bring boxed, smaller items (no large items or furniture, please) to the conference office.

Mexico Mission Trip Returns

Can you imagine spending the holidays away from the simple conveniences of home and working hard instead? That's exactly how six Wisconsin Academy teens—Danielle Ivey, Desmond London, Alicen Zalabak, Janice Ongwela, Vicki Rodriguez, and Lafe Sackett—spent this Christmas when they journeyed to Mexico, along with 37 others from six states, on a Maranatha trip led by Pastor Bob Stauffer.

Their travels led them to Barnabe, a suburb of Monterrey. While there, they built a Sabbath School building to accommodate the church of 100 members.

Lodging for the group included a newly built house for the girls, while the boys enjoyed the "quaint" facilities of the old Adventist church. To make the group feel more at home, Victor, a church member, offered his shower every day—complete with warm water. In the evening workers participated in an evangelistic service.

Along with work, the volunteers took time out for an exciting trip into the mountains. When the bus couldn't make it up the road, the group jumped out and braved the mountain by foot, climbing up a dry ravine.

The rainy, cold weather was a blessing in disguise, as the group accomplished more than they had intended. "The houses were not heated and the only time we were warm was when we were working," said Pastor Stauffer.

The challenge posed by the weather did not dampen Desmond London's spirit: "It was terrible! It was cold! And I can't wait to go back again!"

—Heidi Bruntz, Wisconsin Editor

Net '96, continued

program by seeking and generating interests, it will succeed better, as opposed to just waiting for the handbills to do the work.

Net '96 doesn't actually happen until October. What are churches doing now to prepare?

There are two categories of preparation that church members can do: First, they can take part in membership training to know how to identify interests and how to work with them, and how to give Bible studies. Second, they can work to generate interests through seminars, cooking schools, etc.

Every church is being asked to establish its own Bible school in lieu of Media Center Bible correspondence schools. If we had every church in the conference operating a Bible school, I think we could generate thousands of interests.

How does a church go about getting a Bible school started?

All the information has been given to the pastors. Church leaders can contact their pastors.

What were some of the pastors' responses at the Minister-Teacher Meetings to the plans?

Great enthusiasm! I think pastors see this as a unique and promising opportunity to extend the church's ability for outreach. One pastor even went home during the meetings, presented the plans to the board, and had them vote on it.

Not all churches in Wisconsin are participating in Net '96. What other kinds of evangelism will be taking place?

Churches not participating in Net '96 can still set up their own Bible schools. The Media Center is making the Discover Bible School

available at a substantially reduced cost. By holding their own Bible schools, churches can see the progress of each candidate. If individual members are grading the lessons and seeing that person all the way to baptism, that person will be better cared for by his or her new church family.

What will be the biggest job for members with Net '96?

Getting the Bible schools started will be the biggest challenge, but it is also the preparation item that has the most promise for generating interests.

Any idea how many people were baptized in Wisconsin as a result of Net '95?

I would estimate about half our year's baptisms (184 total) came from Net '95 and related events.

Why do you think satellite evangelism works?

As far as Wisconsin is concerned, there are two areas where it is especially beneficial. First, it allows us to bring a high quality of evangelism into a small population area, where we couldn't afford to bring in a regular evangelistic series. In fact, some of our highest baptisms at Net '95 sites came from smaller population centers.

Second, it allows us to have many more evangelistic meetings in one year than we could otherwise afford. It is also very effective in larger areas as well.

In a typical year we have been able to afford five- to- six evangelistic series. This year we'll have 31 sites.

Note: If your church is interested in participating in Net '96, or in starting a Bible school, contact your pastor.

Calendar

February

6 Executive Committee

19 Presidents' Day
ABC/office closed

March

2 Women's Retreat,
WA (one day only)

7-9 WA/Elementary
Music Festival

10 Lay Advisory

26 Executive Committee

31 Elem. Science Fair,
WA

April

21 VBS Workshop
Conference office

Announcements

■ **One-Day Women's Retreat:** Sabbath, March 2, 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m., WA. Share in a "Spring Time of Refreshing," featuring speaker Cherry Habenicht, breakaways, and inspirational music. For details call Aileen Patton, 414-484-6204.

■ **Young ladies ages 13-19** are invited to attend their first annual retreat at Petersen Elementary School (Columbus), March 2, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

■ **VBS Workshop:** Sunday, April 21, 10-4, conference office. Guest speaker: Judy Rogers from the Review and Herald. VBS theme for 1996: Jesus; Kids in the Kitchen.

■ **For sale:** Minolta 3000i camera with flash, Sigma 200mm zoom lens, carrying case, \$200. Call 608-241-5235.

■ **Rolls of paper,** for schools, VBS, etc. Call Dave Ahlers, 414-623-4254.




Successful Ingathering at Evansville

Charlotte Burrington, *above left*, and Pearl Bowen helped cover the Evansville area not once but three times during the Ingathering season. "Every year this small town increases its donations," says Pearl. Photo by Mick Burrington, who solicited area businesses.

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Tithe and missions report

| | 1995 | 1994 | Increase |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Tithe | \$4,200,300.96 | \$3,930,123.36 | 6.87% |
| Missions | \$270,943.93 | \$260,680.19 | 3.94% |

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Inside:

- Net '96 info
- a message from our new president
- spring bookmobile schedule . . . and more!