

For Such A Time As This

The following was previously published online for our Youth Department Blog
<https://www.wakonda.org/blogger/categories/blog>

While retrieving the mail one ordinary day in 2017, something caught my eye on the back of a magazine—a brightly-colored advertisement for a new kids’ program called Discovery Mountain. Intrigued, I told my mom, and our family began listening to it. From the very first episode, I was hooked. I loved it so much I wanted to be involved somehow. Seemingly impossible then, I had no idea what adventures were in store.

I contacted Discovery Mountain, expressing my interest. They responded that they wouldn’t need voice actors for 9-12 months. I accepted it and moved on. But after meeting Miss Jean (Boonstra) at Wisconsin campmeeting, she emailed saying they had an audition soon. I emailed back, disappointedly declining because I was unavailable on that date. Surprisingly, Miss Jean replied that they could audition me separately. I was thrilled about the opportunity, and the audition went smoothly.

However, I became less hopeful as time passed, until I woke from a peculiar dream one Wednesday morning. I had no recollection of it; I just knew in the dream I had gotten the part. I felt impressed that, “Today, I will find out whether or not I will get the part, and the answer will be Yes.” As the day passed uneventfully, so did my memory of both the dream and the impression.

After reading an acceptance letter from Discovery Mountain the next morning, I suddenly recalled my dream. The

email had come late the previous night, so it actually did arrive on Wednesday. Shaking my head in amazement, I exclaimed, “Wow, God! If my calculations are correct, You’re pretty amazing!” They were and He is.

I had been cast to play the role of Haddie (Hadassah) Bellamy, a modern-day Esther. Fascinatingly, I found the story of Esther popping up everywhere in my life. From radio programs, to songs, to memorizing Esther and Daniel for Pathfinder Bible Experience, Mordecai’s message, “for such a time as this,” was ubiquitous in my life.

Soon, my mom and I were aboard a plane bound for our destination, Loveland, Colorado, Voice of Prophecy’s Headquarters which is Discovery Mountain’s parent ministry. As we gained altitude, the anticipation and apprehensiveness also rose. Why was I, an ordinary girl, chosen to voice Haddie?

(Description in box below)

HADDIE BELLAMY

Mr. Simon’s niece, Haddie Bellamy, originally ventured into Discovery Mountain for a social media job at Bilsby Builders. She discovered that she was called to the town “for such a time as this” and exercised courageous faith much like Esther did so long ago. After that adventure, she’s learned a lot more about living for God while working at Miss Michelle’s Cafe, Trekkers, and at the camp as Activities Director. Forgiveness, kindness, serving others—she’s taken them all to heart as a dependable, compassionate helper and leader.



Anna Foll, Wisconsin Young Adult who is using her talents to bless others!



What if I couldn’t do it or the other actors didn’t like the idea of a newcomer? Worries clouded my mind as I gazed at the scattered clouds outside my window.

Then, I noticed a magnificent double rainbow in the azure expanse beneath us, seeming to accompany the plane while growing more vivid by the second. Looking closer, I realized that the shadow of our plane lay at the very center of the rainbow, encircled by resplendent colors—a promise of God’s watchcare.

The recording week went amazingly well, creating lasting memories and fortifying my faith through answered prayers and unexpected surprises. As different actors befriended me, Discovery Mountain started to feel like one big family. My heart felt like it was also in the middle of a rainbow because I knew I was following God’s will and whatever happened would be what He wanted.

Continued on Pg. 4



From the President's Desk

Modern “Waldensians”

Early in my childhood, I learned about the history of the Protestant Reformers. The stories of their faithfulness to God’s Word, in contrast with the traditions and superstitions of their times, had a remarkable impact on my young mind and directly affected my future.

My wife and I were recently able to visit different sites and locations where the sacred pages of the Reformation were written, often in the blood of the martyrs. We were most impressed by the Waldensian Valley in Northwestern Italy.

Waldensians were followers of Peter Waldo, a wealthy French merchant, who gave up his possessions and started preaching based on the authority of the Bible alone. Waldo and his followers initiated a new movement that soon came in conflict with the official church, and they had to take refuge in the mountains of Italy. They sacrificed possessions and social status for the truth’s sake, and were happy to commit to voluntary poverty and simplicity to worship the Lord freely according to their conscience.

Ellen White allocates a whole chapter in the Great Controversy to the Waldensians. Remarkably, she describes their priority to teach their children the value of true discipleship and commitment to the Word of God.

“Pure, simple, and fervent was the piety of these followers of Christ. The principles of truth they valued above houses and lands, friends, kindred, and even life itself. These principles they earnestly sought to impress upon the hearts of the young. From earliest childhood, the youth were instructed in the Scriptures and taught to regard sacredly the claims of the law of God. Copies of the Bible were rare; therefore, its precious words were committed to memory. Many

were able to repeat large portions of both the Old and the New Testament... Little children learned to look with gratitude to God as the giver of every favor and every comfort.”
GC pg. 671

Another crucial element of the Waldensians’ culture was the missionary spirit.

“They felt that God required more of them than merely to preserve the truth in its purity in their own churches; that a solemn responsibility rested upon them to let their light shine forth to those who were in darkness... ministers were trained as missionaries... Each was to serve three years in some mission field before taking charge of a church at home. This service, requiring at the outset self-denial and sacrifice, was a fitting introduction to the pastor’s life in those times that tried men’s souls. The youth who received ordination to the sacred office saw before them, not the prospect of earthly wealth and glory, but a life of toil and danger, and possibly a martyr’s fate...”
GC pg. 702

Visiting the Waldensians Valley and learning more about its dramatic history made me reflect on our call to be God’s special representatives today. In a time of moral relativism and opposition to God’s inspired Word, we are called to continue the spirit of reformers of total adherence to the Bible and unstoppable desire to share His love with people around us.

God needs modern “Waldensians” in Wisconsin - people of faith, courage, and action. You and I have the privilege and duty to continue the spirit and ministry of the reformers, allowing the Holy Spirit to purify us and enable us to use our spiritual gifts to accomplish God’s plan of salvation for those who accept it.

Titus Naftanaila
Wisconsin Conference President

President’s Sabbath Schedule

November

- 18 Portage
- 25 Milwaukee Central Hispanic

December

- 9 Rice Lake
- 16 Monroe
- 23 Beloit

January

- 13 Peru
- 27 Lena

February

- 17 Youth Congress

To request speaking appointments contact Titus Naftanaila at: titusn@wi.adventist.org

Tom Baker New Pastor for Eau Claire



We are pleased to welcome pastor Tom Baker as the new pastor for the Eau Claire District. He is coming to us from Maryland and will begin his ministry here in November of this year.

Pastor Tom has always prioritized ministry to young people, whether as an intern in Springfield, Missouri, a Conference Youth Director, a Youth Pastor, or a Senior Pastor of a single church, or in a three-church district.

His wife of 37 years, Heidi, has been his main support in helping people of all ages come to know Jesus better. Their two adult children, Chandler and Taylor, have also been a special focus and joy for them.

Pastor Tom's interests include star gazing, music, history, traveling, outdoor activities and gardening. His favorite verse is "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear." 1 John 4:18

Wakonda Work Day November 5

Tree Cutting will be the focus. Bring Safety Gear.

Work begins at 8:00am. Lunch will be provided.

Call Elgin Ziesmer to let him know you are coming
920-737-0500

Cassie Schroeder New Accountant



We are happy to welcome Cassie Schroeder as the new Accountant on the Treasury team at the Wisconsin Conference Office. Cassie has lived in Wisconsin for the past 6 and a half years after moving from Texas with her husband Roger and their three children, Bryce, Kylie and Landon. Cassie is a member of the Wisconsin Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church and has served for the past number of years as both a School Board member and as Treasurer at Petersen Adventist School in Columbus, WI.

Youth Evangelism Brings Baptisms



On Sabbath August 20, 2023, the West Milwaukee Adventist Church ended their Youth Evangelism week entitled "Decide for Jesus" with guest evangelist Pastor Eduardo Tuyub. On this high day eight precious people were baptized for the glory of God!

In the morning, four people were baptized in the West Milwaukee church and in the afternoon four more joined their lives with Jesus in the warm waters of Lake Michigan.

Cristofe Guzman
Sheboygan Hispanic District Pastor

Building Our Future

Work has begun on the old Medical/Store building! We are grateful for those who came before us that shared the vision for ministry at Camp Wakonda!

God has blessed us with the ability to continue that ministry with a new and updated facility! Through your faithfulness we have raised just over 30% of our current goal! Thank you for your continued support of this project!

See more pictures at: <https://wi.adventist.org/wakonda/work-begins/>



Together, with God's blessing, we can build our future!

Cover Story Continued

Fast forward to 2019, when Miss Jean cast Haddie in some mini-episodes. Being unable to return to Loveland, Program Director Doug, together with my sister, made it possible to record from my home studio. With much prayer, googling, and perseverance, I became one of the first to record remotely, which became a necessity for Discovery Mountain in 2020.

In 2021, I had the privilege of writing a mini episode for Discovery Mountain entitled “Adopted,” which officially aired in November 2022. Now, six years after my journey with Discovery Mountain began, I still look back in amazement at how God used an ordinary girl like me to encourage so many people’s faith, just like Esther of old. God’s not done using ordinary people to do extraordinary things “for such a time as this.”

Anna Foll
Member of the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church

Water = Life: Outdoor School Grades 5-6



Early this September, 5th and 6th grade students from across Wisconsin gathered at Camp Wakonda for their annual Outdoor School. Students enjoyed several days learning about and experimenting with water and discovering the amazing God who created it. The highlight of the event was building boats that could carry 2 students and testing their design on Sandow Lake! For the full report and pictures of the boats visit our website: <https://wi.adventist.org/education/outdoor-school/>

Called to Serve II: Master Guide Camporee



Over the weekend of August 25-27, 2023, the 2nd Master Guide Camporee for the Wisconsin Conference was held in Hancock, Wisconsin. About 70 people attended this beautiful camporee.

The guest speaker was Michel Rodríguez, Youth Director of the Gulf States Conference, who presented very relevant messages on how to rescue young people for Christ.

The weekend was filled with setting up tents, club parade, seminars, worship, singing, earning honors, marching and outdoor activities including an obstacle course!

The highlight came on Sabbath afternoon with the investiture service for 5 Master Guides along with welcoming 15 new Master Guide inductees into their respective clubs.

We thank God for allowing us to hold this great event. We also thank the Youth Department and the Hispanic Ministry of the Wisconsin Conference, as well as the pastors and clubs that gave their support in making the 2nd Master Guide Camporee a success.

Cristofe Guzman
WI Pastor and Master Guide Coordinator

Wisconsin Pastors Enjoy Reformation Tour



Tour group in front of door where Luther nailed the 95 thesis

On Sunday, September 17, a group of 58 pastors, conference workers, family members, and friends embarked on a memorable journey following in the footsteps of the early reformers.

Over the course of two weeks they visited historical sites in Rome, enjoyed the scenic Waldensian Valley, saw the site where Martin

Luther nailed the 95 thesis to the door of the church in Wittenberg, reminisced about the Adventist pioneer J.N. Andrews at a memorial to his missionary journey in Basel Switzerland, visited the site where Hus and Jerome were burned at the stake, saw the room in Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated scripture into the common language, and visited Bethlehem chapel in Prague where the reformer Jan Hus spent much of his ministry.

The group appreciated being able to visualize and bring alive history that is so familiar from re-reading The Great Controversy. The team grew closer together while enjoying the opportunity to learn from those that came before us.

Adam Case
Ministerial Director

28 Receive Disaster Response Training



On Sunday, September 17, twenty-eight individuals gathered at the Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church for training in Disaster Response hosted by the Wisconsin Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS). Representatives from 14 churches across the conference attended the seminar presented by Alice Garrett, ACS Coordinator for the state. Garrett expressed her thankfulness for the Portage Church in hosting this training and for the delicious lunch they provided.

Through the seminar, individuals received certification to be able to assist in the event of a disaster or emergency in their area. If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved, contact Alice Garrett at: agarrett@wi.adventist.org or 608-345-3883 and leave a message.

Laurella Case
Communication Coordinator

WI Teachers Attend National Convention



Wisconsin teachers recently joined thousands of other Adventist teachers across the country in attending the North American Division Teacher's Convention in Phoenix, AZ. In addition to gaining new insights and ideas to use in their classrooms they also were able to connect with old friends and meet new ones.

We are so very grateful for all our teachers and ask that you would join us in praying for them as they daily stand before their students. They not only strive to teach the basic school subjects, they strive to lead our young people into relationship with Jesus.

Thank you teachers for all you do! May God bless you, lead you and guide you as you minister to your students every day!

Laurella Case
Communication Coordinator

A Word From our Treasurer

Christian stewardship is a fundamental concept in Christian theology that emphasizes the responsible and sustainable management of resources, both material and spiritual, to honor God. It is the understanding that everything we have, including our time, talents, and possessions, ultimately belongs to God, and we are entrusted with them to use them wisely and for His purposes.

As stewards of God's abundant grace, it is our sacred duty to honor Him through responsible and purposeful management of these gifts. This season of reflection and gratitude calls us to consider the ways in which we can be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us by our Creator. We are called to be caretakers, not just of our individual blessings, but of the broader community and world.

Time, the most precious currency of our existence, is a gift that we must use with intention. Our talents, diverse and abundant, are meant to be cultivated and shared for the greater good. Our financial resources are not merely for our comfort, but instruments to uplift the less fortunate and support the work of God's Kingdom on Earth.

In the book of Proverbs, we are reminded, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10, NIV). This verse underscores the reciprocal nature of stewardship - as we honor God with our resources, He, in turn, pours out His blessings upon us.

Remember, stewardship is not about scarcity, but about abundance. It's about recognizing that God's blessings are inexhaustible, and when we use them wisely, they multiply in ways we cannot fathom.



Amir Gulzar
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

2024 Youth Department Calendar is available here: <https://www.wakonda.org/calendar>

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| | 2023 (39 wks) | 2022 (38 wks) | % Change |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| September Tithe Income: | \$633,006 | \$535,141 | 15 % |
| YTD Tithe Income: | \$6,086,308 | \$5,540,941 | 9 % |
| September WI Budget: | \$21,678 | \$19,993 | 8 % |
| YTD Wisconsin Budget: | \$208,909 | \$211,921 | -1 % |



WISCONSIN ACADEMY

Academy Development Projects

On behalf of Wisconsin Academy, I wanted to thank those of you who have been giving to support the Academy's renovation project. For those of you who may not know, we have begun a four-year project to renovate all of the buildings and grounds on campus. The donations that have come in have allowed us to start the renovations. We began with the oldest buildings on campus; the Tech Ed building and the Quonset. Tech Ed has been re-sided and we will be moving inside this year to remodel the interior. We have also started on the Quonset and it is still a work in progress. The hope is that the Quonset will be transformed by summer. Your donations have allowed us to move on to these, and other projects, this year. If you have seen the parking lot by the Administration building, you know what I mean. With the funds we have received, we will also be remodeling the Science Lab and replacing four pairs of doors in the gym this year. If you wish to see what projects are underway and which are planned, you can go to our development page at wisacad.org/development-projects. Again, I want to thank all of you who are helping make this possible.

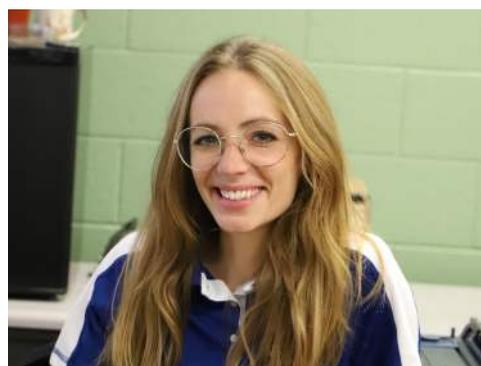


Ken Smith, Principal





We are happy to welcome back Kevin Wilkinson to W.A. He has accepted the position of Assistant Maintenance Director, and will be helping with the improvement projects on campus. Kevin was the Head Men's Dean in 2018-2019, and had a successful career in law enforcement.



LeAnne Baptist, who joined us last school year in the cafeteria, is taking on a few new roles here at Wisconsin Academy. She is the new Development Coordinator and Student Work Coordinator, as well as working with the Alumni Association. We are so blessed with her talents in these new roles.



WA. and the Acedemy Church teamed up and held an Agape Feast with Communion service in October. Students also helped lead out in the praise and worship portion of the evening. It was a wonderful to share this hallowed event.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wisconsin Academy, in partnership with the Wisconsin Youth Department, is excited to be bringing back youth rally to Wisconsin Academy. The theme is "Revive!" and we are looking forward to hearing from our speaker, Jon Remitera. Jon is a pastor in Kentucky-Tennessee conference. We will also be blessed in music and worship as a team from Andrews University will be leading the music in our worship services. The youth rally will be held on January 20

and you can register for it through our website. The next day, Sunday, January 21, we will be having our annual Academy Day. Any youth who stay over from Youth Rally for Academy Day will receive a discount on their registration fee. We encourage you to connect with us through our Facebook page or by visiting our website at www.wisacad.org for more information. We look forward to meeting with you at Wisconsin Academy on January 20 to "Revive!"

Our mission:

Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into eternity.

www.wisacad.org

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

November

2 Pastor's Meeting
3-5 Collegiate Fall Retreat
5 Wakonda Work Day
7 Board of Education
8 Executive Committee
10-11 WA Senior Dedication
19 Women's Evangelistic
Banquet, Milwaukee
22-23 Office Closed

December

9 WA Christmas Concert
25-28 Office Closed

January

1-2 Office Closed
12-15 Winterfestapalooza
19-20 Wisconsin Youth Rally
21 Academy Day @ WA

February

3 Pathfinder Area PBE
9-11 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
16-18 LUC Youth Congress
19 Office Closed
20 Board of Education
26 Pastors & Teachers Meeting
28 Executive Committee

Elder Dale Ziegele Passes Away



Church Ministries Director (thru 2000), Dale Ziegele, has recently passed away after a battle with ALS.

The memorial service will be held on Sabbath, November 18, 2023, 5pm CT livestreamed from the Meadow Glade Seventh-day Adventist Church:
<https://www.meadowglade.com/live>

Message from the family:
"Please join us in celebrating the life and ministry of Elder Z. We'd invite you to contribute to the program by emailing [1] a one-word description of Elder Z, [2] a favorite phrase that Elder Z used, or [3] another memory of how Elder Z impacted you. Contact paul@ziegeles.com with your responses or questions."

Condolence may be sent to:
Judy Ziegele
2217 NE 179th Street Unit 43
Ridgefield, WA 98642
jziegele@gmail.com



- Anayancy Hopkins is a new teacher for grades 3-6 at Green Bay Adventist Jr. Academy.
- Talia Oeftger is the new teacher for grades 3-4 at Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School, North Campus.
- Jacie Reagan is serving as Principal for Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School.
- Valerie Ziesmer is a new teacher for grades K-8 at Petersen Adventist School.

Monthly eNewsletter

Receive conference news monthly! Simply share your email address with the communication department at: lcase@wi.adventist.org, or call us at 920-484-6555, ext. 319.

EDITOR
Laurella Case
lcase@wi.adventist.org
920.484.6555 x 319