

Sneakers to Service

“Are we going to GYC?” Kurtis Lam asked during a Public Campus Ministries retreat at Camp Wakonda. This had never crossed our minds, but, after much planning and miracles we had a bus and passengers loaded for our long trip to Houston Texas.

The first night in Houston our Wisconsin group gathered to eat dinner. We walked all over downtown Houston not knowing that the downtown area closed at 6:00 pm. It was 6:30 pm and we were starving. As we all walked around, wondering what we should do, we realized that one of us was missing. We couldn't find Kurtis. Looking around we finally spotted him a few blocks back chatting with this homeless man. We all stood on the corner waiting to see what was going on, then we see them both begin walking towards our group. Kurtis approaches and says in a soft low tone “Pastor Eric, can he eat with us?” “Of course he can,” I said “if we can find somewhere to eat!” We finally found a pizza restaurant.

As we sat waiting for our food, I saw a group of young people treating this homeless man, Richard, as if he was their best friend, asking him about his past, his family, his previous jobs, education, and even about his heart. Then I noticed that Kurtis was again missing. When he came back he had a plastic bag in his hands. As we ate I noticed Kurtis having a great conversation with Richard. After we were done eating and began to leave, Kurtis asked Richard if he would like to meet for breakfast in the morning, and Richard kindly accepted. I then see Kurtis hand the man the bag. In it was a pair of socks



Kurtis Lam (on right), with his new friend Richard, is a member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church, and an active member of Public Campus Ministries.

and sandals. Little did I notice before that the man had a tattered shoe on one foot and a plastic bag on the other. The next morning several of our young people met with Richard and took him to get a pair of shoes, several pairs of socks, and a duffle bag to carry his clothes in. At breakfast they gave Richard a Bible and had a great Bible study with him at McDonalds. He was very grateful that random young people from Wisconsin noticed and cared so much for him that they were willing to spend not just money but time with him.

This random act of kindness caught my attention because while we had all passed by Richard, only one was impressed to stop. Some thought that Richard was just another homeless man, others were intimidated by him, others were afraid of the dirt on his clothing from sleeping on the ground, and others just had no interest in him at all. We all had some former bias or leaning that

kept us walking, except one person in the group. The one that noticed this homeless man's lack of shoes. Kurtis is what you call a “sneakerhead.” Sneakerheads love shoes, and look for the wildest and hottest shoes on the market. The Lord used this shoe passion for the Lord's service! Kurtis noticed this man's need and wanted to meet that need because it was a passion to him.

This caught my attention. It reminded me that the Lord can use each of our passions for His service! Just as Kurtis used his love for shoes as a tool to meet a need of a homeless man, I hope we all allow the Lord to use our passions to serve others, whatever that passion may be!



Eric Chavez
Youth Director



From the President's Desk

Wear Your Joy

Over the past few months we've seen a great deal of ugliness. The inhumanity of ISIS, the knock-down drag-out of the election season, violence between races, hostility towards law enforcement, as well as the intolerance of those who cry for tolerance.

It's easy to look at the dark blotch on a piece of white paper, and fail to see the rest of the sheet. I believe we have a responsibility to celebrate what's right in the world. Look around you at the beauties of God's creation. Spend time seeing the best in the people you interact with. Observe the rose rather than the thorns. Focus on the sunshine rather than the shadow.

You may not be the best person in the world, but you can be your best for the world.

Wear your cheerful face. Be the one who brightens where you are. Share words

of encouragement. We have the privilege of being loved by Jesus. That should bring joy to each of our hearts.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we should be the most joyful people in the world. The clear messages of Scripture, the hope of eternity with Jesus, and the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, should be what determines our attitude far more than the events around us.

As this year is still young I would encourage you to choose to find joy in each blessing of God, and wear your joy as a credit to the love and power of Jesus in your life.

Wisconsin Conference President

The President's Sabbath Schedule

February

- 4 Office Retreat
- 11 Portage District
- 18 Reedsburg
- 25 AHS Mission Conference

March

- 4 Andrews University Board
- 11 Tomah & Sparta
- 18 Raymond

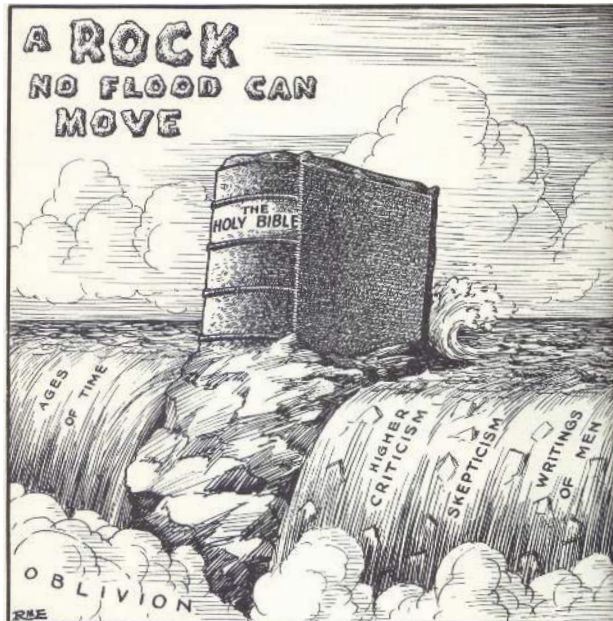
April

- 1 Shawano
- 8 Ashland
- 15 Madison East
- 22 WA Alumni Weekend
- 29 Wisconsin Rapids

May

- 13 Hispanic Brotherhood
- 20 Pathfinder Fair
- 27 WA Graduation

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



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Shepherd's House Welcomes New Members



“I’ve found a treasure,” said Brian Woller, one of 10 newly baptized members of the Shepherd’s House Church. “The Bible means so much more to me now. I want to study it more and learn as much as I can.” Brian was baptized on November 5 following a six-week Revelation Seminar held by Pastor Tom Michalski. Brian’s wife of 40 years, Julie, is an Adventist member and has been praying for her husband all these years. “I’ve heard a lot of this material before,” said Brian, “but I’ve never heard it quite the way it came out this time.”

The first five individuals baptized on November 5th were Kevin Gonzales, Virginia Klosterman, April Sennett, Terry Gottschalk, and Brian Woller. The second five individuals welcomed into our church family on December 3rd include Ron Everson, Jim Lanke, Matt and Betty Scheffler and their son Ryan. After each baptism these new members were heartily welcomed and prayed over as they made their public commitment to Christ. If you were to visit our church family, you would also sense the presence of the Holy Spirit as we are drawing closer to Him, our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Juanita Edge, with Diana Spieth
The Shepherds House Communication Director

Change for Change



On November 19th, the Almond Church held its first annual “Wheelbarrow Collection.” The wheelbarrow was pushed down the church aisle as everyone contributed coins they had saved to help children attend Camp Wakonda this summer. We surpassed expectations collecting \$1,103.05, with more trickling in. Because of the generosity of our small congregation, many children will be blessed, through the “Worthy Camper Fund” in a way that could be life changing!

Rick Felts
Almond Communication Director

Madison Health Outreach in Monona Terrace Touches 150 Lives



Forty-two volunteers from the Madison East church and eight other Wisconsin Adventist churches joined to operate an 8-station Health Screening at the January 20 and 21 Well Expo held in Madison at Monona Terrace. The screen checked height, weight, BP, recovery pulse, lung capacity, and personal health habits, then provided a computerized health-age appraisal, and a one-on-one coaching session on how each person could improve their health.

“What do you get out of this?” asked one guest as she eyed the busy 20x20 booth.

“This is amazing,” said another, “So often everything sounds like a sales pitch, but you guys are taking the time to listen to our needs and point us in the right direction.”

Over 150 people stopped to ask questions, visit volunteers, or check out the health literature, while 121 people completed the entire eight stations. “Thank you for talking about the spiritual part of my life,” commented one lady. And another said, “Oh, you are the Seventh-day Adventists. I know all about your health studies. You live longer than most people.”

Exhibit coordinator for the 138-booth Well Expo said, “This is the most popular booth of our Expo. We need to give you a bigger space next year.”

Joseph Bergeon, event coordinator for the church said, “I hope members catch the vision of what an event like this can do to reach our communities.”

To learn more about holding a health screening event in your community, contact Health Ministries Coordinator Juanita Edge at jedg@wi.adventist.org.

Chippewa Valley Shares 1162 Hacksaw Ridge Books in Local Theaters

Thirty-two members and friends of the Chippewa Valley Church handed out a total of 1162 “The Hero of Hacksaw Ridge” books at 45 different movie showings during November and December of 2016. This project took place inside a local movie theater as patrons were exiting the film “Hacksaw Ridge.” The movie portrays the faithful witness and service of Desmond Doss, an Adventist combat medic in World War II who became the first conscientious objector to receive the US Medal of Honor.

The project began when two families learned about the movie, “Hacksaw Ridge” on 3ABN. Not wanting to let this outreach opportunity to slip away, local church members joined in with donations to purchase the 14 cases of books to share.

Furthermore, due to the request and foresight of the theater owners, the project also became a charitable fundraising event. As patrons left the movie and were offered the book, they were also given the opportunity to donate to a local worthwhile cause: an established program which houses and assists homeless veterans. By the



time the project ended, almost \$3,200 had been raised, and a check for that amount was presented by the theater to the local organization for homeless veterans as local television and newspaper reporters stood by.

When asked about the project, members said they thoroughly enjoyed it and appreciated the opportunity to work together. They had many opportunities to visit movie-goers, give them a book, and thank them for their donations. Patrons

thanked the group for raising money for such a good cause, and promised they would read the book! The theater owners themselves were so pleased with the project they hosted a pizza party - for the workers when it was all done.

What started with a little idea by a few folks, and under the direction of the Lord, became something quite a bit bigger.

Kayla Hayes
Chippewa Valley Health Ministries Coordinator

Sharing the Compassion of Jesus in Milwaukee



Sunday August 28, 2016, 65 members of the North Milwaukee Hispanic Church combined efforts to impact our community through a program called COMPASSION 2016. Children, teenagers, youth and adults expended at least five hours each sharing time and resources with those less fortunate. Activities included visiting a nursing home, sharing 100 to-go lunches with the Guest House Shelter and McDonald Charity

Guest House, and cleaning trash out of neighborhood streets. With this project, our church confirmed our promise to do a work for others in the community that goes beyond language and race. We want our community to know that Jesus is there for them, and if we work together as one, we can make our community a better place to live.

Eusebio Lima
Pr. Iglesia Adventista Hispana del Norte de Milwaukee

Walk for LIFE

It's not too late to join Walk for Life! This year our six-month goal is to corporately walk around the world six times between January 1 and June 30. It's a big challenge, with even bigger health benefits, and we want you to join!

Here's how. Keep track of your exercise miles, then turn in your total number of miles to your church Walk for Life leader, or turn them in yourself on the Wisconsin Conference website at wi.adventist.org/walk. For questions email jedge@wi.adventist.org.

Milwaukee Welcomes Congo Refugee Family



In August of 2016, Milwaukee Northwest SDA Church welcomed Kiza and Kastindi and their children Eliza, Alinoti, and Saidi Adidja, to our church family. Several weeks later baby Uwezo was born.

The family relocated to the Milwaukee area from a refugee camp in the Congo. Communication was done with smiles, hugs and a little help from interpreter Marley Grant. The family spoke French and Swahili, but not English.

Generous donations poured in from members for this family to help them get settled in their apartment. Annmarie Elliot and Lianna Glass, two 7th grade students from the Milwaukee SDA School wanted to do something extra to help this family, and with the support of the school board, organized a bake sale, with the proceeds going to help this family.

The girls presented the family with over \$200 at church, which the family gratefully received.

Diane Maitland
Milwaukee Northwest Church



Each summer a few students are awarded elementary scholarships through the generosity of Adventist education supporters. We are inviting more of you to take advantage of an opportunity to contribute to this scholarship fund.

Koinz 4 Kidz is a simple way to provide scholarships for elementary-age children in Wisconsin Adventist schools. Use an ordinary jar to place your pocket change each day. When the container is full, convert your coins to dollars. Place the dollars in a tithe envelope marked Koinz 4 Kidz and place it in the offering plate.

Selecting an enthusiastic person to promote the program in church will help move this project forward. Some churches have encouraged their members to reach a combined goal as a church. Individuals can participate in this project on their own or as part of a church project. Koinz 4 Kidz funds should be turned in by the end of May, so we know how many scholarships we can award students at camp meeting in June.

Join me in praying God will bless each coin that is contributed and each student who will be receiving a scholarship.



Linda Rosen
Education Superintendent

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we close out the financial records for 2016 we are showing a tithe increase of 2.64% over 2015 tithe. We were blessed with a trust maturity that helped that tithe figure considerably. Without that extra boost our tithe would have been close to even with last year. We are thankful for all of you who have faithfully supported our conference as well as your local churches and schools this past year. We are also grateful for those who remember us in their estate plans. It is truly a blessing to all.

Our Wisconsin Budget giving was down by 5.78% (-\$18,721) compared with 2015. This offering which totaled \$305,074 is critical for the operation of Wisconsin Academy as well as the funding of evangelism in our conference.

Speaking of evangelism, the conference appropriated evangelism funds of over \$220,000 directly to your local churches in 2016. It is exciting to hear stories about lives that were touched all over Wisconsin as a result of the outreach many of your churches and schools participated in over the year. It is our prayer that many of these ministries will continue into 2017 as we seek to spread the gospel news to our communities throughout the state.

I am also happy to report that the wastewater treatment project at Wisconsin Academy is completed. It is already proving a great blessing in the saving of time and money for the Academy operations.

As you might imagine our budget will once again be very tight as we look into 2017. Rising costs in healthcare, insurance, etc., continue to be a challenge for the conference in the same way that many of your local churches experience it.

Thank you for your faithfulness both in giving of time and funds to see this message go forward. May God keep us all faithful until His soon appearing.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2016	2015	% Change
Dec. Tithe Income:	\$1,229,510	\$1,032,122	+19.12%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$7,092,530 (53 wks)	\$6,909,949 (52 wks)	+2.64%
Dec. Wisconsin Budget:	\$44,437	\$44,313	+0.28%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$305,074 (53 wks)	\$323,796 (52 wks)	-5.78%



WAY Team Shares at Tomah SDA Church



Seven students who are part of the WAY Team (Wisconsin Academy Youth Team) spent Sabbath sharing and enjoying fellowship with the Tomah SDA Church. The students were involved in most of the church service, including the sermon. Three students preached about knowing Jesus through prayer, Bible study, and witnessing.

The church members were very warm and welcoming and we had a beautiful worship time together. After church, we had a delicious potluck and shared a little about what is going on at Wisconsin Academy these days.

WAY Teams exist to give students experience in sharing the love of Jesus in churches across Wisconsin. This is one way Wisconsin Academy is training students to be "Fit to Serve."

If you would like the WAY Team to visit your church, contact us at marketing@wisacad.org or 920-623-3300 and we will try to work out a time.

Wisconsin Academy

N2355 DuBorg Rd
Columbus, WI 53925

Phone: 920-623-3300
www.wisacad.org

from the principal's desk

Our Longing to Belong

A few who read this may remember an old movie titled, "Born Free." It's a true story about a lioness cub named Elsa that was raised in captivity. Although fully tamed, she had an inborn instinct that pulled her back to the wild. When fully grown, Elsa was returned to her natural environment where she was eventually adopted into a pride of lions. While in captivity, she identified with her captors, but when finally free, she discovered her true identity.

In a similar way we each have an inborn yearning for something more that has been placed within us by our creator. Only God can fill the void that His absence leaves within us. His presence provides meaning and purpose to our lives.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes a universal family. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" Eph 3:14-15 KJV. The wonderful news is that we can be part of this family through adoption. "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" Gal 4:4-5 NIV.

At Wisconsin Academy we are intent on helping our students discover their true identities through adoption into the universal family of believers. In all that we do, our aim is to create family bonds of love where students are accepted and valued, where they have security in the knowledge that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. Through projects at home and international mission projects abroad, students learn that they are part of a worldwide family that shares the same Father and marches under the blood stained banner of Christ.

Wisconsin Academy has an ethnically and culturally diverse student body and yet we have unity in Christ. This is one of our great strengths. "As members of the human family we are individual parts of one mighty whole. No soul can be made independent of the rest. There is to be no party strife in the family of God; for the well-being of each is the happiness of the whole. No partition walls are to be built up between man and man. Christ as the great center must unite all in one." FE 479

Please keep Wisconsin Academy in your prayers as we work to win the youth for Christ and His mission to the world.

Roger Dunder
Principal

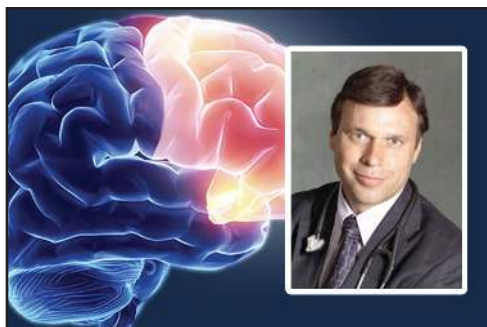


Caleb Minty Accepts Men's Dean Position



Caleb Minty will be transitioning from assistant dean to head dean this spring. He will be starting his new duties at the beginning of April, replacing Kevin Schauer who is transitioning to a new job and has requested to move at the end of March. Minty has served as assistant dean, teacher of PE and Health, and personal fitness program director at Wisconsin Academy since 2015. He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University and enjoys hiking, sports, and being outdoors.

Join Us for a Weekend with Dr. Neil Nedley



Dr. Neil Nedley will present five sessions on how to "Optimize Your Brain" at the WA chapel. All are welcome. Donations are appreciated to help offset costs.

Friday, Feb. 24

7:30 pm *"The Curse of Depression & Anxiety"*

Sabbath, Feb. 25

9:30 am *"Enhancing Emotional Intelligence"*

11:00 am *"Living the Psychological Good Life"*

2:30 pm *"The Solution to Depression & Anxiety"*

6:30 pm *"Optimize Your Brain"*

Students Enjoy S.A. Banquet and Bowling



This year's much-anticipated Student Association banquet was themed "Masquerade." The gym was transformed into a wonderland with sparkling lanterns hanging overhead and more twinkling lights on the tables below. The masked banqueters enjoyed delicious breakfast foods, including Belgian waffles, tater-tots, mini-quiches, and a wide variety of fruits and sauces. After the banquet, and a quick change students loaded up in buses and headed to a bowling alley in Sun Prairie for more fun.

WISCONSIN ACADEMY **School Choice WISCONSIN**

IT'S TIME TO ENROLL

Open enrollment for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is going on now! **TAKE ACTION** today to ensure your child begins the 2017-18 school year in the **best school possible**.

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program gives parents the ability to send their child to the participating private or religious school of their choice **tuition free**.

MORE INFO AT
CHOOSEYOURSCHOOLWI.ORG
 1-855-827-1372 TAMBIEN EN ESPAÑOL 1-800-201-3301

3 Steps

1. Apply to Wisconsin Academy
 Apply at any time
www.wisacad.org
2. Apply to Wisconsin Parental Choice
 Apply Feb 1st-Apr 20
<https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>
3. Call WA Coordinator Karen White
 Call at any time for documentation processing
 Cell: 608-345-2051

NOTE: General (non-choice) enrollment is always open.

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

February

1 Executive Committee
17-19 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
18 Pathfinder Bible Exp. Wakonda
19 Adventist Lay Seminary Grad.
20 Office Closed - Presidents Day
24-25 Dr. Nedley at WA
24-26 Hispanic Women's Certification

March

4 JAHWI Youth Sabbath
10-11 Family Life Retreat Green Bay
5 Education Fair
14 Board of Education
17-18 Union Pathfinder Bible Exp.

April

1-2 Pathfinder Area Coord. Retreat
2 Annual Statistical Review
2 Executive Committee
6-8 Elementary Music Fest at WA
17 3rd & 4th Grade Spelling Bee
21-22 Alumni Weekend at WA
21-22 Division Pathfinder Bible Exp.
23 Adventurers Fun Day
28-30 Hispanic Men's Conf. Wakonda

May

6 Youth Rally at WA
13 Hispanic Brotherhood Day
19-21 Pathfinder Fair at Wakonda
20 Spring Concert at WA
21-26 Wakonda Work Bee

26-28 WA Graduation
23 Board of Education
29 Conference Office Closed
30 Year End Teacher Meeting



Worthington Foods

Both canned and frozen food products of Loma Linda, Worthington, Morning Star, Cedar Lake and more are now available through The Lighthouse Thrift Store in Columbus, at Wisconsin Academy.

W959 State Hwy 16
Columbus, WI, 53925
920-623-0031

Open: Monday-Thur. 9 am - 5 pm
Friday 9 am - 3:30 pm
Sunday 10 am - 3:30 pm



Rob and Jackie Mosier, members of the Madison East Church, are the new Public Campus Ministries Coordinators.

Honoring Veterans



Madison East invited USS *Indianapolis* survivor Melvin Jacob, Marine Corps Guard and Sun Prairie resident to speak for a special program honoring veterans on November 12. Jacob shared his story of surviving the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* as James Flood, Madison member, guided him with questions.

Just past midnight on July 30, 1945, the USS *Indianapolis* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, sinking the ship in approximately 12 minutes. Jacob was one of 1196 people aboard the ship that was carrying the atomic bomb codenamed "Little Boy." The attack left 900 stranded at sea, exposed to shark attacks, dehydration, hallucinations, and saltwater poisoning. Only 317 survived the horrific 4-day ordeal.

This program allowed our church to say thank you to the veterans, and brought many from the community.

Teresa Isensee Harrison
Communication Secretary, Madison East Church