

A Publication of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

LAMP LETTER

Wisconsin Academy 60th Anniversary Edition



The Mission of Wisconsin Academy is to provide a quality Seventh-day Adventist secondary education in a climate that promotes a relationship with Jesus Christ and a desire to fulfill His commission of service.



Dear Friends:

The Wisconsin Conference is committed to helping Wisconsin Academy continue to be a school with high ideals and a positive atmosphere. The Executive Committee, along with Conference leadership, has given strong support to see that the school succeeds in achieving its mission and vision.

The goal to build new dorms is an ambitious one, especially in these challenging times. I am convinced that the hand of God has been with this project from the beginning. It was ten years ago that we began a vision to provide funds to upgrade the campus. This was to come by upgrading the value of Conference office property and then seeking to sell the property.

In 2007 the property was sold, providing 2.5 million dollars toward the dormitory project. In March of 2008 the constituency voted to build new dorms. The first dorm will be opened in March of this year. This is the boys' dorm. It is our desire to have the girls' dorm finished by the end of 2009.

We need to raise about 1.5 million dollars to make this dream a reality. It will take everyone contributing their part to be successful. The theme of the campaign is *Together We Can*. This means that we all must work together with God. Many of the treasure houses on earth are floundering but heaven's treasure house is full with adequate provision and blessings to help us.

Wisconsin members have a strong tradition of supporting projects and programs that help fulfill the mission of the conference with its churches and schools. I know this project will be no exception. We praise God for the opportunity to do this special work for Him. Thank you in advance for your part in making *Together We Can* a success.

Sincerely,

Don Corkum
President, Wisconsin Conference

“Together We Can”



Dear Friends,

Wisconsin Academy is alive and well today, developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into Eternity. This school is here because our spiritual ancestors had a vision and a commitment to Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.

One hundred and forty-two years ago, the first Adventist school opened in this state. Secondary education officially began 110 years ago. Sixty years ago the doors opened on this campus with fewer buildings than we have now and a hope for the future.

Thousands of students have walked these halls: they have attended classes; they have built life-long friendships and they have been given opportunities to strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

Today, more than ever, the students of Wisconsin Academy and the surrounding area need a safe, Christian environment in which to grow and worship together.

The original dormitories have served us well. The dorms have provided a home away from home. Now it is time to replace those buildings. The new dorms will provide a comfortable "home." We have already installed geo-thermal heating and solar water heating systems in the new boys' dorm. We are eager to be energy efficient as well as safe and well monitored.

The next step is to replace the existing girls' dormitory. Our girls are anxious to see construction begin on the new facility which will provide a more modern atmosphere in which to reside. Our constituents are eager for a dormitory that is representative, comfortable, and safe for our children to live and grow in.

It is an exciting time on the campus of Wisconsin Academy. We accept the challenges before us, trusting that "Together We Can" complete this project. We want to thank you for your support.

In Christ's love,

Marshall Bowers
Principal

Lois Bowers
Director of Development

"Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice."

Wisconsin Academy Our Heritage

Wisconsin boasts a rich Adventist heritage. The school has fostered spiritual growth, academic learning, and a strong work ethic in the lives of its students. The legacy of this education has been facilitated in the halls of Bethel Academy, Walderly School, and Wisconsin Academy.

Bethel Academy, established in 1899, was the first



*Bethel Academy L to R:
Girls Hall, Main Bldg, Boys Hall*

secondary institution for Wisconsin Conference young people. The doors opened as Woodland Industrial School, changing to Bethel Industrial Academy in 1902, and then to Bethel Academy in 1914. The plan was for a school that would be easily accessible to young people and be based on the principles of Christian growth and development. The school would also provide a quality academic education.

The academy initially offered only 10 grades with six teachers. In the following two years, monies were raised from the Conference to build another facility for administrative offices, library, and classrooms. By 1917 a substantial library was constructed and the necessary equipment purchased to bring the school to the standards of a 12-grade school.

School life continued at Bethel until 1949 when the campus was relocated to Columbus and renamed Wisconsin Academy.

Walderly School, established in 1908, belonged to the North Wisconsin Conference. The school was located on 400 acres just south of Superior in Hawthorne, Wisconsin.



Walderly School Annex

Life at Walderly was primitive at best, but no one complained. Students were trained in the classic academic subjects while obtaining industrial skills in a Christian environment.

Although Walderly closed its doors in 1927, when North and South were united into a single conference, support for Christian education has not diminished in that area of the state.

In Columbus, construction of the power plant and the girls' dormitory was completed and the school opened September 4, 1949. The one dormitory housed the girls and boys in separate wings. There was a library, several administrative offices, two classrooms, and the cafeteria and dining room. There were two classrooms in the powerhouse and one in a farmhouse on the property.

By September, 1952, one wing of the boys' dormitory was finished. Between 1954 and 1960 a second wing of the boys' dormitory, a gymnasium, and two faculty homes were completed. The Johnson house provided additional housing for three faculty families. In the sixties and early seventies more housing was built for staff.



Wisconsin Academy 1950's

In 1960 construction of a new administration building was begun, starting with the chapel. During the summer of 1965, a wing was added to house the administrative offices, two classrooms, and a temporary library that is still in operation today.

In 1968 an addition was made to the girls' dormitory to house 42 girls. The classroom at the end of the dormitory was converted into a dean's apartment in 1970.

A new gymnasium was constructed in 1976 and 1977 with the possibilities of further expansion. The new gymnasium would have three classrooms, a weight

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

room, and various other facilities to enhance the physical education program for our students.

The cafeteria, formerly in the basement of the girls' dorm, was sorely out of date and needed refurbishing. The Wisconsin Conference Constituency voted to proceed with building a new facility that is connected to the gymnasium. On moving day, December 11, 2001, through the generous donations of the alumni and conference constituents, the new cafeteria was opened and dedicated "debt free."

Throughout the development of the facilities (purchased in 1943), the goal has been to enhance the educational opportunities of the students. In the future, plans are to continue to improve the site.

Looking through an alumni roster, you will find names of people who have raised good Christian families, become business owners, conference presidents, pastors, conference departmental directors, college

presidents, principals, teachers, doctors in general practice as well as specialists, nurses, and hospital executives. All of these people have taken advantage of the education at Wisconsin Conference schools and have gone on to make their mark in their families, their communities, and the world.



2008-2009 School Year

Former principal, Mildred Summerton stated, "May the vision for what God can do with a dedicated life ever be the inspiration to a dynamic and enthusiastic support for Christian education in this marvelous secondary

school—unmatched in its spirit, unmatched in its goal to allow young people the best in educational opportunities, and above all to allow students to achieve all that God planned for them to be! What a heritage! What a destiny!"

The Vision for Wisconsin Academy

Wisconsin Academy is celebrating its sixtieth year of ministry in the Wisconsin Conference. Thousands of alumni all over the world testify to the great influence this school has made to their lives. Today, we look to the present and future of our academy.

Today, we work to help our students receive a quality education. We seek to help them develop a close relationship with Jesus. We encourage them to be faithful to the Seventh-day Adventist message and mission. We also provide opportunities for them to be involved in acts of service.

Our vision is to see our school grow in the number of students. We believe that as young people and parents see the positive Christian education experienced at Wisconsin Academy that students will desire to be here.

We want Wisconsin Academy to be a front runner in helping youth find balance in their life. The music, physical education, good fellowship, practical training and spiritual atmosphere will all contribute to Wisconsin Academy being a school of high ideals.

The administration and board of the school desires to see the physical plant kept well maintained and upgraded so the above ideals can be more readily achieved. Previous capital projects such as the new cafeteria and computer lab have enhanced the experience of students on campus.



Boy's Dorm January 2009

Currently we are on a campaign to build new dorms. The living environment is important for students to enjoy their school experience. It is a great challenge to provide these new dorms. However, we have a window of opportunity to accomplish it now. We must take advantage of this opportunity.

Sixty years ago forward thinking people built the campus of Wisconsin Academy to help provide a quality experience for students coming to this campus. Today, we are being called upon to renew the campus. Let's accept this challenge. It will take everyone contributing to make this dream a reality.

"Together We Can"

How Wisconsin Academy Has Blessed Its Students



"I shudder to think where I would be today if Christian teachers in a Christian academy had not taken an interest in me."
Larry Mahlum, Class of 1961



"My first tag on a personal "call" that God chose specifically for me occurred at Wisconsin Academy, and struck a wellspring of new ways to talk to my Friend for eternity."
Jessica Stotz, Class of 2007



"For four years, Wisconsin Academy was a safe and nurturing haven for me. I learned valuable lessons that went far beyond the textbooks and classroom lectures. The efforts of the staff were caring and supportive. I had lots of wonderful friends that I grew to care deeply about, but it is the words to that song, *Father, Lead Me Day by Day*, that have stood out in my mind and continue to remind me of God's deep and unending love for me."
David Rasmussen, Class of 1975



"I know in my heart that my life would have been altogether different had it not been for a critical telephone call--made by a caring and sensitive Christian academy principal responding to the impression of the Holy Spirit."
Walter Thompson, Class of 1952



"I have to list all the things that I would have missed if I had gotten my way and not attended Wisconsin Academy.

I would have missed helping lead in a praise team.

I would have missed early morning band practice with Mr. Pelto teaching me the trombone.

I would have missed being on the Wisconsin Academy Knights gymnastic team, and performing on tours.

I was able to build a closer relationship with Christ in many moments of positive Christian influence.

Most of all, I would have missed the opportunity to have friendships with the faculty, staff and students in a faith like mine."

Brad Austin, Class of 2004



"On a special Friday night at Wisconsin Academy, Jesus became my friend once again."

Don Schneider, Class of 1960



"My parents sacrificed and brought me to the Lord through WA. I pray my children will find Him there and be servants for Him also."

Teresa (Isensee) Harrison,
Class of 1982

***Each of these testimonies is from a Wisconsin Academy alumnus--Want to hear more?
Come join us for
Wisconsin Academy Alumni Weekend
April 24-26, 2009***

Q

&

A

Together We Can With God

Q Why is our conference in this "Together We Can" program?

A The ultimate goal is to help all of our families discover and act upon God's will in their lives regarding material things. We will grow spiritually -- both individually and as a conference body -- by applying God's methods for managing His resources. Our new dorms will be a reminder of the miracles God will perform through yielded lives.

Q Exactly how much money are we trying to raise in this campaign?

A Our goal is \$4.2 million dollars. We have already received \$2.5 million from the sale of our old office property and \$301,000 in donations and commitments towards the new dorm.



Q How will I become better acquainted with the "Together We Can" program?

A There will be a series of four presentations in each Church during April and May. "Together We Can" Sabbath will be May 9, 2009. On that day, there will be a bulletin insert and an informative video presentation. Each member will have the privilege of receiving full information on the project.



Q When will my commitment begin?

A Many have already begun to contribute. A special opportunity to make commitments will occur on May 9, 2009, "Together We Can" Sabbath.

Q Can I change my commitment later on?

A Yes. Some will be blessed so that they can increase their commitment. Unforeseen circumstances might force some to lower their commitment.



Q If I should fall behind on my commitment, will the conference make efforts to make me pay?

A No. You are being asked to pray, asking God what He would have you commit to Him. The only purpose of the cards is to give the conference an indication of approximately how much we can expect, so that we will be able to make realistic plans.

Q What part should I play in this stewardship program?

A Each member of our conference family is asked to diligently seek the Lord regarding his personal commitment... then be obedient to His direction. We believe that God has already arranged sufficient funds to expand Wisconsin Academy. Our obedience may cause us to make a sacrifice initially. In time, however, each person who gives as the Lord directs will see that obedience and sacrifice always result in greater abundance.

Q Have any commitments come in yet?

A We say a special, "Thank you" to those who have already made commitments of over \$300,000 in pledges and donations as of January 30, 2009. The greatest part of fundraising was accomplished with \$2.5 million from the sale of the old Conference Office property in Sun Prairie.

Q Are there other ways I can be part of the "Together We Can" project?

A We are soliciting 1,500 Prayer Warriors for "Together We Can." These prayer warriors will pray everyday for our existing students at the Academy, our prospective students, our staff, our whole Academy program and of course, the dormitory building project. We are making efforts to coordinate with Maranatha International to schedule volunteer labor for the dormitory. If we can make these arrangements, there would be opportunity for volunteer laborers, skilled and unskilled, as well.



Class of 2009



Class of 2010



Class of 2011



Class of 2012

NOT EQUAL GIVING...

...BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE

The strength of any campaign is planned and systematic giving. To provide the best opportunity for the greatest participation and achievement of a maximum goal, we have chosen a two year, 104-week plan of giving. Contributors will establish their own schedule of giving--weekly, monthly, or annually. Some have already made their commitments. There will be a special "Together We Can" Sabbath on May 9, 2009. Many others will be making their commitments then.

Our request for planned giving has one fundamental principle: "Not Equal Giving...But Equal Sacrifice." Each church family is unique including the nature of work, the amount of income, and the level of other financial obligations. That is why decisions concerning the amount of the gift rests solely with the family or individual. There will be no "public auction" fundraisers, no request for verbal commitments at special meetings or regular gatherings of the congregation, and no publication of committed amounts. What should you give? There is just one answer to this question--a generous, sacrificial gift. As much as your income will allow. A sufficient amount to represent your gift of appreciation to God as you express thanks for all God has given you. Only you and God can make the right decision. We urge you to make your gift a matter of fervent prayer. A sacrificial gift is one which will require you to:

1. Adjust your lifestyle
2. Rearrange your priorities
3. Actually give up something

Regular giving is extremely important. It is an easy way to make a significant contribution over a long period. You will be amazed by the ultimate total of an amount given systematically over a two year period.

Your commitment will come about as a result of your prayerful consideration of the question, "What does God want me to do?" Our response to the challenge before us must be made on the basis of God's will for each individual.

Pledging our support to "Together We Can" requires a financial commitment above what we give to the regular church budget. Through prayer and a personal commitment to God, each contribution becomes a significant part of this stewardship program.

Together We Can!

New Academy Dorms

Without a vision our young people will perish. Proverbs 29:18

Because we want to play a part in the destiny of our youth, we will endeavor to give monthly for 24 months \$_____ for a total of \$_____ or as follows: _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Wisconsin Conference of SDA, PO Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932

Thank You
For Your Sacrifice

GOALS

*The goals shown below are worthy ones
which will require great commitment.
We believe we can reach them..and,
when we do, to God be the Glory!*



Typical Contribution You Can Make Over a 104-Week Period

Weekly	Monthly	Annually	Campaign Total
\$1,000	\$4,333	\$52,000	\$104,000
\$550	\$2,383	\$28,600	\$57,200
\$500	\$2,167	\$26,000	\$52,000
\$450	\$1,950	\$23,400	\$46,800
\$400	\$1,733	\$20,800	\$41,600
\$350	\$1,517	\$18,200	\$36,400
\$300	\$1,300	\$15,600	\$31,200
\$275	\$1,192	\$14,300	\$28,600
\$250	\$1,083	\$13,000	\$26,000
\$225	\$975	\$11,700	\$23,400
\$200	\$867	\$10,400	\$20,800
\$175	\$758	\$9,100	\$18,200
\$150	\$650	\$7,800	\$15,600
\$125	\$542	\$6,500	\$13,000
\$100	\$433	\$5,200	\$10,400
\$90	\$390	\$4,680	\$9,360
\$80	\$347	\$4,160	\$8,320
\$70	\$303	\$3,640	\$7,280
\$60	\$260	\$3,120	\$6,240
\$50	\$217	\$2,600	\$5,200
\$40	\$173	\$2,080	\$4,160
\$30	\$130	\$1,560	\$3,120
\$20	\$87	\$1,040	\$2,080
\$15	\$65	\$780	\$1,560

"Partnering with God~Stepping Out In Faith"



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