



# Lampletter

News for our Wisconsin church family

Arnold Swanson, President

Sharon Terrell, Editor

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## SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING REPORT

### WISCONSIN ACADEMY

**On November 19, 1990** we were in financial crisis at Wisconsin Academy due to a major decline in enrollment during the 1989-91 school years - a decline of nearly 70 students!

During a special constituency meeting **on April 14, 1991**, Richard Terrell, Conference Stewardship Director, announced to the delegates present that \$208,007.98 had been given by church members and friends (including in and out-of-State alumni) toward the \$335,531.00 **Wisconsin Conference Budget offering goal** for March 31, 1991.

**In addition to the above good news**, Virginia Wheeler, Assistant Business Manager at the Academy, reported that the Academy was \$60,000 ahead of budget to date and will probably be \$50,000 ahead of budget at the end of the school year due to the fact that there has been no drop in enrollment during this school year.

**Being close to our objective**, the delegates **voted** on April 14, 1991 to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee for meeting future Academy and Conference financial needs:

*"Extend the time for reaching the special 3-month financial objective for each church as needed and include said goal in the total financial objective for 1991 for each church and for the Conference."*

The special 3-month goal, calling for the average of 5% of income for 3 months (January through March) will be merged with the 9-month goal for each church (April through December) calling for 1-2% of income. (A revised church goal list is enclosed for your information.)

### DOWNSIZING

Delegates also **voted** (150-90) that Conference administration should continue to downsize staff and in other ways cut costs so that the Wisconsin Conference could begin to financially operate according to North American Division guidelines.

It takes approximately 300-350 members in a church or a district of churches in order for that church or district of churches to be carrying their fair share of the Conference and world-wide program of the Church. The enclosed list of pastorates is the current arrangement of churches in the Wisconsin Conference. You will note that we will have to continue to make some adjustments in order to move more districts in this direction.

We solicit your prayers and continued support as together we move toward these goals.

Arnold Swanson, President



## THANK YOU!

*It is a good thing to give thanks.....Psalm 92:1*

The Conference officers, departmental directors and support staff thank you for the special offerings which you have given during recent months to help Wisconsin Academy be debt free.

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars was given this past winter to meet special financial needs of WA.

We all rejoice and are grateful for the loyal support on the part of so many.

Because of the lower enrollment at the Academy, the **Wisconsin Conference Budget offerings** will need our continued special support during coming months.

Together we can help the work of the Church move forward in Wisconsin including the operation of Wisconsin Academy.

We thank you for your help!

## LATE BREAKING NEWS ITEM

Delegates to the Lake Union Conference Quinquennial Session at Kalamazoo on April 21 and 22, 1991 **voted** to ask the 3 officers of the Lake Union to continue to serve in their respective offices: **Elder Robert Carter, President; Elder Herbert Larsen, Secretary and Ministerial Director and Elder Herbert Pritchard, Treasurer.**

A fourth officer was also elected to serve as a **vice president - Elder Luis Leonor.**

Elder Leonor, among other responsibilities, will serve as **coordinator of the Hispanic ministries** in the conferences of the Lake Union.

Another salaried position in the Lake Union will be eliminated in order to make this service available for the fast growing Spanish work in the Lake Union.

Other departmental and service personnel are to be appointed in coming months by the Lake Union Executive Committee. Persons currently serving in those positions will continue until that time.

## WISCONSIN ACADEMY ALUMNI HONORED

During the Wisconsin Academy Alumni weekend, April 12-14, **Elder Herb Larsen**, a 1951 graduate of Wisconsin Academy, was honored as **Alumnus of the Year!** Elder Larsen is currently serving as Secretary and Ministerial Director of the Lake Union Conference. He and his wife, Lorraine Schneider, formerly of Merrill, WI, have 3 grown children.

**Louise Larmon**, a teacher at Wisconsin Academy 1949 through 1978, was also given special recognition as **Faculty Member of the Year.** Miss Larmon taught music for 40 years at Bethel and Wisconsin Academies and lives in retirement in the Columbus area.

## SDA STUDENTS ARE WINNERS!

"Geography is his forte" was the title of an article in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 2, 1991. **Lloyd Caesar**, son of Lael and Lena Caesar, and a 7th grade student at Madison Church School, **won second place in the National Geography Bee Wisconsin finals in Oshkosh.** Students in more than 1500 Wisconsin schools participated and about 125 students participated in the State bee.

Gary Way, Lloyd's teacher said, "He's gained this knowledge all by himself. We haven't drilled him or given him extra coaching. But Lloyd is a kid who reads constantly....." The *State Journal* reporter said, "What makes his accomplishment more remarkable is that Lloyd is a student in a tiny school.....two rooms and 38 students." The Geography Bee is sponsored by *National Geographic Magazine* as an incentive to encourage children to learn more about the world in which they live. Lloyd's says his goal is to be the top winner in next year's bee.

**Alanna Ruppert**, daughter of Douglas and Karen Ruppert of Superior, has been selected **1 of the top 10 winners in the National Radon Poster Contest**, sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the American Lung Association. Alanna, a member of the Superior, WI church, is an 8th grade student at the Duluth, MN Church School.



## Wisconsin Academy News

Ten Wisconsin Academy students attended the Lake Union sponsored **Youth to Youth Conference** at Broadview Academy on March 6-9. The meetings focused on all aspects of healthful living. Participants returned to the Academy with enthusiasm for promoting Christian lifestyles.

On March 14, seventeen volunteers departed from Wisconsin Academy for **an adventure in mission work**. Students Yolanda Schacht, Sara Rappette, Virginia Rosa, Marilee Silverstein, Tahroma Alligood, Trisha Tesser, Travis Bieberitz, Marty Anderson, Michelle Klassen, Lisa Habenicht and Lisa Bricker were accompanied by the adult sponsors, Pastor Richard Habenicht, Herb Jensen, Richard Klein, Kathy Bricker, Tonna Rosa and Florence Schacht. The group traveled to **Villa Gonzalez, Mexico** where they helped **build a church and held 3 Vacation Bible Schools**. On March 23, the group met with the villagers for the first worship service in the new church and witnessed the baptism of 11 villagers. They returned to Wisconsin Academy on March 26.

A **Music Fest** was held at Wisconsin Academy on April 4-6. Dr. Peter Cooper, Chairman of the Piano Department at Andrews University worked with piano students who performed a recital on Friday, April 5. His wife, Mrs. Laurie Cooper, instructed the strings group that accompanied the choir for one of the numbers on Sabbath. Dr. James Hanson, Chairman of the Music Department at Andrews University, directed the choir. Approximately 45 seventh and eighth graders from Wisconsin K-10 schools joined the Academy music students for this clinic which culminated in a sacred concert on Sabbath, April 6 at 4 p.m.

Long range enrollment projections look encouraging for Wisconsin Academy:

### Enrollments in Wisconsin Church Schools

	1989	1990	1991
8th Grade	41	34	46
7th Grade			49
6th Grade			45
5th Grade			60
4th Grade			60
3rd Grade			66
2nd Grade			60
1st Grade			47

"Since graduating classes will probably equal or exceed incoming classes in size for the next 2 years, enrollment most likely will remain at slightly below current levels. However, by the fall of 1994, there appears to be a significant potential for growth as the second generation of the 'baby boom' reach Academy age," states principal, Rick Serns.

The administrative staff and students of Wisconsin Academy would like to express our deep appreciation for the extensive financial and moral support received this school year. Through donations and careful budget management, we praise the Lord that all accounts payable are current within 30 days and we are steadily reducing our bank line of credit. Thank you for your help!

## Wisconsin Conference Science Fair

The fourth annual Wisconsin Conference Science Fair was held on Sunday, April 7, 1991 at Wisconsin Academy. Approximately **350 students and adults** enjoyed the activities beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Andrew Passo of Milwaukee captivated the interest of the young people with his science demonstration. Andrews University's physics department was represented by Dr. Micky Kutznar, an associate professor with a degree in atomic research. Dr. Kutznar centered his presentation around the many different physical properties of God's creation.

Most of the 23 Wisconsin church schools were represented in the display of **72 science projects** -- the largest number of projects since the beginning of the Science Fair. Wisconsin Academy scholarships were awarded to all students who followed the instructions and criteria for the science projects.

During the day, 4 different activities were available for all students to participate in including (1) the paper airplane contest which tested flight accuracy, landing accuracy and distance of flight; (2) an egg drop; (4) the windmill contest and (4) a truss bridge building contest. Tee shirts designed and made by the graphic arts department at the Academy and cash prizes were awarded the winners in each category.



**Wisconsin Academy Farm Auction  
April 2 & 3, 1991**

by Sharon Terrell, Editor

The black and white holstein cows were lined up in the holding pens, patiently chewing their cud and sometimes giving each other a grooming lick - or was it a consoling lick?

Local farmers, church members from around the State and other interested people began to arrive long before the scheduled 11:00 a.m. cattle sale. Trucks -- pickups, large farm trucks, cattle haulers and pickups with trailers -- were parked on both sides of DuBorg Road as near to the farm buildings as possible, ready to transport cattle.

The people gathered in the specially erected tent and took seats on bales of straw arranged in semi-circles as auctioneers from James M. Siamonson Auction Specialists, Inc. of Stoughton hurried to get their assistants in place and sale catalogs distributed.

During a specially called constituency meeting on November 18, 1990, Wisconsin members **VOTED** that the assets (cattle, equipment and crops) of the Wisconsin Academy Farm be liquidated and the land and buildings be leased. Low milk prices, high indebtedness and the continuing monthly losses were cited as contributing factors to the closing of the farm program.

**C. Glenwill Aztee April** was the first milk cow to be brought into the pen and after hearing her statistics, prospective buyers began their bidding. "What do I hear? Let me have 12. Do I hear a 12?" toned auctioneer Orin Schultz. And so the first day of the sale began.

Several Wisconsin Academy Farm management team members were present for the sale: **Norman McChesney** of Oxford, **Don Mann** of Sturgeon Bay, **Ralph Jones** from Sparta, **Bert Crary** of Dane, **F.M.T. Committee Chairman**, **Elder Art Nelson** (Conference Secretary-Treasurer) and farm manager, **Earl Witzel**.

At the end of the day, when the bidding came to an end, **\$193,675** had been raised from the sale of the cattle.

On day two, another large crowd gathered to bid on the farm machinery and crops. Total sale proceeds this day amounted to **\$96,255**.

The 2-day sale total was **\$289,930** from which the auctioneers 7% fee and other expenses of the auction will be paid. At the time this article was written, the net sale figure was not yet available.

In an interview with Elder Art Nelson, the editor posed some questions that constituents may have in regard to the sale of the cattle, machinery and crops and future considerations for the Academy Farm.

**Editor:** Elder Nelson, did the total sale proceeds meet the expectations of the pre-sale inventory as prepared by the auctioneers?

**Elder Nelson:** Yes, the pre-sale inventory estimate of \$330,030 was based on 290 head of cattle to be sold. Some of the cattle were sold prior to the auction leaving 247 head. When you add the amount received from the pre-auction sale of cattle plus the amount received from the auction, the total did reach the expectations.

**Editor:** The constituents also **VOTED** that the farm buildings and land should be leased. Can you give us a progress report on this aspect?

**Nelson:** The farm land has been leased to Mike Zimmerman of Beaver Dam for a 3-year period. The buildings are available to be leased as a whole, but presently 2 of the buildings are leased on a temporary basis.

**Editor:** Looking to the future, is there a possibility that the Academy Farm will, one day, again be a part of the Academy student labor program?

**Nelson:** The farm land has been leased for 3 years. At the end of the lease period, the Conference Committee will review the financial status and determine if the Farm will continue on a lease program or if it will again be operated by the Conference.

**Editor:** Headlines on the front page of the April 4, 1991 issue of the *Wisconsin State Journal* stated "End of an Era" and reporter Susan Lampert Smith, in her article on page 1B titled "School sells the farm" said. "The sale marks the end of farm work as a part of student life at the academy....." Many Wisconsin constituents pray that this reporter's prediction will not hold true and that in future years, the Wisconsin Academy student work program will again include the Academy Farm.



**PATHFINDER FAIR** - May 5, 10:30 a.m. Come support your Pathfinders. The day is designed to display skills and club activities during the year. Parents and friends, this day is for you!

**VBS WORKSHOP** - April 28, at 9:30 a.m., will be hosted at the conference office. Kitty Crary, of Lambs for Jesus Ministries, will direct this day of practical ideas and inspiration. A light lunch will be served.

**JAMES DOBSON SERIES** - Denny Linder, Chairman of the Madison School Board and church social committee, has arranged for a once weekly James Dobson video series on parenting to serve their community. Subjects during the series included: The Strong-Willed Child, How to Prepare for Adolescence, What Dads Need to Know About Fathering and What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women.

**MARRIAGE COMMITMENT WEEKEND** - April 19-20, at the Royale Inn, Stevens Point, was enthusiastically filled to capacity. Elder and Mrs. Charles Case and Elder and Mrs. Dale Ziegele led this annual ministry to couples.

**CAMPMEETING TEACHERS** - Teachers during campmeeting are needed for Cradle Roll, Kindergarten and Primary Divisions. If you would be able to assist, please contact the Church Ministries Department at the conference office.

**WAKONDA NEEDS** - Wakonda is ready to assist you when you do your spring cleaning. If you would like to donate a horse trailer, van, used cowboy boots, upright vacuum cleaner or used water equipment, simply contact your Youth Ministries Office.

**WITH GRATITUDE** - In 1990, Wakonda received a sail boat and a school bus, which is helping to stretch our budget to accomplish much in the lives of our young people.

**RN'S AND LPN'S** - If you are an RN or LPN and would like to donate a week of service to campers at Wakonda, please write or phone to inform us of your availability. It is true, "The Lord has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing". Thank you for your devoted stewardship.

**DECEMBER MARANATHA TRIP** - A memorable December Maranatha Mission Trip to the USSR invites youth and others to contact the Youth Ministries Department of the Rocky

Mountain Conference for more information. Call (303) 733-3771.

**GLOBAL MISSION** - is working to place 200 Adventist volunteers as English teachers in the colleges and universities of China. The government will pay them and the denomination supplements that small stipend. Terms of service are 1-2 years. For more information, call Maurice Bascom, Project Coordinator (301) 680-6000.

**MISSIONS CONVENTION** - A short-term Missions Convention is planned for New Year's weekend (Dec. 31, 1991 - Jan. 1, 1992) at Andrews University. This is for anyone who has ever been a student missionary, AVS, SOS, ADRA volunteer or participated in a mission trip. The convention is being organized by Bruce Bauer, professor of missionology at AU.

**SACRIFICIAL SHARING** - At its April 14 constituency meeting, the Rocky Mountain Conference voted to give the USSR Division \$100,000--10% of its reserves. It also voted a challenge to the other 57 local conferences in the NAD to "tithe" their reserves to help our Soviet brothers and sisters take advantage of the open door for the gospel. A week earlier, the Boulder Church had voted to give \$3,000 to support Adventist churches in Eastern Europe.

**ADVENTIST SINGLES** - A single adult conference is to be held July 10-17, 1991 at Monterey Bay Academy, La Selva Beach, CA. Featured speakers for this special week of spiritual enrichment, self-growth and Christian fellowship are Ivan Blazen, Rich Hurst and Bill Young. For additional information, contact the Church Ministries Office.

**PRESIDENT'S YOUTH COMMISSION** - NAD president, Al McClure and GC president Robert Folkenberg met with the "youth kitchen cabinet" April 10-13. The academy, college and young adult representatives called for: better communication of issues and the services offered by the denomination; the establishment of nurturing networks; more opportunities for teen and young adult participation and ownership in the church; and worship experiences that nurture all generations. Each of the 9 Union presidents have appointed 1 teenager and 1 young adult to the commission. Amy Rucinski of Bethel has been selected to represent Lake Union young people on this President's Youth Commission.



## Adventist Book Center

Recently I attended the Pacific Press and Review and Herald Publishing Association Marketing Seminar in San Diego where the new products for 1991 were introduced.

We are excited about the **new books that will be available for camp meeting**. Some really great things will be included in the **Sunday Sale on June 16**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** MCI accomplished what ATT & T attempted but after a year of trying did not produce and that is a national 800 number for all ABC's in the USA. **OUR NEW 800 NUMBER IS 1-800-765-6955**. You can reach the store now with this new number which will appear on all future advertising from both the Review and Pacific presses. We will leave the other 800 number in operation long enough to make a smooth transition. Just a reminder, that our 800 order line, **1-800-765-6955**, is for ABC orders only. We want to offer the best service possible in assisting you with ABC ordering.

Looking for a **fund raising idea for your church school or Pathfinders?** The ABC has several cases of all occasion cards which have been put together by Dayspring for fund raising projects. Contact us if you are interested in purchasing these for your group project. You can sell these for \$5.00 and make a 50% profit.

The ABC will be **open on April 28** from 8:00-5:00 featuring **Vacation Bible School supplies**. A Conference sponsored VBS Workshop will begin at 9:30 a.m. that day.

Esther Nelson, Manager

## Coming Events

Apr	04-06	Music Fest - WA
	07	Science Fair - WA
	07	ABC Open
	12-14	Alumni Wk-end-WA
	14	WI Constituency Mtg
	19	Couples Retreat
	21-22	LUC Constituency
	24-28	WA Home Leave
	28	VBS Workshop - Conf
	30	Conf Exec Committee

May	05	Pathfinder Fair -WA
	05	ABC Open
	06	Academy Day - WA
	12	Mother's Day
	16	K-12 Board - WA
	18	N.W. District Camp Mtg
	27	Holiday - Office Closed
	28	Conf Exec Committee
	31	WA Graduation Wkend

## Camp Meeting Announcements

**Camp Meeting Housing** Inquiries regarding Camp Meeting housing should be directed to Alice Priser at the Conference Office.

Those who have made a partial deposit must pay the balance by May 1 to hold your reservation. Send your check, payable to Wisconsin Conference, to the attention of Alice Priser.

**Would you like to sing in the Camp Meeting Choir?** Plan now to practice the second Friday evening after the meeting ends in the adult tent. The Mass Choir will be directed by Bruce Rasmussen and will sing the anthem for the worship service in the adult tent on the second Sabbath of Camp Meeting.

The Lampletter is produced bi-monthly as a report to the members of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Address all correspondence to the Communication Department, **Sharon Terrell, Editor**.

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FLORIDA

# Conference Membership Tops 30,000

*Conference becomes fifth-largest in North American Division.*

Florida Conference membership passed the 30,000 mark on September 30. It includes a rich cultural mix of Anglo, Hispanic, West Indian, French-Haitian, Asian, Portuguese, and Yugoslavian.

Gloria Becker, interim secretary, reports that the conference started in 1893 with 139 members and three ordained

The Hispanic work, under the direction of Jose Hernandez, has grown significantly along with that among other ethnic groups. William Bornstein, evangelism coordinator, reports that the Anglo pastors have the highest ratio of baptisms among the Anglo conferences in the Southern Union.

### Reaching Children

Through education, Pathfinders, and children's ministries, hundreds of children are being baptized each year. Children's ministries, under the leadership of Donna Williams, currently supplies materials to five churches that are holding children's evangelistic meetings. She and her staff have developed a *My Bible Friends* series for children ages 4-8 and will soon have a Revelation Seminar for juniors. Pathfinder Clubs, under the direction of Cheeko Cotta, reach children not in the SDA school system and provide a program for winning and holding young people. Gerald Kovalski, vice president for education,

reports there are 43 elementary schools and junior academies and two senior academies, with a total enrollment of 2,864 students and 203 teachers. Funding for these and the youth and young adult ministries represents a major portion of the conference budget.

### Adults More Difficult

“Adults are more difficult to reach with the gospel,” states Richard O’Ffill, church ministries associate for Community Services and lay training, “but many are being won by the faithful witnessing of members, several hundred of whom have been trained as lay evangelists in a seminar held each year at Camp Kulaqua.”

Thanks to Cindy Kurtzhals, assistant communication director, on January 14 and February 11, Florida Adventists got national television exposure on ABC’s *Good Morning America*.

President Graham has challenged conference workers and the laity to work toward a goal of 35,000 members in the next three years. It took six years to grow from 20,000 to 25,000 and four more years to reach 30,000.



Many baptisms have resulted from the work of literature evangelists.

ministers. Today it has 140 churches, 14 companies, 125 ministers, and 30,128 members, and ranks fifth in membership in the North American Division.

Relious Walden, treasurer, states, “We are thankful for a 6 percent tithe gain at present, but as a result of growth and inflation, the conference needs an 8 percent gain to provide pastoral staffing for new churches.”

Obed O. Graham, conference president, credits the growth to a team spirit among evangelists, pastors, teachers, literature evangelists, and laypeople. Baptisms have increased even though evangelism budgets have not.

*By Richard Shepard, interim communication director, Florida Conference.*

Joe Holloway, publishing director, reports that sales have almost doubled in the past



Through Christian education and youth programming, Florida Conference nurtures future leaders.

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WISCONSIN CONFERENCE PASTORATES  
March 1, 1991

**APPLETON**

CALVIN JOHNSON, INTERIM PASTOR  
NORMAN YODER, ASST. INTERIM PASTOR  
146       Appleton  
21        New London  
37        Oshkosh  
34       Poy Sippi  
238

**JANESVILLE**

MICHAEL WEAKLEY  
79        Beloit  
52        Delavan  
87        Janesville  
119     Milton  
337

**BETHEL**

WENDELL SPRINGER  
170       Bethel  
74        Marshfield  
17       Withee  
261

**LACROSSE**

WILLIAM COWIN  
10        Galesville Ettrick Co.  
64        Hylandale  
74        LaCrosse  
57        Sparta  
46       Tomah  
251

**COLUMBUS**

RICHARD HABENICHT  
228       Wisconsin Academy  
26       Beaver Dam  
254

**LENA**

CLAIR TILLMAN  
49        Gillett  
70        Lena  
48        Oconto  
72        Pound  
26       Shawano  
265

**CONFERENCE**

108       Conference Church

**\*DURAND**

47        Durand

**MADISON**

ROBERT STAUFFER  
GLENN LEWIS, ASST.  
21        Evansville  
9         Fort Atkinson  
400     Madison  
430

**EAU CLAIRE**

JOHN JOHANSEN  
24        Alma Center  
35        Chippewa Falls  
93        Eau Claire  
75       Menomonie  
227

**\*MADISON COMMUNITY**

RONALD GLADDEN  
GLENN LEWIS, ASST.  
85        Madison Community  
41       Oakland  
126

**GREEN BAY**

MARVIN CLARK  
DAVID KOEFFLER, ASST.  
21        Fish Creek  
382       Green Bay  
9         Manitowoc  
34       Sturgeon Bay  
446

**\*MILWAUKEE CENTRAL**

FRANK BACCHUS  
306       Milwaukee Central



**MILWAUKEE NORTHWEST**

*DUANE BROWN*  
 140 Milwaukee Northwest  
 62 Watertown  
101 Waukesha  
 303

**RICHLAND CENTER**

*KENNETH KNUTSEN, INTERIM PASTOR*  
 86 Lancaster  
 25 Prairie du Chien  
90 Richland Center  
 201

**MILWAUKEE/RACINE SPANISH**

*ORLANDO VAZQUEZ*  
 163 Milwaukee Central Spanish  
 71 Milwaukee North Spanish  
 38 Milwaukee Southeast Spanish  
28 Racine Spanish  
 301

**SHEBOYGAN**

*STEVE COOK*  
 22 Franklin  
 20 Germantown Co.  
 16 Lake Country Co.  
75 Sheboygan  
 133

**PORTAGE**

16 Adams/Friendship  
 30 Baraboo  
 52 Oxford  
 137 Portage  
49 Reedsburg  
 284

**STEVENS POINT**

*DONOVAN DAVIS*  
 57 Almond  
 63 Stevens Point  
 3 Waupaca  
 15 Wautoma  
68 Wisconsin Rapids  
 206

**RACINE**

88 Kenosha  
 117 Racine  
121 Raymond  
 326

**SUPERIOR**

*BERNARD WILLIAMS*  
 51 Ashland  
 26 Hayward  
 11 Spooner  
66 Superior  
 154

**RHINELANDER**

*JESS NEPHEW*  
 96 Clearwater Lake  
 26 Crandon  
 17 Lakeland Co.  
 13 Prentice  
 102 Rhinelander  
41 Tomahawk  
 295

**WAUSAU**

*CLINTON MEHARRY*  
 40 Antigo  
 50 Merrill  
 17 Moon  
 105 Wausau  
6 Wittenberg Co.  
 218

**RICE LAKE**

*RAY PLUMMER*  
 103 Clear Lake  
 42 Frederic  
 35 Ladysmith  
131 Rice Lake  
 311

Membership Statistics  
 as of 12/31/90: **6028**

\*Partial salary allowed  
 for these pastorates





Cyril Miller

## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN BOARD

# Positioning For The Future

Recently the General Conference made sizable reductions in their headquarters personnel so that more financial support can be given to struggling local conferences in North America. The Southwestern Union is doing the same.

During our last Administrative Council, it was agreed to downsize the Southwestern Union staff to have only one person serving the Church Ministries, Educational, and Publishing departments. This means each of these departments will function with just one leader — a director. No associates or assistants. Consequently, it also means we are reducing the level of service to our local churches and fields in these traditional areas.

In addition to cutbacks in our three major departments, it was agreed to eliminate the Ministerial, and the Health and Temperance departments altogether. The local conferences believe they can adequately maintain these departmental functions without Union assistance.

However, the local conference administrators unanimously decided that a Union stewardship secretary and evangelist would greatly assist their fields with financial and membership growth.

Therefore, the Union staff reductions, previously outlined, will pave the way for new stewardship and evangelism personnel and still produce sizable savings in our Union operating budget, which in turn can be appropriated to the local conference organization during this time of economic difficulty.

Our Administrative Council spent considerable time discussing possible cost-cutting in the Southwest Estates Services. S.E.S. is a centralized

estate planning organization which gives a high level of professional guidance in an important area of service to our church members. The Council desires some financial reductions in S.E.S. operations, but it was left to future decisions to determine how much.

We did not discuss operating subsidies to Southwestern Adventist College. Our local conference subsidies to S.A.C. were reduced a few years ago and we cannot make additional cutbacks here without seriously impairing the operation of our college.

The Southwestern Union does not make financial appropriations to our healthcare institutions. So, no cutbacks can be made in this area. We build and operate our hospitals and nursing homes with funds generated by their successful business activity and not with church dollars. But on the other hand, our hospitals and nursing homes do give financial assistance back to the Union, and for these direct and indirect appropriations we are grateful.

It isn't easy to make and carry out decisions to eliminate people who have faithfully served our churches, schools, and conferences in the Southwestern Union for so many, many years. However, we are fortunate that these actions come at a time when four of our Union personnel are retiring, so we will not replace them. Yet, we still have some individuals who will be looking for assignments in other fields. Please pray that God will bless and guide as we move into the future.

Cyril Miller, *President*

### Why Are These Cutbacks Necessary?

Insufficient membership growth from evangelism to maintain an adequate financial base to keep pace with inflation, lack of spiritual nurture to involve and hold our youth and young adults, the loss of our older "tithe-paying" members by death without sufficient "tithe-payer" replacement from the younger adult generation, plus economic recession in some areas of the United States, and the diversion of tithe by a growing number of church members to various independent ministries is causing our denomination's financial foundation to become inadequate to maintain the Seventh-day Adventist Church as we have in the past.

To cope with these changing and difficult circumstances, most local conferences in North America have already reduced their headquarters personnel and are now making deeper cutbacks in the total number of pastors and teachers to balance their budgets. How much further will this go? We do not know. What can change the picture and turn it around?

**Active Evangelism and renewed stewardship commitment involving all of our church members can correct these spiritual and financial problems and place God's remnant church back on the aggressive, cutting-edge of church growth again! We urgently appeal for your prayers and united support as we move forward in faith to position our church for a finished work and the return of Jesus.**