

Prayer Warriors and a Big God

It all started several years ago when two prayer warriors made a decision. They covenanted with God to come to church 30 minutes early every Sabbath to plead with God for more members. The Watertown Seventh-Day Adventist Church was not growing as fast as they had hoped. These prayer warriors firmly believed God had a plan and they wanted to know what it was.

Over time, three new people showed up! These three all came for different reasons but felt they needed to be in church. One was a refugee; one remembered, from their youth, that a grandmother was a Seventh-day Adventist and felt a need to be baptized; and one came after being convicted by watching “The Days of Noah.”

The members got excited! Bible studies began taking place. More people joined the two warriors in prayer after two of the visitors were baptized. More people started attending and now wanted to help with evangelism. One member decided the Lord was leading them to fund a Bible worker, so they gave \$20,000. Another person added \$6,000 to the fund and a Bible worker was hired.

Meanwhile, Jane Foll, a leader in the Watertown church, laid out a plan to get the total church involved in witnessing. She called it “Ministry Action Plan” or MAP for short. This was not just another church program. The object was to get every member doing what they



Prayer Warriors at the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church, praying to know God's plan for their church.

had a passion to do even if there was no activity like that presently taking place. And everyone meant every one. The young people in the church are NOT the church of the future; they are the church of the present.

The members responded to MAP in diverse ways. The Bible worker needed contacts, so two families pooled resources to sponsor a blanket mailing of the Watertown area inviting residents to send for The Great Controversy. Forty-nine residents responded after much more prayer was offered! One group of adults along with young people went door-to-door with questionnaires asking church neighbors how the church could help them. Prayer was offered at the door and a number of people requested Bible studies. Another group of adults and youth began handing out Glow tracts. The young people designed cards to

invite neighbors to a Christmas program, in which they were prominently featured. One member became the featured speaker at a Baptist Women's Retreat, and another began sending out birthday cards.

Sabbath afternoon activities are now being planned around door to door evangelism. The church is also praying for a high-powered radio station. Through the questionnaire, interest in cooking classes and a health seminar were indicated and the church is planning to host these events.

The excitement has been especially contagious with the young people in the church, and several have recently been baptized. The midweek Prayer Meeting attendance has grown from 5-6 to 20-25 with the youth participating in singing, reading and praying. They

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From the President's Desk

Come, Follow Me

Almost another year has passed, and we are again ready to attend Wisconsin Camp Meeting. This great spiritual retreat includes inspiring worship experiences and fellowship at beautiful Camp Wakonda.

When I attended camp meeting for the first time in 2008, I was surprised to see the beautiful campground with two lakes and hundreds of campsites. I was especially impressed with Pioneer Pavilion, the Cafeteria, the lodges, and all the other structures that facilitate spiritual, educational, and recreational programs.

Over the years, dedicated speakers have presented numerous sermons and led spiritual and educational programs here. Many people have been baptized committing their lives to Jesus, and lasting memories have been made by generations of camp participants.

All this was possible because of countless volunteers and sacrificial donations from faithful and generous members and guests. We are very grateful to God for what has happened at Camp Wakonda, and we thank all those who left a mark or touched people's lives with their contributions of time, resources, and love.

You, as part of the Adventist family in Wisconsin, are now invited to participate in essential projects to renovate and build new permanent structures. Whether volunteering or donating, every one of us is called to be part of the history that is written by our generation. Now is our time. God has given us a unique opportunity to use our spiritual gifts. I invite you to reflect on God's blessings and respond accordingly.

This year our camp meeting theme is, "Come, Follow Me." At the beginning of His ministry on earth, Jesus invited his disciples to be part of His missionary team. One by one they responded to His call and, after three and a half years of training and assisting Him, He sent them as His ambassadors into the whole world.

We are part of God's kingdom today because of their response to the call: "Come, and follow Me." Now it is our privilege to respond to the same call. Jesus needs new disciples in every generation in our assigned territory. He wants us to follow Him and to be actively involved in the process of making disciples. We cannot make disciples; the Holy Spirit does that. But we need to invite others to become His disciples.

As we get closer to camp meeting time, I invite you to reflect on these inspired paragraphs, written by Ellen White, related to camp meeting preparation.

"Our annual camp meetings are of great importance to all who can attend them. They should feel that the Lord requires this of them. If God's people neglect the privileges he has provided for them to become strong in him, they will grow weaker and weaker and have less and less desire to consecrate all to him! The object of these holy convocation meetings is that the brethren may be separated from business cares and burdens and devote a few days exclusively to seeking the Lord."

"When the grace of God reigns within, the soul will be surrounded with an atmosphere of faith and courage and Christlike love, -an atmosphere invigorating to the spiritual life of all who inhale it. Then we can go to the camp-meeting, not merely to receive, but to impart. Every one who is a partaker of Christ's pardoning love, -every one who has been enlightened by the Spirit of God and converted to the truth, will feel that for these precious blessings he owes a debt to every soul with whom he comes in contact. Those who are humble in heart, the Lord will use to reach souls whom the ordained ministers cannot approach. They will be moved to speak words which reveal the saving grace of Christ."

Review and Herald, August 15, 1882.

Titus Naftanaila
Wisconsin Conference President



Camp Meeting Speakers 2023



John Bradshaw
President, It Is Written

First Weekend Speaker



Titus Naftanaila
President, Wisconsin Conference

Sunday Evening Speaker



Rick Remmers
Assistant to the President, NAD

Second Weekend Speaker



Don MacLafferty
Founder/President, In Discipleship

Evening and 11:00 am Speaker



Roger & Kathy Hernandez
Ministerial & Evangelism Director & Coordinator, Southern Union

4:00 pm Speakers



Stephanie Dawn
Singer/Speaker, Dawn of Hope Ministry

First Weekend Musician



Gem Castor
Prayer Coordinator, ASAP Ministries

9:30 am Speaker



Dr. K'dee (Elsen) Crews
Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Beautiful Minds Medical

4:00 pm Sun. & 2:30 pm Speaker Mon.-Wed.



Emma Loberg & Angela Castleberg
Cooking Class Leaders

9:30 am M-F



Pearo Ackles
Early Morning Prayer Time Leader

7:00 am Daily



Amanda Anguish
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

2:30 pm Speaker Thurs. & Friday

For more information and to register, visit:

wi.adventist.org/camp-meeting

President's Sabbath Schedule

May	
6	Madison Community
13	Tomahawk
20	WA Graduation
27	Hispanic Brotherhood Day
June	
3	Wisconsin Rapids
10	Lakeland
17	Camp Meeting
24	Camp Meeting
July	
15	Vacation
22	Vacation
August	
5	Hispanic Camp Meeting
13	Lake Union Officers Mtg.
25	AdventHealth Mission Conference

To request speaking appointments contact Titus Naftanaila at: titusn@wi.adventist.org

Cover Story Continued

happily participate in outreach activities and are planning some of their own ministries including disc golf, Lego stop-motion videos, a church newspaper, and posting church services to a YouTube channel. The Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs have become missionary bands.

The effects of this Ministry Action Plan have not only impacted the Watertown Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Another church in the area heard what was happening and decided to start outreach activities of their own! It is always exciting to see God working and it starts with prayer.

What are the prayer warriors doing now? They are still praying to support the present activities in the church as well as for the students at Wisconsin Academy. But, even more, they are praying for a revival to spread across our Conference, our Union, our Division, and our world. They are thinking big. After all, we have a BIG God!

Steve Mertins
Member of Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church

Wakonda: Building Our Future

Thanks to the many volunteers and donors, we are continuing progress on projects at Camp Wakonda. Please pray for safety and good weather while Maranatha and all the volunteers are at camp - thru May 7.

Above: the floor for the Primary Division is being poured.

Below: Remodeling of the bath houses is coming along.



Stephanie Peterson New Lay Pastor



We are happy to welcome Stephanie Peterson as the Lay Pastor for the Durand Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Through a career as a nurse, Stephanie was introduced to the role of chaplain and grew to feel that God was calling her to this ministry. After graduating from Liberty University with a degree in religion, she began serving as a chaplain at AdventHealth Durand in 2002.

Lesa Budd Prayer Min. Coordinator



We are happy to share that Lesa Budd has accepted the call to serve as Prayer Ministries Coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference. The Prayer Ministry theme is H2C=L, 2 Hearts Connecting equals Love. Watch for weekly prayer quotes on Facebook and join the Thursday prayer line at 6:00 pm. Call: 1 (716) 427-1574 - Pin: 330917# Announce yourself as you connect.

Brian Stephan to Retire After 43 Yrs.



Brian Stephan, executive secretary and treasurer of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, announced that he will retire on July 1, 2023. Stephan has served in this capacity since his election in 2011. Upon retirement, his denominational service in the Michigan and Wisconsin conferences will span 43 years, to the day, from when he began working for the church.

Stephan shared the news with members of the Wisconsin Conference Executive Committee on March 1, 2023. During his announcement, Stephan said, "It has been an absolute privilege working these 43 years for the church. I would not change anything. I have enjoyed it and still do." In closing, Stephan wanted to give a special thanks to Elder Mike Edge, former president of the Wisconsin Conference, who had to call him twice before he accepted the call to Wisconsin. He says, "It has been a blessing. It is wonderful. Thank you."

"Brian has been a great blessing to our conference," said Wisconsin Conference President, Titus Naftanaila. "His proficient management, competent leadership, and steadfast commitment to the mission of our church has led our conference to a strong financial position." Speaking of his time working with Stephan, Naftanaila said, "My colleagues and I have enjoyed working with him and will miss him greatly. We wish him and Cindy God's blessing on the next phase of their journey."

Brian and his wife Cindy plan to relocate to Michigan to be closer to family.

Laurella Case
Communication Coordinator

Camp Meeting: Changes to Note



With all the projects happening at Camp Wakonda, there are a few changes you might notice upon arriving at camp meeting:

- 1. Primary, Junior, Teen and Youth Divisions will each have permanent structures in which to meet. Locations will be the same.
- 2. The Bath Houses have undergone major updates.
- 3. Laundry facilities will now be exclusively in the basement of Cedar Lodge.
- 4. The main floors of Cedar Lodge have been remodeled for use as a seminar/meeting room and will no longer house the Nature Center, which has moved to White Pine Lodge.
- 6. We now have a Camp Security Office located in the room connected to the Bookstore. The following will be coordinated through this office:
 - Golf cart registration (pre-register online)
 - Service Animal registration (pre-register online)
 - Emergency contact for Adults with Special needs

If you need any of these services, please check-in at the Camp Security Office upon arrival at camp meeting.

Discipleship Training Sparks Desire for More



On February 22-26, 2023, twelve individuals from Wisconsin attended a Discipleship Training seminar given by Pastor Don MacLafferty, founder/president of In Discipleship.

In addition to daily training sessions, participants hosted evening programs in several Wisconsin churches where members were enthusiastic to learn new ideas for discipleship in their own context.

Pastor MacLafferty was invited back to present more on the topic of discipleship during Wisconsin camp meeting next month.

Summer Camp Info



Cub Camp: July 2-7
Tween Camp: July 9-14
Teen Camp: July 16-21
Family Camp: July 23-30

Summer Camp Theme: Wake Up Call
Visit wakonda.org to register today!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

It's a beautiful time of year as flowers begin to emerge and things start to green up. With the better weather the building projects and renovations are in full swing at Camp Wakonda. Final foundations have been poured for our division buildings as well as the concrete floors. Many of you have come to camp on the Sunday Work Days, and other days, preparing for the Maranatha volunteers who arrived on April 17. A big thank-you to all volunteers who have worked hard to be ready for this important project at the camp!

We appreciate the support you have shown with your offerings to this endeavor as well. Through March, we have received \$116,601 for "Building Our Future" at Camp Wakonda. The offerings have been coming in at the rate of approximately \$20,000 per month. If we can sustain this over the next couple of years we will be able to complete this project debt free!

We expect most cabin renovations and new construction of a Medical Building/Camp Store can be completed by the end of next year as long as the funding continues to come in.

While larger donations are needed and welcome, I believe we can achieve our funding needs by all of us consistently doing what we can manage each month. The Lord too is adding His blessing as \$15,000 worth of materials, needed for our children's divisions structures, was donated by one of the suppliers.

Thank you again for your support and prayers during this major update of our conference camp!

May God continue His blessing on our Conference as well as your local congregation as we continue to proclaim the good news of a loving Savior to those around us.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2023 (12 wks)	2022 (13 wks)	% Change
March Tithe Income:	\$631,027	\$604,141	4.45 %
YTD Tithe Income:	\$1,834,011	\$1,819,310	0.81 %
March WI Budget:	\$20,965	\$22,176	-5.46 %
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$64,125	\$72,046	-10.99 %



Puerto Rico!



On March 15, 2023, 47 students and sponsors from the Wisconsin Academy, Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist school, and home-schooling communities navigated through O'Hare International Airport to fly down to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The group was in Puerto Rico for 10 days and the bulk of the time was spent at Campamento Adventista Elias Burgos. While at the camp, the group worked on several projects: repainting the basketball court, building a small retaining wall next to the court, cleaning out and reorganizing the maintenance storage, clearing the grounds, and tying rebar for the concrete pad where a pool area is being built.

After the group finished the work part of their trip, they spent the last few days going to the beach and night kayaking in a bioluminescent bay. The group is especially thankful to Dr. Tim Erich and Mr. Alberto Torres for planning such a successful trip.



Wisconsin Academy was happy to welcome back Music Fest that was held from March 31st to April 1st. Students (grades 7-10) from Milwaukee SDA, Three Angels Adventist, and Petersen Adventist schools participated in the event. It had been 4 years since we were able to have Music Fest and we are looking forward to having it annually again.



Education Fair brought Rich Agulara and creation week to WA. We had students from Seventh-day Adventist schools all over the state of Wisconsin come and participate in demonstrations and learn about creation. The campus was full with excitement and students.



We are happy to welcome Daniel Cunningham as our new Director of Maintenance. Daniel is experienced in maintenance, mechanical, and environmental services and has also served in the military. As an alumnus of WA, he is excited to be a part of the improvement projects that are underway.

RECENT EVENTS



Seniors Isaac Sarmina, Matthew Lawrence, and Ben Sajdack performed a skit in the talent show.



Juniors Marlen Rodriguez, Elizabeth Olayo, Omar Garay Munoz, Seniors Kaira Lozano Campos, and Dana Colindres dress up for Heritage Day for spirit week.



Graduation is fast approaching and we are excited to honor the class of 2023. What a great year it's been, with memories to cherish. May the Lord continue to walk beside you every step of life's journey.

Our Mission:

Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into eternity.

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

May

1-7 Maranatha @ Camp Wakonda
9 Board of Education
11 Pastor's Meeting
12-14 Pathfinder Fair @ Wakonda
14-19 Work Bee @ Camp Wakonda
19-21 WA Graduation
24 Executive Committee
27 Hispanic Brotherhood Day
29 Conference Office Closed
31 Teacher Inservice

June

12-16 Camp Pitch
16-24 Camp Meeting
26 Conference Office Closed

July

2-7 Cub Camp @ Wakonda
3-4 Conference Office Closed
9 JAWHI Sports Day
9-14 Tween Camp @ Wakonda
16-21 Teen Camp @ Wakonda
22 Hispanic Children's Day
23 Hisp. Children's Sports Day
23-30 Family Camp @ Wakonda
25 Board of Education
31 Hispanic Camp Pitch

August

1 Hispanic Camp Pitch
2-6 Hispanic Camp Meeting
7-9 NAD Teacher's Convention
10-13 Hmong Camp Meeting
29 Board of Education
30 Executive Committee

Women's Ministry Weekend



On March 10-12, 38 women from across Wisconsin gathered for an awesome experience during the Women's Empowerment Weekend.

Speaker, Tamara Conway, called the women to radical healing by bringing Bible stories to life in a modern context.

Over 250 Attend Pathfinder Retreat



We praise God for these youth and their club directors and leaders who are committed to helping young people grow in relationship with Him!



Robert Shetler New Assistant Treasurer



We are pleased to announce that Robert Shetler has accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer for the

Wisconsin Conference. Robert is coming to us from San Diego, California where he was born and raised. For undergraduate and graduate studies, he attended La Sierra University where he earned a B.S. in Accounting, a B.A. in Management as well as an M.S. in Accounting.

Robert and his wife, Grace, are excited for the opportunities the move holds for them. He says, "I have always wanted to live in a more rural area," and he is looking forward to a quieter place to live. After settling in, he plans to begin studying to take the CPA exam while Grace looks for employment as well.

They are excited to start this new chapter in their lives and are happy to walk it together with Christ.

EDITOR

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