

## Helping Restless Hearts Find a Home

October 3, 2020, was a joyous day for the Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church as they celebrated two special baptisms. Erma Riesland and Laurie Kuik were both mentored by Gloria Wilde who welcomed them into the church, became their friend, and offered them Bible studies. Both Erma and Laurie have beautiful testimonies from which we can learn that God can use each one of us to reach out to those He is leading to our churches.

Erma grew up going to church on Sunday. However, her father confided in her that he grew up Seventh-day Adventist and had two special things to tell her: that the true Sabbath was the 7th day and that dead people didn't go to heaven, they rested in their graves until Jesus returns and wakes them up. She believed this and these truths stuck with her. In adulthood, her father's last message was to look for the Seventh-day Adventist Church as it is the "true church." After her father died, twice he seemed to appear to her, but because she believed what her father told her she told the spirits to leave her and they did. She realized that the truths her father gave her protected her.

One day she was driving on Shawano Avenue (in Green Bay) and saw the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She and her husband Gary shortly began attending worship services there. They would slip in right before worship started and slip out right before it ended. They did this regularly until last December when Gloria Wilde noticed them and began to speak with them. One Sabbath, Erma told her husband that she wished she could learn more through Bible study.



Laurie Kuik (left) and Erma Riesland (center) with their mentor Gloria Wilde (right).

That very day, Gloria asked her if she wanted to do Bible studies and she feels this was an answer to prayer. This year has been a "wonderful journey of learning Bible truth" for Erma. Gloria came to her house for Bible studies until COVID-19 came and then they did Bible studies on the phone or they met in a park. Erma states that her "restless heart has finally found its church home!"

Laurie began her journey in childhood. Her parents were busy and so church members would offer her rides to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She grew up knowing the truth but didn't embrace it. Throughout the years, she would come back for different seminars and services. She even did Bible studies in her home. She would say she was ready for baptism, but then wouldn't follow through. The Holy Spirit continually worked in her

life. At one point she yelled at the Holy Spirit to leave her alone, but He didn't. On Sabbaths, she would be especially impressed of where she should be.

A promise Laurie has seen realized in her life is John 14:14, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." One night on the way home from work, she literally felt as though the devil was next to her. Chills went through her and she cried to the Lord to deliver her, and He did! Laurie also prayed to be delivered from her cigarette addiction and God delivered her again. She asked, and Jesus answered!

One day her husband, Dave, told her he would go to church with her, and when they came, Laurie met Gloria Wilde. She was happy to learn that Gloria's parents were some of the people who brought

Continued on back, page 8



## From the President's Desk

# Our God is Faithful

This article will be my last in the Lamp Letter as President of the Wisconsin Conference. Juanita and I have loved the years we have served in Wisconsin. Nine and a half years as Youth Director, and ten and a half years as Conference President, and Juanita as Communications Director. As we will be retiring and leaving Wisconsin at the end of December, we realize we are leaving many, many, friends. The friendships and the experiences we've shared in these 20 years have been a huge blessing, and will be long remembered. While we will be many miles apart, we look forward to a grand reunion in heaven, which I believe will be very soon.

During our time here we have seen Camp Wakonda flourish as a year-round facility, serving summer campers, camp meetings, and many other groups during the year. In the last 10 years we have seen over 2,000 people join our conference through baptism and profession of faith, with a net gain in membership of around 500.

I am thankful for our pastors, teachers, and church leaders as they continue to focus on evangelism. Public meetings, private in-home Bible studies, Christ-centered teachings in our schools, all are ways of leading people, young and old, to Christ and His kingdom. Our Hispanic churches continue to flourish. We have vibrant immigrant groups meeting in the Hmong and Karen languages. The "mission field" truly has moved to America.

We celebrate the working of God through His people during these years. We know that in this time of political and social uncertainty God is still in control and that exciting days are just ahead. The completion of God's work will be done by those who are totally committed to Jesus Christ, and desire to share with others the wonderful message of love and hope throughout Scripture, including the wonderful message of Jesus' soon return to redeem those who love and follow Him.

There is still a great deal of work to be done. For every Adventist in Wisconsin there are 752 Wisconsin residents who have not yet heard the Three-Angels Messages. Ellen White gives us timely counsel, "Again and again the angel has said to me, 'Press together, press together, be of one mind, of one judgment. Christ is the leader, and you are brethren: follow Him. Walk in the light as He is in the light.'" PCL 58.

Our God is faithful, and will not fail us. No matter what trial comes our way, He will be our companion, our joy, our strength, and our light. May we soon hear the words of Jesus. "Well done my faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord."

*Michael H. Edge*

Wisconsin Conference President

### The President's Sabbath Schedule

**November**

- 7 Madison Community
- 14 Chippewa Valley
- 21 Green Bay
- 28 Vacation

**December**

- 5 Rice Lake
- 12 Monroe
- 19 Oxford
- 26 Holiday



**EDITOR**  
Juanita Edge  
jedge@wi.adventist.org  
920-484-6555

**ASST. to the EDITOR**  
Laurella Case  
lcase@wi.adventist.org  
920-484-6555

# Evangelism in a COVID World

The year 2020 has been very unusual to say the least with the health crisis affecting not only the United States, but the whole world. We have experienced lock downs, closed churches, mask mandates and social distancing. Some of us have lost loved ones as the virus makes its inroads into our communities. Businesses and churches have closed down, some of them permanently.

In this unusual environment, Pastor Tom Michalski partnered with Pastor Jean Mark A’Kessler and the Tomahawk Community Seventh-day Adventist Church to attempt public evangelism. The previously mentioned concerns were just some of the issues facing the Tomahawk Church as they were deciding whether or not they would sponsor a community wide public evangelistic meeting.

Would the church be allowed to hold public meetings? Would anybody even come out to a series of public meetings under these conditions?

The church prayed for guidance and believed that the Lord wanted them to proceed and that God was going to bless them as they moved forward in faith.

The meetings began on September 10, and the church was overjoyed as they saw visitors start to enter the Tomahawk Senior Center. Tomahawk Wisconsin is a community of about 3,300 individuals, 28 of which came to these meetings.

Night after night as truth was continuing to unfold, the guests continued coming. One of the guests told Pastor Michalski, “We look forward to coming here each night. This is the highlight of our day!” As the series continued they transitioned to meeting in the Tomahawk Church and 15 guests continued attending. By series end, 13 of the guests faithfully attended and committed to continue the follow-up studies and attend church with nine already making decisions to be baptized.

Members from the Tomahawk Church, as well as members from the other churches in the district, really supported the meetings with their presence and their prayers. Even amidst all the negative things going on in our world today, God has shown this community that He is still ready to bless if we will go forward with Him in faith.

Tom Michalski, Conference Evangelist  
with Adam Case, Ministerial Director

# Pastor Justin Spady’s Ordination



Pastor Justin Spady was ordained to the gospel ministry, together with his wife Jennifer, and daughter

Katelyn, in The Shepherd’s House Seventh-day Adventist Church on Friday evening, September 25, 2020. The ordination message was presented by Pastor Carmelo Mercado, General Vice President for the Lake Union, and long-time friend and former pastor for the Spady family. The service was preceded by a light meal provided by the church.

Below is a partial testimonial written by Pastor Spady for his ordination:

*When I was a child growing up in rural Indiana, my parents and my church family taught me the eternal value of a personal relationship with Jesus. My parents, Richard and Margaret, lived a vibrant and abiding faith. I learned joy, patience, and the realization of my human frailty from the profound bonds of friendship with my brother Conor and sister Nicole and the many other friends along the way. Growing up there were pastors in my life who still inspire me to this day; Pastor Carmelo Mercado baptized me, along with my mom and siblings. God works in mysterious ways: a near-fatal illness at the age of fifteen instilled in me a deep sense of the shortness of time and the driving passion of living my life fully dedicated to the advancement of the Gospel.*

*Today is my 30th birthday. Looking back at the last three decades, I am in awe of the grace and strength our Heavenly Father has lavished on me.*

Read Pastor Spady’s complete testimony on the News & Events section of the Wisconsin Conference website, [wi.adventist.org](http://wi.adventist.org).

# Eight New Members Join Hmong Congregation



On Sabbath September 12, about 50 people gathered at Camp Wakonda to celebrate the baptism of eight new members into the Milwaukee/Madison Hmong Congregation with Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong. The rain could not dampen the spirit of rejoicing at seeing these new Seventh-day Adventists people proclaim their commitment to Jesus before all their friends. Watch for future news sharing the miracles God has worked in many of those baptized here this day.

## Mariana Acevedo Joins Milwaukee School



**M**ariana Acevedo, often called Maria, served the Milwaukee South Campus as a classroom assistant during the 2019-20 school year, and we are excited to introduce her now as the new 3rd and 4th grade teacher on campus.

Maria holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Bilingual Education, and certification in Early Childhood Education I and II. Since 2006 she has taught all subjects on many grade levels using both Spanish and English, and also piloted and directed an adult ESL Program for parents and community members.

Maria says, “I have always loved learning and sharing what I have learned, even as a small child. I love explaining things to children in a fun way and making sure they are not confused. I also try to use my past experience in dealing with life challenges to help children with their lives.”

Laurella Case  
Assistant to Communications

### Women’s Retreat

5 DVD Set by

**Dr. Hyveth Williams**

Order through your local church or online at: <https://wi.adventist.org/ministries/womens-retreat/>

## Katherine Roddy New Teacher in Milwaukee



**K**atherine (Katie) Roddy has joined the teaching staff at the Milwaukee SDA School North Campus as the 1st & 2nd grade teacher. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Adventist University with a Major in Biology and a Minor in Chemistry.

Katie recalls, “As a college student, I said I would NEVER be a teacher. God probably looked at me and smiled really big!”

After graduating from Southern Adventist University, Katie accepted a call to work at a mission school in Belize. After four years of teaching in Belize, she traveled to help out at various other schools across the globe for another year. Upon returning to the United States, Katie worked with various farmers and ranchers, but teaching always seemed to have a special place in her heart.

In January 2020, Katie accepted a call to go to a mission school in Colombia, but her plans were cut short due to world happenings. Back in the States, she had the question, “What next, God?” and says, “When you ask God to take the lead, be certain He will open doors.” It was then that she was contacted with the possibility of teaching 1st and 2nd grade in Wisconsin. She prayed and God gave her peace that He was leading in this decision.

When not in the classroom, Katie enjoys being outdoors hiking, working, running, walking, biking, or taking pictures.

Laurella Case  
Assistant to Communications

## Richland Center Celebrates Baptisms



**S**abbath September 12, 2020, members from Richland Center Church gathered at Camp Wakonda to witness three of their young men being baptized by Pastor Samuel Garbi. Praise the Lord and welcome to the family of God!

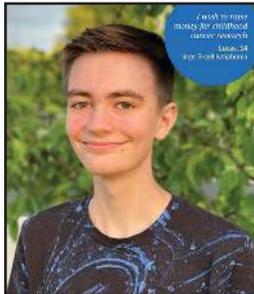
## JAHWI Celebrates 20 Years of Ministry



**J**AHWI (Jovenes Adventista Hispana de Wisconsin) which in English is Adventist Hispanic Youth of Wisconsin, just celebrated their 20 Year Anniversary! What started from a small group of young people wanting to provide a quality revival experience for our Hispanic young people, has now grown into a full and vibrant ministry that brings many young and old to Jesus in Wisconsin! JAHWI leaders take on four-year terms and it has proven to be a leadership model that works well for them. Each term they integrate leaders both young and old to create a team that brings energy, ambition, vision, and wisdom.

Eric Chavez  
Youth Director

## Wisconsin Academy Student Chooses to Use Make-a-Wish Money for Cancer Research



**F**ourteen-year-old Lucus Nelson is using his wish from Make-a-Wish to raise money for childhood cancer

research. Lucus is a Freshman student at Wisconsin Academy, and member of the Madison East Seventh-day Adventist Church. He refused to use Make-A-Wish money for himself, but asked them to help him create a fund-raiser t-shirt for childhood cancer research.

Juanita Edge  
Communication Director

**Indiana ABC is  
now serving the  
Lake Union.  
For information  
call (317) 984-5393**

## Local School Received Nathan Green Pictures



**T**his past May, Mrs. Charlyn Marsh received an email from the North American Division Education Department saying that someone was donating the new Nathan Greene series of paintings on creation to 300 schools in the NAD. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh quickly worked together to fill out the necessary paperwork to be eligible. It was first come, first served.

“We were not sure we would be one of the first 300 schools to respond, but we were hopeful,” reports Mrs. Marsh. “I was so excited when we were informed that the paintings were on the way!”

The pictures came in beautiful frames. They are a daily reminder to students that God is our Creator. They are displayed in the hallway near the school door. Stop by and check them out – they are beautiful! Thank you to Bob Sachse and Matt Schefflar for hanging them for us.

Charlyn Marsh  
Head Teacher, Hillside Christian School

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

**A**lthough this year has been very unique and challenging in many ways, I am happy to report that tithe is up 1.64% for the year after adjusting for a special gift received in January. Wisconsin budget is up a surprising 13.96% to date after adjusting for a special gift. I want to express thankfulness for your continued support of the church through this period of uncertainty we are experiencing.

We are still being very careful on spending as the financial future, for not only the country but our conference, is still very uncertain. The longer COVID lasts, the more likely there will be economic fallout. Since our reserves at the conference were well below recommended levels coming into the pandemic, it is vital for us to replenish our working capital to be able to operate thru another downturn if needed.

More concerning however, is what has happened in our churches during this time. Our best estimate is that church attendance is down approximately 40% to 50%. Sabbath School attendance is even less than that, with many Sabbath Schools either meeting by phone or online or not meeting at all. Many are suffering depression and stress from the isolation that has resulted from the pandemic. As church families it is so important to safely stay in touch with each other, even if with a phone call or outside visit.

Outreach has, of course, been affected as well. While COVID has taken away some traditional opportunities to reach out to our communities it has provided new ways as well. May God lead each of our churches to the most effective methods that will work in each community to spread the good news of a loving God and soon coming Savior.



Brian Stephan  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2020 (35 wks)	2019 (35 wks)	% Change
<b>August Tithe</b>	\$63,5764	\$60,6743	+4.78%
<b>Tithe YTD</b>	\$480,6370	\$446,5930	+7.62% **
<b>August WI Budget</b>	\$26,628	\$24,495	+8.71%
<b>WI Budget YTD</b>	\$252,479	\$174,633	+44.58% ^^

\*\*Less tithe special gift +1.64% Gain YTD  
^^Less WI Budget special gift +13.96% Gain YTD



*from the principal's desk:*

## Praying for the Latter Rain

**T**he fall season reminds us of the coming latter rain and the need for our hearts to be open to the Holy Spirit working in us preparing us for that time. Renewed dedication to share Jesus' love with our students is our staff's number one priority. We pray they will listen to the Holy Spirit working on their hearts to win them into a saving relationship with Him.

As we work together on being able to be at school we have been blessed with amazing students. We anticipated great difficulty trying to teach the new protocols, but our students are doing very well keeping their masks on, and are learning to maintain distance. We have planned different activities to keep life interesting amid the many restrictions required of us to remain safely open. Two of those activities were the concurrent senior campout and the trip for the remaining classes to Camp Sagola for a spiritual retreat. We had beautiful weather and God certainly protected us as both buses had troubles.

Students are glad to be back on campus. It looks different as we fill more than half of the chapel with our physically distanced seating, but we

are so glad to have them back with us. Here are some comments from our students regarding in-person learning: "I'd rather do in person learning because there's no distractions. I feel more encouraged to do school work with friends. There is less temptation. I love to commune with people in person." —Senior  
"It's fun and you get to be with friends. You also get help from teachers much easier because it's very hard for me to ask questions with virtual school. If it was virtual I would be tempted to use media a lot. I like how in person learning gives me structure to my days." —Freshman  
"[I enjoy being on campus] "because the dorm is fun! You get to have nice conversation with people and form strong relationships." —Senior

In this time of uncertainty for our students, we ask you to join us in praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our campus. With so many distracting events taking place in the world around us, the following advice from the book Education is a good reminder of where our hearts must be drawn.

"In its wide range of style and subjects the Bible has something to interest every mind and

appeal to every heart...Viewed in the light of this thought, every topic has a new significance. In the most simply stated truths are involved principles that are as high as heaven and that compass eternity.

"The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads' (Revelation 22:4), the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme,—man's uplifting,—the power of God, 'which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Corinthians 15:57

"He who grasps this thought has before him an infinite field for study. He has the key that will unlock to him the whole treasure house of God's word." EGW, Education pg. 125-126.

Rosalie Rasmussen, Principal  
Wisconsin Academy



## Helping the Haskells Prepare for Winter



When Jason Haskell injured his ankle this fall, it meant a halt to his plans to prepare his farm for winter. Learning of this need, Doug Show organized a service project, and on September 20, students arrived ready to help. With some quick organizing, the girls were armed with clippers and sent to clear away brush. Others began putting up the frame for the greenhouse. The rest attacked the woodpile. Some carried or carted wood to the log splitter. Others hauled the split wood to the basement. Still others were trained to stack wood. When the splitter could no longer keep up demand, Mr. Cantrell instructed students in the fine art of splitting wood by hand. WA is committed to training students to be “Fit to Serve.” Giving students practical service experiences like this is just one of the ways we are training students to be “Fit to Serve.”

## Students Receive CERT Training



September 10-12, 2020, the entire school participated in a 20-hour CERT training course facilitated by Jim and Becky Ingersoll. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. The training included hands-on practice putting out small fires, constructing splints, rescuing survivors pinned by heavy objects, tying tourniquets, carrying injured people, and many other skills. The central hands-on learning experience was an all-out simulation of tornado damage in the gym, complete with realistic looking wounds. The motto of CERT is “Doing the most good for the most people as quickly as possible.” We are happy that our student body is prepared to live out that motto in a disaster situation.

## Students Lead Sabbath School



A few Sabbaths ago, I sat in on one of our student Sabbath School groups. This was the first small group Sabbath School of the year. Our group of ten, meeting in the Bible room, had chosen to study the topic “How to Know God’s Will For Your Life” using the inVerse Bible Study Guides. This week’s leader, an enthusiastic sophomore, led a group discussion that kept us carefully investigating and talking through the relevant Bible passages. Several students said that they “really, really, liked” the study and were excited for the next Sabbath School study time. This group is one of six similar groups. Each is studying a topic or Bible book of their choice. A different student leads each week. It is our prayer that through these Sabbath School groups, students will come into direct contact with Jesus through His Word and be changed.

# Making the Dream a Reality

We know that providing your son or daughter with a Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist education involves one of the most significant investments a family will make. We’re here to help make this step as easy as possible. Here are some ways families like yours have made Adventist education a reality.

### Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)

The state of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families to cover private school tuition. Families may enroll in this program between February 3 and April 16 of each year. Contact Janine Show at (661) 800-8759.

### Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)

The state of Wisconsin provides funds to financially qualifying families living in Milwaukee to cover private school tuition. Families may enroll in this program on the 1st - 20th of any month. Janine Show at (661) 800-8759.

### Youth Education Scholarship (YES!)

YES! is a financial assistance matching program. The funds a local church gives (up to \$2,000) will be matched by W.A. and Wisconsin Conference, yielding up to \$6,000 per student (\$4,000 for non-WI churches).

[www.wisacad.org/admissions/financial-options](http://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

### November

6-8 Lay Pastors Cohort - Cancelled  
8-10 LUC Departmental Meetings  
18 Executive Committee  
22 Hisp. Women's Evang. Banquet  
25-26 Office Closed

### December

3 Pastors Meetings  
5 JAHWI Youth Rally  
23-31 Office Closed

### January

15-18 WI Winter Youth Retreat  
18 Office Closed  
22-24 Men's Retreat - POSTPONED

### February

5-7 Lay Pastors Cohort  
6 Pathfinder Bible Exper. - Area  
8 Pastors & Teachers Meeting  
12-14 Pathfinder Winter Retreat  
15 Office Closed  
17 Executive Committee  
18 Board of Education  
19-21 Public Campus Min. Retreat  
22 Education Fair  
26-28 Hisp. Women's & Children's  
Certification



**Vivianna Facundo**, is no longer serving as the 1st & 2nd grade teacher for the Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School, South Campus.

---

## Cross Connect Video on Conf. Website



**C**ross-Connect Video 2020 highlights our camp ministry during COVID19! Cross-Connect is the Wisconsin Conference initiative for integrated discipleship. The focus of the initiative is to call and develop every member – from birth to old age – to an active, growing, disciple of Jesus, and a center of influence for the kingdom of heaven.

## Cover Story Continued ...

her to church as a child. Gloria invited them over for dinner, offered Bible studies and, according to Laurie “was a true reflection of God’s love.” When Gloria was in the hospital Laurie felt impressed to visit her. Gloria told Laurie not to worry about the past, that Jesus accepts her now, and that when Jesus returns she wants to be able to talk to and see Laurie there. God has always placed special people in Laurie’s life. She states, “I am so glad Jesus never left me alone.”

Both of these testimonies show how individual people play such an important role in sharing Jesus. Erma’s story demonstrates a parent’s love and teaching can be used by the Holy Spirit even if not seen in the parent’s lifetime. Laurie’s story reveals that people’s willingness to bring her to church as a child left a lasting impression on her. In both stories Gloria’s friendship, hospitality, love, and willingness to answer the Holy Spirit’s guiding led Laurie and Erma toward Christ. We welcome Erma and Laurie into the church family, and we pray that we too can be led by the Holy Spirit to reach out in love to those around us.

Amy Moreno  
Green Bay Church Secretary and Assoc. Pastor's Wife