

## Lord Send Me! Step Out of Your Comfort Zone!

**W**hen I was a young girl I was so shy and quiet, I prayed that the teacher wouldn't call on me. I disliked having to speak in front of others and was so insecure that at times I had difficulties articulating myself. But as the years pass by and my love of Jesus grows, He is teaching me that He doesn't always call the equipped, but he will equip the called! If you can identify with what I just shared, I want to encourage you by sharing what He is doing in my life.

In our church, the pastor encourages us to step up to the pulpit. The Lord has been impressing on my heart to share my faith and in the times we live, I find that there are so many people who are wondering what is going on in the world. I have been praying for the Holy Spirit to direct me. I sincerely want to be the Lord's humble obedient servant. Jesus came to serve, not be served, so it is vital to have the heart of a servant.

I have felt lead to extend the hands of fellowship with my Baptist friends at Faith Baptist Church in Ixonia, Wisconsin. They recently lost their pastor and I was surprised when they asked me if I would speak at their church. I was just as surprised when they asked me a second time. But nothing surprised me more than when they asked if I would speak at their Women's Retreat! Me! I thought, "Are you kidding?" Then they told me the theme was "It Is Well with My Soul"! I told them I would have to pray about the invitation.

I admit, I tried to brush it off on other people. But that little voice inside my head said, "You can do this! You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. I will guide you!" So I said, "Lord, if You want me to do this, I will need Your help. This is Your message. You are the potter, I am the clay."

Inspiration began to flow through me as I remembered the days when I attended the Medical Missionary Program at Wildwood Wellness Institute in Georgia. I had learned there about the Eight Laws of Health, natural remedies, and healing the natural way. So, on June 3-5, 2022, I presented at my first Women's Retreat using the New Start Program. I used videos I found online and created a PowerPoint for each session. I even shared the Sabbath Message with them! The sessions I presented were: The Body, The Mind and The Soul!

I work in the education field with children with special needs. We use a lot of visual and engagement activities and I implemented those into the sessions because they help people retain more of what they learn. We had a scavenger hunt, played Spin the Wheel of Positivity and Fill your Bag - I like to be creative! My mother, Gloria Nicotera, was with me and shared her gems of wisdom. One quote she shared was, "If God made it, eat it. If man made it read it, and if you can't read it don't eat it!" The ladies really liked that!



I was so nervous about how they might respond. I was humbled by all the positive feedback I was given. A couple of ladies said it was the best conference they attended. All praise is to the Lord. He gave me direction every step of the way! The credit goes to Him!

Friends, when we surrender to the Lord, He can do some pretty amazing things. The ladies at the Baptist church even asked if we could share more at their churches and if they could share at ours. So, if you desire to have a servant heart, be willing to say, "Lord send me," and He will pour out His blessing on you!

P.S. Caring is Sharing!

Renee Titze  
Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church



## From the President's Desk

# The Relational Church

Besides our relationship with God, being in a close relationship with fellow believers is crucial for our personal and corporate spiritual growth. We have been created for community, and we are blessed and privileged to be part of our churches as an extended spiritual family.

The early church lived in a community environment. Acts 2:42 says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Jesus told His disciples, "By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have a love for one another" (John 13:35).

Jonathan Tame, with Michael Schluter of Jubilee Centre, present ten characteristics of a Relational Church I would like to suggest for our churches:

1. **Christ-centeredness:** Leaders uphold the church's primary purpose: to know and glorify Jesus Christ.
2. **Relational Organizing Principle:** The local church is ultimately no more or no less than its members' relationships with God, with one another, and with the world around them.
3. **Goals:** Relational goals are included in the constitution or mission statement of the church, and appropriate training and evaluation are regularly carried out.
4. **Familiarity:** Each person in the church knows the names of most other members of the same congregation.
5. **Appreciation:** Each person is valued unconditionally for who they are and encouraged to grow in their contributions to the church's life.
6. **Servant Leadership:** Leadership is characterized by servanthood and transparency, where there is no "them and us."

7. **Inclusivity:** There is no discrimination or exclusion from the congregation based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, extended family, or any other criteria, except in cases of church discipline.

8. **Interdependence/Pastoral Care:** Practical and emotional needs of all members are made known appropriately, and compassionate help is offered in response.

9. **Solidarity:** An attitude of solidarity is fostered with other believers at local, national, and international levels, with particular concern for the persecuted church.

10. **Civic Commitment:** Deliberately being a blessing to the neighborhood, city, and nation where the church exists is highly valued, along with praying for civil authorities (1 Tim 2:2)."

Our churches today need a restoration of God's plan to live in community. Relationships must be a top priority. Mark Finley once stated that there are no standards for church fellowship; there are biblical standards for church membership and higher standards for church leadership.

I invite you to consider opening your hearts and lives to others prayerfully. Ask God to provide opportunities to meet new people or to deepen a superficial relationship. Your spiritual gifts were given to you to edify and build others. You will also be enriched, and our churches will be where people are attracted to God and enjoy spiritual fellowship with one another.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* Matthew 22:37-40

*Titus Naftanaila*  
Wisconsin Conference President

# First Hmong Company in Wisconsin



On Sabbath, June 25, over 100 people gathered at the Madison Community Seventh-day Adventist Church to celebrate the forming of the first Hmong Company in the Wisconsin Conference. Chanchai Kiatyanyong, pastor for the new company, gave the welcome for this historic event and prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for what God has done and trusting in what He will do in the future. Titus Naftanaila, conference president, shared thoughts from the time when Joshua lead the children of Israel across the Jordan River. He called the congregation to follow God and consecrate themselves in preparation for what God will do.

During the Sabbath service, Pastor Ko Saelee gave an overview of how ministry in the Hmong community began in Wisconsin. He said that through a providential meeting

over 15 years ago plans were put in place to enable two Hmong groups to form in Wisconsin, one in Milwaukee and one in Madison. Pastor Saelee expressed his thankfulness for the support of the conference, for the Madison Community church allowing the groups to meet in their building, and for all the believers that have accepted Christ. He said, "We may be small, but God can use us and has a plan. When God calls, we answer and He will take us step by step." Also, two elders, Jerry Vang, of Madison, and Choua Lee, of Milwaukee, reviewed how God had lead in the formation of the Hmong groups.

Over time, the two groups began to meet together, alternating between the two locations. As the number of members grew, they found they would qualify for company

status and made the decision to join the two groups under the name Wisconsin Hmong Company.

During the celebration service, Brian Stephan, conference Executive Secretary, had the privilege of officially granting company status and inviting those wishing to join the new company to sign the membership list. In all, 61 individuals signed their names to this list. In addition to the members from Madison and Milwaukee, individuals from Appleton and even as far away as Minnesota came to support the joining groups.

At the close of the service, Pastor Chanchai welcomed four new members into the company who were recently baptized at Wisconsin Conference camp meeting, near Oxford, WI. After a group picture, the celebration continued with a delicious meal and time to fellowship together.

We praise God for his work in the Hmong community and the establishment of the first Hmong Company in Wisconsin.

Read full story at [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org)

Laurella Case  
Communication Coordinator

## Sabbath Schedule

### August

- 6 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 13 President's Retreat
- 20 Shawano
- 27 AdventHealth Conference

### September

- 17 Milwaukee Cent. Hispanic

### October

- 1 Northern Dist. Sabbath
- 15 Wisconsin Rapids
- 22 Tomahawk
- 29 NAD Year-end Meetings

### November

- 12 Exec. Com. Orientation

To request speaking appointments contact Titus Naftanaila at: [titusn@wi.adventist.org](mailto:titusn@wi.adventist.org)

# Celebrating Many Baptisms Around the Conference



On Sabbath, May 21, Tedroy and Colleen Wilson were baptized into the Madison Community Church. Their son, Joran was dedicated on the same day. Welcome to the family of God!



The Maranatha Hispanic Adventist Church welcomed ten precious souls on Sabbath, June 4. They are giving glory to God that they have given their lives to God through baptism.



We celebrated 14 baptisms on the closing Sabbath of camp meeting! We praise God for His working in the lives of these precious individuals!

## Notice of Conference Constituency Session



Notice is hereby given that the thirty-ninth regular quadrennial session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin on Sunday, October 16, 2022. The organizing committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. with the first meeting of the session convening at 9:30 a.m.

Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to elect officers, directors of departments/services, and members of the executive committee, constitution and bylaws committee, and nominating committee for the new quadrennial term, along with corporation trustees for the ensuing quadrennial term.

Delegates will also transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Titus Naftanaila, President  
F. Brian Stephan, Executive Secretary

## Congratulations WA Class of 2022!



Candee Mundt Kuhn  
Tomahawk Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Juanita Edge Retires After 22 Years in WI



After 22 years of ministry in the Wisconsin Conference, Juanita Edge retired at the end of June. The last 12 of these years, she served as the conference Communication Director. Under her leadership, the Communication Department has seen much growth and change. Two major highlights of her time as director are that she facilitated the development and launching of the current conference website as well as the starting of the Wisconsin Conference Facebook page.

During this time, she also served as conference Health Ministries Coordinator for eight years. Prior to these ministries, she served for many years in summer camp leadership.

The Wisconsin Conference has been greatly blessed by Juanita's ministry and leadership. Her presence here will truly be missed. May God bless her abundantly as she moves into this new stage in life!

Laurella Case  
Communication Coordinator

## Shorty Mundt Celebrates 90 Years



Raymond Walter Mundt (Shorty) recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He was born March 7, 1932, and is a member of the Tomahawk Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is 5'2" and maybe even a little less now, but to me, his daughter, he was always the biggest man in my life. Some of you sent him cards with such wonderful messages of how he has touched your life. I want to thank you all so much. He received over 132 cards. One of the cards he received tells a great deal of how my dad touches the lives of people around him. I want to share that with you.

*"I will never forget that day in 2014 when you saw, felt, or realized something just wasn't right. You grabbed my hand and you prayed for me. You talked to the LORD and asked for Him to watch over me. Your prayers opened my eyes and made me realize my life at that time was worthy of your blessings. It was my moment of divine intervention. Shorty, you are a gift to me and a gift to everyone you have touched in your 90 years. Happy Birthday and may God bless you with 'many more.'" Rich*

I have learned many lessons from my dad, but the best lesson is, always be prepared to share the LOVE of JESUS to whoever you meet.

He and my mom, Sharon, have been volunteering almost 30 years for most of the summer at Camp Wakonda. It is the highlight of their summer. My dad had two major strokes in 2021, but I can say "PRAISE GOD," because he is still able to care for himself and be at home. He is still a warrior for Jesus. Whenever he gets a chance, Jesus is who he talks about. He is somewhat limited as to what he can do, but if you see him give him a big hug. He loves hugs.

Candee Mundt Kuhn  
Tomahawk Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Durand Rejoicing with 12 Baptisms



On Sabbath, May 22, the Durand Seventh-day Adventist Church rejoiced in having twelve children of God accept Jesus through the watery grave of baptism.

District pastor Ivaldale Remocal says, "Above all, heaven is rejoicing for this monumental commitment." The Durand church is thankful to the Menomonie Seventh-day Adventist Church, their sister church, for allowing them to use their baptistry. All praise and glory is given to God. This was surely a high Sabbath!

**FIRST WI MASTER GUIDE CAMPOREE!**



Guest Speaker:  
Pastor Paulo Tenorio

Contact Club  
Director to Register

**SEPTEMBER 2-4  
CAMP WAKONDA**

## Stevens Point Welcomes Family



There was rejoicing in heaven as well as at the Stevens Point Seventh-day Adventist Church when three long-time friends of the church were baptized on Sabbath, July 9, 2022. These friends are, Tom Graham and his daughter and son-in-law, Jean Anne and Doug Nelson.

Tom has faithfully attended church every week and just recently joined with his daughter and son-in-law in an intensive Bible study with pastor Justin Spady which culminated in their desire to be members of God's family.

Tom is the widower of Janet Graham who was a long-time member of the church before her death in 2019. Imagine her joy when she'll see her family there on that glorious resurrection day!!

Barry Bottcher  
Stevens Point Church

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

It was nice seeing many of you at camp meeting this year. What a blessing it was for those able to attend! Summer is passing quickly, and we are already beginning preparations at the office for the upcoming new school year. Fall will be here soon and this is a busy time for many churches as they plan community outreach.

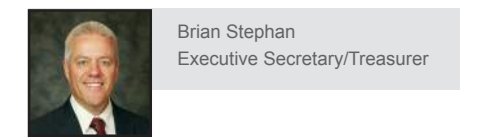
In addition, we are preparing for the 39th Constituency Session that will be held on October 16 in the Wisconsin Academy Chapel. In preparation for this meeting, the Nominating Committee, which was voted at the 38th Constituency Session, will gather on August 21 at the Conference Office.

For those chosen as session delegates, you can expect information packets to arrive via e-mail in early September. A paper copy will also be available upon arrival at the meeting in October. We encourage all selected delegates to attend, and we covet your prayers that the Holy Spirit will direct us as we make plans for the future of our conference.

Ultimately, we are all looking forward to the coming of our Savior, Jesus. In the meantime, we have been given the privilege of telling others this good news. He promised to be with us in this precious work until the end.

On page 21 of the book, Mount of Blessings, Ellen White tells us, "The Lord will work for all who put their trust in Him. Precious victories will be gained by the faithful. Precious lessons will be learned. Precious experiences will be realized."

May that be our experience today and each day until Jesus comes.



Brian Stephan  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2022 (26 wks)	2021 (26 wks)	% Change
June Tithe Income:	\$519,433	\$555,327	-6.64 %
YTD Tithe Income:	\$3,640,588	\$3,976,860	-8.46 %
June Wisconsin Budget:	\$22,616	\$19,375	+16.73%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$147,097	\$153,559	-4.83 %



from the principal's desk

## God is in Control

Recognizing God's special blessings as the new school year approaches

Summer is flying by and the beginning of a new school year is upon us. As we look at the world around us, chaos and uncertainty clamor for our attention. Yet we know God is in control if we surrender fully to Him.

What will this new school year bring? We are looking forward to the students God has in store for us this year and we pray that He will send us the students He knows need to be at Wisconsin Academy. We wish our sixteen wonderful graduates God's very special blessings as they begin this next step of their journey.

This year brings some new staff members to our campus. Jeannie Buchholz is returning to WA as our registrar. We are excited to welcome her back. Ken Smith will be joining us as part-time Vice Principal. Alex Ziesmer, a graduate of 2010, is our new IT Director and Computer Applications teacher. David Chapman is our new science teacher. Nikki Foreman will be the Assistant Dean of Women.

Blanch Gagatam is moving from the cafeteria to the Student Success Center and Choice coordinator. As we wish God's blessings on those of our staff that have moved on to the next phase of God's work for them, we want to wish a special welcome to each of these new staff members.

Our goal at Wisconsin Academy is that each student will find a saving relationship with Jesus and will share that love and perfect peace with all whom they come in contact. As we look to this new school year, we can claim the promise "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." Isaiah 26:3

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."*

### Ken Smith New Vice Principal



We are happy to announce that Ken Smith will serve part-time as our new Vice Principal. Ken comes to us from Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy, where he served as Principal. He holds a BA in Religion from Walla Walla College with minors in both Education and History. In addition to 27 years of administrative experience, he has taught at all levels from first grade through college. Ken is married to Heather and they have two grown sons. Ken enjoys hiking, reading, and history.

### Jeannie Buchholz New Registrar



We are delighted to welcome Jeannie Buchholz as our Registrar. Jeannie is no stranger to WA, having worked here from '92-'97 and again from '05-'17 in many roles, including English teacher and Registrar. She holds a BBA in Accounting, a BA in Education, and had her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She comes to us from Madison, where she has been teaching upper grades at Three Angels Christian School. She is married to Dallas and they have two adult children. Jeannie enjoys hiking, hot-air-ballooning, and spending time with her kids and her dog.

### Nikki Foreman New Asst. Dean of Women



We are happy to welcome Nikki Foreman as our new Asst. Dean of Women. Nikki comes to us from Kaukauna in the Fox Valley area. She has over 25 years of experience in customer service for a transportation company. She has a school-age daughter and enjoys Pathfinders, spending time in the outdoors, and cooking. Nikki says she is excited to join the WA team for this new adventure. She wants to help students find a relationship with Jesus and provide good paths for their futures.

### Blanch Gagatam New Student Success/Choice Coordinator



We are delighted to announce that Blanch Gagatam will serve as our new Student Success Center Coordinator and Choice Program Administrator. Blanch has served at Wisconsin Academy as Asst. Food Service Director since 2017. She holds a BS in Dental Medicine and a Doctor of Dental Medicine. She is married to Darlie and they have two sons, Seth and Luke. Blanch enjoys time outdoors, camping, and spending time with family.

### Alex Ziesmer New IT Director/Teacher



We are happy to announce that Alex Ziesmer has accepted the call to serve as IT Director and Computer Applications teacher. Alex is an alumnus of Wisconsin Academy, graduating in the class of 2010. He went on to earn a BS in Computer Engineering at Walla Walla University, and has served as principal and upper grades teacher at Ocala Adventist Academy in Florida. Alex is married to Valerie and they have a son, Timothy. Alex enjoys disc golf, board games, and spending time with family.

### David Chapman New Science Teacher



We are happy to welcome David Chapman as our new Science teacher. David comes to us from Lincoln, Nebraska where he has recently completed a BS in Chemistry with an emphasis in Biochemistry. He also holds a BS in Business Administration with emphases in Accounting and Finance. David felt God's call to teaching after spending time as Assistant Dean at Bass Memorial Academy. David enjoys reading, waterskiing, snowskiing, running, and biking.

## Making the Dream a Reality

We 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 Blanch Gagatam at (920) 623-3300.

#### 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. Contact Blanch Gagatam at (920) 623-3300.

#### Youth Education Scholarship (Yes!)

YES! is a financial assistance matching program. The funds a local church gives (up to \$2000) 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

## Calendar of Events



### August

- 1-2 Teacher Inservice
- 3-7 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 10 & 14 WA Registration
- 21 Nominating Committee for  
Constituency
- 24 Executive Committee
- 26-28 Hmong Camp Meeting
- 30 Board of Education

### September

- 2-4 Master Guide Camporee
- 5 Office Closed
- 8 Pastor's Meetings
- 7-9 Outdoor School at Wakonda
- 9-11 Adventurer Camporee
- 23-25 Public Campus Min. Retreat
- 27 Board of Education
- 28 Executive Committee

### October

- 1 Northern District Meeting
- 1-8 Hispanic Evangelistic Caravan
- 5-7 L.I.F.T. at Wakonda
- 14-16 Hispanic Youth Retreat
- 16 WI Constituency Session
- 17 Office Closed
- 21-23 Pathfinder Leadershop
- 28-30 Hispanic Women's Health Fair  
& Evangelistic Banquet

### November

- 11-13 Exec. Committee Orientation
- 23-24 Office Closed

**Elizabeth Channell** is transitioning from Otter Creek Christian Academy to teaching grades K-8 at Frederic Adventist Christian School.

**Christopher Erich** is transitioning from the Milwaukee School South campus to teaching Bible & History for grades 7-10 at the Milwaukee School North campus.

**Samuel Garbi** has accepted a call to pastor in the Texico Conference.

**Gary Gibson** is no longer serving the Superior District.

**Kelly McWilliams** has accepted a call to teach at Union College in Lincoln, NE.

**Amy Moreno** will now be teaching Math & Science part-time at Green Bay Adventist Jr. Academy.

**Heidi Rasmussen** has accepted a call to teach English and History for grades 6-10 at Greater Lansing Adventist School in Michigan.

**Rosalie Rasmussen** has accepted a call to teach at Pine Mountain Christian School in Michigan.

**Cindy and Alio Santos** are moving to Rochester, NY to be the caretakers of the Hiram Edson Farm.

**Johanna Serna** will no longer be serving as Assistant to the Business Manager and Development Director at Wisconsin Academy.

**Cristian Sorto** has accepted a call to pastor in the Ohio Conference.

**Marco Vigil** has accepted a call to pastor in the Potomac Conference.

Fall Women's Retreat  
September 23-25



Guest Speaker:  
Dr. Hyveth  
Williams

Clarion Hotel & Suites  
Lake Delton, WI

### Missed Camp Meeting?

Access programming at:  
<https://wi.adventist.org/camp-meeting-archive/>

### EDITOR

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