

From Witch Doctor to Follower of Jesus

Kau Faj was born and raised in a small village in Laos. Her family were animists, and her father was a witch doctor. In 1993, Khu Faj and her family emigrated to California as Hmong refugees, and she became a United States citizen. Many Hmong fled Laos because they were being killed for siding with the United States during the Vietnam War, so the United States welcomed them and helped them become American citizens. She moved to Wisconsin about 16 years ago.

Khu Faj married and had several children, but in time, her husband died. She married another man, but as the spirits of her deceased husband still lived in her house, this new husband's children took him away and have not allowed Khu Faj and him to be together.

In 2010, Kau Faj's father died, and as is common in the animist world, his spirits came into her and told her she would now be a witch doctor as her father had been. Khu Faj was not happy about this. The spirits are very controlling, and required her to do many things she did not want to do. There are many curses and fears in the animist belief, and whenever people are sick or are seeking relief from a curse, they come to a witch doctor, such as Khu Faj, and she is required to make a sacrifice to the spirits for them. Usually this means killing a chicken and offering it up to appease the spirits in order to bring some relief. While witch doctors are most commonly male, females are at times



Khu Faj chose a new name after coming to know Jesus.

chosen by the spirits as well, and she said there are many many witch doctors here in the United States.

Not long ago, Kau Faj became quite ill. As witch doctors cannot offer sacrifices for themselves, she needed to find help. She decided to see a regular medical doctor, but while he recognized her symptoms were real, he could find nothing wrong with her. His advise to her was, "You need to see a pastor."

Kau Faj did not know a pastor to go see, but God knew her need and provided. Walking down the sidewalk near her home, Kau Faj met a neighbor and during the course of their visit told her what the doctor had suggested. "I know my pastor would be very happy to come visit with you," said her neighbor. The neighbor, Maitha

Thao, was a Seventh-day Adventist and made arrangements for Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong to come visit and pray for her.

Pastor Chanchai is a lay pastor in the Wisconsin Conference for the Milwaukee and Madison Hmong Seventh-day Adventist church groups. He has a first-hand understanding of the animist religion, as his father was also a witch doctor. Pastor Chanchai came to Kau Faj's home, prayed with her, and her illness immediately disappeared. Kau Faj was very impressed with the superior power of this Christian God over the spirits she knew about. She asked Pastor Chanchai if he could help her learn to be a Christian and study the Adventist faith with her.

continued on page 5



From the President's Desk

A Heart of Love

Do you remember when you gave away your candy hearts to your classmates? It must have been 3rd or 4th grade when that was the "thing to do" around Valentines. The "Be Mine," "I Love You," and other short sayings were pressed into those hearts of sweetness. I remember lining them up on my desk to choose which one I wanted to put on the desk of the girl I really liked - but was afraid to talk to.

gave His heart, but His life - for us. He gave completely of Himself with the deep desire that we would welcome that love, and choose to love Him in return. Jesus' great desire is that we will be with Him as His children, His friends, His neighbors, throughout eternity.

May each of us open our hearts to the love and gift of Jesus today.

Wisconsin Conference President

But love is not something that can be contained in a heart-shaped chunk of sugar. Love is something that resides deep in the heart, and is expressed in so many ways; kind words, helping with the dishes, sitting quietly together on a porch swing, and walking hand in hand along the beach.

Love was most vividly expressed when Jesus came to this earth, and not only

The President's Sabbath Schedule

February

22 Office Retreat

March

7 LUC Prayer Conference
28 Raymond

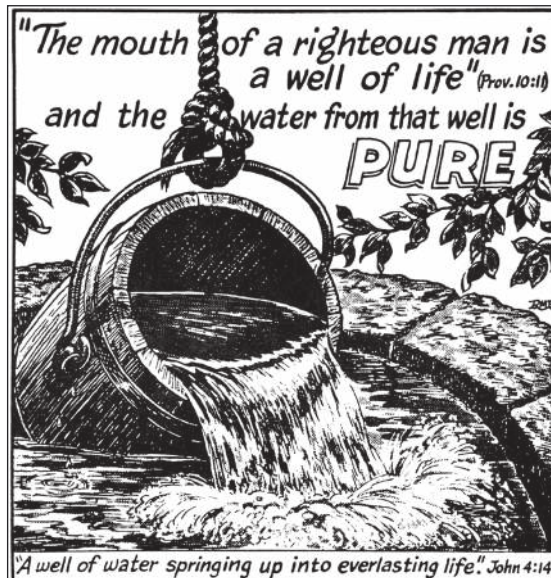
April

4 MAD About Marriage Seminar
11 Shawano
18 WA Alumni Weekend
24 Waukesha

May

2 Evansville
9 Hispanic Brotherhood
16 Oxford
23 WA Graduation
30 Green Bay

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



EDITOR

Juanita Edge
jedge@wi.adventist.org
920.484.6555

ASST. to the EDITOR

Laurella Case
lcas@wi.adventist.org
920.484.6555

Mouzon New Pastor for Lena District



Pastor Carlton Mouzon joined the Wisconsin Conference as the new pastor for the Lena Church District in December of 2019. He graduated with a BA in Theology and minors in Practical Theology and Biblical Languages from Southern Adventist University in 2015.

Pastor Mouzon has served in literature evangelism, evangelism training, and held a full evangelistic series in Bolivia, South America. He has also served in the community forming partnerships to mentor young boys in the city of Atlanta. Pastor Mouzon says “Today, my passion is to see people of different ethnic backgrounds, from all classes, young and old, come out of darkness into light and experience God’s transforming power to walk in newness of life. I love to see the experience of genuine conversion.”

Brenda, Pastor Mouzon’s wife, has been an educator for 19 years. They have one son, Christian, who is currently a sophomore at Oakwood University. Their daughter, Moriah, is in second grade.

In his free time, Pastor Mouzon enjoys reading, writing, studying, photography, art, and cooking. He loves the outdoors and has a passion for detailing and restoring cars.

“My family and I seek to glorify God, to edify His church, and to share His message with those in darkness. We are eagerly looking forward to partnering with you as we all seek to reveal and reflect the character of Christ to others.”

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Eric Chavez Ordained to the Gospel Ministry



Sabbath morning, November 23, 2019, Pastor Eric Chavez was ordained to the Gospel Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The service was held at the Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Ordination in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a recognition that the pastor has listened to God’s voice and responded to God’s call to ministry.

Wendy Eberhart, friend and mentor of Pastor Chavez, was the speaker for the special event. Elder Mike Edge, President of the Wisconsin Conference, gave the charge to Pastor Chavez to be faithful to his calling by saying that this is “a call to follow God’s leading every day and to lead people to follow the Savior.”

Elder Adam Case, Ministerial Director for the Wisconsin Conference gave the official welcome to the Gospel Ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Brian Stephan, Wisconsin Conference Executive Secretary and Treasurer, presented the Certificate of Ordination to Pastor Chavez.

This call to ministry is also upon the pastor’s spouse and Pastor Chavez’s wife, Shanna was part of this special day as well. Juanita Edge and Laurella Case encouraged Shanna to also be faithful to her calling and welcomed her to the Ministerial Spouses Association of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Laurella Case
Administrative Assistant for Communication

Green Bay Students Raise \$920 for Kosrae



Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy students and staff created 40 pillows to raise money for the building of a gym and needed improvements to the church in Kosrae, our Lake Union mission project.

To make the pillows, artwork was created on fabric and then colored with crayons. Then volunteer church members Joe Corson and Gloria Wilde used our drawings and turned them into beautiful pillows. The pillows were purchased by the students themselves or at the school’s Arts & Craft Show. The pillows were sold for a minimum \$10.00 donation each. However, many people donated generously and the school was able to raise \$920.00! Thanks for helping us to make a difference in the lives of those living in Kosrae.

Carmen Magray
K-2 Teacher for Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy

MAD ABOUT Marriage Seminar - April 4, 2020

Don’t miss this one-day event with Mike Tucker of Faith for Today!

Tickets are available now.

For more information please visit wi.adventist.org.

Second ACHI Provides \$85,150 in Services for Dental and Vision in Marshfield



The Seventh-day Adventist churches of central Wisconsin in conjunction with the Wisconsin Conference and the Marshfield Clinic held their second Adventist Community Health Initiative (ACHI) on October 26, 2019 in the Marshfield High School Gymnasium.

Volunteers from across Wisconsin came to share their time and talents, offering professional services to those with low income and/or no dental/vision insurance. This year was the first time free vision care was provided, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Richard Patchett, member of the Shepherds House Adventist Church and an Ophthalmologist in the Marshfield Clinic.

There are currently few to no Adventist dentists in Wisconsin. Therefore, a key element to holding an ACHI free dental clinic in our state is recruiting volunteer dentists. Dr. Arlene Gayle, director of this Marshfield ACHI clinic, who is an Adventist oncologist for the Marshfield Clinic and Health Ministries Leader for the Marshfield Adventist Church, recognized this serious limitation. Through her initiative, Dr. Gayle was able to meet with both the mayor of Marshfield and one of the Marshfield Clinic Health System executives to explain the mission of Adventist Community Health Initiative.

From that providentially held meeting, 7 dentists, 12 dental hygienists, as well as 3 dentists not affiliated with Marshfield Clinic,

decided to donate their time and expertise on October 26. It was a huge breakthrough.

Dr. Randy Griffin said, “While our primary goal is to take care of people’s physical needs and show that we care about them, we also have available the spiritual component at the clinic. I observed one volunteer doctor praying with many guests and encouraging them in their life! What a blessing to see others being excited and willing to share the love of Jesus with those they come in contact with! This doctor expressed gratitude to me that the Adventists are willing to provide such a needed service to communities.”

While people waited in line to receive vision and dental services, they had the opportunity to be introduced to the eight natural laws of health tastefully presented through the Adventist Health Expo program. Under the organization of Wisconsin Conference Health Ministries Coordinator Karen Flanagan, volunteers offered visitors literature, water, health-age screening, counseling, and even a relaxing massage.

Throughout the day, 145 dental guests were served, including 132 receiving x-rays, 79 having their teeth cleaned, 45 having extractions and 58 having fillings placed. Also, vision services were provided to 79 people, 55 of whom received Rx glasses a few weeks after the event through a program set up by the Lake Union, where their prescriptions were filled through the services of a generous optometrist in Texas.

The total value of services provided was \$85,150 for the 224 guests.

Extending a heart-felt thank-you to the generous volunteer church members and health care professionals for taking the time to make a difference in so many lives on this day and prayerfully into eternity!

Women’s Retreat 2019 The Sanctuary



Sixty-seven ladies from across Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois came together for the annual Women’s Retreat at Camp Wakonda October 4-6, 2019. Guest speaker Tawny Sportsman, said she felt the Holy Spirit move and was blessed by the entire weekend. She felt the love expressed by the ladies and enjoyed the hugs.

The ladies experienced the modern version of the sanctuary service and actually walked through a miniature size version of the sanctuary. Each symbolically confessed their sins, washed their hands, entered into the sanctuary, ate the shrew bread, offered prayers at the altar of incense and surrendered their hearts to God. They individually received a hug from Tawny.

The rain didn’t dampen the spirits of the ladies! They enjoyed and were uplifted by the company, great food, awesome breakaways, and intercessory prayer in the chapel. They also experienced a 3D puzzle of the sanctuary.

Thank you ladies for attending and participating in this great spirit-filled weekend. A special thank you to Scott and Tammi Baker, Shanna Chavez, Josefa Campos and her staff, and to the Women’s Retreat Committee members. Also a very special thanks to, Tawny Sportsman, for sharing her time, knowledge, gifts and talents. Most of all thank you God for taking control of the weekend and blessing us all abundantly.

May we all continually spend time with God, and may we be used by God to seek and save the lost, telling others about Jesus Christ.

For full article please visit wi.adventist.org

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Patricia Antoine-Norton
Women’s Ministries Coordinator

Kau Faj's Story Continued...

This past fall Kau Faj began attending the Hmong Adventist Group in Milwaukee and expressed a desire to leave the spirit worship behind. On December 29, 2019, a group of about 10 people from the Milwaukee Adventist Hmong Group came to her house with Pastor Chanchai and Pastor Mike Edge, to cleanse her home of the spirits and dedicate her home to Jesus. While part of the group kept up a steady chorus of hymn singing, the rest of the group burned the shrine, cut up bamboo poles and boards, hauled out carpet, and anything else pertaining to spirit worship. Then they went to the basement to pray as well. Whenever the dog would go to the basement he would bark continuously. They believe the dog could see the spirits that lived there.

In place of the shrine, they placed a picture of Jesus, and below it Pastor Chanchai hung a picture roll. As Kau Faj cannot read in Hmong or English, Pastor Chanchai and his wife are meeting with Kau Faj in her home every evening at 6:00 pm to study the Bible and Adventist beliefs through the spoken word and will use the picture roll as a pictorial guide in helping her understand the scriptures.

There are quite a few Hmong people who come to Kau Faj for her witch doctor services, and she is hoping to share with them about her new faith in Jesus. When the house was completely cleansed and dedicated to God, Pastor Chanchai told Kau Faj she needed to choose a new name now that she is a Christian. Kau Faj chose the name Pa Chia, which means New Flower.

“Since coming to the Adventist Church I have found so much happiness,” said Pa Chia. “I’m so happy I don’t have words to express. I am so grateful that even though I am very old, Jesus still wants to help me.” Her plan is to be baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist at the end of her studies, and join the Milwaukee Adventist Hmong Group.



Juanita Edge
Communication Director

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we begin this new decade it is certain that as we look at the world around us there is no lack of tragedy, fear and wonder for what the future holds. Yet, as Christians, we can be thankful for the hope we have in a God who is watching over all and who has promised in John 14:3, “... I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

We are in the process of closing the financial records for another year. We have just received our final remittances from the churches for 2019. Tithe income for the year was down -1.61 % (-\$119,693) compared with 2018. Wisconsin Budget was down as well by -6.44 % (-\$19,526) as compared to the same time period. It will be another couple weeks before we know how other income and expenses compare with 2018. In all likelihood it will be a challenging year to balance the 2020 budget for the conference. I know it is a challenge for many of our local churches and schools as well. We would appreciate your prayers as the officers, finance committee and executive committee prayerfully work through the challenges; not only financial, but even more importantly spiritual needs as Satan increases his attack on God’s church and His people in this new decade.

Despite the challenges that lie before us we have much to look forward to and much to be thankful for. The first week of April our Family Life department has an exciting event

called “MAD About Marriage” which is put on by the ministry of Faith for Today. This is a wonderful opportunity for church members as well as guest or friends outside our church family to learn how we can strengthen our families and marriages. We hope you can attend and bring a friend as well. You may register for this event on the Wisconsin Conference Website Family Ministries page.

Camp meeting plans are well underway and I know a spiritual blessing can be had by all who attend. We hope to see you there, June 12-20. Immediately after camp meeting all our pastors will have the opportunity to attend the Ministerial meetings for pastors in the North American Division just prior to the General Conference Session in Indianapolis. Pray for your pastor as he is given the opportunity to fellowship with fellow pastors and attend workshops directed toward sharpening their skills and gifts in ministry.

As we look forward to this new year, whether it be with our local churches or our own families, we will face exciting times as well as discouraging ones. I believe Hebrews 12:1-2 gives us some sound advice on how to look toward the future where it states, “... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

May that be our prayer each day.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2019	2018	% Change
Dec. Tithe Income:	\$926,530	\$1,217,786	-23.92%
2019 Tithe Income:	\$7,298,013 <small>(52 wks)</small>	\$7,417,706 <small>(52 wks)</small>	-1.61%
Dec. Wisconsin Budget:	\$31,692	\$51,437	-38.39%
2019 Wisconsin Budget:	\$283,913 <small>(52 wks)</small>	\$303,440 <small>(52 wks)</small>	-6.44%



Preparing a Home for the Homeless



from the principal's desk:

Testimonies From GYC

On January 1, 2020, a group of twenty-five students plus staff joined with thousands of other young people in Louisville, KY to attend GYC. Here are a few of their testimonies from this experience:

One student said, "GYC was definitely a huge blessing to know that relying on God will lead to true happiness. Following Him will lead to joy. We have to trust Him 100% even when we may feel that everything is just falling apart. He answers prayers in such an amazing way that just reminds us of His perfect timing and that His timing is much different and better than ours. Ever since we came back I can't go without reading His word because I want to hear His love promises to each one of us!"

Others said, "It changed my view on prayer and missions. In the seminars I learned valuable things about education, evangelism and missions."

"The sermons weren't just telling me to do good actions but to have a good reason for my actions coming from my heart filled with Jesus. The plenary sessions and United Prayer were my favorite things."

"Waking up early to go to United Prayer was really special to me because seeing so

many people worshipping God helped me get through the day even when I was really tired."

"The United Prayer was amazing. The Holy Spirit was there and I was encouraged that thousands of young people were wanting a relationship with God and it encouraged me to want a more prayerful life. Attending GYC and reading 1 Samuel, which was introduced to me from there made me fall in love with the word of God. It's me made want to serve Him more. How useless I am without Him."

"All the messages and all the prayer brought me closer to God. I learned that I have to step out in faith to follow God, and that when I do that I can do anything. I'm more happy and satisfied with life. A hole that I didn't know I had was filled."

Our students have returned, desiring to see a revival take place on our campus. We were blessed to have Gem Castor, the GYC prayer leader, join us for a week of prayer in January, encouraging us to have "Absolute Reliance" on God. Our young people are starting Bible studies and prayer groups. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we ask God for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our campus.

Rosalie Rasmussen, Principal
Wisconsin Academy

First, we took out the trash. Although the second-floor apartment had only two bedrooms, a tiny kitchen, and a small living room, the previous occupants had left a lot of trash – worn-out shoes, children's toys, piles of papers, old clothes, pacifiers, bank statements, paper plates, water bottles, and more. Then we took out the furniture.

Today was service day. I had the privilege of traveling to Madison with 14 of Wisconsin Academy's finest young men. Our job was to work with an organization called Porchlight to help clean an apartment recently vacated by a previously homeless family so that it could serve a new family struggling to find affordable housing.

When the house was empty of trash, we turned to cleaning. The students worked hard. By the time we finished, the apartment had been transformed. The floors and walls were clean. The windows sparkled. The bathroom and kitchen glowed, and the whole place was almost ready for its new occupants.

During the season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ to a young couple struggling to find a warm place to stay in Bethlehem, it felt good to help prepare a place so that at least one more family in the Madison area won't face that same struggle this Christmas. Service activities like this are a part Wisconsin Academy's commitment to a balanced program of mental, physical, and spiritual growth, and are yet another way we are preparing leaders for a life of service.



A Different Kind of Christmas Party



In December the young ladies of the women's dorm hosted a Christmas party for their "adopted grandparents" in our church. While only about half of those invited were able to come, this party, entirely organized by our young ladies, was a joy to attend.

After opening prayer and hot drinks, the ladies led out in several games, including "Drawing the Moon," "I'm Going Camping," and "Name That Tune." It was a lot of fun. After the games and some tasty refreshments, the ladies gave gifts to their "adopted grandparents." The party closed with prayer and a hug line.

We are so happy that our young ladies are discovering the real joy of Christmas - sharing the love of Jesus with others

Kelly Taitano New Registrar



We are very happy to introduce Kelly Taitano as the new registrar for Wisconsin Academy. She joined us at the beginning of January and we are very happy she is here.

Kelly comes to us from Tipton, Indiana. Her Bachelors and Masters degrees are in Secondary English Education. She likes cooking and preaching.

Kelly and her husband, John, have three children, Brenna, a sophomore in college, Zane, a sophomore in high school, and Vance in eighth grade. She is looking forward to serving our students at WA. We want to welcome the Taitano family to our school family.

WI Parental Choice Program



Discover the secret that many parents already know! The state of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families living in Wisconsin to cover private school tuition.

Families may enroll in this program between February 3 and April 16 each year. Visit the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) page on our website to find out more. Under the admissions tab, choose Financial Options. From there, choose the WPCP page.

Apply for WA at any time at:
www.wisacad.org

Second Quarter in Pictures



Over 400 family members and friends attended our Christmas Concert featuring over sixty student singers, bell-ringers, and instrumentalists, joined by forty community orchestra members.



Four mornings each week, for the last five years, students have begun the day with a 7 am personal fitness routine. Exercise helps students be better prepared to achieve in every area of life.



Students represented their cultural heritage on Monday of Spirit Week. Other daily themes included: Sports Team Wear, Crazy Hair/Hats, Historical Characters, Twins, and "Guacamole".



Students assembled sentences in Spanish under the guidance of Spanish teacher Willyta Wamack. Students will find knowing a second language a very valuable life skill.

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

February

1 Area PBE
3-8 WA Week of Prayer
5-6 Pastors Meetings
7-9 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
11 Board of Education
12 Executive Committee
17 Office Closed - President's Day
24 Science Expo - WA
28-3/1 Women's Empowerment Wknd
28-3/1 Hispanic Children's/Women's Certification

March

5-6 Teacher's In-Service
6-7 LU Prayer Conference
7 Conference PBE
6-22 WA Spring Break
13-15 JAHWI Youth Rally
21 Union PBE
31 Board of Education

April

2-4 WA Music Fest
4 MAD About Marriage Seminar
4 SAL Graduation
5 Exec. Com./Statistical Rev.
11-12 Pathfinder Area Coord. Retreat
13 Education Fair
17-18 PBE Division
17-19 WA Alumni Weekend
24-26 Hispanic Men's Retreat
28 Spelling Bee - Conference

May

3 Adventurer Fun Day
1-3 WA Academy Days
7 Pastor's Meetings
9 Hispanic Brotherhood Day
12 Board of Education
13 Executive Committee
15-17 Pathfinder Fair - Wakonda
17-22 Wakonda Work Bee
22-24 WA Graduation
29 Teacher In Service

Walk 4 Life!

Join Walk for Life and feel better in the new year! Find more details on the conference Health Ministries Webpage.



Jaren Humphreys is no longer serving as Business Manager for the Milwaukee School.

Neal "Skip" Johnson is no longer serving the Durand District.

Help Build Cabins at Camp Wakonda

Our goal is to build 2-4 new cabins that house/sleep up to 12 people. If we are able to build these, we have the potential to share Jesus with 24-48 more young people each week of summer camp, effecting 72-144 more each summer! God has been so good to give us such a beautiful camp and we want to do our absolute best to continue to serve Him with all that we have! If you are interested in helping with this project in some way, please do not hesitate to contact us for more details! Call or text: (806) 341-2005.

Emotional & Spiritual Care Training

Become an Emotional and Spiritual Care Provider through a seminar offered at Camp Wakonda

April 3-5, 2020.

Presented by Dr. Martin Feldbush. Pre-registration required. For more information please contact Wisconsin Adventist Community Services Coordinator, Alice Garrett at 608-345-3883 or agarrett@wi.adventist.org.

