

More Than We Had

If you talk to Pastor Garbi about Wisconsin Academy today, he'll smile and tell you about the wonderful ways his daughters have grown there. But if you had asked him a few years ago, the story might have been very different. "When I served on the Executive Committee several years back," said Garbi, pastor of the Southwest Region Church District, "I often wondered, 'Why on earth are we pouring thousands of dollars every year into this institution, Wisconsin Academy, that takes away our kids from the home!'" Yet as the children grew, Pastor Garbi began to have thoughts of possibly sending his children to Wisconsin Academy.

One day his youngest daughter, Melissa, said her best friend was going to attend Wisconsin Academy and she wanted to go too. His oldest daughter, Rebecca, expressed her desire to attend Wisconsin Academy as well.

So, after much discussion and prayer, the Garbis decided to first allow Rebecca to attend Wisconsin Academy. It would be her senior year.

Rebecca worked in the kitchen with Mrs. Lenny Plank and "they were like two peas in a pod," said Pastor Garbi. As he saw their friendship unfold, he began to see tremendous value in the Christian mentors Rebecca was finding at Wisconsin Academy. From the first, Rebecca came home on break saying, "Even the principal knows and cares about me personally!" She loved being in Choralaires, faculty family events, and



Rebecca (left) and Melissa (right) Garbi served as camp staff this summer at Camp Wakonda. They live in Spring Green, Wisconsin, along with their parents, Samuel and Connie Garbie, and their younger brother, John Michael.

being with her friends 24/7. She fell in love with missions while on an academy mission project and began to envision her life serving others in the mission field.

"At Wisconsin Academy Rebecca grew and developed in her love for God and her church," said Pastor Garbi. "She also grew in learning the critical skills of timeliness and responsibility. Boarding school is a very helpful transition for kids between home and college."

After Rebecca's graduation, it was Melissa's turn to attend Wisconsin Academy for her junior and senior years of high school. "Going to Wisconsin Academy made me more responsible," said Melissa, now a 2017 graduate. "The structure was good for me and allowed me to grow. Structure, whether

in timeliness, academics, spiritual life, leadership, physical health, or relationships, allows us to become better in whatever area we need." Melissa also enjoyed her relationships with the teachers at Wisconsin Academy saying, "WA is really great, because almost all the teachers are willing to take time with us. They care about you!"

Both Rebecca and Melissa spent this past summer using and developing their budding leadership skills working as staff at Camp Wakonda. Rebecca served as a Girl's Counselor, and Melissa served as Program/Music Director. "I had two girls with great potential," said Pastor Garbi, "and their Wisconsin Academy experience has helped them to better grasping the opportunities and

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From the President's Desk

Need

The summons to go to the principal's office immediately got my heart thumping. I quickly made my way across campus from study hall to the administration building. Apprehension increased as I saw my brother had been called in as well. Had my parents been in accident, or worse?

The gentle smile of our principal did little to relieve my fears. Then he pulled out a letter. As he read, the fear turned to joy. An anonymous donor was putting \$400 on each of our bills. That was two full months of tuition!

To this day I do not know who the donor was, but the gift was a huge blessing. My parents were committed to providing an Adventist education for us, even though finances were tight.

I am thankful that people like that still exist. People who have a heart to invest in the future leaders trained in our Adventist

schools. Many of these people do not have school age children of their own, but believe in the many benefits of an education where dedicated Adventist teachers freely share of Jesus in the classroom.

As a new school year begins we can do several things that will pay eternal dividends. 1) Pray for parents, students, and staff in our schools, 2) Volunteer to help out in some way at the school near you, 3) Donate, so that any young person who wishes to receive an Adventist education may be able to attend, and benefit from a God-centered environment to learn.

I invite you to be a part of these evangelistic outreach centers in our conference, whose goal is to lead young people to love and serve Jesus Christ.

Michael H. Edge

Wisconsin Conference President

The President's Sabbath Schedule

August

- 5 ASI Houston
- 12 Wautoma Mission Group
- 19 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 26 Vacation

September

- 2 Sheboygan nic
- 9 Raymond
- 16 Milwaukee Central
- 23 Northern District Meeting

October

- 7 Annual Council
- 21 Wisconsin Rapids
- 28 NAD Year-End Meetings

November

- 4 Eau Claire
- 18 Beloit
- 25 Vacation

To request speaking appointments contact Mike Edge at mgedge@wi.adventist.org.



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Wisconsin Academy Hosts Tanzanian Adventists in the United States Retreat



T On July 12-16, over 150 members of Tanzanian Adventists in the United States (TAUS) gathered on the campus of Wisconsin Academy for their 2017 Annual Retreat. The theme was “Growing in Faith and Building Trust that Lasts.” All presentations were broadcast live on Morning Star Radio throughout Tanzania.

On Sabbath, the Wisconsin Academy church joined TAUS for church. After music and preliminaries in both Swahili and English, Pastor David Mmbaga preached the sermon in Swahili, translated by Mike Mwasumbi for the benefit of the English speakers in the audience. Mmbaga pastors a church of over 1700 members and four companies in Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania. His most recent televised evangelistic series resulted in about 20,000 baptisms.

Other guest speakers included Pastor Pako Edso Mokgwane, BA, MA, Associate Youth Director for the General Conference, Pastor Geoffrey Mbwana, General Vice President of the General Conference, and Mr. Madahu, a talented radio producer and well-known Adventist radio personality for Morning Star Radio in Tanzania.

“We’re very happy the TAUS leadership team chose Wisconsin Academy for their annual retreat,” said Wisconsin Academy principal Roger Dunder. “It’s been a wonderful experience meeting their members from all across the United States. In a small way I feel we’re now a part of their mission to spread the gospel back in Tanzania.”

TAUS is a community of Seventh-day Adventists from Tanzania who live in the United States. TAUS’s mission is to “evangelize and provide services to people of all walks of life by supporting various SDA Church based activities through sharing their God given talents and resources.”

Greg Edge
Wisconsin Academy Marketing Director

More Than We Had-Continued Story

possibilities God has for them. Money can seem to be an issue at times, but God can open ways for our children to receive the blessings of attending His school.

“Wisconsin Academy is not perfect, but our daughters grew academically, spiritually, socially, and in maturity and leadership while there. The spiritual family at WA partners with us as parents. They must be on time, attend daily worship and vespers, and church. I believe that the structured yet loving environment of Wisconsin Academy, away from the childhood parental cocoon, can help many teens better prepare to be successful, useful, independent young adults.”

If you ask Pastor Garbi about Wisconsin Academy today, he won’t talk about the cost being too high or his kids being taken away from home. “By sending our girls to Wisconsin Academy we didn’t lose them, said Pastor Garbi. “They came home more wonderful than before. We gained more than we had.”



Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Richland Center Church Sponsors Figi Mission Trip



F ebruary 23 to March 6, Daryl and Karen Sinnett of Richland Center church went for their second mission trip to Fiji. Rachel and Ron Kerian, also from the Richland Center area, were part of the mission team. Daryl and Ron led in the erection of an addition to the Solotavui



Seventh-day Adventist Church, to provide a Sabbath School area. This was made possible with funds raised at the Richland Center church. Karen, NP, and Rachel, RN, treated close to 200 patients at five medical clinics held in several villages throughout the Island of Kadavu. The two couples also



enjoyed fishing, the culinary experiences and wonderful fellowship with brothers and sisters from across the seas. With many informative pictures, they came back ready to share their inspiration to carry out our mission here in Wisconsin.

Dr. Samuel Garbi
Pastor, Richland Center Church

17 Baptisms at Camp Meeting 2017: Welcome to the Adventist Family!



Volunteer Lay Pastors in the Wisconsin Conference

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has long valued and understood the need for lay involvement in our churches. In fact, our denomination started as a lay led, grass roots, movement made up largely of young people.

At one time, in order to become a paid minister, you had to plant a church to prove that you were called. As time has gone by we have seen a shift away from lay ministry to paid ministry. I believe that there is great value in a paid pastor, but not if it causes the loss of involvement of lay people. If we simply depend on our paid ministers to finish the work of sharing the gospel, we are missing out on the privilege and responsibility of the gospel commission. I have been blessed to be involved with churches that had a high level of lay involvement and leadership. I believe this is what God desires of us.

Here in Wisconsin we have a history of strong lay involvement in our local

churches. I am excited to see this continued interest as we work together for the purpose of spreading the gospel.

One area that has been growing is that of our volunteer lay pastors. We currently have four volunteer lay pastors who have been authorized by the conference to serve as the pastor for their church. It is humbling to see volunteers step forward and take on this level of leadership. As finances continue to be tight in the homes of our members the ripple effect carries over to the conference. With tight finances come difficult decisions. The leadership of the Wisconsin Conference is dedicated to both sharing the gospel and being good stewards of the resources God has blessed us with. The growth in our volunteer lay pastor program has helped our conference in both of these areas.

Pastor Thom Foll is leading out in the Watertown church, Pastors Dan Herwick and Dan Anderson are leading out in New Richmond, and Pastor Jim Lynaugh has just

come on board to lead out in the Oakland church. The leadership given by these pastors to the churches is greatly appreciated.

As Adventists we acknowledge that vital role that our lay people play in successfully fulfilling the mission God has given us. I am thankful that God has provided willing and competent individuals to fill these rolls. God is good. He provides for the needs of our conference. Often, he does so through the generosity of our lay people. Not just with money, but with thousands of hours of time.

What has God been calling you to do? The answer might be that you are already doing what God is calling you to do. It is also possible that God might be calling you to be a lay pastor.



Adam Case
Ministerial Director

New Durand Pastor and Hospital Chaplain



Pastor Joseph Ellis is now serving as pastor of the Durand Church, and Chaplain of the Chippewa Valley Adventist Hospital. He graduated with a BS in Pastoral Care from Southern Adventist University in May of 2017. Prior to this he had a military career, which is where he met his wife Milushka. Soon after meeting they both desired to know the Lord better. Joseph had an Adventist background, and in 2004 they were both baptized and married in the Adventist Church. Joseph enjoys hiking, camping, sports, fellow-shiping with people, and baking.

Daisy Nieman New Teacher at Otter Creek



A graduate of Wisconsin Academy, Daisy is excited to return to Wisconsin as Teacher/Principal at Otter Creek Christian Academy. Daisy attended Weimar College and Pacific Union College, graduating with her BS in Elementary Education. She has three nearly grown children, Katelyn, Stephanie, and Elijah. She also has an American Eskimo dog named Frosty, who keeps her walking 2-3 miles a day. Daisy's hobbies include scrapbooking, quilting, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, shooting hoops, and knife and hatchet throwing.

Zachary Payne New Racine District Pastor



Pastor Zack Payne completed his MDiv degree from Andrews University and has returned to pastor the Racine District. Zack is married to Allison, and they have a 2 1/2 year old son named Arthur, and are expecting a daughter this Thanksgiving Day. Zack enjoys seeing people come closer to a correct understanding of God through the Bible, and using that to engage with their community.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

It's mid July as I write this financial update and we find ourselves looking back at a wonderful camp meeting just completed and a busy summer camp in full swing. Camp Wakonda is a special treasure in our conference with ministry happening year around. Our year-round camp operation is subsidized roughly \$250,000 with tithe funds. This represents 43% of the operating costs of Wakonda. The balance is paid for by fees and rental payments for use of the camp. Your faithfulness in tithe allows us to continue this important outreach.

Speaking of tithe, through the month of May the conference has experienced a tithe increase of just less than 1/2 percent. Our Wisconsin budget is showing a loss of 11.07% through May. Though the increase is small, we are thankfully coming in under budget in expenses this year thus far, so at this point we are experiencing just above break even for the year.

We will soon be looking at a new school year beginning within the month. This year you may have heard that we will have a new campus of Milwaukee SDA School located at the Waukesha church. We are always happy to see a new school facility making Adventist education available to our young people. God is certainly blessing our schools. It is of course a challenge (though a good one) to find the funding for additional teachers as our schools grow. God has been up to the challenge in the past and I am sure will continue to bless us into the future as we seek to do His will in spreading the gospel throughout the state.

Thank-you again for your faithfulness in the giving of your tithes, offerings, and talents, providing for the ministry of your local church in this great work.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2017	2016	% Change
May Tithe Income:	\$641,067	\$516,911	24.02%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$2,599,300 (21 wks)	\$2,588,193 (22 wks)	.43%
May Wisconsin Budget:	\$22,240	\$23,372	-4.84%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$104,179 (21 wks)	\$117,152 (22 wks)	-11.07%



Four Sophomores Baptized!



from the pen of inspiration

Principles of Heaven

“**T** rue education is the inculcation of those ideas that will impress the mind and heart with the knowledge of God the Creator and Jesus Christ the Redeemer. Such an education will renew the mind and transform the character. It will strengthen and fortify the mind against the deceptive whisperings of the adversary of souls, and enable us to understand the voice of God. It will fit the learned to become a co-worker with Christ.

“If our youth gain this knowledge, they will be able to gain all the rest that is essential; but if not, all the knowledge they may acquire from the world will not place them in the ranks of the Lord. They may gather all the knowledge that books can give, and yet be ignorant of the first principles of that righteousness which could give them a character approved of God.

“Those who are seeking to acquire knowledge in the schools of earth should remember that another school also claims them as students,—the school of Christ. From this school the students are never graduated. Among the pupils are both old and young. Those who give heed to the instructions of the divine Teacher are constantly gaining more

wisdom and nobility of soul, and thus they are prepared to enter that higher school, where advancement will continue throughout eternity.

“Infinite Wisdom sets before us the great lessons of life,—the lessons of duty and happiness. These are often hard to learn, but without them we can make no real progress. They may cost us effort, tears, and even agony; but we must not falter nor grow weary. It is in this world, amid its trials and temptations, that we are to gain a fitness for the society of the pure and holy angels. Those who become so absorbed in less important studies that they cease to learn in the school of Christ, are meeting with infinite loss.

“Every faculty, every attribute, with which the Creator has endowed the children of men, is to be employed for His glory; and in this employment is found its purest, noblest, happiest exercise. The principles of heaven should be made paramount in the life, and every advance step taken in the acquirement of knowledge or in the culture of the intellect should be a step toward the assimilation of the human to the divine.”

Ellen G. White
from “Fundamentals of Education”
p. 543-544

On May 21, WA students, staff, family, and church members rejoiced with all of heaven as four sophomores were baptized and four other students renewed their baptismal vows.

Three students were baptized by pastor Ron Kelly, who returned to follow up decisions made when he was here for a week of prayer. One student was baptized by pastor Leroy Ramos Streich of the Milwaukee Hispanic Church.

Following the baptisms, all four sophomores shared testimonies. They decried their personal journeys and what a full commitment to Jesus Christ meant to them.

We praise God for the work He has done in the lives of Cristian, Angel, Laura, and Cielo. We also praise Him for the students, staff, and family members who have studied with and prayed for these young people over the past few months. God continues to work miracles at Wisconsin Academy by creating new hearts in our students. Let His name be praised!

APPLY NOW!
www.wisacad.org



Rasmussens New Dir. of Music and Registrar



We are delighted to announce that Bruce and Rosalie Rasmussen have accepted a call to Wisconsin Academy where Bruce will serve as Director of Music and Rosalie will serve as Registrar. They each come with rich experience at both the secondary and post-secondary levels of education.

Bruce is an experienced music director who is an accomplished organist, vocalist, choral conductor, voice instructor, and conductor of band and handbells. In his spare time he enjoys gardening, beekeeping, woodworking, and auto mechanics.

Rosalie is an accomplished pianist and music educator who also conducts handbells. Her experience in education, which includes administration and academic advising, makes her well fitted to serve as registrar. Rosalie's hobbies include gardening, canning, cooking, baking, and sewing.


Welcome Bruce and Rosalie!





Yes!

Youth Educational Scholarship Financial Assistance Program

How it works:

IF  **Gives (up to \$2,000)**
The Local Church

THEN  **Matches (up to \$2,000)**
Wisconsin Academy

&  **Matches (up to \$2,000)**
Wisconsin Conference
for WI Conf. churches only

= up to \$6,000 Per Student!
CALL 920-623-3300 to find out more

\$4,000 for non-WI churches

If your church is not involved in the YES! program, contact your local church pastor. Students supported by the YES! program do not need to attend or be members of your local congregation.

Wisconsin Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
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Fall River WI 53932

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

August

6-8 Pastors' Meetings
7-9 Teachers' Meetings
16-20 Hispanic Camp Meeting
25-27 TLT Retreat
30 Executive Committee

September

4 Labor Day
5-7 Outdoor Education
15-17 WI Pathfinder Camporee
22-24 WI Youth for Christ
22-24 Hispanic Couples Retreat
23 Northern District Meeting
26 Board of Education

October

6-8 Wisconsin Women's Retreat
13-14 Pathfinder Leadership
18 Executive Committee
22-24 Family Life Cert. Training
27-29 JAHWI Retreat

November

3-5 Church Planting Rally
8 Pastors' WebX
12 Hispanic Women's Evangelism
13-16 LUC Departmental Meetings
21-23 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
28 Board of Education
29 Executive Committee



We walked 133,694.58 miles in Walk4Life this year! That exceeds our 2016 total by 7,515.92 miles! Amazing! Congratulations!

CHURCH PLACEMENT:

1st: Waukesha – 34,658.83
(159 miles/member)
2nd: Racine - 13,175
(99.89 miles/member)

SCHOOL PLACEMENT:

1st: Hillside Christian School – 7,246
(658.73 miles/student)
2nd: Wisconsin Academy – 18,354
(266 miles/student)

For a complete listing of each church and school miles visit wi.adventist.org/walk4life. Learn more and join us for Walk4Life 2018!

Women's Retreat Coming in October

Register now for the Wisconsin Women's Retreat to be held at Camp Wakonda October 6-9, 2017. Cheri Corder of Michigan Conference is the guest speaker. For more details or to register go to wi.adventist.org/womensministries, or call Deidra Roat at 920-484-6555 Ext. 302.

Koinz 4 Kidz Awards 7 Scholarships

Seven elementary students were presented with Koinz 4 Kidz scholarships at camp meeting. A big thank you to those who contributed to the Koinz 4 Kidz scholarship funds.

You're invited to join the Koinz 4 Kidz movement. Church members are saving their change in Koinz 4 Kidz containers for elementary school scholarships. Here is what your church can do to participate:

1. Give Koinz 4 Kidz containers to those who want to participate
2. Set goals
3. Have members bring in the containers packed with change

Through the generosity of people who want to support Adventist education we were able to award hundreds of dollars in scholarships to elementary students.

If you would like to know more about participating in this rewarding and benevolent project contact Linda Rosen at lrosen@wi.adventist.org or 920-484-6555.



Linda Rosen
Education Superintendent