

Lampletter — Wisconsin

Volume 3, Number 1

January, 2000

Wisconsin Tithe Up Over 11%

As of Monday, January 15th, unaudited tithe gain for 1999 is 11.09%! Elder Brian Hamilton, Treasurer, consented to this interview prior to leaving to conduct an overseas evangelistic campaign. He gave this interview before receiving the year end report. His comments are still relevant



Lampletter: Could you give a report on giving in Wisconsin in 1999?

Hamilton: Well, ...at the end of November, we have one of the largest tithe percentage increases on record. In 1988, we had an 8.45% increase. As of the end of November this year, we have more than a 10% increase over last year, which is phenomenal. We want to express to our members how appreciative we are for the

faithfulness and commitment they demonstrate.

One of the big concerns we had at the end of last year was the launching of the **"Together We Can"** campaign. What effect would a \$1,000,000 fund raiser have on other finances of the conference? Would people divert their tithe and local offerings as well as conference offerings for "Together We Can"? While that was a concern of mine, it has been soundly put to rest. Every major category of offerings is up, our Sabbath School mission giving is up; our other world offerings show a slight increase; and our Wisconsin Budget is up a little over \$20,000.00 to date. So I guess this just goes to prove once again that you really can't **out give** the Lord. The Lord has blessed our people and they have been willing to share that on all the fronts the church is active in.

Lampletter: What does the Conference plan to do with this increase?

Hamilton: If I knew that I could count on a 10% increase in tithe over the prior year, year after year, we would very quickly begin to increase the pastoral coverage. Our pastors then would not have to pastor such large districts as some of them

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Fifty Baptized in Green Bay

Leo and Tammy Schreven had an opening in their evangelistic schedule for the fall of 1999. They contacted Steve Gallimore, Ministerial Secretary for the Conference, to see if Wisconsin *might* have a place where they could fit in a campaign.

The Lord has blessed the outcome of that phone call with over fifty new souls (see pictures on pp.4-5) added to the Green Bay Church. Pastor Delmar Austin reported, "These were lively, exciting meetings! Leo Schreven is a very exciting speaker."

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The Presidential View

Faithfulness



We praise God for His faithfulness. His unfailing love is our assurance. He will never turn back from His promise to us and His covenant with His people is sure.

Praise God!

How about us? Do we seek to duplicate this quality of faithfulness? Some of the most heart rending statements of God in scripture are about His people who were unfaithful to Him. They chose other Gods, other loves, other loyalties.

Faithful to His message. God has revealed truth to and through His last day people. The Remnant of His body in the world. We can summarize this truth by "**eight S's**". **S**alvation, **S**cripture, **S**econd Coming, **S**abbath, **S**tate of Man in Death, **S**anctuary, **S**pirit of Prophecy and the **S**anctified Life. Are we faithful in both our belief and practice of these important truths for today?

Faithful in living His principles. Truth has power when it is lived—Do we practice faithfulness in all

aspects of life? Are we faithful to our spouse? Are we faithful in sharing the Spirit of Christ or do we possess a different spirit? Do we practice Christian ethics or are our dealings shady? Is our life an encouragement to those endeavoring to walk the Christian life or does it discourage them?

Faithful as His Witness. We live life on planet earth to glorify God and bless others. Our Lord seeks to expand His kingdom through our witness and our testimony. Do we daily share our faith in Christ so others can be attracted to Him? Are we a point of light that will lead others out of darkness?

In future issues of leadership we want to share people in Wisconsin who passionately are faithful in their witness for their Lord. They are points of light leading others to Him. We want to tell you their story. The Bible says that through the testimonies of God's people we can help defeat Satan. Rev. 12:11

In this new century and millennium let's seek to be faithful to Christ. Let's do that which will bring joy to His heart.

News for the Pews

Wisconsin Academy Reunion

The WA Class of 1980 is having their 20 year reunion on weekend of April 18-20, 2000. We would like help in finding our fellow classmates. Any information, please call Kim Goss-Johnson at 714-832-7141 or e-mail kimmer1@execpc.com.

Men's Retreat

Carl Wilkens will be featured speaker for the Men's Ministries retreat on Feb. 4-6 — A few openings remain, but act fast if you are planning to come (Call Aileen King at 608-241-5235 or akking@chorus.net).



www.tagnet.org.wi-conf

Check out the new Conference site at www.tagnet.org/wi-conf for news, upcoming events, links and contact points with leadership.

Give us feedback of what you like, what you don't, and what could be . . . and if time permits, we'll do it.



Quilts for Kosovo

The Milwaukee Central Church has a quilting group who produce quilts for those in war ravaged Kosovo. They specialize in quilts for babies. Kathleen Freeman, Lynn King, Sue Barchus, Marcia Erickson and Mary Sheire took time out to show samples of the twenty-five quilts for babies that are soon to be on there way to Kosovo

"Tithe" Continued from page 1

do now. We would also probably look to bring in a full-time



evangelist to work in our metropolitan areas.

One of the things this will help is that it will be a little easier to balance next year's budget. We have pushed ourselves to supply as much coverage in the field as possible. In doing so, we need to have a 3% tithe increase to cover the increased expenses that seem to come our way, year-by-year.

Another of the things that we would like to do is to provide more funding for evangelism. Ideally we **should** be spending about 10% of our gross annual conference budget toward Kingdom Growth through "reaping" evangelistic endeavors. Presently, we invest just slightly over 3% of our conference budget in evangelism and we would like to see an increase in that area.

There have been many requests from our lay people that they would like to see Bible workers out in the field assisting the pastors and following up leads and giving Bible studies - this increase may provide some money to add Bible workers for field work.

We haven't been able to do a lot of lay-training in the past, and one of the reasons why is because of a very tight budget. Much of our funds go directly to pay for the salaries of pastors and teachers and assist with

teachers' aides and the academy appropriation, which is a fairly large portion of our budget. We really haven't had the money for lay-training and this might give us a possibility for doing a little more lay-training that we have had in the past. I think this might be a very needful and helpful thing to do for helping our work here in Wisconsin.

Lampletter: What would it take to place more pastors in the field?

Hamilton: That is a complex question that deserves a good answer. We would probably move cautiously in hiring because we would hate to hire someone and then have to turn around and lay the person off because of future budgetary constraints.

Rule of thumb is that it takes about \$150,000.00 of tithe for each pastor (of course, the pastor doesn't receive that kind of wages). We look at our budget in terms of a world-wide work and a portion of the tithe dollar goes to fund mission work overseas. A portion of the tithe also helps fund the North American Division and the Union as well as the Conference.

Let's not forget our school teachers! They are also involved in the work of the local church — teachers not only work in the the three r's (**r**eading, **r**iting and **r**ithmetic), but they teach **r**eligion, the fourth and most important "r." We would like to see a teacher and school working with every pastor to make that congregation a success. A portion of the tithe is dedicated to funding Christian education commensurate to the ministry that the teachers perform.

Another principle that guides us is that "*those who have more share with those who have less.*" If we were looking at just the tithe produced by districts, there would be some districts that would warrant more pastoral coverage than they presently have. But we haven't given this to them so that we could provide pastoral coverage for smaller rural districts that maybe don't have the financial base to warrant having the pastoral coverage they presently have. We have always operated under the principle that the financially stronger congregation helps the weaker and that is true across the division as well as within the conference.

What you see is the forecast for the church in the coming years. What we have had is an unusually strong economy for a longer period of time than many have thought possible. I personally, from the reading that I have done and looking at dynamics in the market place of the world today, believe we will probably still, for a number of years, have



a very strong economy.

The Baby Boomers (one of the largest segments of the adult population in North America today) are at their peak earning and spending years. Once that starts tapering off, I think that we then look toward to quite a severe and very long recession or even a depression. And so the philosophy that I'm operating

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"Together We Can" Update

As of December 31st, 1999, members and friends of the Wisconsin Conference have fulfilled nearly one-half of their pledges for the Academy Cafeteria upgrade.

Conference leaders and the building committee have commissioned blueprints from an architect. These blueprints are in their final stages of development. Once they are delivered, we will take the prints to building contractors to obtain bids on the project (if you would like to volunteer your trades' services in this project or offer services at discount, please contact John Thomas immediately—see related story on p.6). We will only know the real cost of the project when we receive all the bids and total them up (our best "guestimates" suggest nearly \$1 million dollars).

Elder Corkum has expressed hope that we might get all the bids in and raise funds such that we could have a ground breaking ceremony at Alumni Weekend on April 14-16. Whether all the preparations for the project are in place by then remains to be seen.

In the meantime, our pledges are approaching 3/4 of that million dollar mark. You may still make a pledge or a donation by sending it to:

Together We Can
Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
P.O. Box 7310
Madison, Wisconsin 53707



Calling all Public High Adventist Kids

To a fun-filled Bible Camp weekend. February 11-13 at Camp So Seek. Cost: \$32 - now that's not bad! (Contact your pastor). Meet new friends, Enjoy great music and dynamic small groups. The food will be fit-for-a-king!

"Together We Can" Progress Report

Pledges \$737,608
Cash in Hand \$364,645.04

"Baptism" Continued from page 1

The meetings opened in the Green Bay Church with 350 in attendance and continued strong to the end. "At this time, we have fifty-one baptisms, six joining the church by "profession of faith" and six rebaptisms," said Pastor Austin. he continued, "We hope to see six more baptized from the meetings in early February. While souls won for the kingdom were our primary goal, renewed confidence in public evangelism is an important side benefit. It has boosted our confidence to know that if we do our part, God is going to bless."

"Together We Can" Pledges From October 9

Church	Pledges
Antigo	\$ 1,155.00
Ashland	\$ 7,440.00
Baraboo	\$ 3,240.00
Beaver Dam	\$ 3,840.00
Beloit	\$ 2,000.00
Bethel	\$ 3,920.00
Chippewa Falls	\$ 290.00
Clear Lake	\$ 3,125.00
Clearwater Lake	\$ 170.00
Delavan	\$ 4,800.00
Durand	\$ 240.00
Eau Claire	\$15,360.00
Fish Creek	\$ 600.00
Frederic	\$ 5,635.00
Gillett	\$ 1,760.00
Green Bay	\$ 3,390.00
Hayward	\$ 1,000.00
Janesville	\$ 120.00
LaCrosse	\$ 4,740.00
Lakeland	\$ 600.00
Lancaster	\$ 920.00
Madison Community	\$ 2,880.00
Madison East	\$33,522.00
Marshfield	\$ 1,560.00
Milton	\$ 3,208.00
Milwaukee Central	\$ 9,480.00
Milwaukee NW	\$ 5,840.00
Oakland	\$ 7,610.00
Oconto	\$ 30.00
Portage	\$ 1,265.00
Pound	\$ 1,100.00
Prairie du Chien	\$ 120.00
Reedsburg	\$ 3,672.00
Rhineland	\$ 1,248.00
Rice Lake	\$ 7,030.00
Richland Center	\$ 1,720.00
Sheboygan	\$ 50.00
Stevens Point	\$ 4,080.00
Sturgeon Bay	\$ 600.00
Superior	\$ 1,440.00
Tomahawk	\$ 6,053.00
Waukesha	\$ 840.00
Wausau	\$ 2,832.00
<u>Wisconsin Academy</u>	<u>\$ 8,054.00</u>
Total	\$ 168,579.00

Green Bay Baptisms



Some of the Fifty-Seven baptized or rebaptized in Green Bay



*Leo Schreven
was the Evan-
gelist for the
Green Bay
meetings
He returns to
Wisconsin for
meetings in
Madison in
2001*



*Camille, Jolina &
Evyanna Silva*



Claire Baumgart



*Fernando & Barbara
Silva*



*Michelle
Siebenlist*



Beverly Larson



*Fernando Silva
Jr.*



James Hanaway



Jill Smith



*Michael & Renee
Siebenlist*



*Michael Van
Den Heuvel*



*Chad & Tammy
Tryba*



*Crystal
Christianson*



Dawn Flom



Dorothy Burt



*Georgianna
Shepard*



*Jay and Corrinne
Faikel*



Jerry Meumier



*Joanne
Hanson*



*Joanne
Schaetz*



*Marc & Carrie
Rogers*



*Michael
Schaetz*



*Rosemary
Barke*



*Rosemary
Burt*

"Tithe" Continued from page 3

under as an administrator is that we are much like Joseph in Egypt, living during the "seven years of plenty" and so this is the time to strengthen our bases to develop a strong financial undergirding, and not to spend money as soon as we get it.

This applies to our academy where we are pouring significant resources just now for upgrading — this is the time to do it! A few years from now, it is unlikely that there will be resources to be able to do it. The Lord has given us this window of opportunity and we want to take as much advantage of it as we possibly can.

Lampletter: If you had your (treasury) wishes come true, what would you like to see happen?

Hamilton: Well, you know, I think the Lord has given me my wish. I work for a constituency that is very affirming. They love the Lord and it is very evident. I work for a constituency that has high values and is faithful and industrious. When they see a need, they rise to the occasion. Not only do they rise to appeals, they are consistent in supporting the work of the Lord year in and year out—that's the most any treasurer can ask. It has really made my work much easier and very enjoyable and it has been a real pleasure in being a part of the great Wisconsin Conference. I just want to do my part to see God's work progress in our field.



WA Cafeteria Construction

The plan is to begin construction on the new WA cafeteria this spring. If you have a specific part of the construction that you would like to sub-contract or donate as your part of the project, we urge you to call principal John Thomas at 920-623-3300 as soon as possible.

There will be need for cement work, electrical, plumbing, roofing, flooring . . . Let us know what you would like to do!

Elder Herb Wrate

Elementary Achievement Success

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills results for the fall of 1999 are very positive. Although ability tests show that the students in our SDA elementary schools are very average as far as their mental abilities, the achievement test results show outstanding results.

Our students in the grades tested, grades 3 through 8, averaged at the 75th percentile. This means that of each 100 students taking the test in our nation, our students would score better than 75. Another way of putting it is that the calculations are from 1 to 99 with the national average at 50. With the national average at 50, our students scored at 75.

This creates a great occasion for us to praise our students for achieving well above expectations, parents for their strong support, churches for the sacrifice they make, and teachers for the tremendous work they do to make learning spiritual, interesting, creative, and successful.

Elder Herb Wrate

ABC BookMobile Revised Schedule through March

February 4-6	Fri-Sun.	Men's Retreat, Camp Wakonda	
March 4	Sat	Green Bay	6:00-8:30 pm
March 5	Sun	Lena-Ziesmer's Ranch	9:00-11:00 am
March 5	Sun	Fox Valley	2:00-3:00 pm
March 11	Sat	Milwaukee Jr. Academy	6:00-7:30 pm
March 12	Sun	Kenosha SDA Church	9:00-10:00 am
March 12	Sun	Racine SDA Church	10:30-11:30 am
March 12	Sun	Raymond School	1:00-2:00 pm
March 12	Sun	Delavan SDA Church	3:30-4:00 pm
March 12	Sun	Woodland School	5:00-6:00 pm
March 18	Sat	LaCrosse - Broers	6:30-8:30 pm
March 19	Sun	Prairie du Chien	10:00-11:00 am
March 19	Sun	Lancaster	1:00-2:00 pm
March 19	Sun	Richland Center	3:30-4:30 pm
March 25	Sat	Bethel School	6:30-8:30 pm
March 26	Sun	Wisconsin Rapids	10:00-11:00 am
March 26	Sun	Stevens Point	12:00-1:00 pm
March 26	Sun	Almond	3:00-4:00 pm

Wisconsin Stewardship Update

As I look back at 1999, I see a year filled with God's blessings both spiritual and material for our conference. In the midst of a major fund raising campaign for our new cafeteria, we have a good increase in tithe. Our Wisconsin Budget program, which is so important to our conference and academy operating, has increased \$25,000.00 over the same time period last year. In addition, God's people in Wisconsin continue to give strong support to the world mission program of the church.

*As our faith in God grows,
and our trust in His provision in our
lives deepens,
He will use us as channels of means to
finish His work*

Reminder:

Camp Meeting is a week earlier this year.

June 9 - 17, 2000

*Speakers: Arnold Swanson, Delmer Holbrook, Roy Gane,
Mikhail Kulakov, David Osborne, Walter Wright, Walter Arties
and more!*

See you there!

Flash News VBS Workshop, May 7

"The greatest evangelistic window currently available is among young children...

Data shows that if a person does not accept Jesus Christ as Saviour before the age of 14, the likelihood of ever doing so is slim." Vacation Bible School is an excellent place to teach the gospel of Christ to children. Special guest speaker, Barbara Manspeaker, Author and Children's Ministries and Pathfinder Director of the Columbia Union Conference (retired).

Call Kitty Crary for reservations and for more information. 608-241-5235

Wisconsin Gift Annuity Program Grows!!

During the first year of operation, members have purchased \$145,000.00 of gift annuity agreements. Interest rates paid have ranged from 6.7% to 10% and can go higher depending on the age of the annuitant. Some of the favorable provisions of a gift annuity are:

1. A guaranteed rate of return for the life of one or two persons.
2. A return ranging as high as 12% depending on the age of the annuitant.
3. Lower taxes since part of the income you receive is non taxable.
4. Additional tax benefits since one gets a current charitable deduction for part of the purchase price of the annuity.
5. The satisfaction of knowing that one has secured this asset to ultimately bless the Lord's work.

Call Elder Richard Habenicht in the Planned Giving Department for an explanation as to how you could benefit from a Gift Annuity Agreement at 608-241-5235.

The Lamp Letter is the Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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Brian Hamilton Secty/Treasury
James Fox Editor
Kitty Crary Secretary
Your comments and submissions are welcomed:

*Wisconsin Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists.*

*P.O. Box 7310
Madison, WI 53707
Attn: James Fox
or
jfox@chorus.net*



Adventist Book Center "Winter Clearance Sale!"



Super Book Specials! (prices good thru 2/29/00)

Scripture That Changed My Life reg \$10.99 Now \$8.24

New! Along the Sawdust Trail by Ivy Ruth Venden was \$8.99 Now \$6.74

Project Sunlight reg \$1.99 Clearance price \$1.49

A Pause for Peace, by Clifford Goldstein \$1.99

Buy/share more - save more! 5 - \$1.79 each; 25 - \$1.59 each

NEW! Benton Sisters Cookbook/Video Set

Included are a 5 Vol. Video set and 2 cookbooks! Shrink wrapped for the perfect gift! Reg \$99.99 Sale \$84.99

Food Specials! (thru Feb 29)

Cedar Lake: Chops, Vegeburger, Terkettes \$1.99/can

Vegetarian Burger (Wor) Can Reg \$3.39 Now \$2.99

Case Reg. \$37.29 **Now \$31.29** Save \$6.00

Hard Rock Cafe Burger reg \$3.29 now only \$2.79

Case of 12 was \$36.19 now only \$31.19

Veggie Dogs! Sale \$2.62 each, Case reg \$22.66 now \$19.66

Chicken/Salami Slices by the Case reg \$33.99 now \$28.99



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ABC Hours

Monday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

Saturday Closed

Sunday - Please call for days and hours!

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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