

## Why We Chose WA

**A**s a recently retired teacher of 27 years, education is very important for me and my family. Having been raised outside the Seventh-day Adventist church, I went to public schools. But my wife Madelene, grew up in the church, and went to Adventist schools all through college.

We have two children: Ysabella a 10th grader at Wisconsin Academy, and Stevie a 7th grader at Alpine Christian School in Rockford, Illinois. When Ysabella was in about 5th grade we began searching all over the country and praying which academy we would send her to. We visited Weimar Academy in California, Heritage & Laurelbrook academies in Tennessee; Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Georgia, and a few more. They all had their strengths and perhaps weaknesses. Ysabella had us at least look at Wisconsin Academy as well.

We had marked WA off our list because we thought we were moving after my retirement, and we were strongly looking to move closer to one of Madelene's siblings in Florida or California. But the Lord closed job opportunities for my wife and the more we looked at WA the more we liked it. Mr. Dunder, the school principal was encouraging to talk to. He explained how the school was doing its best to move into a Christ-centered spiritual direction. This was most important to us. For me, academics are secondary to the mission of the school. The main mission is to train our young people to be servants and followers of Jesus in preparing this world for Christ's soon coming. And this is the direction I



**Mr. Hamann, a retired elementary and special needs educator, serves as an elder and teen Sabbath School teacher in the Monroe church. His wife, Madelene, a Nurse Practitioner, serves the church teaching adult Sabbath School. They have two children, Ysabella and Stephen.**

see WA is going. So we enrolled Ysabella in WA as a freshman in 2016.

While no school is perfect, we observed some pretty wonderful things. There were four weeks of prayer which I think is great. The more the students can hear the gospel and people's testimonies the more they can see Jesus at work in other's lives. And hopefully they too will believe fully in Jesus. WA has a long term commitment to missions, and this year they will be going to the Philippines of which my daughter is planning on going. Young SDA's have told me that mission trips have a powerful impact on them for good. They see Jesus' love in action on these trips.

Another thing that stood out right off the bat about WA was when I went in to work out our financial plan with the business manager. Mr. Owiti opened up in prayer with me. I also had the chance to pray with some of the other teachers and administrators this past year. Students always smiled at me, talked with me, and opened doors. I loved the atmosphere on the campus and in the dorms. We got to know the girls dean, Mrs. Wamack, and love how she treats the girls with Christ-like care and concern. We pray with her whenever we visit the campus. Her job is to be the mother of these girls while they are away from home, and the same goes for the boys' dean as the father figure

Continued on page 8



## From the President's Desk

### We Need Spotters

One of my favorite places in academy was the gym. I spent hundreds of hours there during my academy years doing gymnastics. Springing, flipping and twisting on the trampoline brought a thrill to many, many hours. When on the trampoline I was always thankful for the spotters who attentively stood next to the trampoline and if I landed wrong the spotter was there, and would sacrifice his/her body to protect me from injuring myself if I bounced off the trampoline. I know many times I avoided serious injury because of their dedication.

I believe that our church needs spotters; people who care enough to go out of their way, giving of their time and energy to protect those who land wrong and could easily "bounce out" of the church. The landing wrong of a health or family crisis, a major disappointment or job loss, a betrayal by a friend, or a spouse who walks out of a marriage. Each of these could easily cause someone to exit the church, unless one or more people are there as spotters to keep them from serious injury.

Elder Mark Finley shared recently that in his studies he has found that it is essential for a person to have seven friends in the church if they are to remain in the church. He continued to say that if they have five friends it is likely that they will stay, but with less than five it is unlikely that a person will continue as a part of the church.

Often we think of the church as a place of worship. But it is more than that. It is a place where people should know by our love that they belong. It is more than welcoming people to church at the door, or from the pulpit. It is getting to know others in the church, having them in your home for fellowship and food, being a "safe place" for them to share their joys and challenges.

Jesus told us that the identifying mark of His disciples is that we love one another. That love is a willingness to "sacrifice ourselves" our time, our attention, so that we "catch" people when they land wrong and catch them before they bounce out of the church, and prevent a person from experiencing the pain of loneliness, lack of care, and helplessness.

My challenge to myself and to you is to become a spotter, not to spot people's faults and weaknesses, but to catch people in the embrace of love so they continue their connection to Jesus, and to His church.

Wisconsin Conference President



Mike Edge in gymnastics being held up by a fellow gymnastics classmate at Laurelwood Academy in 1970.

**EDITOR**  
Juanita Edge  
jedge@wi.adventist.org  
920.484.6555

**ASST. to EDITOR**  
Deidra Roat  
droat@wi.adventist.org  
920.484.6555

### The President's Sabbath Schedule

#### November

- 11 Milwaukee North Hispanic
- 18 Wautoma Hispanic
- 25 Vacation

#### December

- 9 Rice Lake
- 16 Oxford
- 23 Vacation
- 30 Vacation

#### January

- 13 LUC Presidents' Retreat
- 27 Men's Conference

#### February

- 3 Conference Office Retreat

To request speaking appointments contact Mike Edge at [mgedge@wi.adventist.org](mailto:mgedge@wi.adventist.org).

### Corin of Milwaukee Central Helps Make Quilt for Hospice Patient



Corin Bacchus, a seven-year-old member of Milwaukee Central church, attended a "quiltathon" one Sunday with his mother, where several ladies of the congregation gathered to make prayer quilts of comfort for church members in serious crisis.

He brought his very own sewing machine, and since his level of expertise is fairly elementary, I suggested he make blocks for a smaller hospice quilt.

He took his task quite seriously, and carefully set about making 20 blocks, enough for a regular size quilt top for some very ill hospice patient.

He was such a blessing to us all with his sweet attitude, his tender heart, his intense concentration, and he just made our day! I am certain the recipient will be blessed as well. I know God looked down and smiled.

Kathy Freeman  
Milwaukee Central Church

### Expand the Quality of Education in Wisconsin Conference

*A report from the International Academy of Education concluded that the key to improving teaching was ensuring that educators "participate in a professional learning community that is focused on becoming responsive to students."*

There has been an emphasis on using intensive supervision and evaluation of teachers to improve student performance. It appears that this will improve schools; after all, research shows that student success is connected to quality teaching. Here is the irony; three of four teachers report that their evaluation process has virtually no impact on their classroom practice (Duffett, Farkas, Rotherham, & Silva, 2008).

The case can be made that more good teaching in the classroom leads to more good learning. One way to achieve this success is through Professional Learning Communities, PLC's. Our report from the International Academy of Education (Timperley, 2008) concluded that the key to improving teaching was ensuring educators "participate in a professional learning community that is focused on becoming responsive to students."

We have given study to a variety of methods to improve teacher instruction and student success in our schools. Here are some initiatives we have taken to help students succeed.

Literacy teachers have formed a team, using research based assessments to evaluate all aspects of literacy skills of our elementary students. This three year project will provide teachers with trends and inform our teachers as they work in PLCs. Small groups of teachers are meeting to determine the needs of their students. They are researching teaching methods, and implementing strategies followed with assessment to determine the effectiveness of the strategies. Diagnostic and mastery online math programs are being used to assist students with understanding math concepts and improving math skills.

Wisconsin Academy has created a new computer lab called Student Success Center. Through the use of diagnostic software, instructional math and reading programs, students have the opportunity to strengthen their academic performance. These resources also provide students the opportunity for advanced learning.

Teachers are piloting the new Bible curriculum called Bible Encounter. It is a well planned and organized curriculum using effective strategies for student learning and understanding. It has quickly become students' favorite class. This is more evidence that quality teaching strategies produce enthusiasm for learning.

Thanks to a professional team of teachers researching online resources, reading professional books, developing assessment tools and implementing effective strategies we can be assured students will receive a quality Adventist education.



Linda Rosen  
Education Superintendent

## Conference Apology

At our June camp meeting this year two of our pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry. Some may have noticed that the daughter of one of the pastors received a gift Bible, and the two sons of the other did not. This was not an intentional slight. We were not aware ahead of time that the sons would be attending the service, since they live in another state. Immediately after the service we apologized to the pastor and his two sons, and offered them the opportunity to get gift Bibles of their choice at the ABC. They accepted our apologies and the boys are enjoying their gift Bibles. We apologize to you, our conference family, for this oversight, and any pain this has caused.

I am saddened that an honest mistake may have caused some to believe that we are less than respectful of those from a different background. I am saddened that not only has it caused some to believe less in the leadership of the conference, but that it may

have also led some to feel that our church family may hold prejudicial views.

We are blessed with a wonderfully diverse conference. We have pastors and teachers who come from all parts of the world, and a membership that represents many cultural and racial backgrounds. This diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and experiences brings us strength and richness, and is a foretaste of what heaven will be like.

I want to apologize for actions that have hurt the reputation of the conference and ask for your forgiveness. I also want to assure you that I, as the president of the Wisconsin Conference, love, appreciate, and value those of every culture, and will seek to provide leadership that demonstrates and promotes that respect.

I pray that God will bring understanding and healing, and that together we can represent Jesus clearly so that many will be brought to Him.

Michael Edge  
Wisconsin Conference President

## Business Manager for Milwaukee School



Jaren Humphreys is the new Business Manager at Milwaukee Adventist school. Jaren graduated from Southern Adventist

University in 2016 with a Business Administration degree. He has spent the past year working in Maryland. Jaren likes to cook. He said, "Once I see some prepared food, I can generally recreate it in the kitchen." Jaren is an avid reader, and loves to play tennis and racket-ball. "I am super glad to be here," said Jaren. "I love Adventist education and believe in it whole heartedly! I'm enjoying the warm welcome Wisconsin is giving me."

that day and came to support their sister group. It was a high Sabbath.

Church planting is alive and well in Wisconsin. Join me in praying for the Wautoma Church plant as well as each of the other church plants in Wisconsin. It is a blessing to see God working in large and small towns alike around our conference. Until He comes again, we'll keep doing all we can to spread the gospel.



Adam Case  
Ministerial Director

## New Conference Health Ministries Coordinator



Karen Flanagan, a recently retired Registered Nurse, has agreed to serve as our new Wisconsin Conference Health Ministries Coordinator.

A member of the Madison East church, Karen has served as the local church health ministries leader for several years. She has been involved in the leadership of several conference-wide outreach programs such as the Adventist Health Expo at Monona Terrace and at camp meeting, blood draws, and was a key team member in the recent Free Dental Clinic held in Marshfield earlier this year.

"I look forward to being a resource for the Health Ministry leaders in the Wisconsin Conference by encouraging and supporting them with health education in their churches and communities," said Karen.

In her free time, Karen enjoys spending time with family, helping others, and walking. She and her husband, Dan, have three children and four grandchildren.

## Jeanmark A'Kessler New Rhinelander Pastor



Pastor A'Kessler is finishing his seminary training at Andrews and will begin pastoring the Rhinelander District in January. Jeanmark completed his double major undergraduate work at Andrews earning a BA in Theology, and a BS in Speech Language Pathology and Otology.

Raised in southern Ohio, Jeanmark attended Mt. Vernon Academy. During his senior year he prayed God would direct him as to what profession to pursue, and Theology was the clear answer. Since then God has guided him with reassuring evidence that this was the direction for his life. He says, "Being asked to become part of the cool Wisconsin team was one of those evidences."

Jeanmark is married to Abigail, a recent Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate. In his free time Jeanmark enjoys graphic design, visiting with friends, racket-ball and bike riding. "I'm really thankful to be a part of the Wisconsin Conference," says Jeanmark. "We appreciate the family dynamic here, and look forward to serving the churches."

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

It is a beautiful time of the year, and school is once again in full swing. We are happy to have just under 400 students attending our Adventist schools in Wisconsin. Evangelism is also under way in many of our churches.

As we look at our tithe through September, we are showing a gain of 1.00% (\$46,849) YTD. Expenses have been tracking within or just under budget through September leaving us slightly ahead of budget. We are thankful for this however; we are anticipating lower income this year because the calendar is giving us one less Sabbath than last. We are continuing to look for ways to operate more efficiently as rising costs in healthcare and pensions continue to be a challenge.

The Wisconsin Budget offering that is taken every fourth Sabbath in our churches is a vital source of both evangelism funds and education funding for Wisconsin Academy. Currently year to date our Wisconsin budget offering is down a little over 6% for 2017. Please prayerfully consider regularly contributing to this most important offering. Keep in mind that this offering stays 100% in Wisconsin Conference and benefits not only Wisconsin Academy and Evangelism, but Wakonda and camp meeting as well.

God has given us His promise in Malachi 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try me now, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it."

Thank you for your continued support of our conference and its mission. May God continue to bless as we seek to educate our young people and spread God's word in our communities.



Brian Stephan  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

## A Place to Worship

Recently I had the honor of being the guest speaker for the grand opening of the Wautoma SDA Church. After having met some of the leaders who shared with me some key details about their small group, I was excited to come and have a cozy worship experience with the handful of members who would be in attendance.

Pulling into the driveway, I immediately realized that this church plant wasn't going to meet my preconceived ideas. Instead of finding a tiny group worshipping, I pulled into a parking lot that had over thirty cars.

The church itself had obviously been around for a good number of years. But it quickly became evident that the members of this growing church plant had been dedicating their blood, sweat, and tears into remodeling. It was coming along very nicely.

*It was an exciting Sabbath, reminiscent of what church might have been like seventy-five or a hundred years ago.*

As it came time for the service, people crowded into the sanctuary which quickly became standing room only. The deacons moved around the room opening the windows and then began to set up chairs on the grass outside each window.

When it was time for me to preach, as I stood on the platform, I could see out each window, into the eyes of those sitting outside. There was no PA system that day and it felt like an old time camp meeting.

There were a whole lot of people! I learned the Wautoma Church Plant was comprised of both an English and Hispanic group. The mother church, Almond, also closed down

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2017	2016	% Change
September Tithe Income:	\$546,114	\$496,020	10.10%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$4,740,403 (39 wks)	\$4,693,554 (39 wks)	1.0%
September Wisconsin Budget:	\$22,144	\$20,813	8.39%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$197,207 (39 wks)	\$211,528 (39 wks)	-6.77%



from the principal's desk

## We Shall Return!

### Excitement Builds for 2nd Mission Project to the Philippines

On March 11, 1942, at the height of World War II, General Douglas MacArthur was forced to flee the Philippines following the Japanese invasion. Determined that the invading force would be driven out, he left with the promise, "I shall return." As we know, he did return, and the Philippines was eventually liberated.

Like MacArthur, Wisconsin Academy will be returning to the Philippines this spring to build a church, conduct a medical clinic, hold evangelistic meetings, and work with the children in the small community of Bonongan on the island of Culion. Roughly 25 students

plus staff will be leaving for the Philippines on March 6 and will return on March 22. Plans are in motion and it is exciting to see God lead!

Two years ago, Wisconsin Academy students and staff traveled to the small community of Marcilla on the island of Busuanga. Our team of 32 conducted a medical clinic, a dental clinic, a vacation Bible school, an evangelistic campaign, and built a beautiful church that seats roughly 150. Over fifty new believers were baptized, and many of our students left with a new understanding of service and God's plan for their lives. As we left, we too promised, "We shall return."



Mickel Arce ('17) helps build a cement block wall on Marcilla church during our 2016 mission project.



The church we built two years ago in Marcilla hosts a thriving congregation of Adventist believers.

Two years have passed. With the local labor of church members and funding from the money the students raised, the church is now completed and the time has come to prepare for our return.

The Seventh-day Adventist members in the village of Bonongan currently worship in a small shelter that needs to be replaced with a larger solid structure. Working together with the local church members, we will build a cement block church that will allow for growth.

We are also planning to be involved in community development. We are hiring local lay Bible workers to begin visiting homes and conducting Bible studies in and around Bonongan in preparation for the evangelistic campaign. Local medical professionals are already planning to join us as well.

Each of the 25 students planning to go needs to raise \$1,800 which will cover both airfare and project expenses. We are also fundraising for the church building. If you would like to support this project and help your brothers and sisters in the Philippines be prepared for Jesus' return, please partner with us. To support this project, make checks payable to Wisconsin Academy, and write International Mission Project (IMP) on the memo line. Mail your tax-deductible gift to:

**Wisconsin Academy**  
Office of Development  
N2355 Du Borg Rd  
Columbus, WI 53925

May God richly bless you!



The Adventist congregation in Bonongan wait for a permanent structure that will meet their needs.

## Two Juniors Speak for Week of Prayer



The Holy Spirit has been moving in a special way through two of our students as they have shared the Word of God during our first Week of Prayer. Each morning, Laura, a junior, has been speaking about building and maintaining healthy relationships with one another. In the evenings, Josué, also a junior, has preached about building and maintaining a fulfilling relationship with Jesus.

Students and staff have expressed how much they have appreciated the presentations. One group of guys in the men's dorm has been meeting every morning to pray for one another and to encourage one another in their devotional life. On Friday evening, over 40 students responded to Josué's appeal to spend time with Jesus every morning.

## Students Serve Columbus Area



On a recent Sunday, students made an impact on their community by helping with five separate projects under the leadership of outreach coordinator David Kabanje.

Two groups removed litter from Highway 16, including the segment adopted by the Wisconsin Academy Student Association. Another group of students raked leaves, picked up black walnuts, and mowed the lawn for a community family. Students also helped out at the Lighthouse Thrift Store relocating bookshelves, sorting donations, and hauling junk wood to the burn pile. Students helped clean homes for several elderly families as well as trimming weeds, removing brush, and cleaning stalls for a horse therapy ranch.

## WAY Team Visits Monroe SDA Church



Students in the WAY (Wisconsin Academy Youth) team recently had the privilege of sharing a worship service with the members of the Monroe Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Students led out in nearly every aspect of the service. J.P., a freshman, and Perla, a Junior, shared short sermonettes focusing on the power of God to transform our lives. We enjoyed a delicious potluck with the Monroe church family and spent some time at the Hamann's home before heading north once again.

With the WAY Team, we are privileged to be able to worship with Adventists across the state. Thank you, again, Monroe!

## Highlights from First Quarter in Pictures



Pastor Jonathan Fetrick greets a student on the first Sabbath of the school year. After Sabbath School, members of the Wisconsin Academy SDA Church lined the sidewalk to shake students' hands and give them a warm welcome to their church away from home.



Mr. Tyler Cantrell coaches a student in the new media lab. The lab features 12 computers equipped with the full Adobe Suite, a green screen studio with lighting and teleprompter and a soundboard donated by the General Conference. The lab is home to classes in Photoshop and Video Production.



Students enjoy the view from a rocky perch at Gibraltar Rock State Park on a Sabbath afternoon. After Sabbath lunch supper and heading out to enjoy God's creation at places like Kohler-Andrae State Park, Point Beach State Natural Area, and Horicon Marsh.



The Choralaires, under the direction of music director and WA alumnus Bruce Rasmussen, sing at the Northern District Meetings at Rice Lake. They were joined by Bellissimi Cerchi (the handbell choir) under the direction of Rosalie Rasmussen and the new WA string ensemble.

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

Return Service Requested

## Calendar of Events

### November

- 8 Pastors' Meetings
- 12 Hispanic Women's Evangelism
- 13-15 LUC Departmental Meetings
- 21-23 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 28 Board of Education
- 29 Executive Committee

### December

- 8-9 Hispanic Department Training
- 25-28 Office Closed for Christmas

### January

- 1 Office Closed for New Years
- 3-4 Pastor's Meetings
- 5-7 JAHWI
- 12-15 Winter Youth Festival
- 21 Lay Seminary
- 26-28 Men's Conference

### February

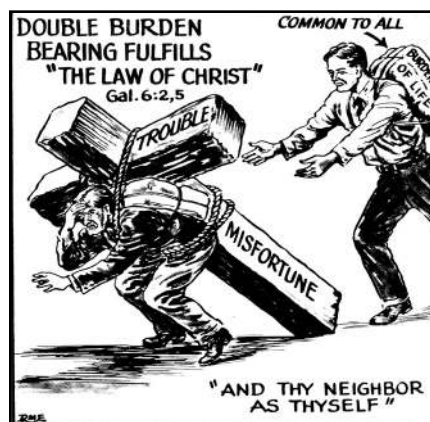
- 2-4 Lay Minister Training
- 3 Pathfinder Bible Experience
- 9-11 Public Campus Ministries
- 14 Executive Committee
- 15 Town Hall Meeting - Madison
- 16-18 LUC Youth Congress
- 19 Office Closed - President's Day
- 23-25 Hispanic Women's Ministries
- 25 Lay Seminary
- 27 Town Hall - Green Bay



**Juanita Edge** has stepped down from serving as conference Health Ministries Coordinator. She will continue her position of conference Communication Director.

**Lisa Isensee** has accepted a position with ASAP, and will no longer serve as conference Church Planting Coordinator. Isensee's currently plan to continue living in Wisconsin. Elder Adam Case, our conference Ministerial Director will now serve as Church Planting Coordinator.

**Kevin Moreno** and his wife, Amy, moved to the Seminary to complete his education. They were pastoring in the Rhinelander District.



## Why We Chose WA continued from cover

for the boys away from their homes. We consider these very important jobs, indeed. There are other teachers and staff that have made good impressions on our family but there is not enough space to list them all.

What we have come to realize is that these teachers and administrators are committed to serving our young children. They spend long hours in service whether it is during a school day or on a weekend. Some need to take a good vacation or get away over the summer but instead, they spend their time either improving their credentials or working to prepare the campus for the next term. These faculty and staff need our faithful prayers and moral support.

Make no mistake about it. I attended some good public schools where I grew up in the Chicago area. But nothing can compare to a committed Christ-centered education program. We should settle for nothing less. Our prayer is that Wisconsin Academy will continue to strive to improve in all areas, but especially in what Jesus wants. Take the world, but give our youth Jesus. I'm thankful that Wisconsin Academy is aiming to do just that.

Artie Hamann  
Monroe Adventist Church