

Do Your Best and God Will Do the Rest

A couple years ago, a group of student Literature Evangelists were canvassing the Coulee Region area in Wisconsin. As the students surveyed the community of French Island, they noticed there was a high demand for healthy nutrition cooking classes. After some time passed, Larry Lasure, the head elder of our church in La Crosse, saw that the time was right to use this opportunity to witness to the community by launching our first free cooking school.

After Larry shared this idea with me, we weren't sure what to do as we were both clueless on what it would take to launch a cooking school. I was left pondering the idea and a couple days later headed to our annual camp meeting at Camp Wakonda. During camp meeting, I was asked by Pastor Evelio Marinda to help set up the audio/visual for one of the seminar speakers, as the pastor scheduled to help with that seminar wasn't available. To my surprise, Yin Schaff, our Health Ministry Coordinator, was presenting. We were having audio and visual problems, so I stayed to help with her seminar to make sure that she didn't run into any more technical problems. As I listened, I was not only encouraged but convicted to support Larry in launching our cooking classes.

I began working with sister Yin Schaff and Chaplain Mateo Ramirez, from the Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their help and support was greatly appreciated as we planned for



Pastor, Pedro Luis, with the cooking school leadership team

our cooking school. Our local church was also very supportive and we were encouraged to see everyone's willingness to go out into the community and hand out flyers advertising our cooking school. When the day came to begin, we were blessed with a successful start. People from the community came and we, as inexperienced presenters, did our best and allowed God to do the rest.

Along the way we ran into many obstacles and, at times, had more questions than answers. There were times when we needed help finding cooking presenters and, instead of trying to think of solutions, I would pray and ask God for help and guidance. I remember receiving a text message from Yin Schaff one day. She was asking how the cooking school was going and expressing her willingness to come and help with a cooking demonstration. What an answer to prayer!

Soon we began receiving help and support from members in our district churches as well. One member, Linda Lavendoski, would text me from time to time with the news that she had found willing presenters. We want to give special thanks to Twyla Hallock and Jennifer Fanta from the Hylandale Seventh-day Adventist Church, who might not have known they were also an answer to our prayers.

The cooking school was held in our township community center and, after our fourth cooking school session, the person in charge of paying the rental fee told us we didn't have to pay anymore! We discovered this was because the township is very supportive of community services programs and, when they learned we were offering a service to help the community, they allowed us to use the

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From the President's Desk

The Need for Another Revival

The history of the people of Israel over the centuries demonstrated that spiritual revivals were extraordinary experiences which had a tremendous impact on the lives of the people involved. Reformations and radical changes took place due to a deep search for the Scriptures and genuine repentance.

As reported in 2 Kings 22, Hilkiah, the high priest, was asked to collect the money stored in the temple and distribute it to those assigned to repair the House of the Lord. For decades, this holy place needed significant reparations, and generations of spiritual and political leaders neglected this critical task.

When Hilkiah agreed to fulfill his sacred duty, he discovered something longtime lost in the temple. "I have found the Book of the Law in the House of the Lord," (2 Kings 22:8) he astonishingly announced. What a discovery! The Book of the Law was lost in the very House of God.

Several lessons can be learned from this significant biblical passage:

First of all, the very inspired source that constitutes the authoritative Word of God for their individual and collective spirituality was lost precisely where it was needed the most. It is not a surprise that, even in our times, the very Word of God that regulates our lives and worship can be neglected by us as individuals or as groups of worshipers.

Secondly, piles of money covered the sacred scrolls and nobody appeared to miss them as long as they had enough for their daily operations. This illustrates the modern tendency to neglect spiritual devotion and personal or corporate repentance as long as the physical and material needs are met.

Thirdly, when the king heard the book's message, he "tore his clothes" (vs. 12) and asked for a special inquiry of the Lord.

When it is listened to and considered, the inspired Word of God has the power to transform lives and ministries. Also, every corporate revival starts with recognizing the current spiritual condition and the need for total transformation.

Ellen White reiterated the need for a new revival and reformation for the present community of believers.

"A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend"—The Review and Herald, February 25, 1902.

Consequently, we need a new revival and reformation for the present time, just as the sons of Korah rhetorically asked in Psalm 85:6, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"

As we consistently expose ourselves to the Word of God, let us allow the Holy Spirit to initiate a personal and corporate revival and conduct our lives according to God's will. We need to, once again, rediscover the power of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures as He continues to change our lives both inwardly and outwardly.

Titus Naftanaila
Wisconsin Conference President

PCM Receives \$80,000 Grant



Joshua Guerrero, far right, Wisconsin Conference Public Campus Ministries Coordinator, with students at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

The following are excerpts from the original story published by the Lake Union Herald on January 12, 2023. For full story visit: www.lakeunionherald.org

In January, Wisconsin Conference welcomed the new year with an answer to an audacious prayer request. Their dream of hiring two missionaries to build on the work already established at the two University of Wisconsin campuses became a reality when they received a \$80,000 grant.

Becka Manglanathan, executive director of the Winnifred Stevens Foundation, articulated that they were impressed by the goals outlined in the proposal. "The Winnifred Stevens Foundation board was excited by the visionary leadership that laid the groundwork to see how God can move on these campuses," she says. "It was compelling."

Over the years, the Winnifred Stevens Foundation has supported Adventist Christian Education and the Wisconsin ACF grant represents their first generous contribution to public campus ministry. She added that they intend to continue soliciting applications for these types of programs.

If you are someone who has a burden for campus ministry and impacting this generation, applications are currently being accepted for two missionaries in Wisconsin. Please pray and ask God if He is calling you.

Contact Zach Payne, WI Youth Director: zpayne@wi.adventist.org

Debbie Michel
LUH Editor and LUC Communication Director

John Ramsey Makes Transition



John Ramsey with his wife, Joni and son, Flynn

After serving in the Wisconsin Conference for the last 11 years, John Ramsey has accepted the position of Finance Manager at the Berrien County Regional Education Service Agency, in Berrien Springs, MI. During these years, he has served as an Assistant and Associate Treasurer as well as the Conference Auditor.

John says, "I've loved every day working in Wisconsin and I will miss working with coworkers, volunteers, and church members." He will transition the end of March.

We pray God's blessing on John and his family as they follow His leading.

La Hayes Church Dedication



Hispanic Coordinator, Evelio Miranda, far right, with area pastors and church leaders

The dedication ceremony of La Hayes Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church, now called West Milwaukee Hispanic Seventh-Day Adventist Church, took place on Sabbath, December 17, 2022. The day was filled with worship and food and all in attendance were blessed. We praise God for providing a new house of worship for this congregation.

NAD Health Summit
Power to Heal
April 2-8, 2023 ~ Lexington, KY
Register: <https://nadhealth.org/summit/>

Summer Camp Information

We are looking forward to Summer Camp 2023 and wanted to give an update so you can know how to plan. We are making some changes that we think are going to be a huge benefit to your camper and the overall program.

Here are the highlights:

1. Focus on Wisconsin Families - We are accepting only Wisconsin Campers
2. Focus on Staff Health - Shorter camp weeks for kids camps
3. New Camp Registration System (visit: wakonda.org for details)

More on these changes will be coming soon.

Summer Camp Theme: Wake Up Call - will have the evening program focusing on the story of Jonah and the morning program focusing on the story of Jesus.

Summer Camp Dates:

- Cub Camp (ages 7-9): Starts July 2
- Tween Camp (10-12): Starts July 9
- Teen Camp (13-17): Starts July 16
- Family Camp (all ages): Starts July 23

This summer is shaping up to be a great one! We've got a great team of leaders on board and are looking forward to seeing you and your family this summer at Camp Wakonda!

Zack Payne
Youth Director

Sabbath Schedule

February

- 4 Evansville
- 11 Milwaukee Central
- 18 Beloit
- 25 Discipleship Training (Wakonda)

March

- 11 Chippewa Valley

April

- 14 WA Alumni Weekend
- 22 Madison East

May

- 13 Tomahawk
- 20 WA Graduation
- 27 Hispanic Brotherhood Day

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

Cover Story Continued

center free of charge! This was unexpected and we knew that God was blessing our work.

As we finished the 8th session in our bi-weekly cooking school, we were asked by attendees if we were planning to continue. We are excited to share that the La Crosse church will launch their second cooking school session in the spring of 2023.

To all our presenters and staff: Larry Lasure, Pastor Roger Morton, Terry Gartner, Linda Levendoski, Cassandra Walters, Vangie Robinson, Joe and Debbie Kelemen, Twyla Hallock and Jennifer Fanta, I want to say a big "Thank You!" I was encouraged by their positivity and willingness to always go the extra mile for our class sessions. I also want to thank Chaplain Mateo Ramirez and Yin Schaff who always reached out letting me know they were praying for our cooking school.

I want to encourage you, as you continue to do God's work in your own area, to remember that, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 2 Kings 6:16. At times you might not be able to see what God is doing behind the scenes, but our duty is to continue to stay faithful. God will always provide and guide you in time of great need.

Pedro Luis
Pastor of La Crosse Seventh-day Adventist Church

Wakonda Winter Work Days

Volunteers are needed to help prepare Camp Wakonda for Maranatha to arrive later this spring. Designated work days:

- February 5 & 19
- March 5, 19 & 26
- April 2

RSVP to reserve your spot at (920) 737-0679, text preferred.

Work days begins at 9:00 am. Lunch is provided. Arrangements available for those who wish to stay an extra day.

Eric Anderson New Rhinelander Pastor



We are happy to share that Eric Anderson has accepted the call to serve as the new pastor for the Rhinelander

District. Eric has been serving as the lay pastor for the Wautoma Company since 2019 and was also instrumental in initiating the Wautoma Church Plant back in 2016. He is excited to be joining the Wisconsin pastoral team as a full-time pastor.

Jeff Veldman New Superior Pastor



We would like to welcome Jeff Veldman as the new pastor for the Superior District. Jeff has been working as

the lay pastor for the Oxford Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Oxford, WI since 2019. Prior to that, he graduated from the Lay Pastor Training Program offered through the Wisconsin Conference.

Pedro Luis New La Crosse Pastor



We are happy to welcome Pedro Luis as the new pastor for the La Crosse District. Pastor Luis has been

serving as the interim pastor in the district since September 2022 and has accepted the call to serve in a full time capacity. During a year as a student intern, God worked in Pedro's heart in a very special way. He says, "My passion for ministry grew even more and with God's guidance I was certain that He was calling me to ministry."

Paul Kenyon New Lay Pastor



We would like to welcome Paul Kenyon as the new Lay Pastor for the Sturgeon Bay Seventh-day Adventist

Church. Following a career in Healthcare Administration and Insurance, Paul says, "I am honored to serve as the lay pastor for the Sturgeon Bay church. This is truly an unexpected door of responsibility that God opened in my life."

Wakonda: Building Our Future

Projects are underway at Camp Wakonda! Thank you to all our volunteers!

Donations are needed to ensure materials are in place before Maranatha arrives this spring.

For updates and pictures, visit: <https://wi.adventist.org/wakonda-building-our-future/>



Racine Rejoices Over Baptism



On Sabbath, October 22, eight-year-old Jayden Gonzalez was baptized at the Racine Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor Jeanmark A'Kessler, who performed the baptism, recalls "Jayden excitedly requested to be baptized. He told me, 'I wanted to have what the church family has!'"

Women's Empowerment Weekend

March 10-12 @ Camp Wakonda

Guest Speaker: Tamara Conway

More Info: <https://wi.adventist.org/ministries/womens/>

Madison Community Celebrates Baptisms

The Madison Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church recently celebrated three baptisms – Shawn Kennedy on August 20 and Kevin & Christina Duren on November 19.

Woodland Celebrates Five Baptisms



On Sabbath, December 17, 2022, five individuals joined the Woodland Community Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism. Friends and families from the surrounding district gathered for worship and fellowship at the Beloit church to support and celebrate with the newly baptized members.

Men's Retreat is Back!

March 24-26
Camp Wakonda

More Info: <https://wi.adventist.org/ministries/mens/>



FINANCIAL UPDATE

It is a hectic time of the year as we close out 2022 and budget for 2023. I am happy to report 209 baptisms and professions of faith in 2022. With all membership changes, the Wisconsin Conference membership stands at 7,798, up 117 from 2021. We praise God for our new church family members. We also look forward to our Savior's coming when we will be reunited with those who went to their rest this past year.

I am also happy to report that 2022 ended with a tithe increase of 1.64% over 2021. Wisconsin Budget was slightly short of last year, coming in at -0.51%. God is undoubtedly, through your faithfulness, pouring out His blessings on our conference. We are grateful for your support and trust as we seek to complete the sacred work with which God has entrusted us.

We are very excited about the improvements that are underway at Camp Wakonda! Restroom renovation has started, foundations have been prepared for new structures to replace our Youth Division tents, and a new Boy's Village is taking shape.

We are excited to have Maranatha coming from April 17 - May 7 to assist in these projects. If you would like to be part of the Maranatha volunteer team, go to the conference website (wi.adventist.org) and register on the Maranatha volunteer link for this exciting opportunity.

Your donations are also needed and appreciated, as we are now ordering materials in preparation for their coming. Mark your tithe envelope "Building Our Future," and your donation will go directly to the camp projects.

May God continue His blessings on you in your service for Him.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

	2022 (53 wks)	2021 (52 wks)	% Change
December Tithe Income:	\$1,622,007	\$1,291,210	25.62 %
YTD Tithe Income:	\$8,597,007	\$8,458,138	1.64 %
December WI Budget:	\$66,189	\$59,413	11.40 %
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$339,256	\$340,980	-0.50 %

Wisconsin Parental Choice

Open Enrollment Starts February 1

You have a choice in your child's schooling.

Sign up for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program and you can enroll at Wisconsin Academy tuition free. Your only expenses will be room and board.



Don't wait until it's too late!

- Go to schoolchoicewi.org
- Submit an application
- Enroll in Parental Choice
- Apply for Wisconsin Academy at wisacad.org

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Hurry! Open Enrollment ends April 20.

Call Wisconsin Academy at 920-623-3300 for help.



Wisconsin Academy is more than just a school. It's a training ground for Christian service. Beyond the excellent academic program, you'll find opportunities to develop real-world skills, expand your vision, and listen to God's voice. If you're looking for an education grounded in God's Word and its truths for our time, join us on a learning journey that will prepare you not only for this world, but the world to come. Learn more by visiting us online at wisacad.org.



Alumni Homecoming Weekend is set for April 14-16. Please visit wisacad.org for details under the "Alumni" tab. Information is being updated regularly. We look forward to seeing you there. Honor classes are: 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2013.



Senior dedication was held on November 12 with a special talent show that was put on by the Senior Class. Seniors planned the events of the weekend from Friday Vespers and church to the meal on Saturday evening. Pastor Danilo Colindres and Pastor Lamont Taylor were honored speakers for the event.



Wisconsin Academy had a float in the holiday parade for the city of Columbus. It was an honor to be asked to do the Welcome speech for the tree lighting ceremony. A flash mob was organized to get the crowd involved with singing some Christmas carols.



Missionaries Chris and Anne Troy from Adventist Frontier Missions spent a few days at Wisconsin Academy to share testimonies of their mission work. Pictured is an interactive presentation on the demographic group that would benefit most from being introduced to the word of God.

RECENT EVENTS



Fun in the snow! Junior Lamar Taylor taking the opportunity to throw a few snowballs.



Seniors went on a trip to the Madison Arboretum for community services where we helped put mulch around trees in preparation of winter.



Another service project was cleaning headstones for Veteran's Day.



Junior Bonheur Keita leads out in Student Week of Prayer. What a blessing to have students lead out and share testimonies.

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

February

4 Area Path. Bible Experience
5 Wakonda Work Day
10-12 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
13 Education Fair @ WA
19 Wakonda Work Day
20 Conference Office Closed
28 Board of Education

March

1 Executive Committee
4 Conference PBE @ WA
5 Wakonda Work Day
10-12 Women's Empowerment
Weekend @ Camp Wakonda
18 Hisp. Global Youth Day
18-26 WA Spring Break/Mission Trip
19 Wakonda Work Day
24-26 Men's Retreat @ Wakonda
26 Wakonda Work Day
30-31 Music Festival @ WA

April

1 Music Festival @WA
2 Wakonda Work Day
4 Board of Education
14-15 WA Alumni Weekend
16 Executive Committee
17-30 Maranatha @ Camp Wakonda
25 Science Experience @ WA
28-30 Hisp. Men's Conference
29 Adventurer Fun Day @
Camp Wakonda
30 Academy Days @ WA

May

1 Academy Days @ WA
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

Join Maranatha at Camp Wakonda

Maranatha is bringing a crew of volunteers to Camp Wakonda April 17 - May 7, 2023 and you have the opportunity to join them in working on the planned projects!

- Replacing Youth Division tents with permanent structures
- Renovating current bathrooms
- Rebuilding medical/store building
- Repairing/renovating Cabins

Meals and housing included for volunteers.

**Sign up today at maranatha.org
Search "Wakonda"**

Together we can build our future!



Zack Payne is now serving as Men's Ministry Coordinator for the conference.



Kevin Kuehmichel pastor of the Eau Claire district, retired at the end of 2022 after more than 25 years in ministry. We wish him and his family well in this new phase of life.

Former Wisconsin Pastor and Teacher Passes Away



We are sad to share the news that former Wisconsin Conference pastor and Wisconsin Academy

principal, Frederick R. Stephan, has passed away. Stephan pastored in the conference from 1955-1960 and was then called to be principal for Wisconsin Academy where he served until 1966. His son, Brian F. Stephan, currently serves as our conference Executive Secretary and Treasurer. Our condolences go to the entire Stephan family. May God bring comfort during this difficult time.

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