

Lamp Letter

News for our Wisconsin church family

February/March 1997

Spotlight on local churches

Waukesha sets goal: 50 new members by campmeeting

At the end of 1996, the Waukesha Church had just over 200 members. By June, they hope to increase that number to 250.

"We hope to add at least 50 new members each year," says Pastor Claudio Consuegra.

Waukesha has a good track record for growth. "In January, 1996, we had 156 members," recalls the pastor. "We finished in December with 205." Roughly half of these were baptisms; the others came from transfers.

To reach its goal, the church board has developed a three-point plan. First, an evangelistic series led by Ministerial Director Steve Gallimore will be held in the Waukesha County Expo Center. The month-long series begins April 11.

Second, members are inviting others into their homes for small-group meetings. Four groups now meet in the homes of elders.

Finally, the church is focusing on its worship hour. Special "seeker" services are designed to attract former Adventists and non-churchgoers.

Members hope to expand to two services—one traditional and one nontraditional—every Sabbath.

Young people are also included in the worship planning. "We've

decreed every third Sabbath as Youth Sabbath," explains the pastor. The youth Sabbath School plans and leads the church service. Special speakers, such as Church Ministries Director Dale Ziegele, are invited. Recently, the juniors asked if they could join in.

Waukesha's church board based much of its plan on the book, *The Purpose-Driven Church*, by Rick Warren (Zondervan). Claudio says the book, written by a non-Adventist, offers many ideas adaptable for Adventists. For example, Waukesha recently

adopted the idea of a contract for new members. This contract requires new believers to promise, among other things, not to gossip.

Claudio says members at Waukesha feel positive about their plans and their goals for 1997.

"There are things we can do as a conservative denomination and still grow," he says.

Note: Pastor Consuegra was recently featured in the New Berlin newspaper for his role as a police chaplain. See below.

Pastor helps local police force

Like all pastors, Claudio Consuegra is heavily involved with his community. For Claudio, this means volunteering as the first chaplain for the New Berlin police force.

Claudio, who serves the Waukesha district, was previously a police chaplain in Oklahoma and New Jersey. When he came to Wisconsin in 1995, he again signed on.

As chaplain, Claudio reaches out to the spiritual needs of police officers. He does this by riding along in the squad car and getting to know the officers.

Claudio also works with police social workers in giving notifications of death. Sometimes he talks with victims of domestic abuse.

A recent article in the New Berlin Citizen featured Claudio. "I know what to do [on police calls] and what not to do," he told

the reporter. "So if one of the guys gets in trouble, I won't just stand by and pray for them. I am their partner."

First and foremost, though, Claudio is a Seventh-day Adventist minister. "I am a minister and I like being a minister," he says. "I don't want to be a cop."



Consuegra

President's message

The power of forgiveness

Sandy and Rob are Christians who have demonstrated Christ's way of treating people. Sandy was attacked and shot by a man trying to rape her. Fortunately she lived through the ordeal; later she and her husband visited her assailant in prison and appealed to him to give his life to Christ.

God wants His people today not only to share Christ's message to the world, but to demonstrate His character. People should be able to test our genuineness not only by how Biblical our teachings are but also by how Christlike our actions are. Truth has its greatest appeal when it is displayed in a life. That is why Christ could say, "I am the way the truth and the life."

When Christ uttered those powerful words from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," He demonstrated the heart of Christianity. One criminal crucified with Him was so impressed he asked to be remembered in His kingdom. The centurion who looked on said, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

The Lord does not just ask us to forgive *because* He forgave, He asks us to forgive *as* He forgave. The world will be awed by our lives when we practice Christ's forgiveness. Our homes will be centers of healing and encouragement. Our churches will be communities of caring and trust.

In a world filled with broken relationships, let's display a spirit of reconciliation through offering true forgiveness.

—Donald Corkum

Wisconsin Conference President

Men's retreat refreshes

Every bed in the recently completed Hickory and Red Pine Lodges was occupied by the enthusiastic cadre of Christian men at the Wisconsin Men's Retreat, Jan. 17-19, says Family Ministries Director Dale Ziegele. Fireside experiences and musical praise enhanced the weekend.

Practical presentations were sandwiched between country cooking and great fellowship.

Almost all of the 1996 attendees returned this year, notes Dale.



Dick Duerksen from the Columbia Union Conference challenged the 76 men attending the second annual Wisconsin Men's Retreat Jan. 17-19.

Evangelism plans launched for '97

The number of baptisms has steadily increased over the last few years without any large traditional evangelistic meetings, notes Ministerial Director Steve Gallimore. This growth is due to strong pastoral leadership and greater lay involvement.

Plans for 1997 include three traditional meetings in Waukesha, Racine, and Beloit. Speakers will be, respectively, Steve Gallimore;

Jim Fox, former Racine pastor now serving in British Columbia; and Wis. President Don Corkum.

Three shorter meetings led by retired evangelist Bill Zima will be held at Milw. Central, Fox Valley, and one other location yet to be decided. Zima leads the North American Division in number of baptisms per meeting. A satellite evangelistic program has also been planned for October by Amazing Facts and 3ABN. Any church with a satellite dish can participate.

Yearend Report

March 4 is an important date for Treasury. This is the time each year when financial and statistical information for the year just completed is carefully annualized by the Conference Committee. This is also when the 1997 budget is approved. Here are a few financial highlights:

	1996	1995	+/-
Tithe	\$4,283,992	\$4,200,301	.99%
Local Church	\$1,981,374	\$1,911,273	3.67%
World Missions	\$255,586	\$270,944	-5.67%
Ingathering	\$38,182	\$44,688	-14.56%
Misc. GC Offer.	\$86,004	\$108,527	-20.75%
Wisc. Conf. Offer.	\$277,592	\$231,436	19.94%
Total	\$6,922,730	\$6,767,169	2.30%



Wisconsin Academy news

Students prepare for Romania trip

Fourteen Wisconsin Academy seniors and six sponsors will leave March 12 for Romania. Packed along will be 40 care packages of clothes, blankets, and toiletries for children at the Adventist orphanage there.

"We have seen many miracles as passports and birth certificates are secured," says sponsor Yvonne Thomas, girls' dean. Some paperwork which normally takes up to five weeks to complete has been ready in days.

The group has made a \$2,000 deposit for air fare but still lacks \$9,000. "Some students still need more money, but they are excited as they see God answering their prayers," Yvonne says.

If you would like to help with this project by giving money or items to donate, please call Yvonne Thomas at 623-2604 or 623-2252.

Search begins for new principal

Steve Brown, WA principal since 1992, has announced his resignation, effective June 31. A search committee has been formed to find a replacement.

The committee is composed of Educational Superintendent Herb Wrate and representatives from the Executive Committee, K-12 Board, and the WA staff. A pastor and one academy student round out the team.

Christmas banquet welcomes community

Sharing the beauty and fun of a Christmas banquet with the community is an annual event at Wisconsin Academy. This year's banquet was well attended, even though the date coincided with the local public high school's Christmas concert.

About 100 invited guests enjoyed the festive evening featuring a vegetarian buffet dinner and entertainment by the music department and the True North bluegrass band. Students



"An Old-Fashioned Christmas" was the theme of this year's banquet held at WA for local residents and business owners.

helped decorate the gym, greet guests, and prepare and serve the meal.

This tradition began in 1985 to boost public relations and thank Columbus businesspeople for their services to the school. Town planners now call WA to get the date on the community calendar.

Youth rally planned

Watch for registration forms to arrive at your church for the WA Youth Rally, May 2-3. Speaker: Lake Union President and WA alumnus Don Schneider, with special music from Andrews.

News notes

■ **Over 100 Hispanic members** attended the Town Hall meeting Feb. 2 at the Milwaukee Central Spanish Church. Town Hall meetings continue through April as a way for conference personnel to discuss conference issues one on one with members.

■ **How to bridge spiritual differences in generations** was the topic for discussion at the Pastor/Teacher meetings in January. Dr. Bruce Norman, professor of religion at Southern

Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., led the talks.

■ **Look for TV spots sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventists** on the "ABC Evening News with Peter Jennings" and on other ABC network programming, starting in February. The messages encourage viewers to help others in need. They close with the words, "This message was brought to you by the Seventh-day Adventists." The spots are due to efforts by members who had contacts with ABC.

Personnel notes

■ **Brian Hamilton** was appointed conference secretary by the Executive Committee on Feb. 4. He was elected as conference treasurer on Nov. 20, 1996.

■ **Jean Schwark** (right) has been selected as assistant treasurer. Jean has over eight years experience in fiscal management and is treasurer of the Wisconsin Academy Church.



ABC bookmobile spring tour

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME
Feb 22	Sat	Eau Claire	After Town Hall
March 8	Sat	Bethel	6:30-8:00 PM
9	Sun	Wis. Rapids	10:00-11:00 AM
9	Sun	Stevens Point	12:00-1:00 PM
9	Sun	Almond	2:30-3:30 PM
March 14	Fri	Sparta	2:00-3:00 PM
15	Sat	La Crosse	6:30-8:00 PM
16	Sun	Prairie du Chien	10:00-11:00 AM
16	Sun	Lancaster	1:00-2:00 PM
16	Sun	Richland Center	4:00-5:00 PM
March 22	Sat	Milwaukee Northwest	After vespers
23	Sun	Kenosha	10:00-11:00 AM
23	Sun	Racine	12:00-1:00 PM
23	Sun	Raymond School	2:00-3:00 PM
23	Sun	Delavan	5:00-6:00 PM
March 28	Fri	Antigo	3:00-4:00 PM
29	Sat	Clearwater Lake	After vespers
30	Sun	Rhineland	10:00-11:00 AM
30	Sun	Tomahawk	12:00-1:00 PM
30	Sun	Wausau	2:30-3:30 PM
April 5	Sat	Green Bay	After Town Hall
6	Sun	Lena	9:00-10:00 AM
6	Sun	Oconto	11:00-11:45 AM
6	Sun	Fox Valley	2:00-3:00 PM
6	Sun	Sheboygan	5:30-6:30 PM
April 18	Fri	Menomonie	12:00-12:45 PM
18	Fri	Frederic	3:00-4:00 PM
19	Sat	Superior	After vespers
20	Sun	Rice Lake	10:00-11:00 AM
20	Sun	Clear Lake	2:00-3:00 PM
20	Sun	Eau Claire	5:00-6:00 PM
April 27	Sun	Racine Spanish	10:00-11:00 AM
27	Sun	Milw. Sp. Central	12:00-1:00 PM
27	Sun	Milw. Sp. Northwest	1:30-2:15 PM
27	Sun	Milw. Sp. Southeast	3:00-4:00 PM

New owners for ABC

It's still the same Adventist Book Center, with one big change. On Jan. 1, with the approval of the Wisconsin Executive Committee and conference administration, Pacific Press Publishing Association purchased the Wisconsin ABC.

Pacific Press expanded its management to include a number of ABCs in order to enhance the book distribution system of the church and to gain more efficient operations, says ABC manager Rick Claus. Wisconsin is one of 11 ABCs now owned by Pacific Press.

Despite the changes, Rick says, "Customer service is still the number one priority."

Happy Birthday, Elder Swanson

Arne and Millie Swanson stopped by the conference office recently for a quick visit, just in time for the office staff to wish our retired president a very happy birthday.



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