

Jodi Prays, God Answers

I am a farrier, traveling from farm to farm trimming and shoeing horses. I was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist, but unfortunately fell away from practicing my faith.

Life went on, and in time I married. I was busy and my farrier business was doing well, but I knew something was missing. My older brother sensed my restlessness and began witnessing to me of the peace Jesus brings to life. Soon I began Bible studies with Pastor Rick Binford. I loved the studies! Suddenly the Bible wasn't just rules but revealed a God trying to save me and show me how to be completely happy.

I was so excited and wanted to be re-baptized. I remember taking a walk with my husband and he was not happy with my new choices, as my beliefs were changing my lifestyle. I was walking along and thinking I could just let this all go, and go back to my old life. My husband would be happy and life would be easier. I prayed right then and there for God to give me the strength to move forward, and He did. By God's amazing grace I was re-baptized. God had blessed me so much. For the first time my life was complete.

As my husband and I do not share the same faith, tithing became an issue. Again I prayed, and we came to an agreement that I would tithe from my income. I was grateful, yet felt I wanted to do more for God in offerings. How was I to do that and stay true to my husband as well?

Once again, I took this to God in prayer and He provided an answer. As a farrier I often receive tips, so I decided I could



Jodi Pennings, pictured here with Mike, her husband of 17 years, owns and operates a farrier business called, "Lucky Horseshoeing." As a hobby she enjoys rehabbing lost-cause horses and finding good-fit homes for them. She is a member of the Lena Church, leading in Sabbath School and Personal Ministries.

dedicated any tips I received to Him.

At church that week I learned that our Pathfinders had advanced to the Bible Experience finals and needed funds to travel to Washington D.C. So, Monday morning before work I prayed, "Please, Lord, I want to help; all my tips are Yours."

After my second job that morning, my client added a hundred dollars to the bill as a tip. I was so excited! I had to call and share the amazing news with my pastor. I then stopped to tell my younger brother and his wife the good news and they promptly pulled out their check book and added to the blessing. It was amazing!

God's answers didn't stop there. I prayed one morning about my desire to help support

a church plant our church is sponsoring, and that very morning a client added a seventy-dollar tip to his bill. Tips are common but not for that amount.

I am blessed with wonderful clients and the skills that God has granted me to work for Him. God has answered my prayers to remain faithful to Him and to my husband.

God's gracious answers to prayer continue. One of my client's daughters, Sarah, took Bible studies and was baptized into the church. And my younger brother and his wife have chosen to be baptized. "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works." Psalm 9:1

Jodi Pennings of Lena Church with Juanita Edge, Communication Director



From the President's Desk

We Are Blessed

Years ago I visited with a distraught mother of a teenage boy who had just lost his leg, and had rock shrapnel throughout his body, caused by a freak explosion. As he hung in the balance between life and death, I heard myself say to that mother. "If your son lives, you will need to remind him how much he has left." She responded as a mother in pain would. "I cannot accept that."

However, several weeks later, as she and I walked the halls of that large hospital, where her son was recovering, she told me of a father she had met, and how his son had lost both of his legs. And she said, "I told him that if he lived, you will need to remind him how much he has left."

A recent Facebook post showed a soldier that was asked "How can you have such a positive outlook with no legs." He responded, "How can you be so negative when you have both?"

How often we focus on what we don't have, rather than what we do have. We don't have enough money, a good enough

job, the right friends, the latest car, the right clothes. Is that where our focus is?

We don't have to look far to see ourselves as very fortunate. Whether it is with wealth, or health, or relationships, we are blessed.

I am amazed as I re-read the story of Job in the Bible. He had everything precious, taken away in one day. His family, his wealth, and even his health. His so-called friends told him that he ought to curse God and die!

Yet, in spite of the tragedy he could say "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21 KJV.

May our faith in God be like that of Job. And in that trust, may our lives be full of thanksgiving for each of His blessings today.

Michael H. Edge

Wisconsin Conference President



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The President's Sabbath Schedule

February

- 2 Superior
- 16 Evansville
- 18 Living Faith
- 23 Office Retreat

March

- 2 Isreal Trip
- 9 Isreal Trip
- 30 Wausau District Sabbath

April

- 6 Shawano
- 13 Milwaukee Central
- 20 WA Alumni Weekend
- 27 Madison East

May

- 4 Vacation
- 11 Hispanic Brotherhood
- 18 Sparta Hispanic
- 25 WA Graduation

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

Equestrian Camp: New for Summer Camp 2019!



Happy New Year campers! I am so excited about this coming 2019 summer camp season. We have great plans in store and some amazing staff returning to share Jesus with you.

Our theme this year is "Confident in Christ," and we are so excited and "Confident" about what Jesus is going to do! We have a few new programs this year that we are looking forward to, but our most exciting edition is Equestrian Camp! This is a pilot program we are trying this year.

Equestrian camp will operate from June 25-June 30, 2019, will cost \$200 per camper is be limited to 10 young people ages 12-17. So, the questions you need to ask yourself are, do I love horses? Do I enjoy being outside? Do I love camp? And finally do I enjoy hanging out with friends? If you said yes to any one of these questions then you will want to come to Equestrian Camp.

Your day will begin like any day at camp, in cabin worship with your friends and counselor. You will then proceed to breakfast, and then to the world famous Wakonda horse barn where you will be greeted by 18 beautiful horses and begin your day with a short time spent learning how Jesus loves us through you guessed it... horses! You will then move onto learning, sharing, and caring for our horses. You will learn basic anatomy, health, diet, personality traits, and many more horse things. We have a great staff that are excited about sharing all their knowledge about these gentle giants.

With our equestrian program, we will still be offering all the other great camp activities such as Rock wall, Zip line, Boats, Swimming, Archery, Ceramics, Crafts, Gymnastics, RC, Photography, and much more.

Registration begins February 15 for Wisconsin SDA members and March 1 for all others. We also have two scholarship programs available through our, "Passport of Savings" booklet, and "Worthy Camper," funded by many generous donors that give each year. At Camp Wakonda no camper will ever be turned away from an experience with Jesus at camp because of money.

Find more information at www.wakonda.org, or call me @ (806) 341-2005.



Eric Chavez
Youth Director

Milwaukee Police Partner with Milwaukee Central Adventurers to Teach About Child Safety



Sunday January 20, 2019 saw the blossoming of a great partnership between the Milwaukee Police and the Milwaukee Central Adventurers club. At the invitation of our Adventurer leader Erwine Clerge, Officer Dodds of the Community Outreach and Education arm of the Milwaukee Police Precinct stationed at the Police Academy, came to our Adventurer Club meeting to talk with eager Adventurers

and their parents about being safe.

Child safety is a tough topic to discuss, but as a community, our church takes its mandate of raising children in a safe environment seriously. Officer Dodds skillfully led the discussion into areas of concern for parents and the community. A series of high-profile national and local cases of abducted children painfully remind us that we still live in a world filled with danger and that communication between parents and children is critical. Officer Dodds established a rapport with our children and shared some important tips on child safety. Some of the more critical tips include children always seeking their parents' permission and follow their parents' rules as it relates to letting strangers into their home or going with individuals

they might be familiar with, but who are familiar strangers. Officer Dodds stressed the importance of staying with parents in crowded areas and checking in with parents before visiting with friends. In addition, Officer Dodds stressed that if lost or hurt, children should look for safe individuals like police officers, their pastors, or a security guard to seek assistance. Of course, all the kids were excited about repeating the number they should call if they have an emergency: 911!

To close his presentation, Officer Dodds brought bears and coloring books that emphasized his presentation for all our children. Overall, it was a wonderful interaction that will help our children think about and practice safety.

Pastor Sheldon Bryan
Milwaukee Central District Pastor

New Women's Ministry Coordinator



Patricia Antoine-Norton has accepted the position of Women's Ministries Coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference. Pat has served as a committee member on the Wisconsin Conference Women's Retreat committee for many years helping with both the spring and fall retreats and focusing on prayer ministry. She also serves as Women's Ministries Coordinator for her home church in Racine, and has organized several one-day retreats which are open to the public. Pat serves as an elder in the Racine Seventh-day Adventist Church as well.

"I look forward to meeting the women of Wisconsin and teaming up with you to share the messages of God's love, grace, mercy, compassion and forgiveness for each one of us," said Pat. "We need to share the gospel and let others know that Jesus is coming again. There is hope for tomorrow as we live in this world today. We need to come together, fellowship with one another, and have the same goal of Jesus, that of seeking and saving the lost and sharing Jesus's plan of salvation."

Born in Trinidad, Pat graduated with a degree in Physical Therapy from Andrews University 30 years ago and continues to work as a full-time physical therapist. She is involved in community health outreach for her local Racine church in holding Health Expo events and a Free Dental Clinic in conjunction with the Racine school district. Pat and her husband, James, have two adult children, Joel and Janelle.

Mann New Superior District Pastor



Pastor David Mann, 2016 M.Div. graduate of Andrews University, accepted a call to pastor the Superior District beginning January 2019. Born and raised in Berrien Springs, Michigan, David entered Andrews as an Education major. Soon after, however, he felt God's call to pastoral ministry and switched to Theology.

"I'm very excited to move to Wisconsin," said David. "My passion in ministry is seeing people come to Christ as their personal Savior. I want every member, young or old, to see the beauty of Scripture and of God's love."

In his free time, Pastor David enjoys hiking, nature, being outdoors, reading, and spending time with friends and family.

Are You Receiving the Conference eNewsletter Each Month?

Send your email address to the Wisconsin Conference office at jedge@wi.adventist.org, or droat@wi.adventist.org.

Start today!

Jonathan Fetrick New PARL Coordinator



"I am happy to be serving the Wisconsin Conference as the Public Affairs & Religious Liberty leader," said Pastor Jonathan Fetrick. "I hope to raise interest in subscriptions to Liberty Magazine in our conference via helping pastors and local religious liberty leaders identify people who would like to receive the magazine. I plan on continuing connecting people who have Sabbath work issues with the resources they need to help them in their particular situations. My hope is to run the PARL Department in Wisconsin in such a way that it can make a practical impact in the life of our church members."

"The Lake Union PARL Director Nick Miller, Esq. promotes an active program including promoting the Liberty Magazine Campaign, presenting at camp meeting every other year, and holding a Religious Liberty Rally in our conference every other year. For this Dr. Miller has chosen the theme 'Jesus and Politics.' The theme focuses on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Dr. Miller hopes to raise awareness of the role being like Jesus via following his teachings could make in the way we live our lives and relate to each other."

Jonathan Fetrick, pastor of the Wisconsin Academy Church District, holds a degree in Theology with Minors in Biblical Languages, Preaching, and History from Southern Adventist University. He also obtained his M.Div. from Andrews University.

New Pastor for Eau Claire District



Pastor Kuehmichel is moving from Palo Cedro SDA Church to pastor the Eau Claire District. His ministry passion is in giving personal Bible studies and community outreach.

Pastor Kuehmichel graduated in 2010 with a Doctor of Ministry from Ashland University in Ohio. Prior to that he received his MDiv from Andrews University, his BSBA from the University of Phoenix, and an AS degree in electronics from North Central Technical Institute in Wausau, WI.

"Merrill, Wisconsin, is where I was born and raised, and where I lived for the first 32 years of my life," said Kevin. "I have many fond memories of Wisconsin and I have always been a fan of the Packers and the Badgers. My two brothers still live in Wisconsin. They are not Adventists, nor was my family of origin. One reason I want to come back is that I know the people, the geography and the culture of the Northwoods. I feel I will be comfortable with the people and surroundings here."

Pastor Kuehmichel and his wife, Patricia (Trish) have two adult married children, a daughter, Karli, and a son, Kyle, and a new baby granddaughter named Lawren.

In his free time, Pastor Kuehmichel enjoys woodworking/house remodeling, fishing, hunting, target shooting, and reading military history. His wife, Trish, enjoys sewing and cooking.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Josefa Campos New Food Service Director



Josefa Campos of the Maranatha Spanish Church has agreed to serve as Food Service Director for Camp Wakonda. She has a history of food service experience, and currently cooks full-time for a private school. She also serves her local church family as a Pathfinder leader and as a deaconess.

When Josefa finds free time, she enjoys fixing clothes people love, like replacing zippers and such. She also enjoys making costumes for school plays, and creating Mexican piñatas the way her mom taught her as a girl.

Josefa and her husband, Israel, have four children, Dagebagelin, Heidi, Lehy, and Lity.

For more conference news visit wi.adventist.org/news

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The final figures for 2018 are in for tithe and Wisconsin Budget. I am thankful to report that we ended the year with a tithe increase of 3.02% for the year. A substantial one-time gift of tithe helped to bolster what would have been a gain of about 0.5%. This was an appreciated boost needed to keep up with ever growing expenses.

Wisconsin Budget also ended the year with a strong December showing a 7.97% increase for the month and giving us an annual increase over 2017 of 2.24%. Many thanks to all of you whom are so faithful in the support of your church here in Wisconsin.

I am happy to report that Pastor Tom Michalski, our newly hired conference evangelist is busy planning his schedule of meetings over the next couple of years. His 1st meeting is slated to begin the 2nd half of March 2019. We look forward to what God can do through his ministry.

We continue to solicit your prayers as we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of a new year.

May God bless you as you contemplate what He can do through you in this sacred work of spreading the everlasting gospel.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2018	2017	% Change
December Tithe Income:	\$1,217,787	\$1,187,552	2.55%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$7,417,706 <small>(52 wks)</small>	\$7,200,286 <small>(52 wks)</small>	3.02%
December Wisc. Budget:	\$51,437	\$47,639	7.97%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$303,440 <small>(52 wks)</small>	\$296,794 <small>(52 wks)</small>	2.24%



from the principal's desk:

Seeking the Lord

It is hard to believe we are already well into second semester, which is flying by.

The video *Wisconsin Academy Spotlight* is our latest means of sharing the exciting things happening at WA. We hope to share a new one with you each quarter. If you haven't seen our first one, please look for a link on our Facebook page, or contact us for a DVD.

We began the semester joining the world church in 10 Days of Prayer culminating in a Spiritual Emphasis weekend with Kevin Wilfley, Pastor and Prayer Ministry Coordinator for the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Many student and faculty lives were touched by the Holy Spirit as they were encouraged to pray more to God, to spend their days with Him leading and guiding completely in their lives. We are looking forward to our upcoming week of prayer with Dr. Phodidas Ndamyumugabe, a Rwandan refugee and currently professor at Weimar College, entitled "Preaching from the Grave." We would encourage you to pray that his presentations meet receptive hearts.

Career Fair this past Sunday at Wisconsin Academy brought eleven presenters to share their varied vocations with the students. Their focus was "How do I use my job to share Jesus with those I meet," helping many to see that we work for and with God in our chosen profession, that ... His word will not return unto Him void, it will accomplish that which He pleases... Isaiah 55:11

The WA Spiritual Life Committee has a

desire to encourage students to reach out, seeking to bring happiness and the love of Jesus to others by focusing on those in need. We have been visiting Columbus and Beaver Dam hospitals and nursing homes to share Jesus with people there. On one occasion as we were getting ready to board the bus to come back to school, one young man kept speaking about a very ill lady we had sung to at the hospital. Although it was a fair distance back to the hospital, he felt impressed that he needed to go back and pray with her as she might not have another chance to accept Jesus. One of our young ladies encouraged him and said she'd go with him, so we walked all the way back and asked if he could pray for her. There were tears in the eyes of family who were with the patient as he finished praying. It is such a blessing and encouragement to see evidence of the Holy Spirit working in our students' hearts.

As we are beginning a new year and are even closer to Jesus' Second Coming, may we continue to seek the Lord with all our heart.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord." Isaiah 55:6 NKJV

Rosalie Rasmussen, principal
Wisconsin Academy



During 10 Days of Prayer, sophomore Nathan Gulzar describes growing up with missionary parents in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the answers to prayer he has experienced.



Students dialogue with family practice doctor Ronni Minier, one of eleven presenters who shared their vocations during Career Fair.



Students interact with residents at an assisted living center. This winter, we have spent several Sabbath afternoons singing and visiting at nearby hospitals, nursing homes, and centers.

Preparing a Home for Rhesus Monkeys



In November, students volunteered at Primates Incorporated, a spacious monkey sanctuary near Westfield. Primates Incorporated plans to rescue about five to 10 monkeys a year, with the goal of 100. Currently, they have five rhesus monkeys. Students helped by tearing out old enclosures, digging foundations for new enclosures, preparing food for the monkeys, organizing storage areas, painting pools, hauling cement, cleaning cages, and more. Several made special connection with Timon, an 8-year-old monkey at the bottom of the pecking order.

Church and Academy Join for Agape Feast



One Friday evening in January, local members of the Wisconsin Academy church and academy staff and students spent the evening together enjoying fellowship, eating a light meal, and celebrating communion. Nearly all the students participated in the foot-washing and the Lord's supper. For many it was the first time to fully participate. It was truly a blessing to celebrate together and remember what our Savior did for us. After the meal, we gathered around the piano and sang hymns for a good while.

Ndamyumugabe to Hold Week of Prayer



We are excited to welcome Dr. Phodidas Ndamyumugabe to speak for our 3rd week of prayer January 28-February 2. Dr. Ndamyumugabe teaches in the department of Theology at Weimar Institute, in California, where he lives with his wife, Jacqueline and their three sons, and is adjunct professor of missions at the Adventist University of Africa (AUA). Dr. Phodidas has a wide range of experiences in evangelism and church planting. His main interest is in reaching the unreached, preparing people for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Enrollment Period Opens Feb. 2 for Wisconsin Parental Choice Program!

The State of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families who live in Wisconsin to cover private school tuition!

Families are only considered if they enroll in the WPCP program between February 2 and April 20, so don't delay! Begin with the following three steps. More information on choice programs and financial aid are at the link below:

STEP 1

Apply to the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

Apply from February 2 through April 20 on the DPI website:

<https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>

STEP 2

Call WA Coordinator Karen White

Call Karen White anytime for document processing at the following number:

608-345-2051

STEP 3

Apply to Wisconsin Academy

If you haven't applied to WA, apply now at:

www.wisacad.org/admissions/apply

MORE AT: www.wisacad.org/admissions/financial-options/

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

February

1 Pathfinder Bible Experience
1-3 Lay Pastors Cohort
8-10 Public Campus Ministry
Retreat
9 Hispanic SAL Graduation
12 Board of Education
13 Executive Committee
17 Education Fair
18 Office Closed
22-24 Hispanic Children's/Women's
Ministry Certification
28-3/10 Holy Land Tour

March

1-3 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
2 Pathfinder Bible Achievement
13-24 WA Spring Break
15-16 JAHWI Youth Sabbath
30 Pathfinder Bible Experience

April

6 Path. Area Coordinator's
Retreat
7 Statistical Review/Executive
Committee
8 ACS Donations/Operations
Training
19-21 Lake Union ASI
23 Science Fair
26-28 Hispanic Men's Conference
26-28 Pathfinder Bible Experience
20 Spelling Bee

May

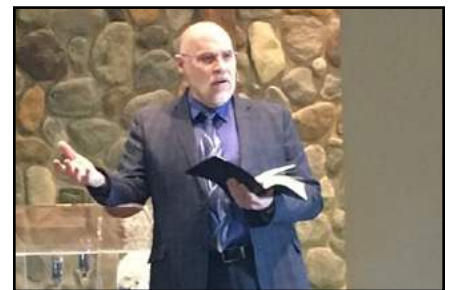
5 Adventurer Fun
11 Hispanic Brotherhood
14 Board of Education
17-19 Lay Pastor Cohort
17-19 Pathfinder Fair
19-24 Wakonda Work Bee
24 Elementary School Ends
24-25 Wisconsin Academy Graduation
27 Conference Office Closed
31-6/2 Hispanic Women's Retreat
31 Teacher In-Service

Sánchez Full-time Hispanic Pastor



Arael Sánchez has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Eau Claire Hispanic District beginning January, 2019. Pastor Sánchez with his wife, Sonia, and their two children, Jonathan and Sammy, arrived from Mexico in August, 2017, to serve as missionary church planters in the Eau Claire area. May the Lord bless Pastor Sánchez and his family in this new assignment.

Tom Michalski New Wisconsin Conference Evangelist



Pastor Tom Michalski has accepted a call to be the Conference Evangelist for our Wisconsin Conference as of January 1, 2019. Pastor Michalski and his wife, Melody have served in the Wausau Church District since 2015.

“Eighteen years ago I went to Amazing Facts to be trained as an evangelist,” said Pastor Michalski. “A little over a year after graduation I was called to pastoral ministry, and I served as a pastor/evangelist. My passion has always been evangelism. And now, the privilege that I have to serve the people in the state that I grew up in as Conference Evangelist is a dream come true. I would like to thank the Wisconsin Conference and all the constituents for the trust they have placed in me. By God’s grace, we will reap a blessed harvest as we prepare for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”