

## Be the Light

It was around 10:00 pm one day in April that I received a text message from Meztli Morales, one of the Waukesha Seventh-day Adventist Church young adults. “Sorry to text you so late, but I have to ask you: Our church has a group of elderly folks... could I ask them if they need help with outdoor work or getting their groceries? I would be happy to help out.” This is how the project, “Be the Light,” all started.

One of the core values of our church is “Intergenerational Fellowship.” As the term suggests, to be intergenerational means to “intentionally cultivate meaningful interaction between generations.” By this value we strive to go beyond simply being a multigenerational body in form, but also to be functionally intergenerational, in order to be more effective in ministry, to promote stronger bonding, and to promote spiritual growth. In times past we had tended to focus leadership only on the older and more experienced members. Now, with these intergenerational efforts, voices of the youth are meaningfully integrated and valued in working together to further the Everlasting Gospel to the local community.

So when I received this text message from Meztli I became super excited. Divine inspiration has led these younger leaders to take up leadership and initiative in the mission of the church. This would turn out to be a good moment in promoting an intergenerational culture. Also, I didn’t want to miss out on this opportunity to provide for the community in this time of crisis -- two birds with one stone.

The following day I met online with two of



To learn more about “Intergenerational Church,” or to share your thoughts on how churches can respond to the COVID-19 crisis, feel free to email Pastor Kwon at [kwon@wi.adventist.org](mailto:kwon@wi.adventist.org).

our young adult leaders, Rayden Balisnomo and Meztli Morales, to discuss how we could make the project happen. We were reminded of this Bible passage, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or tongue, but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:16-18 The mission was to identify and provide support and services for those in need within the church and surrounding community during this social lockdown. The goal was to reach the elderly, the sick, and the high-risk in order to provide aid on the basis of simplicity and practicality.

The next step for our young leaders was to quickly gather a list of those that could

provide service and of those that were in need of service. In order for this project to develop, it was necessary for all members to get involved in contributing to this effort. Following a list of criteria, the services needed were: making face masks, delivering groceries, rides to essential locations, care packages, yard work, online tutoring for younger students, etc. For this to truly become an intergenerational effort, considerable measures were taken to ensure that all generations involved had a part to contribute in this effort.

This project is special, as our young leaders took the initiative. This is a positive change for the church as the church attempts to grow young. These leaders are coordinating with other ministry leaders of the church to execute the services mentioned above. We don’t want this to be a one-time project

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## From the President's Desk

# Northern Lights

I have been privileged to see the northern lights on a couple occasions in my life. The grandeur of the celestial display that crosses the night sky has fascinated watchers for centuries. Some people will travel great distances to get a chance to see this dim, but spectacular phenomenon.

The darker the night, the greater will be the display. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, the darker the world, the greater will be the contrast between those who are followers of God, and those who are not.

We are living in a troubled time; a time of increasing darkness. Millions are becoming more bold in flaunting their opposition to the great principles of love, care, and compassion revealed in Scripture. The voices of anarchy, violence, and intolerance dominate our news. Men and women are revealing what happens to people who turn their hearts away from God and serve themselves.

You and I are called to be lights in this increasing darkness. We are called to portray the love of Jesus in clear and winning ways. We are called to represent Jesus in a way that will be unmistakable and appealing. We are called to be different. Different from the world, but like Jesus.

The integrity of our words and actions, the kindness and respect that we give everyone, the listening ear and caring heart to even the least deserving, will shine in this dark world. As we spend time with Jesus we will become more like Him. As we are more like Him we are more different from the world, and the contrast will be seen.

I desire myself, and encourage you, to spend more time with Jesus, become like Him, and indeed be a light for Him today.

*Michael H. Edge*

Wisconsin Conference President

## The President's Sabbath Schedule

### August

- 1 Waukesha
- 15 Janesville District

### September

- 19 AdventHealth Missions
- 26 Northern District Meeting

### October

- 3 Wisconsin Rapids
- 10 Coulee Region
- 17 WA Alumni Weekend
- 24 Oxford
- 31 NAD Year-end Meetings

### November

- 14 Eau Claire
- 28 Thanksgiving Holiday

To request speaking appointments contact Mike Edge at:  
[mgedge@wi.adventist.org](mailto:mgedge@wi.adventist.org).



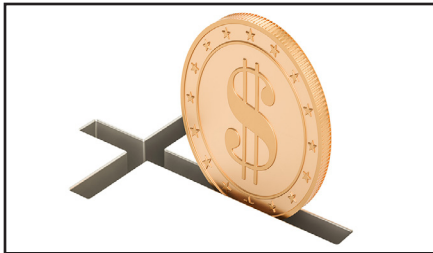
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# Steve's Story: The Gift



I really have a wonderful ministry as the Planned Giving Director for the Wisconsin Conference. What a privilege meeting so many people whose lives have been touched by grace. It shows in their joy, generosity, thoughtfulness, gratitude, and commitment to Christ.

One of these many individuals, Steve (not his real name), came to my office a while back and asked if we could talk. A few days before, while watching Adventist media, Steve heard about something called a Charitable Gift Annuity (aka CGA) and asked me to explain how it works. I told Steve a CGA was a way to create an income for himself during his lifetime, and after he passed, he could leave a gift to a charity of his choice. Steve expressed great interest in a Charitable Gift Annuity that would help further the work of God in Wisconsin, and that he wanted to go home and pray about it. He would get back to me.

Steve called the next day and said he had decided to go forward with creating a CGA. I was happy that he called back, and when he told me the amount of the CGA my heart almost fell out of my chest. Let us just say that the amount was exceptionally large. One day the Wisconsin Conference should benefit greatly from Steve's gift. Praise the Lord! Steve's only condition was that the use of these gift funds must reflect his Seventh-day Adventist Christian values - to that we could heartily agree!

I share this true story, not to brag about how large a gift Steve will leave the Wisconsin Conference, but to share with you one more way that we can further the work of God in Wisconsin - through the use of a Charitable Gift Annuity. Charitable Gift Annuities come in all sizes. They are not for everyone, as not everyone's circumstances are the same. See the box to the right to learn more.

*For more information call Pastor Bill Ochs at 920-484-6555, ext. 311, or 608-446-3452.*



Bill Ochs  
Planned Giving &  
Trust Services

## How A Charitable Gift Annuity Works

This annuity is a way to make a gift to support the work of God in the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

1. Easy to establish; no complicated documentation required
2. You transfer cash or property to the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventist
3. In exchange, we promise to pay fixed payments to you for life
4. The payment can be quite high depending on your age, and a portion of each payment may be tax-free
5. You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the gift portion of the annuity
6. A charitable gift annuity can be a way to increase your retirement income
7. You receive joy & satisfaction, knowing you will be helping to further the church's mission & hasten the coming of Jesus!

## Jerry Walters Head Teacher in Green Bay

Beginning this fall, Jerry Walters will be joining the teaching staff at Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy as the Head Teacher and 7th-10th grade teacher. He received his degrees in Education through Eastern Washington University and has taught students from second grade through the University level.

Jerry's passion is serving others. He says, "Some would call it "Paying It Forward." I suppose that is why I became a teacher and a registered counselor; serving others. The one

thing that motivates my passion is LOVE!" He believes there is nothing greater than love and that Biblical love helps him work as a team and serve others with the fruit of the Spirit.

His philosophy for education revolves around giving students the tools to succeed to the best of their abilities and encourage them in the direction they should go (Proverbs 22:6). One may ask, "How do I motivate students to do this?" Jerry says, "I motivate students by trusting and respecting them and giving them the opportunity to choose to succeed." He also desires to disciple his students.

One of Jerry's greatest interests is

neuroscience as it relates to human behavior. He believes this is also related to physical health. He says, "If we eat, drink, and exercise for the brain, the body follows." In addition to studying health, Jerry enjoys house remodeling/flipping/real estate. In the past, he used to restore cars, but now just likes to look at them. Walking and warm Hawaiian beaches are also high on his list.

Jerry says he is very blessed to have Karen as his wife. Before becoming a teacher herself, Karen worked in Environmental Health. Together they enjoy teaching others how to live healthful and prosperous lives. They have two daughters that live in Spokane, WA, which is also where the rest of their family lives.



## Jacie Reagan Returns to Milwaukee School



**J**acie Reagan is no stranger to Wisconsin. She has previously served as a teacher in the Wisconsin Conference and we welcome her back to teach 3rd and 4th grades at the Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School North Campus.

Jacie was born and raised in northwest Indiana. In relating how her family came into the Seventh-day Adventist Church Jacie says, "Soon after my parents married they moved to Indiana. Their landlord was a Seventh-day Adventist and studied with my mother. She was baptized when I was two."

Church school comprised most of Jacie's personal education. Her grandmother was a teacher who was very much respected and loved. Jacie states, "I think I have always wanted to be a teacher." Graduating from Andrews University, she went on to receive her Master's Degree from Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Regarding her love of teaching she says, "I very much enjoy working with young people, teaching, listening, watching them catch on to concepts and grow academically as well as spiritually. I love sharing Jesus' love with them."

Jacie and her husband enjoy their blended family which includes eight children and 24 grandchildren. She loves spending time with her family. Her husband is a 'retired' builder and she enjoys working with him. She also likes reading, cooking, walking, and enjoying nature.

Talking of her return Jacie says, "I look forward to working again with my MSDAS family and the Wisconsin Conference."

## Marco Vigil to Pastor Marshfield/WI Rapids



**W**elcome Pastor Marco Vigil to the Wisconsin Conference. Marco is a 2020 graduate of Southern Adventist University where he completed his BA in Theology with a minor in Biblical Languages. He began his pastoral duties in the Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and Neillsville communities in mid July.

Pastor Marco's desire is to "teach, nurture, and inspire..." in his ministry, "and introduce people to Jesus as their personal Savior and enable them to use their gifts and talents for God."

## Elisa Hernandez Joins Milwaukee School

**G**reetings to Elisa Hernandez, new third and fourth grade teacher for Milwaukee South Campus. Elisa comes to us from New Mexico where she was fourth grade teacher for the Bernalillo Elementary School. Elisa completed her BS in Psychology Emphasis in School Guidance from Southwestern Adventist University, and an AA degree in Criminal Justice & Corrections from South Texas College. She also speaks three languages.

"I am passionate about working with children and guiding them to be the best that they can be," says Elisa. She also aims to, "instill values, beliefs, and skills that students can take with them beyond the classroom. I want them to be individuals that will strive to accomplish any goal they may have." She also believes that, "when a teacher models passionate behavior and demonstrates care for each individual's success, students develop interest in their own education. I have witnessed students grow and go beyond expectations, which fuels my passion." We are happy to welcome Elisa to our conference.

## Otter Creek Christian Academy Welcomes New Head Teacher Elizabeth Channell



Christian School in Altoona, Wisconsin. Liz graduated from Southwestern University in Keene, TX, with a BS degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in English, History, and Bible. "I've always loved teaching," said Liz. "Even as a child my favorite thing to do was play school with my brother and cousins. Interestingly we all grew up and became teachers."

Liz and her husband, Robert, have four children: Elijah who is entering 4th grade, Noah entering 2nd grade, Isaac beginning 1st grade, and Jonah who enjoys staying home with daddy. The family is also looking forward to the addition of a fifth child this November. Liz says her favorite thing to do is taking her family to the park. She also enjoys reading when her limited time allows.

**W**e welcome Elizabeth (Liz) Channell as Head Teacher for the Otter Creek

## Lula Allen New Teacher for Milwaukee School



**L**ula Allen will be joining the teaching staff of the Milwaukee SDA School North Campus as the 5th and 6th grade teacher for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Lula grew up in Chicago, Illinois where she and her family were members of the Hyde Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a child, she was a member of the Pathfinder Club and sang in the youth choir. She says, "Growing up in the church has been a great experience and helped in preparing me for my roles in the church as Pathfinder Leader, Head Usher, and Sabbath School Teacher." Her home church in Hyde Park was also where she was married and welcomed two daughters into her family.

Lula attended Chicago State University and earned degrees in Education and Children's Literature. Her family relocated to Milwaukee where she taught in the Milwaukee Public Schools for twenty-five years. During her time there she taught grades 2 thru 8 and was also a Literacy Coach before retiring in 2017.

Now, she has very happily accepted the fifth and sixth grade teaching position at the North Campus in Milwaukee and says she is looking forward to working with the "wonderful students and staff whom I have already had the opportunity to become acquainted with."

Lula is a homeschool coach and author, and in addition to her love of teaching, she finds great satisfaction in scrapbooking, baking, gardening, reading, and writing.

## Karen Walters is the New Teacher for Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy



**K**aren Walters has accepted the position of teaching grades 3-6 at Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy. By degree, she is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher - the new name for Home Economics.

Originally from Spokane, Washington, Karen grew up on a wheat farm just west of the city and most of her extended family still live in that area. Prior to becoming a teacher, she worked for several local health districts as an environmental health specialist. She and her husband Jerry have two daughters. Karen's hobbies include sewing, quilting, crocheting for charity, reading, cooking/baking, hiking and bike riding. One of her goals is to visit all of the national parks.

Karen says, "I am very much looking forward to being the 3rd-6th grade teacher a GBAJA" and "I can hardly wait to explore the beauty of the Green Bay area."

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**A**s these times of uncertainty continue, we as an office staff have learned to accomplish our tasks using different methods and practices. This in itself is not a bad thing, as in some cases we do things more efficiently and even better as a result of these adjustments.

As you may have heard we did take a Payroll Protection Act loan from the SBA this spring. This has helped stabilize our cash flow through the past several months. This loan was designed to be a forgivable loan and we are currently in the process of applying for forgiveness of this loan. In addition, we thank the North American Division as well as the Lake Union Conference for providing some additional funding of tithe and non-tithe appropriations to our conference to aid us in the stabilization of our operations.

We are continuing to operate on a reduced spending of our budgets. We have limited out of state travel until further notice and delayed the voted cost of living raise typically given July 1. This pay raise will be discussed at an upcoming executive committee for a future

implementation when appropriate. We are also praying that our schools will be able to open with students in the classroom this fall, but understand this may not be possible in all cases. This uncertainty could also bring with it financial implications as well.

Due to the unusual nature of this year, both the income and expenses with which we typically gauge financial health, have been very volatile in nature. As the year progresses we will be better able to understand and communicate the status of our financial situation. Due to your faithfulness, it will suffice to say that our financial outlook appears to be holding strong thus far.

The world is filled with trials these days, from Covid-19 to social and financial unrest. Now, more than ever is the time for all of us to look to our Savior and the Scriptures as to how we can survive the challenging times that are before us.



Brian Stephan  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer





*from the principal's desk:*

## Blessings Amid Uncharted Waters

**G**reetings from Wisconsin Academy. To keep you informed about our school, I'd like to share an update on where we're at. COVID 19 entered our lives in a serious way in March. When we postponed coming back to school from spring break and switched to distance learning we thought it was for a couple of weeks. Now we look back at how it has changed our lives. We are very blessed to have our wonderful staff who poured themselves into making distance learning work.

On the weekend which graduation was scheduled we shared a virtual baccalaureate service which you can view on our website, but we are waiting for August 2 when we will have a graduation for our seniors. It will look very different as we have to limit how many guests each student can have as we space people out with social distancing. It will be live streamed and will take place at 10 a.m.

Looking toward the coming school year, we are busy preparing to have school in a new paradigm. Our school year will begin on campus with registration on August 16.

We are closely monitoring the CDC and DPI recommendations and are in direct consultation with our local health department as we put in place safety protocols. A vital part of the academy experience is the relationships that students have with each other and the staff, so we are praying that we can have a healthy successful "on-campus" year. It reminds us to return to our original and primary goals for existence: to provide an environment for our students to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus, and for them to learn to share that experience and the three angels' messages with the world.

For the safety of our churches and students, we will temporarily limit bringing students to visit and share throughout our conference. We are excited about the live-streaming programs we have begun and look forward to sharing much more with you through this venue. As we began by live streaming Friday evening vespers programs, and then moved to virtual academy day and baccalaureate service, we realized that we could use this venue for sharing with our conference family many things that are happening with our students here

on campus. Thanks to the faculty that have spent many hours creating programs. As they have worked together, we realized that adding some much needed audio/video equipment will greatly improve the quality of our programs and also provide important training for our students. If you are wondering what is happening here at the academy, and are interested in helping out in something that will greatly improve our ability to share with our conference family and farther abroad, please let us know and we will share more details with you.

In these uncertain financial times the YES scholarship is even more important for our students, and we are so thankful that many churches are participating, even when they don't have young people at WA. As always, we ask that you continue to pray for the students and staff at Wisconsin Academy as we travel these uncharted waters. May we remember these words of encouragement from this hymn, "Under His wings my soul shall abide, safely abide forever."

Rosalie Rasmussen, Principal  
Wisconsin Academy



## New! Principles of Gardening Class



**S**tarting in January, students will have the opportunity to enroll in a new class designed to teach the basic principles of gardening. The class will be taught over two semesters - part one in the spring, and part two in the fall. This will give students the opportunity to harvest what they planted. Over the course of the class, students will learn to grow a variety of fruits, vegetables, and greens in our spacious greenhouse, hoop house, and raised beds. The picture above shows some of the crops we grew in the greenhouse this summer. It is our goal that students who take this class will not only be prepared to plant and enjoy thriving gardens wherever they go, but that they will also learn the spiritual lessons God has hidden in the plant world and learn to appreciate the great Creator who causes all things to grow.

## New! Strategies for Success Class



**O**ur new Strategies for Success class is designed to help ease the transition to high school. I will be teaching study skills, goal-setting and collaboration. This will include working with other teachers in real time. For example, when projects and tests are due, students will learn how to map out a preparation plan. I will also work with deans and parents of village students to follow up on the strategies I am teaching the students. For example, after we discuss how to be prepared for school each day or how to be organized, I will check students' backpacks/lockers/desks and grade their use of strategies we learned. I will also work with teachers to make sure students come to class prepared. My goal is to give them strategies to become independent learners who take ownership of their educational journeys. - Kelly Taitano, Registrar

## Alumni Homecoming



**B**ecause of the coronavirus quarantines, Alumni Homecoming has been moved to October 16-18.

We are very sad that we could not meet in person this spring. We had a virtual vespers during which several alumni shared Bible verses and encouraging thoughts. Thank you to everyone who participated. Many alumni also connected by Facebook.

Watch for updates on the alumni page of the WA website: [www.wisacad.org](http://www.wisacad.org)

**Apply for WA at any time at:**  
[www.wisacad.org](http://www.wisacad.org)

# Making the Dream a Reality

**W**e know that providing your son or daughter with a Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist education involves one of the most significant investments a family will make. We're here to help make this step as easy as possible. Here are some ways families like yours have made Adventist education a reality.

### Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

The state of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families to cover private school tuition. Families may enroll in this program between February 3 and April 16 of each year. Contact Janine Show at (661) 800-8759.

### Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

The state of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families living in Milwaukee to cover private school tuition. Families may enroll in this program on the 1st - 20th of any month. Janine Show at (661) 800-8759.

### Youth Education Scholarship (YES!)

YES! is a financial assistance matching program. The funds a local church gives (up to \$2,000) will be matched by W.A. and Wisconsin Conference, yielding up to \$6,000 per student (\$4,000 for non-WI churches).

[www.wisacad.org/admissions/financial-options](http://www.wisacad.org/admissions/financial-options)

Wisconsin Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
PO Box 100  
Fall River WI 53932

Return Service Requested

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## Calendar of Events

### August

- 4-6 Teacher In-Service
- 12 Executive Committee
- 16 WA Registration
- 20 New in Ministry
- 25 Board of Education

### September

- 3 Pastors Meetings
- 7 Office Closed
- 11-13 Pathfinder Camporee
- 16-18 Outdoor Education
- 18 Hispanic Couples Retreat
- 23 Executive Committee
- 26 Northern District Meeting

### October

- 4-7 LIFT Grades 7-10
- 16-17 Pathfinder Leadershop
- 16-18 WA Alumni Homecoming
- 27 Board of Education
- 30-31 JAHWI Retreat

### November

- 6-8 Lay Pastors Cohort
- 8-10 LUC Departmental Meetings
- 18 Executive Committee
- 22 Hisp. Women's Evang. Banquet
- 25-26 Office Closed



**Rick Blumenschein**, grades 7-10 and head teacher for Green Bay Adventist Jr. Academy is moving to Michigan.

**Melissa Boryca's** position ended as Vice-Principal & 5th-6th grade teacher for the Milwaukee SDA School. She will be greatly missed. We wish you well, Melissa.

**Prima Glass**, Pre-K, K teacher at Milwaukee SDA School has accepted a position to teach in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Adele Inglish**, grades 3-6 teacher at Green Bay Adventist Jr. Academy, is moving to Tennessee to teach at Collegedale Academy.

**Daisy Nieman**, Head teacher at Otter Creek Christian Academy is moving to Minnesota.

**Iris Rivera**, teacher for grades 3-4 at Milwaukee SDA School, has accepted a teaching position in Florida.

**Karen White**, a music teacher at Wisconsin Academy is retiring. We wish you well, Karen!

**John Redlich**, pastor of the Rice Lake District, is moving to the Oregon Conference.

**Karen Kind**, 1st and 2nd grade teacher for Milwaukee South Campus, is moving to teach Kindergarten at Milwaukee North Campus.

**Vivianna Facundo**, 3rd and 4th grade teacher for Milwaukee South Campus is transitioning to Milwaukee North Campus to teach 1st and 2nd graders.

## Cover Story Continued ...

during this pandemic. We want to convert this crisis into a movement of opportunity, and this opportunity into a long-term ministry. We plan to continue serving the church and the community even when this crisis is over and when we start the new norm.

Because the boy in John 6 committed his lunch box to Jesus, Jesus was able to multiply it and feed the 5000. In the same way, this one text message is helping our church to grow and nurture this intergenerational culture, and continue serving the church and community. There is great joy in serving others. There is greater joy when it is an intergenerational effort.

Myoung Kwon  
Waukesha District Pastor