

## Hope For Wisconsin Reports

Hope for Wisconsin was the official name for the largest evangelistic outreach in recent memory by the Adventist Church in Wisconsin. Internally, the meetings were known as "Operation Noah" or "Milwaukee Storm". What we now know is that over 50 meetings, some by professional evangelists, some by pastors and lay leaders, were conducted in Southeast Wisconsin in the late summer and early autumn of 2009. And the results are fantastic! We will publish approximate totals in the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of 2010 as the reports are turned in.

Initial Reports:

**Waukesha and Watertown: Evangelists Patti Cohen and Richard Habenicht:** Pastor John Glass reports "We have 13 committed to be baptized at Waukesha; the spirit in the church is very good. We have 1 so far in Watertown; she isn't sure whether by *profession of faith* or *baptism* yet. In Watertown tonight, there were 20 with 5 guests that are attending as well. The church is also experiencing a renewal."

**Spanish Campaigns: Evangelist Evelio Miranda** reports, "Last Sabbath, October 17, I finished my third Evangelistic Campaign, Green Bay Spanish, Milwaukee Central and Sheboygan Spanish Church, Praise be the Lord! In Green Bay, 8 new members were baptized and 5 more are getting ready to do so.

Milwaukee Central Hispanic already had 28 baptisms in the Hope

for Wisconsin Evangelistic campaign - new visitors came and enjoyed the meetings and many of them are now in a process of getting Bible studies. After the end of the meetings, two more were baptized.



*Rob and Nettie Walentowski prepare to solemnize their commitment to Jesus in Baptism in the Raymond Church on October 21, 2009*

In Sheboygan Spanish we had an average of 16 visitors and up to 26 and 33 some nights. At the end of the meetings, 8 were baptized and 7 more are in preparation.

**Maranatha Spanish in Greenfield: Evangelist Armando Camacho** reports: "The "Hope for Wisconsin" crusade at the Maranatha Spanish Church in Greenfield is now officially completed. Today was a high Sabbath as we witnessed 7 individuals baptized!

**Fort Atkinson/Oakland: Evangelist Bill Ochs** had 35 in attendance with 10 non-SDA's. He reports: "We're having good meetings in Oakland. We have 8 good

interests coming - The members are supporting. They're great folks. I have had 5, (7 if you count the young people coming) consistent interests since night number 3. Three individuals have indicated they want to be baptized. I am claiming our Heavenly Father's promise that He will do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ever ask or imagine. We finish this weekend and I'm planning a baptism November 7."

**Milwaukee NW: Evangelist Dennis Ross Jr.:** Pastor Adam Case reports, "We baptized 21 people today, or will have by the time the day is over. We had 17 first time baptisms, 3 rebaptisms, and then tonight we will be baptizing one more first timer. So 21 in all for today. . . . We closed out last night in Milwaukee and had a great day. All told we baptized 30 people during the series. Four of those were rebaptisms. We had a growth

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## President's Message



*Don Corkum*

The reports at the recent North American Division made me proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist. Here are some of the reasons why:

- The Hope Channel is now on the Direct TV satellite network increasing their viewership three fold.
- The Women's Ministries of the North American Division is leading out in an initiative called, "End it Now" seeking one million signatures throughout the world to present to the United Nation calling for an end to violence against women.
- 2009 has a greater baptismal growth rate than any year since 1915—about 15%. Wisconsin is a part of this evangelistic initiative in seeing over 300 baptisms to date!
- A strong initiative called Mission Lifeguard calls on churches throughout the Division to help save youth and young adults from drowning in the secular culture that they live in each day. In their rescue of youth, churches need to involve them in mission and service so they find purpose in the churches where they are members.

- A new film is being released to the public early in 2010 called, "The Adventists" by Martin Doblmeier. It will make you proud to view Adventists through the eyes of this movie producer. Featuring largely the Adventist contributions in health, Mr Doblmeier displays Adventists with respect and esteem.
- The Adventist church is concerned about its children. The new emphasis "Kids in Discipleship" helps both parents and their children to be disciplined in a Christ centered, service orientated life.
- New churches are being planted in various cultures and people groups. One emphasis is called "Simple Church" which is a house church movement. In cities, many young adults don't like the formalities of a regular church but enjoy the intimacy of a home. Thus house churches are starting to flourish.
- Wisconsin has established about 20 new church groups in the past seven years. Studies are taking place to enhance this emphasis to fulfill the commission of Christ to take the gospel to everyone everywhere (Matt 28: 19-20 and Acts 1:8). Ellen White also advocates that Adventists should have a presence in every community (6T 24). God would be honored if an Adventist presence was established in every community and people group in Wisconsin. This may be through new church plants, small groups or Adventist families moving to a new area!

World events indicate that we live amid end-time events. It also is evident the Holy Spirit is doing a special work among Adventists—His people chosen to give an end-time message to the world.

It is truly a great time to be an Adventist Christian.

*Don Corkum*

## Evangelism

Hope for Wisconsin has been the theme of this year's evangelistic outreach in our state. Over one hundred evangelistic outreaches have been planned and many of these have now taken place.

The greatest concentration of evangelism has been during the month of October in the Milwaukee area where over 20 evangelistic meetings took place. Final results are not yet recorded but it appears that over 100 baptisms have already taken place as a result of these meetings with as many as one hundred more in preparation for baptism.

How thrilling it was to visit various evangelistic sites and witness people learning about Jesus and His message for this hour. For many it was their first opportunity to hear the message and others have come previously but God spoke to them anew.

Throughout North America this has been the best year in evangelism in over 150 years as far as the percentage of growth over the previous year—15%. We praise God not so much for the statistic as for the people it represents. These new people are now a part of God's family to engage in ministry to save people for eternity. This is the most important work on the planet!

We have the privilege of engaging in evangelism every day. We don't need to wait for an evangelistic meeting. It may be sharing a tract, giving a testimony, presenting a Bible Study, or leading a small group. All of this is outreach for God's Kingdom. Some call it "evangelizing". Let's continue the evangelistic thrust of this year into 2010 and make God proud of his people in Wisconsin!

*Don Corkum*

## A Few Words from the Secretary -- Treasurer

### Wisconsin Conference "Presidential" Search Process



Roger Driver

It won't be long and March 31, 2010 will be upon us. What's so special about March 31, you ask? Well, that is the time that

Elder and Mrs. Corkum have chosen to retire. Elder Corkum dropped some hints last year at Camp Meeting. It is now official. The retirement paperwork has been submitted for review with the North American Division. Don't think for a minute that the Corkum's will be withdrawing from ministry. They will just be doing ministry somewhere else and for someone else, most likely as volunteers in the Lord's army. Many of us will be sad to see them step aside, yet the work will go forward under new leadership.

While we hate to see the Corkums leave the Wisconsin Conference, plans must be set into motion that will allow for a smooth transition for the office of President once their retirement dates arrive. The Conference Executive Committee has been made aware of the transition process. In the next few paragraphs, I will outline that process for you as constituents of this great conference.

Just like the North American Division, we will be following the steps outlined in our own Wisconsin Conference Constitution as far as the process is concerned for a "Presidential" replacement. Because of the timing of the Corkum's retirement, the constitution dictates that a new President be located and hired prior to the upcoming constituency session. The new President will be "located" according to a specific process outlined in the constitution as well.

Prior to the last constituency session, each church submitted names of individuals who would be willing to serve on the Standing Nominating Committee. Those names were placed onto ballots, and those individuals who were elected to serve this quadrennium will be the ones asked to meet with the Conference Executive Committee to begin the search process for our next Conference President. Those meetings will take place on the dates outlined below. Reminder letters have already been sent to the individuals voted in at the last session. If any of those elected persons have moved away, the Executive Committee has the authority to fill those vacancies with unelected names from the prior session that were submitted for the same region of the conference.

On Wednesday, January 6, 2010, the President of the Lake Union Conference, Elder Don Livesay, will be calling together the members of the Conference Executive Committee as well as the members of the Conference Standing Nominating Committee for the express purpose of beginning the search process. Elder Livesay will be the Chairperson for each of the meetings held by this search group. Two meetings have already been scheduled by Elder Livesay, with a third meeting placed on the calendar just in case it is needed. The second meeting will be held on January 24, 2010 while the third is scheduled to be held February 17, 2010.

Elder Livesay views this search process as a very, very serious one. He will be leading the search group through a couple of hours of Bible Study, in order to get the group in tune with the Holy Spirit's leading. The group will then transition into a segment where Elder Livesay will lead in a discussion of what a leader ought to be, and what

qualities a good leader will possess.

The group will then consider the qualities they would like their new Conference President to possess. Elder Livesay will assist the group as they discuss each name that has been submitted and measure them against the criteria that will have been formulated through the group's discussion. With lots of prayerful thought, ballots will be cast and three or four names will rise to the top of the list.

The individuals whose names appear on the short list will then go through a process of reference checking. The Lake Union Conference Officers' will certainly lead out in this portion of the process. However, they will welcome assistance from members of either of the search group committees.

By the time the search group meets for the second time, the Holy Spirit will have led them to their final choice for president. Once that choice has been voted by the search group, that individual will be contacted and asked to consider a call to the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

If the first person contacted declines the call, the search group will move to other names on the short list. The second individual will be contacted, etc... and the process will be repeated. We solicit your prayers now and throughout this search process.

When the search process has been completed, and a new president has accepted our call, you can be assured that the Holy Spirit will have led every step of the way and the Lord will have provided the best person possible to guide the conference in the future. A future that is bright and filled with promise and hope! A future that Heaven will bless!

Roger L Driver



### **EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT WISCONSIN ACADEMY...**

The construction of the girls' dormitory is progressing very well. The roof is on, the shingles are on, the brick work on the exterior is complete. The siding is partially up and moving along very well. The interior work is also showing exciting progress. The electricians and plumbers are moving along very quickly. A good share of the duct work is in place and a small portion of the sheetrock is going up. We praise God every day for the good weather as well as the speed and efficiency of the work crews.

**November 4**, students distributed 950 grocery bags to homes in the cities of Columbus and Fall River. On Sabbath, November 7, those bags were collected, filled with dry goods for the Food Pantry which serves both cities. The shelves are overflowing and many families will be fed because of the service the students and staff provided.

**November 18 – 21** will be Week of Prayer on campus. Chelsy Jourdan, Youth Evangelism Coordinator for GYC will be our speaker. She is an enthusiastic young lady who has devoted her life to serving Jesus and sharing Him with others, particularly young people. We are anxious for her to come and share with us.



*Understanding the gift*

**Thanksgiving Vacation** begins at noon on November 24. Classes resume on November 30.

**December 4 and 5** is Senior Dedication Weekend. Elder Buell Fogg, Assistant to the President at Union College, will be our guest speaker both Friday night and Sabbath morning.

Saturday evening the senior class will perform the play, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." It will be performed in the chapel and there will be an admission charge. Profits go for the senior mission trip. Come enjoy a weekend of celebration and enjoyment.

Prior to the play, Andrews University will have staff on campus helping students complete their FAFSA forms (application for aid). Parents may want to talk with the representatives also.



*WA Choir 2009-2010*

**December 13** the students will enjoy a **Christmas banquet** with the theme of "A Black Tie Affair." Banquets provide an opportunity to dress-up and enjoy special food and entertainment.

**December 19** the music department will perform their **annual Christmas concert**. Following the concert, parents will take their students home for the Christmas vacation. Come enjoy great music and the enthusiasm of the students.

**Christmas Vacation** begins December 19 after the concert and classes resume on January 4.

**First semester ends** January 15. Second semester begins January 18, 2010.

*Lois Bowers*

### **Dorm Project**

Excitement is building as every day shows new progress on the new Girl's Dormitory at WA. At present the siding is going on the exterior and the brick work has already been completed. Many sub-trades



*Girl's Dorm as of November 12, 2009*

including heating, electrical, plumbing, insulating and dry-walling are working cooperatively to have this dorm completed as soon as possible. The date of completion is not possible to project but many feel the project is one month ahead of the boy's dorm which opened in mid-March of this year.

The girls are to be commended for their patience and cooperation with this project. They have temporary rooms arranged to meet the transition need. Few complaints have been heard as they await the completion of their new dorm. There is a good spirit on campus and we praise God for a good school year.

We do have a challenge with the dorm project and that is funding. The dorm is going up fast and the funds are coming in slowly. This will mean funds will have to be borrowed temporarily to complete the project. The project is still short \$165,000 and not many new commitments are being made. On December 26 in all churches in the Wisconsin Conference, an "over the top" offering is planned. If every family in attendance would give \$100.00 beyond their current

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commitment we would be over the top. We could praise God at the end of the year for a funded project.

In addition to the \$165,000 in new commitments that are needed, it is important that everyone who made commitments previously fulfill them. This is important to getting funds to complete our project.

When we all pull together to complete the project, it is amazing what can be accomplished. Remember, Together with God and each other—We Can.

*Don Corkum*

### **Enrollment**

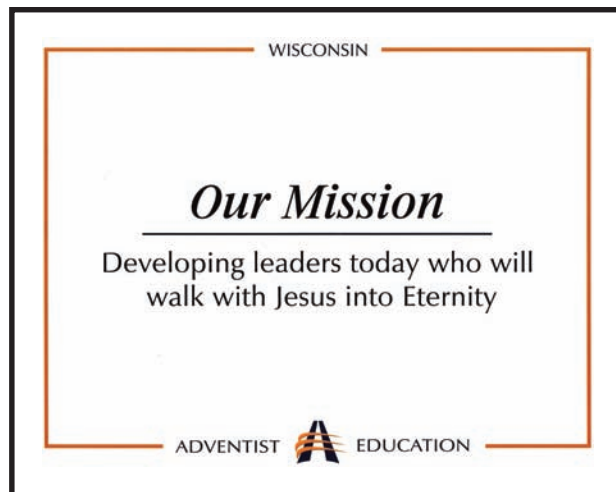
While the K-10 enrollment has remained stable the academy enrollment has been climbing steadily. We started the year with 92 students at WA but at the present time we have 98. It is wonderful to note that we have more girls this year even though they are having to live in rather spartan conditions until the new girl dorm is complete.

*Ken Kirkham*

### **Educational Fair Postponed**

The Educational Fair scheduled for November 1, had to be postponed. Medical protocol required that if any school has active cases of H1N1 Flu at the time of the event they must be excluded. If we had gone ahead with the date over ½ of our students would have not been allowed to come. A new date for this event will be set as soon as we are able to do so.

*Ken Kirkham*



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goal this year for the church of 10 percent. The baptisms of this series with the previous baptisms this year have seen our church grow almost 18%.”

#### **Racine: Evangelist Eddie Allen:**

“We had our first two baptisms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> night of the meetings! Saturday, October 17, 2009 Carlos reports 11 were ready for baptism so far. Lift up your eyes, because the fields are white...” Pastor Carlos Ancheta

#### **Raymond: Evangelist James**

**Fox.** “We opened with about 4 interests with a regular attendance of 20-40 people with faithful support by the Church family. During the appeal on October 17, over 30

gave their hearts to Jesus. As of October 24, 5 have been baptized or been accepted on the Profession of their Faith. We have two more coming in the near future by the Profession of their Faith. Praise the Lord.”

#### **Sheboygan: Evangelist Wes**

**McDonald.** Pastor Adam Case reports, “Sheboygan is looking up. We have about a dozen who have made a commitment to be baptized. We had our first baptism this Sabbath. Next Sabbath is the conclusion of our meetings and I continue to pray for God to work a miracle in Sheboygan. We could have as many as a dozen baptized next Sabbath.”

And there are so many more reports! There is a breathless quality to them – it is as if the workers are running as fast as they can to try to keep up with the Holy Spirit. The results continue to pour in to the glory of God.

Would you like to experience the joy of seeing new people embracing Jesus in your Church? There is still **Hope for Wisconsin** in 2010 – contact your pastor about scheduling harvest evangelistic meetings in your church and be a part of Jesus’ work of seeking and saving the lost.

*James Fox*

## God of the Impossible - Hope for Wisconsin

We serve a God of the Impossible **and** the unusual.

The church in North America is growing at a rate of 2% - it would be easy to suggest that a growth rate of 10% or more was not possible. When the churches in my district took on the challenge of growing, I was excited and a little apprehensive. My prayers were something like this, "Dear God, I know there is likely nothing I can do to make these churches grow, and I don't know how you are going to make them grow, but please use us to reach your community, your people, your children."

We were praying to see our churches grow and by 10% or more. We wanted to see our sanctuaries bulging with new friends and family members.

We began preparing for Hope For Wisconsin. We did our best to get ready for what God was going to do. Our major emphasis was the city-wide meetings that took place during the month of October. Evangelists and bible workers came in from across the country. Advertising like South Eastern Wisconsin has never seen before blanketed the city. We were prepared for "standing room only" at our meetings.

Opening night arrived. The evangelist was dressed and ready, the registration table was nicely decorated. The projector was shining our logo on the screen. It was time for Hope For Wisconsin to begin.

After our prayers for a large harvest, thousands of dollars of advertising, and big plans, something disappointing happened - instead of standing room only, the sanctuaries were less than half full, maybe even only a quarter full.

At the end of the first week, attendance remained steady but low. I remember praying to God, "Lord we've done everything we can, and yet the numbers aren't here. Our

friends, family, and neighbors just didn't come." I didn't know if we were going to reach our growth goal for the year, but I knew at this point that if we did, it really was going to be a miracle.

- From our advertising, we were expecting a minimum of 120 visitors (closer to 300) on opening night
- On opening night we had about 55 visitors in my district

Evangelists will tell you that it is



*Some of the 30 people baptized in Milwaukee Northwest*

reasonable to baptize approximately 10% of those attending on opening night. For my district that would be about 5.5 people who we should expect to baptize. That is far short of the 32 that my district has as their growth goal. Many hearts were heavy.

I can't explain what happened next. Sermons were preached, people were loved, and most of all the Holy Spirit was working. As of the writing of this article, we have had 35 baptisms as a result of Hope For Wisconsin. There are more who have decided for baptism this coming Sabbath. Baptism totals for the year in my district are currently at 41 and look like they will be over 45 for the year. I am astounded at what God has done. We prayed for an impossible goal. If you would have asked me three or four weeks ago if it was achievable I would have told you, that I couldn't see a way that it could be fulfilled. I am so amazed at what God has done. Not only did God

use us to **reach** our goal, but He **surpassed** it. Our district needed 32 baptisms to see 10% growth, instead we are going to have about 45 new members which will be over 12% growth.

I am thankful for the work of my church leaders. I appreciate the help and support of the congregations. My wife will attest to the fact that I also put in some long hours. But this was made possible by God's blessing. I couldn't have done this, we couldn't have accomplished this, only to God be the glory. I praise God.

*Adam Case*

### ***My New Beginning- near blindness lead to perfect sight***

I had many injuries while growing up but I was devastated when I burned my eyes. My work involved a new technology using intense ultra violet rays. Though I wore safety glasses, my eyes were burned, literally peeling and shedding layers while trying to heal. I didn't know for some time whether this damage would be permanent.

Prior to burning my eyes, I was on a journey getting to know Jesus by reading the Bible and praying. Once I burned my eyes, I was no longer able to read the Bible. During my recovery, I suffered from intense sensitivity to light, which forced me to rest in a dark, cave-like environment. I was limited to listening to Christian programs and praying to become closer to God. Although I had prayed before, I had never prayed like this, with my whole body, soul, and spirit. I became so close to Jesus that it seemed we were one, and then little by little I received my eyesight back. I was then blessed with seeing things much closer visually and spiritually than before. I knew I wanted to go deeper into God's work for Him.

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## Evangelism Reports in Wisconsin

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My family and I joined a study class on the book of Daniel with Pastor Wendell Springer. What a perfect person! While at church I had learned about many different missionary events going on around the world, and that subject had struck a spark of interest as well as a childhood memory. I can remember seeing returned missionaries talk about their journey in the mission field. Oh, how I envied



*Christian Rolands with  
Cristine Jones*

the work they did for Christ. One day when Pastor Wendell stopped at our house he mentioned a mission trip to Peru and asked if that would be of interest to me to go. I immediately said yes, and Pastor Wendell said he would keep me informed.

I continued to have study classes, next on the book of Revelation with Dale Mishleau as teacher. Dale sure knows how to explain things thoroughly - people get the full understanding and grow spiritually. I was learning so much truth in God's Word.

A year had gone by when Pastor Wendell mentioned to me that the Peru mission trip was in full swing. As I grew closer to the Lord I began to realize that I wanted and needed to be baptized prior to going on the trip. I was baptized on August 15, 2009, at the Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with my mother, Linda Jones, and Laurie Roberts. My father, David Jones, entered into church

membership through Profession of Faith. Pastor Christian Ronalds officiated, and Dale Mishleau joined us in the baptismal tank.

More than 30 people are going on the Peru trip, and three from the Oxford Church: Pastor Wendell, Dale Mishleau, and me. We will leave on December 1 and return December 21. I am so thankful and grateful to go on this mission trip to do God's work. I know this is a new beginning, to live my life to the fullest with God by my side, traveling all over the world on mission adventures, spreading the Good News.

Thank you to all who have helped me make a dream come true in becoming a Seventh-day Adventist, a missionary with the donations you have sent to me, as well as learning new truths in God's Word and how to truly love like the Ten Commandments ask of us. May God continue to bless me so I can bless others. Lastly, may this story encourage others to dream big dreams and ask God to help fulfill it, for ALL things are possible through God.

*Cristine Jones*

*Submitted by Genevieve Clark  
Communications Secretary,  
Oxford SDA Church*

### **David & Linda Jones Admitted into Membership**

David & Linda Jones were admitted into fellowship in the Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church on August 15, 2009, David by Profession of Faith and Linda by baptism. Linda writes: We were married May 2, 1971 at First Church of the Nazarene in Madison, Wisconsin. We then felt led to attend the Rio Assembly of God church. When we moved to Westfield, Wisconsin, God had new plans for us. We had tried other churches and were always blessed as we heard the

Word being preached, but we feel God had wanted to take us deeper into His truths and opened the doors to the Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Two different times we received the Prophecy Seminar cards in the mail. The second time we responded. The meetings were being held by Pastor Charles Byrd. Later Pastor Byrd had another seminar and we attended all but two meetings. We started attending church more often and we were sad to see him leave, but felt we would continue attending.

Pastor Wendell Springer invited David and me and our daughter, Cristine, to study the book of Daniel, which we did. As time went on, we studied the book of Revelation in classes taught by Dale Mishleau and Pastor Springer. So we were introduced to a deeper understanding of God's truths and are blessed by many and their love for God and His people. We look forward to growing in God's truth and loving the fellowship with our new church members. The abundance of free literature explaining the various beliefs of the church is amazing. We have truly been blessed by God in so many ways and look forward to His soon coming.

Our daughter, Cristine Jones, is feeling God's hand on her life and will be going to Lima, Peru, this December as a missionary. She can hardly wait for her outreach ministry, and she looks forward to what else God has in store for her. Two others from the Oxford church will also be going to Peru: Pastor Wendell Springer and Dale Mishleau.

We would like to say to each of our Christian fellow believers a big thank you to each of you that has stepped out of your comfort zone

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and ministered to us in so many ways I can't mention them all. To God be the glory as you share your heart and talents as God leads you to minister for His glory. Keep us and our family members in your prayers.

*Submitted by Genevieve Clark  
Communications Secretary,  
Oxford SDA Church*

### **Baptism Testimony – Laurie Roberts Mishleau**

I have been going to the same church for 40 years. I would go home and feel like I was not getting anywhere. I was not knowing God and His Word as I wanted to. I wanted to learn and I could not because I didn't know how to. I knew the church members by face, but not by name. I wanted to get close to them and the Bible, and I had no idea how to go about it, how to find it. So I went home and prayed. So the next week it was the same, and so on, but I kept on praying.

Then one day a dear friend of mine called and asked me to go for a ride, and I did. We talked and I asked him about his religion and he asked me about mine. He gave me a Bible and told me to read John, then when I was done, read it again. So I did. I never knew that by reading John, that I would become closer to Jesus, and how much easier it was to read the Bible. Then I took Bible studies and went to church with him.

That's when it all came to me. This was what I've been looking for. I have found a church that I could learn from, and I've found my brothers and sisters through Christ. It took me forty years, but look what I have: a new church and a new church family.

Plus, most of all I've found my soul



*Christian Ronalds, Laurie  
and Dale Mishleau*

mate, the person that gave me the Bible and studies is now my husband. God has given me so much.

Laurie was baptized on August 15, 2009, by Pastor Christian Ronalds. She and Dale Mishleau were married on September 27, 2009.

*Laurie Mishleau*

### **Baptism at Camp Wakonda**

Leigh Ann Systma was baptized at Camp Wakonda on September 5, 2009, Pastor Christian Ronalds officiating. She was received into membership of the Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church on the same day.



*Pastor Christian Ronalds and  
Leigh Ann Systma*

### **Wisconsin Men's Conference**

January 15-17, 2010 will be a special weekend for many men in the Wisconsin Conference. This is the time for the annual Men's Conference held at Camp Wakonda. The featured speaker this year is one who had a terrific impact on the lives of those who attended camp meeting in 2008. Elder Lee Venden is the author of

It's All About Him, and The Pleasure of His Company. Elder Venden, like his father before him, has sought to know Jesus better and to help others accomplish that as well. If you have not heard him speak you might want to go to his web site [www.moreaboutjesus.org](http://www.moreaboutjesus.org). There you can access the Bible study series he as co-authored to



*Lee Venden*

get a feel for his message. Elder Venden has served as a pastor, educator and speaker for over 20 years and has a wonderful message to share.

If you have not already registered, you may do so by picking up an application form at your church or if they have none, you can go on the Conference web site, [www.wi.adventist.org](http://www.wi.adventist.org), and download the registration form there. We are planning on a full house for this event. Get your registration in soon. Early bird rate is \$70.00 after December 15 the rate is \$90.00. This rate includes your lodging and meals. There is a Day rate of \$35.00. This rate includes your meals, but no lodging.

*Ken Kirkham*



## Constituency Session Countdown

In the next few weeks, a familiar process will begin again within the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, a process that has taken place thirty-three times before. Have you figured out what the process is? Yes, you are correct!

On October 3, 2010, the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be conducting their 34<sup>th</sup> Constituency Session. The session will be held at the Wisconsin Academy chapel in Columbus. We will begin at 9:30 AM with a devotional and prayer.

The process (a lengthy one) leading up to the session will take place much as before with a slight twist. The twist comes from the fact that we will actually have two processes running simultaneously. The first process will be the normal selection routine for committee candidates who will be elected at the session in October of 2010 to serve for the next quadrennium.

At the same time a second process will be taking place also. We will be meeting with the Standing Nominating and Executive Committee members elected during the last session in 2006 as we begin the process for selecting a new Conference President. (See article on page three regarding the search process.) With the Lord's blessing, this second process should be concluded by March or April of 2010.

Let's talk about the first process a little more in detail. By the end of December 2009, letters will have been sent out to the churches outlining their responsibilities in selecting members who are willing to serve not only as delegates to the session but also who are willing to serve on the various committees that function as part of the conference governance between sessions. The selections

from each local church will then be returned to the conference office from which a delegate list will be compiled.

Around the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, the conference will begin a series of town-hall meetings in various locations throughout the conference. Please watch future issues of the Lamp Letter to find out the time and location of the meeting nearest to you. All church members are welcome to attend. However, the meetings are usually geared towards informing the *delegates* of the items they will be asked to vote on during the October session. Bulletin announcements will be prepared and distrib-

**“You can't vote intelligently if you do not know what the issues are! The town-hall meetings will be the forum where that vital information will be shared.”**

uted in plenty of time to announce these town-hall style meetings also. Standing Nominating Committee members elected in 2006 will be receiving a letter around the end of June 2010 announcing the August 15, 2010 meeting of that Committee. When they meet on August 15 with Elder Don Livesay, President of the Lake Union Conference and Chairperson for that meeting, the group will gather together for the express purpose of nominating Conference Officers and Directors who will serve for the next quadrennium. The conference office will be sending out a reminder letter to each Standing Nominating Committee member who was voted to serve back in 2006.

Delegates to the session, elected by their respective local church, will be sent packets of information on or before August 30, 2010. The packet will contain seven or eight important documents. These documents will need to be re-

viewed by each delegate prior to attending the Constituency Session on October 3, 2010. Those documents might include:

- A) A copy of the minutes from the last meeting held in 2006
- B) A copy of the most recent Financial Statement for the Conference
- C) A copy of the current Conference and Corporation Bylaws (we are not anticipating any changes to them)
- D) The Session agenda
- E) A delegate registration form

While this list is not exhaustive, it gives you an idea of what you could expect to receive if you were chosen as a delegate from your church.

The goal of each of us at the conference office is to make sure each constituent and, more importantly, each delegate is informed about the decisions we will be asking the delegates to make. You can't vote intelligently if you do not know what the issues are! The town-hall meetings will be the forum where that vital information will be shared.

Yes, the October Constituency Session will be a time when the church conducts its business. But, we will also be celebrating what God has done for us and through us during this last quadrennium and outlining plans for the next one, plans that will drive us to our knees - plans that will involve each one of us reaching out to our neighbors across the street and to our friends around the world.

*Roger L Driver*

## Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Financial Highlights

**September 30, 2009**

	2009	2008	Difference	% Change
1. Tithe - Month-to-Date	497,290.33	488,866.51	8,423.82	1.72%
Tithe - Year-to-Date	4,633,511.97	4,488,698.91	144,813.06	3.23%
2. Wisconsin Budget - MTD	16,977.60	18,751.88	-1,774.28	-10.45%
Wisconsin Budget - YTD	155,194.92	153,106.59	2,088.33	1.35%
3. Cash				
Checking	97,828.79	215,504.63	-117,675.84	-120.29%
Money Market Certificates	122,999.09	439,237.49	-316,238.40	-257.11%
Securitates & Investments	1,523,169.06	1,838,475.99	-315,306.93	-20.70%
Total Cash and Investments	1,743,996.94	2,493,218.11	-749,221.17	-42.96%
4. Accounts Receivable				
Churches	31,533.21	22,397.49	9,135.72	28.97%
Schools (Including WA)	791,879.87	769,709.41	22,170.46	2.80%
WA (Separately)	661,393.79	584,101.38	77,292.41	11.69%
5. Current Ratio (Note 1)	2.89:1	3.81:1	N/A	N/A
6. Evangelism - Unrestricted Fund Bal	6,778.35	887.11	5,891.24	86.91%
Evangelism - Restricted Fund Bal	160,979.26	87,153.20	73,826.06	45.86%
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	Difference	<u>Actual</u>
	2009	2009	Fav/Unfav	2008
7. Income	6,139,181.00	5,219,780.00	919,401.00	5,452,384.00
Expenses	5,854,134.00	5,775,194.00	(78,940.00)	5,771,555.00
Net Incr/(Decr) Before Transfers	285,047.00	-555,414.00	840,461.00	-319,171.00
Fund/Funct Transfers	-849,302.00	-51,812.00	(797,490.00)	74,061.00
Net Incr/(Decr) After Transfers	-564,255.00	-607,226.00	42,971.00	-245,110.00
Net Assets - Beginning	2,124,224.00	2,124,212.00	12.00	2,948,213.00
Net Assets - Ending	1,559,969.00	1,516,986.00	42,983.00	2,703,103.00
8. Expense (Selected Functions)				
Pastors	1,569,033.61	1,621,198.00	52,164.39	1,535,315.47
Evangelism	266,353.22	172,946.00	(93,407.22)	123,751.26
Church School Oper	1,134,815.24	1,157,701.00	22,885.76	1,222,780.92
Academy Operation	423,143.32	368,250.00	(54,893.32)	527,256.49
Group Medical Plan	-20,258.84	16,095.00	36,353.84	-56,351.31
General & Admin	305,236.96	269,047.00	(36,189.96)	294,508.08

Note 1 - The Current Ratio is the ratio of Current Assets to Current Liabilities.

## This and That

### **Pastor's Wives Retreat**

Inspiring messages, laughter, tears, simply good fellowship and delicious food were highlights of the 2009 Annual Retreat for Pastors' Wives held at Camp Wakonda September 18-20.



*Ladies enjoying a meal that they did not have to cook.*

Dorothy Hayward, part of the pastoral staff of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs MI and also a trained counselor, was our speaker. Our theme, "The Shepherdess and Her Heavenly Shepherd," focused on the experience of the pastor's wife not only as a shepherdess but as a lady loved by Jesus and walking with Him.



*Enjoying God's nature*

As usual, Sue Pehler provided delicious meals. In addition, our Saturday evening supper was an international meal presented by five of our ladies who prepared authentic foods from their country of origin—a fantastic experience!

Being my last retreat in Wisconsin, I just have to say "I am going to miss you all!"

*Phyllis Corkum*

### **Women's Retreat**

The 2009 Wisconsin Conference Annual Women's Retreat is now history and the ladies who attended were blessed tremendously. The speaker, Ginny Allen, was inspirational and encouraging. She provided much food for thought and many ladies indicated their renewed commitment to the Lord.

Our new location at the Osthoff Resort was thoroughly enjoyed by the ladies who attended the retreat. The Osthoff is a beautiful resort, located on a lovely lake with a backdrop of many trees, which were arrayed in all the warm fall colors with their changing leaves. The rooms are spacious and comfortable. The food was delicious. The staff accommodating. In 2010, the Retreat Planning Committee would like you to plan to join us at the Osthoff and plan to attend our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's Retreat.

The retreat dates are October 8-10, 2010. Please reserve those dates, saving them just for the retreat. You will not be disappointed. The speaker is Jo Ann Davidson. Jo Ann joined us at our 2007 retreat, and many of you have asked that we invite Jo Ann back. She gave us greater spiritual insight and understanding of familiar teachings. She inspired appreciation for the Lord's expectations of each of us and we are sure she will inspire us again in 2010.

To better serve you in making plans for appropriate accommodations for everyone, we need to know approximately how many ladies will be attending in 2010. Please plan to attend and please let us know your plans. You may email us at [boon@toast.net](mailto:boon@toast.net) or

[akking@wi.adventist.org](mailto:akking@wi.adventist.org). Or you may call Susan Boon at (262) 878-5931 or Aileen King at (920) 484-6555, ext.5. We need to know how many ladies will be attending the retreat to make sure we have enough rooms in our contract with the resort. We need to hear from you as soon as possible!

*Susan Boon*

### **Cubicles**

Has your church or school been thinking about creating some cubicle work spaces? If you have, you better keep reading! The Circle of Friends Community Service Center in Elkhorn, WI has had an office full of partition dividers donated to them. They would like to make them available to you. These partitions are about 5 feet high. They are covered in a light mauve fabric. Some of the partitions have shelving sections attached to them. If you are interested in obtaining some of these partitions, please call Florence Schacht at 262-949-2378 to arrange your pickup time. These partitions are being offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Plan accordingly, they may go quickly.

### **The Lamp Letter is the Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

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## *Mark Your Calendar*

### **December**

- 19 Wisconsin Academy Christmas Concert
- 24-28 Conference Office is closed

### **January**

- 1-4 Conference Office is closed
- 9 Milwaukee Convocation, Guest Speaker, Ron Clouzet. For more information contact Adam Case at [adamcase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:adamcase@sbcglobal.net).
- 15-17 Men's Conference at Camp Wakonda, Guest Speaker, Lee Venden. For more information contact Carol Driver at 920-484-6555 ext 303.
- 29-31 Public High School Retreat at Camp Wakonda. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 ext 304.

### **February**

- 5-7 Lay Pastors Meeting at Conference Office. For more information contact Aileen King at 920-484-6555 ext 304.



***From All of us at  
Wisconsin Conference,  
Have a Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year!***

