

Quinquennial Session Special Report 2006

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE



SHARE THE LIGHT



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REPORT FROM

TO THE DELEGATES AND CONSTITUENT MEMBERS PRESENT:
I believe the true joy of a quinquennial session is to recount the blessings of God, and to envision a God-inspired future. I am privileged to make an attempt at both during this meeting. It is not a difficult task because God's blessings have been bountiful in the Lake Union, and the future is bright as long as we continue to trust Him and seek His counsel at every turn.



Walter L. Wright, LUC president, family ministries

In accepting the mantle as president on July 10, 2003, it was without fear or trepidation; however, it was with eagerness to see just what God had in mind and which way He desired to lead this great territory. In His mercy, God does not reveal all His plans up front nor the pathways He will choose for us to accomplish His plans. But little by little, step by step, He points the direction and opens the way before us.



Jackie Wright, family ministries, shepherdess

I am happy to proclaim that the Lake Union is on solid ground, both financially and in the fulfillment of its mandate to The Great Commission. The faithfulness of our members in returning tithes and offerings has provided economic stability in the midst of the economic downturn nationwide. Because of your faithfulness, we have been able to stand with our conferences in the building and buying of churches, and in the support of the elementary and secondary schools throughout the Lake Union.



Z. Kathy Cameron, executive assistant to Walter L. Wright

We have continued to train and equip our clergy and laity for evangelism as the Lake Union census edges ever closer to 80,000 members. Each of the 548 churches and companies that make up this union were encouraged to participate in some form of evangelistic outreach, and your response has been heartening. Of particular note is the involvement of the youth from the grade schools and academies.

The various ministries have done an outstanding job nurturing our people. Women's ministry has continued to thrive, and the ladies have displayed extraordinary divine gifts as they serve. We have seen innovations in health and fitness programs to encourage us all toward better health. Our youth continue to amaze us as they involve themselves in mission trips and local evangelism.

THE PRESIDENT

BY WALTER L. WRIGHT, LAKE UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



This union is blessed with many qualified family ministry practitioners to fight the enemy of our homes and relationships. My wife, Jackie, and I are privileged to support these dedicated leaders. The singles are not forgotten, nor are those with challenging disabilities. We are fortunate to have good leadership in all these ministries, and I commend them for a job well-done.

I am grateful to God for the expansive growth of Adventist Midwest Health in this field. They continue to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ through hospitals, nursing homes, and home health. A brand new 138-bed hospital is being built in Bolingbrook, a Chicago suburb. And then there is the always-inspiring, ever-supportive work of the Lake Union Chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries. Thank you for partnering with us.

Have we completed our mission? Are we ready for the "Well done, thou good and faithful servant?" No, my brothers and sisters; we are far from it. We still have the challenges of the large cities in this field. Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis-St Paul continue to cry out: "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

We must devise ways to shore up lagging enrollments in our elementary and secondary schools. That means preaching Christian education as never before. We must embolden ourselves in outreach and evangelism to reach not only the large metropolises, but also every village and hamlet that is unwarned of the soon-coming Savior of the world. We must do more to reach and nurture the various ethnic groups in this field. We are blessed with cultural diversity. Let us exploit it for the Kingdom of Heaven.

There are still churches to plant and ministries to develop. There exists a huge opportunity to reclaim the vast numbers of former members who have fallen away. Warmer, friendlier congregations will facilitate that effort. While we continue to build and strengthen the home front, we must not neglect to involve ourselves in relief and suffering around the world through various mission projects.

How will we accomplish the daunting task ahead of us? We continue to call on Him for direction. We continue to pull together as one big family, loving and uplifting each

other. We continue in faithful stewardship, and I mean time, talent, treasure, and temple.

I am thankful to God for the officers and staff He has placed with me. You will hear their own stirring reports, but let me just make quick recognition of each leader. The secretary, Rodney Grove, in addition to his normal duties in Secretariat, has handled ministerial and evangelism with tireless energy. The treasurer, Glynn Scott, has done a yeoman's job keeping the finances on track, and thus enabling many positive accomplishments. The vice president, Carmelo Mercado, has proved himself to be a spiritual giant as he has been forced to lead through trying circumstances. Education is well on track under the able leadership of Gary Randolph. Harvey Kilsbey continues to develop the very best church software program in North America, LUCIS. Gary Burns has developed the *Herald* into the best union magazine in the North American Division. And then there is Myrna Earles, Gina Vander Veen, Ron Whitehead, and the awesome support staff who make us all look good. Last but not least, I must acknowledge the tireless, efficient, spiritual commitment of my executive assistant and partner, Kathy Cameron. During times of stress and crisis, as well as the calmer times, she has rendered invaluable service to the Office of the President.

I would also like to thank the Lake Union Conference presidents—Don Corkum, Jerome Davis, Ken Denslow, Jay Gallimore, and Gary Thurber—for their loyal support and valued counsel.

It is still true: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).

Thank you, one and all, and thank you, the constituents of the Lake Union, for the privilege you have granted me to serve for the past two and a half years. Victory in Jesus!

Walter L. Wright is the Lake Union Conference president.

This Little Light

BY RODNEY GROVE

Through the glass in the door, I saw the lights go out in the Kindergarten room. Then they began flickering. I looked in to see what the problem was. As I opened the door, the singing began.

*“This little light of mine,
I’m going to let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I’m going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine.”*

Every child in the class had a flashlight and the flickering was the shining of their lights “all around the neighborhood” while they sang. As I left the church parking lot after the services, I found myself humming the tune and wondering if people saw a light shining when they looked at our church. Then I wondered if people saw lights shining when they looked at our members. Next a thought came to me that really got my attention. Did they see a light shining when they looked at me?

I am glad to say that lights “are” shining in the Lake Union. During the past quinquennium, the membership of our collective local conferences has grown to 79,525. That is a net increase of 6,797. Last quinquennium the increase was 4,217. When you consider economic woes across our territory have caused more people to move away than to move here, that number takes on added significance. All you can say is “Praise the Lord!”

As the keeper of the records, I could bore you with statistics—but I won’t. (Somebody just shouted, “Amen!”) Two areas, however, caught my attention. The first is bad news/good news and is more general than specific.

Because our larger churches tend to be in areas more highly impacted by the economic slump, their growth, if any, has been extremely slow. During the next five years helping these memberships adjust to their changing demographic conditions will be one of our priorities. However, smaller congregations are growing at an excellent rate overall. There is something to be said for the warm, family atmosphere of smaller groups.



Rodney A. Grove, LUC executive secretary, ministerial director



Cyndi Baskin, administrative assistant to Rodney A. Grove, receptionist

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Lake Union Consolidated Five-Year Clerk's Report

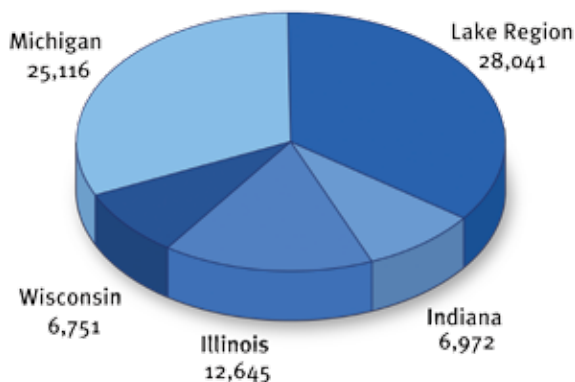
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Beginning membership	72,728	74,174	76,026	77,418	78,625
Added by baptisms/prof. of faith	2,855	2,952	2,611	2,527	2,157
Transfers in/out—net gain or (loss)	-57	21	-25	-73	-168
Deaths	553	529	635	550	544
Apostasies and missing	799	592	559	697	545
Percentage of apostasies to baptisms	28%	20%	21%	28%	25%
Ending membership	74,174	76,026	77,418	78,625	79,525
Net gain or (loss)	1,446	1,852	1,392	1,207	900
Net percentage gain or (loss)	1.99	2.50	1.83	1.56	1.14

AVERAGE BAPTISMS PER PASTOR

Lake Union Consolidated Five-Year Comparative Report

Conference	2001			2002			2003			2004			2005		
	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg	Pstrs	Bap/PF	Avg
Illinois	60	499	8.32	62	474	7.65	59	528	8.95	69	346	5.01	55	400	7.27
Indiana	38	247	6.5	34	262	7.71	33	232	7.03	38	272	7.16	38	222	5.84
Lake Region	65	1,031	15.86	63	986	15.65	63	900	14.29	73	971	13.3	74	509	6.88
Michigan	119	815	6.85	122	896	7.34	122	743	6.09	123	710	5.77	124	800	6.45
Wisconsin	24	263	10.96	28	334	11.93	30	208	6.93	28	228	8.14	31	226	7.29

CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP



The second area is more clearly defined. As a union, we now have more churches to shine a light than we did five years ago. Today, we have 503 established churches compared to 485 at the end of the year 2000. When you add to that 45 companies, more neighborhoods in our largest metropolitan areas and the remotest counties of our territory are glowing for Jesus.

In my mind I can still hear the Kindergarten children with their flashlights singing,

*“Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I’m going to let it shine.
Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I’m going to let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine.”*

Rodney A. Grove is the Lake Union Conference executive secretary and ministerial director.

TREASURER'S REPORT



Glynn C.W. Scott, LUC treasurer



Douglas L. Gregg, LUC associate treasurer



J. Richard Terrell, LUC associate treasurer, stewardship director



Elisa Flores, administrative assistant to Glynn C.W. Scott

Showers of Blessings

BY GLYNN C.W. SCOTT

WITH J. RICHARD TERRELL

This quinquennial report is being written from financial data that is managed by a highly professional and spiritual treasury staff. I would like to, up front, express my sincere appreciation to each one for their commitment to service and tireless efforts in maintaining complex and sophisticated accounting records, all of which make this reporting possible.

In May 2001, an executive committee was elected to serve as the governance board for Lake Union Conference (LUC). This board consists of a highly-committed and actively-engaged group of leaders and lay people. The performance over this past quinquennium is directly

attributable to their candid and unabashed review of financial detail, together with their creative input for new ideas. To each member, I express my heart-felt thanks for your dedication and service.

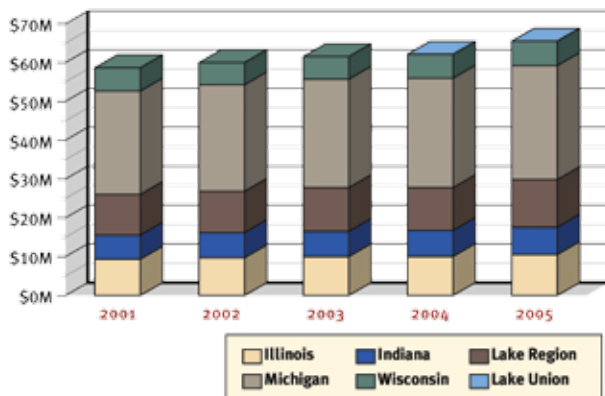
This report is one of three presentations that will be used to communicate to you as a constituent concerning financial performance over the past quinquennium. This report will be the least complex and technical of the three presentations. My goal

for this report is simply to share some key high points of our financial performance over the quinquennium.

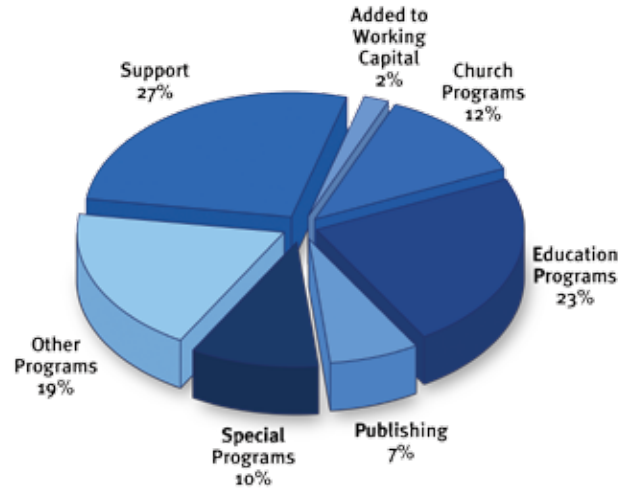
At the session on April 2, a digital media presentation will be made to cover greater technical aspects of our financial performance. Additionally, a full General Conference audited report will be provided to you having the highest level of detail in a technical accounting format that will comprehensively cover our financial performance during the quinquennium.



Graph A: TOTAL TITHE RECEIVED



Graph B: PORTION OF TITHE USAGE 2001-2005



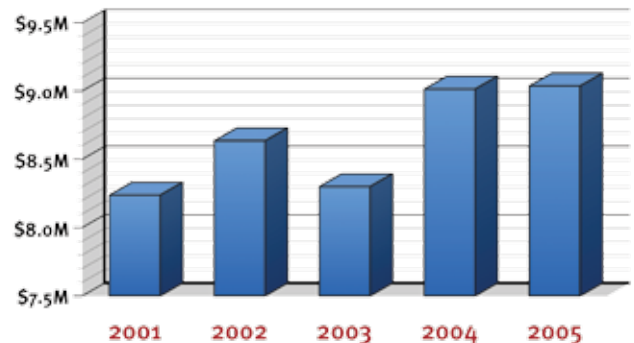
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The first financial highlight I would like to share is total tithe received (see Graph A). Total tithe received at the beginning of the quinquennium (2000) was \$56,750,851 versus \$65,564,311 at the end of the quinquennium (2005). This represents an increase of \$8,813,460 or 15.5 percent over the five-year period. This increase includes 2005 having 53 Sabbaths as compared to 52 Sabbaths for all prior years in the quinquennium. If you equalize the year 2005 by deducting one Sabbath, the overall increase is adjusted to \$7,644,042 or 13.5 percent over the five-year period.

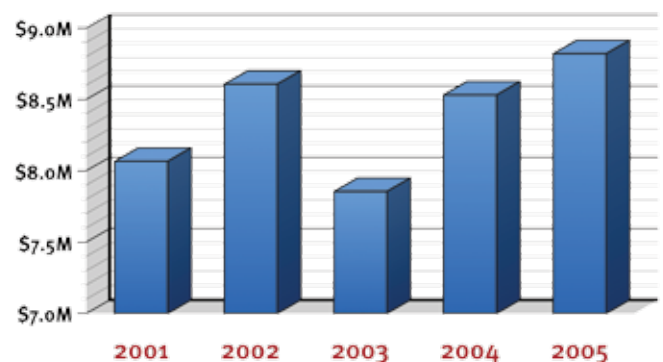
Our Lake Union territory experienced significant economical hardship during this quinquennium; nonetheless, the members of our constituency have been faithful. On behalf of this administration, please accept our appreciation to each one of you for your faithfulness. In exchange, we pledge to you to be fiscally responsible in using the resources entrusted to us to hasten the soon and second return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Lake Union retains nine percent from the total gross tithe received by the five local conferences. During the quinquennium an average of \$5 million was retained by the Lake Union and used for local programs and support (see Graph B). Total tithe usage within the Lake Union can also be better understood by reviewing total income and total expense (see Graphs C and D). Total income and total expense includes appropriations from the North American Division (NAD) for programs that directly/indirectly support our local conferences.

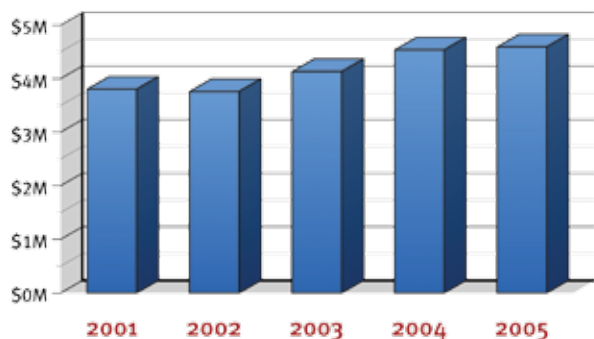
Graph C: TOTAL INCOME



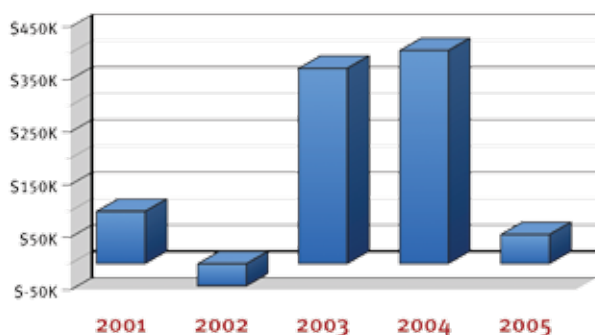
Graph D: TOTAL EXPENSE



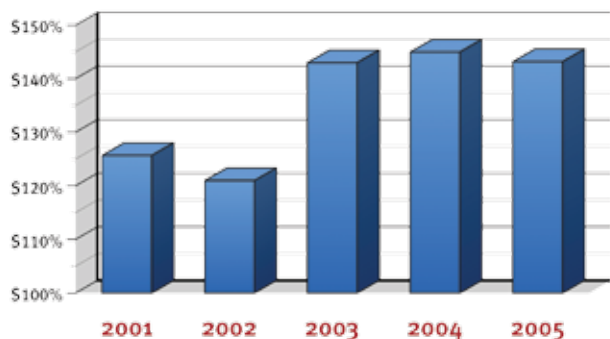
Graph E: NET WORTH



Graph F: NET GAIN



Graph G: REQUIRED WORKING CAPITAL



Total income for 2002 is higher than 2001 and 2003 due to miscellaneous income of \$395,000 received from closure of Great Lakes Adventist Health System. Total income for 2004 is high due to NAD appropriations of \$342,000 for Regional Capital reversions and an accounting change for auditing cost that resulted in appropriations to the Union from the NAD to subsidize auditing cost. Total income for 2005 is high due to the 2005 tithe percentage increase and the NAD auditing subsidy.

Total expense for 2002 is higher than 2001 and 2003 due to \$400,000 that was expended for evangelism (*Hope for Our Day*). Total expense for 2004 is high due to \$342,000 Regional Capital reversions forwarded to Lake Region Conference (LRC) and actual auditing charges of \$456,000. Total expense for 2005 is high due to actual auditing charges of \$593,000 and a special audit of LRC costing \$110,000.

During this past quinquennium administration has been intentional about controlling cost and thereby annually have drafted budgets based on 95 to 96 percent of the previous year's tithe. This conservative approach to financial management has allowed us to realize operating gains and grow our reserves (see Graphs E and F). The operating loss in 2002 of \$42,000 was an intentional spend down of working capital as reserves were used for evangelism (*Hope for Our Day*). Additionally, our conservative budgeting has allow us to revert back to the local conference a total in excess of \$2 million in special appropriations, which is in excess of NAD working policy appropriations.

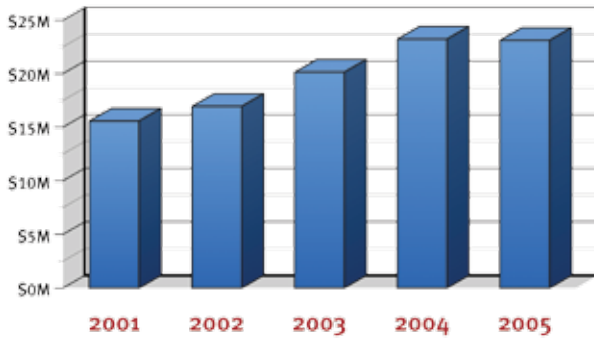
Our working capital grew from 1.25 percent in 2001 to 1.43 percent in 2005 (see Graph G). Administration is currently working with local conference presidents to determine the appropriate percentage of working capital that should be maintained at the Lake Union. Once this percentage is set, it would be the intent of administration to revert back to the local conferences all profits in excess of that stated percentage.

Overall, the Lord has truly showered His bountiful blessing upon our Union over this past quinquennium. My sincere prayer is that God will find each one of us faithful as we commit ourselves to Him in service until the end of time, whereby we may each receive the commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

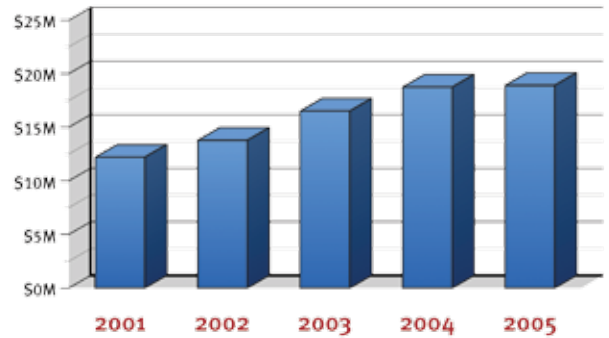
Glynn C.W. Scott is the Lake Union Conference treasurer.



Graph A: TOTAL ASSETS



Graph B: TOTAL LIABILITIES



ASSOCIATION/REVOLVING FUND

During the past quinquennium the Lake Union Revolving Fund has provided over \$22 million to 157 church entities for various building projects. These funds were made available by Lake Union Conference members and church organizations that invested in the Revolving Fund.

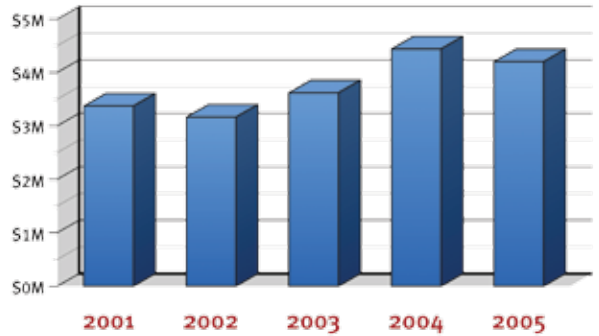
Statement of Financial Position

Because many individuals and churches invested in the Revolving Fund, the total assets increased by 95.9 percent to \$23,131,565 (see Graph A). Liabilities increased by 123 percent to \$18,927,834 (see Graph B) with resulting total net asset increase of 26 percent to \$4,203,731 (see Graph C).

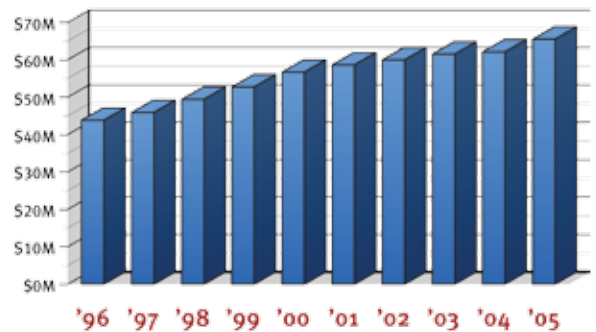
Statement of Changes in Net Assets

As a result of investing and lending activities, the Revolving Fund Trust had an overall operating gain for 2001–2005 of \$872,818.

Graph C: NET ASSETS



Graph D: TITHE: 10-YEAR COMPARISON

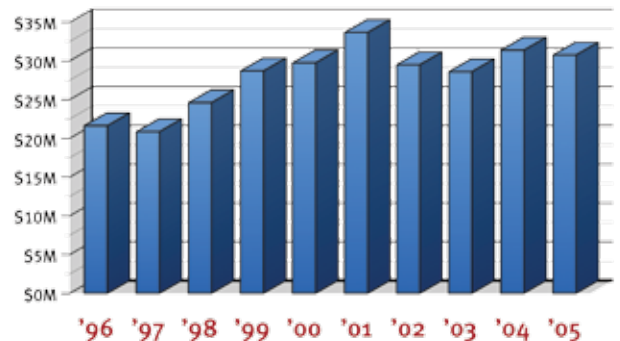


STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

As a resource center for the conferences in the Lake Union, the stewardship department acts as a liaison between the North American Division and the General Conference stewardship departments to provide training and materials as requested.

Charts D and E show how God has blessed our union with increases in tithes and local offerings over the past ten years.

Graph E: CONFERENCE & CHURCH FUNDS 10-YEAR COMPARISON



J. Richard Terrell is the Lake Union Conference associate treasurer and stewardship director.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Hispanic and ASI Ministries

BY CARMELO MERCADO

Through a variety of activities during this past quinquennium Lake Union Hispanics and Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) members took seriously the great commission to share the light and go make disciples of all nations.



Hispanic youth attended the Encuentro youth retreat last November.



Carmelo Mercado, LUC vice president, ASI and Hispanic ministries director



Z. Kathy Cameron, administrative assistant to Carmelo Mercado

HISPANIC EVANGELISM

The latest demographic information reveals a tremendous need to reach out to Hispanics who live among us. The total Hispanic population in the United States as of July 2005 reached 42.7 million, making it the nation's largest minority at 14 percent of the total population. To put it another way, approximately one out of eight people in the United States are of Hispanic origin. At the current rate of growth, it is calculated the Hispanic population will reach 70 million by 2020.

To fulfill the mission of the church, the Hispanic churches and pastors expanded their evangelism programs. Every year most of our Hispanic churches held evangelistic meetings during Easter week, baptizing scores of people. Often our Hispanic churches hold evangelistic series twice a year.

Within this quinquennium, the Lake Union sought to augment the work of the churches by providing training, materials, and inspirational preaching at three union-wide programs: *Hope for the Homeland*, *Hope for Our Day*, and *Share the Light*. As a result of our people's strong commitment to sharing God's word, our Hispanic churches baptized more than 3,000 people, with the Lake Union now having in excess of 7,000 Hispanic members and 78 congregations.



A Hispanic young man took his stand for baptism.

Hispanic Church Building and Scholarship Program

With the expansion of the Hispanic population comes a need to start new Hispanic congregations. A key part of this strategy is to find ways to purchase or build churches for these new congregations. With special appropriations provided by the North American Division (NAD), our union provided more than \$137,000 during the last five years to churches like Elkhart Hispanic and the Grand Rapids Maranatha church.

A growing number of our Hispanic youth are going to college but find it difficult to get the necessary funds. The Hispanic department has been able to help scores of youth achieve their educational goals.

Hispanic Women's and Youth Ministries Events

In 2003, women throughout the Lake Union attended a union-wide Hispanic women's ministries retreat in South Bend, which affirmed the role of women in our families and churches. In 2002, hundreds of youth came to our Hispanic youth convention held at Andrews University which featured Jose Rojas, NAD volunteer and young adult ministries director. In addition, this past November *Encuentro*, a new kind of youth retreat, brought more than 160 youth from throughout the five conferences together for fellowship and to have an encounter with Jesus.

ASI MINISTRIES

The Lake Union ASI Chapter of lay people has always been a very active group. During the past five years, they have especially been involved in building churches in the Dominican Republic and Honduras. Some members also held evangelistic meetings in Thailand, the Philippines, India, and Romania. Even the 12-year-old son of one member recently preached in



Lake Union members attended the national ASI convention last August.



Don Schneider, North American Division president, congratulates Debbie Young of Quiet Moments Ministries, Ypsilanti, Mich., who stands with her husband Ray, after she is re-elected president of ASI in 2005.

an evangelistic series in Africa. Plans now include building churches in our own Lake Union, starting this coming May in Princeton, Illinois. (see Sidebar)



From left: John LaVanture, Naselle Reich, Kimberly McNeilus, Kristopher Gates, and Michael Catarama went door to door giving residents a loaf of bread and inviting them to a cooking class as part of the Earliteen outreach activities at the ASI national convention in 2005.

The Lord has certainly blessed us these past five years, and we look forward to more blessings as we continue to work for Him.

Carmelo Mercado is the Lake Union Conference general vice president, and ASI and Hispanic ministries director.

ASI EVENTS

April 21–22, 2006 Spring Fellowship

Battle Creek, Michigan

For information: Call (269) 473-8200

May 1–21, 2006 Princeton Church Project

Princeton, Illinois

For information: Call (269) 473-8200;

or visit website: www.asi-lakeunion.org

At the 2005 Spring Fellowship, more than \$25,000 was raised to help Princeton (Illinois) Church members build a new worship facility. May 1–21, 2006, the Princeton Church Project will begin. Students from Hinsdale and Broadview Academies, as well as other schools around the union, will hold an evangelistic series in Princeton at the same time, with ASI members and church groups from around the conference participating. They will meet in the Bureau County Metro Center in Princeton. In preparation for these meetings, a trainer from ASI's *Youth for Jesus* will meet with the students to train them in door-to-door ministry, giving Bible studies, and connecting with people. Amazing Facts sent two Bible workers to the area four months prior to make contacts in the community.

This little church is well on its way to paying for the new worship facility planned. They must have the materials on site, the foundation completed, and the septic system in before the ASI group arrives. Volunteers are needed to help in all areas of construction, and any building professionals interested in running crews for any part of the three-week project should contact ASI's construction manager, Fred Miller, by e-mail: fmillerwi@cs.com; or call (269) 473-8200.

This is an experience not to be missed. It will be life changing not just for the members of the Princeton church, but for the people touched by the meetings, the students, and the spirit of friendship and love found on the job site. Bring your friends and neighbors to this local mission field, and let them learn about Christ in action. Many people cannot afford the time and money to travel to overseas projects. This is a homeland mission in the heartland of our country. This is young people on fire for Christ. This is the perfect witnessing opportunity for you and your family.

August 2–5, 2006 ASI National Convention

Dallas, Texas, at the Grapevine

For information: www.asiministries.org

LAKE UNION ASI OFFICERS

Viorel Catarama, president, Lake Union Chapter, viorelcat@aol.com

Mark LaVanture, general vice president

Darry Campbell, vice president for evangelism

Don Starlin, vice president for membership recruitment

Tom Morrissey, vice president for finance

Mona Sarcona, vice president for communication

Fred Miller and **Chuck Randall**, vice presidents for projects/events

Ken Denslow, director, Illinois Chapter, (630) 734-0920

Gary Thurber, director, Indiana Chapter, (317) 844-6201

Ted Brown, director, Lake Region Chapter, (773) 846-2664

Paul Pellandini, director, Michigan Chapter, (517) 316-1565

Don Corkum, director, Wisconsin Chapter, (608) 241-5235

“...What God Is Doing”

BY GARY BURNS

A simple sign on a file cabinet in the office says, “Look at what God is doing.” That is where we focus our attention. We look to see what God is doing in our union, and then we try to inform others.



Gary Burns, LUC communication director, Lake Union Herald editor



Diane Thurber, Lake Union Herald managing editor, advertising manager



Judi Doty, secretary to Gary Burns, Lake Union Herald circulation and back pages manager

It reflects our mission statement: “To tell the stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people in order to encourage, inspire, educate, advance, and unify the church in the Lake Union Conference.”

We communicate in two areas: informing members and informing the public. Some refer to this activity as public relations. For the world, that means to always present the company in the best light possible while promoting its product and personnel. But we are not a company—we’re the church. What we do is different. It is our responsibility to present Jesus in His true light while promoting His kingdom and exalting His character.

Our objective is to be an integral instrument in the work of evangelism, and nurture and accurately represent God’s chosen leadership of the Lake Union Conference. We serve Lake Union members and institutions by providing communication resources, professional guidance, and training.

Our new focus precipitated a change in the *Lake Union Herald* in 2003. We expanded the features section to provide room for short stories and experiences to illustrate the theme for each issue. We also added a number of columns to nurture our members: “Adventism IOI,”

“Sharing Our Hope,” “Youth In Action,” “One Voice,” and most recently “ConneXiones.”

Since 2004, the *Lake Union Herald* has been produced electronically using new web-based technology, allowing greater participation and involvement in the creation process. As editor, I have full access to every article, column, and photograph during the writing and production stages from anywhere in the world. The editorial team is located in Berrien Springs, Michigan; Noblesville, Indiana; and Condon, Montana. The proofed, print-ready file is sent to Color Press in College Place, Washington, where it is printed, labeled, and mailed directly to your home.

The Lake Union is working closely with TAGnet to provide a free church website for every church in the Lake Union that will include contact information, schedules, directions, personalized messages, additional resources, and announcements updated daily with little or no effort. This new service, provided by netAdventist, gives the local church automated access to information provided by the local conference, union, and division offices. Additional components are available to subscribers to enhance evangelism outreach and provide easy, effective ways to involve more members in the process. This new service will be available to every Lake Union church by the Union Session, April 2, 2006.

Through Adventist television and radio stations, our message is now broadcast to a number of communities. In addition, several churches stream video and create Podcasts of their services, opening doors to people around the world. The communication department also provides video production and editing services to conferences and churches to help accomplish new communication initiatives.

What an exciting time in which to live where every member can literally participate in sharing this gospel of the kingdom around the world!

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference communication director and the *Lake Union Herald* editor.

Preparing Students for Service

BY GARY RANDOLPH

A famous quote by Ellen G. White says that a complete education is “the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (*Education*, p. 13). This quote summarizes Seventh-day Adventist education’s aim and objective.

The Lake Union Conference education department leadership has taken this admonition seriously and has chosen programs to encourage and train students for these outcomes. This report includes a section from each of these areas under, “The Head,” “The Hand,” and “The Heart.” The Lake Union Seventh-day Adventist K–12 education schools are composed of eighty K–8 schools, sixteen junior academies, four day academies (three K–12), and four senior boarding academies. The student population is 3,827, with 402 (348 full time equivalent) staff.



Wisconsin Academy students sorted items donated for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Grand Rapids, formerly a strong junior academy, now offers grades 11 and 12 under the supervision and accreditation of Battle Creek Academy. The constituency is preparing to become a full K–12 senior academy. Broadview Academy is offering a new curriculum, primarily based on competencies instead of assessed academic knowledge from traditional course offerings.

Physical plant changes include Hinsdale Adventist Academy, our most recent approved academy, which added a secondary wing with two classrooms, computer lab and chapel; Wisconsin Academy provided a beautiful cafeteria adjacent to the gym and an awesome computer lab; Hillside Christian School (Wausau, Wis.) has completed a new school plant; Cross Street Christian School (Anderson, Indiana) finished a new school plant

containing four classrooms; Peterson-Warren Academy (Inkster, Michigan) renovated the science room, rebuilt the playground with equipment, and placed a fence around the campus.

THE HEAD

The “head” is trained in “reading, writing, and arithmetic” but also with



Gary Randolph, LUC education director



Garry Sudds, LUC education associate director



Karen Bekowies, secretary to Garry Sudds, certification registrar



Rose Anne Grove, secretary to Gary Randolph

LAKE UNION SUMMARY OF IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS: 2005 (Grades 3 – 9)

Grade	Reading	Language	Math	Soc. Stds.	Science	Composite
3	82	75	78	88	86	86
4	84	82	81	84	82	83
5	85	88	74	80	85	82
6	79	79	71	78	79	78
7	87	82	76	82	81	85
8	84	82	74	72	78	83
9	80	82	79	78	77	80

moral values of right and wrong, good and evil, and who, how, and why we were created to serve on this earth. The latest Iowa Test of Basic Skills test scores (see Graph A) indicate that the composite national norm percentiles (1,000,000 students per grade) are from the 76th percentile to the 85th percentile. That is 26 to 35 percent above average.

THE HAND

The “hand,” representing physically training the student, is completed first in a K–12 physical education program. This training varies from a more general program in K–8 to a more specific program for life fitness in grades 9–12.

Second, a work-study program is an important part of the secondary curriculum, which provides some, but encourages all, to obtain work experience while attending academy. However, serving others, the most important, combines both physical and spiritual training.

THE HEART

Service for others, always a strong Adventist education component, has significantly increased since the implementation of the non-graded Bible Labs service training. We currently see a much higher interest in spiritual things and service to others.

Today, most senior class trips include a service component. For many years, Andrews Academy has had a bi-annual SOW *Safari* (Service, Outreach, Witness), an international trip overseas during Christmas vacation to serve. Many academies have daily student-led prayer groups. One academy has an organized group whose main objective is to maintain a spiritual atmosphere on campus. For the past 25 years, another academy has had an annual “leaf rake” in the town park and yards of the elderly or needy. All schools assisted recent flood victims. Some went personally to assist, clean up, and rebuild. Some were there three days after the destruction and some are going again in the future for a first, second, or more times.

In the past two years, Wisconsin Academy and Great Lakes Adventist Academy held a series of student-led evangelistic meetings. Wisconsin Academy also went to Africa to build and evangelize. However, this past September,



From left: Tamara Mallory, witnessing class sponsor, and Bryana Kitchen, a GLAA senior, show cooking school guests at Edmore Township Hall how to make tasty, healthy food.

academy youth were asked to get involved intentionally with evangelism. Sixty youth attended the Lake Union evangelism training session in late August. Indiana Academy had a series in early February; Battle Creek has one scheduled April 7–15; Peterson-Warren Academy is planning an evangelistic crusade in 2006; and Great Lakes had a full five-week series last fall with three to six potential baptisms.

This is a new day. This is another indication to us that the “army of youth rightly trained” may be in preparation. Our first indication of this dedication and intentionality was at the Lake Union Secondary Leadership Conference, held annually for the past 32 years to train young people to lead. Two years ago our union president, Walter Wright, spoke to the youth during what is normally a relaxation time on Sabbath afternoon. We were pleased to see about 50–60 youth respond to his call to do evangelism. Telling others about their faith seems not to frighten today’s young people.

In the next five years, due to a continued reduction in enrollment, a serious study should be made about the organization and operation of the K–12 system. Conferences may need to close ranks and work together to operate boarding schools. Coursework may need to be offered through distance education, possibly from the union level, so that truly “all” Seventh-day Adventist children could receive at least some spiritual training. Other small elementary or junior academies could be assisted in their offerings, also. This probably calls for a re-study of how education is presently funded, not to receive more funds, but to use more efficiently what is already available. This could create a significant paradigm shift in the operation of schools.

In conclusion, the Lake Union education department leadership team will continue leading children to Christ and preparing them in the development of “the head, the hand, and the heart.”

“The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there” (*Education*, p. 30).

Gary Randolph is the Lake Union Conference education director.

Connecting the Body of Christ with Ministry Support Services

BY HARVEY P. KILSBY

The apostle Paul, in his letters to the Corinthians and Romans (chapter 12 in both cases), explains that the church, like our physical body, needs members with different functions to operate properly as a whole. He states that God gives us gifts and we are to use those gifts to serve Him and His church.

The need for the gifts of preaching and teaching are obvious; whereas, others, like serving and administration, may not seem as obvious. However, Paul reminds us that, like our physical body, the church requires different functions to operate smoothly and effectively.

One serving/administrative function provided by the Lake Union Conference is computer software development and support for the financial record-keeping and administrative needs of churches, schools, and administrative offices where alternatives are uneconomical or do not fit the church's needs. LUCIS Software (Lake Union Conference Information Systems) is the most widely used financial software by conferences in the North American Division (NAD). Sales and fees charged to organizations outside the Lake Union territory help provide funds for continued development.

A new advanced version of our general ledger was released in 2004 after several years of development. Pilot distribution occurred in mid-year 2004; general distribution followed in November (coincidentally a month after the decision by the NAD to disassociate itself from the General Conference SunPlus general ledger software project). Within three months, most conferences and academies in the Lake and Columbia Union territories had installed and were using the new LUCIS Software. Conferences and academies in Canada, the Atlantic Union, and elsewhere followed in 2005. New sites are continuing to join the LUCIS Software group, while others wait to see the results of the NAD's effort to develop an independent software package.

The new LUCIS Software is much more powerful and user-friendly, with many new query and reporting features. It proved to be as fast for entry and report generation as previous versions, is easier to use, and is compatible with

the new global reporting standard being adopted by the General Conference for all Adventist organizations worldwide. Our long-standing partnership with the General Conference Auditing Service has been further strengthened with their use of the new software, which has a number of features to assist with auditing. Significant savings in auditing costs continue as a result of this partnership.

Recognizing that the Adventist Church is made up of organizations of varying size with different levels of expertise and needs, LUCIS Software is provided in five editions. The different editions allow us to accommodate small, medium, and large churches, schools, and conference offices (local and union) while keeping the interface appropriate to the level of expertise and needs of the different organizations.

Uncertainty, as a result of the General Conference and NAD software development efforts, caused us to remain in a minimal staffing mode for the last several years. Though this has not impacted our ability to support those using the software, it has seriously slowed new development. We are presently in the process of expanding staffing to assist with software upgrades needed by churches and other LUCIS Software applications.

Visit our website, www.luc.adventist.org/lucis, to learn more about the department and the opportunity we offer for qualified, dedicated Christians who feel God's call to serve the church in a financial software development-support capacity. You may also contact us at lucis@luc.adventist.org for more information.



Harvey P. Kilsby, LUC information systems director



Lance Mack, programmer/analyst



Sean Parker, programmer/analyst

Harvey P. Kilsby is the Lake Union Conference information systems director.

To Every Nation, Tribe, Language, and People

BY GARY BURNS



According to *Census 2000*, there are more than 300,000 people in the Lake Union who identified themselves as American Indian: approximately 40,000 people live in Indiana, 73,000 in Illinois, 125,000 in Michigan, and 70,000 in Wisconsin. There are nearly 600 federally recognized tribes and more than 200 still waiting for federal recognition.



Gary Burns, LUC native ministries director

Since 1978, the Bureau of Indian Affairs requires tribes to go through a lengthy recognition process to prove their existence as descendants of America's original inhabitants, and to qualify for government programs. Following is a list of tribes within the Lake Union.

Native ministries was recently established in the Lake Union to facilitate efforts to include the more than 300,000 American Indians in the ministry of the Adventist church. As a member of the North American Division Native Ministry Council, we are able to share funds and resources to help us accomplish this goal.

This year, nearly \$10,000 was set aside by the North American Division for native ministry in the Lake Union. These funds are available by request to conferences to provide services and support.

Gary Burns is the Lake Union Conference native ministries director.

INDIANA TRIBES

Not Federally Recognized (not eligible for services)

- Miami Nation of Indiana, Huntington, Ind.
- Northern Cherokee Tribe of Indiana
- Upper Kispoko Band of the Shawnee Nation, Kokomo, Ind.

MICHIGAN TRIBES

Federally Recognized

- Bay Mills Reservation, Brimley, Mich.
- Grand Traverse Reservation, Suttons Bay, Mich.
- Hannahville Indian Community, Wilson, Mich.
- Isabella Reservation, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Watersmeet, Mich.
- L'Anse Reservation, Baraga, Mich.
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Indians Reservation, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Not Federally Recognized (not eligible for services)

- Lake Superior Chippewa of Marquette, Inc.
- Burt Lake Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
- Consolidated Bahwetig Ojibwas and Mackinacs
- Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Gunlake Village Band of Grand Lake Ottawa Indians, state recognized, petitioned June 24, 1992
- Swan Creek and Black River Chippewa, petitioned May 4, 1993

WISCONSIN TRIBES

Federally Recognized

- Bad River Reservation, Odanah, Wis.
- Forest County Potawatomi Community, Crandon, Wis.
- Ho Chunk (Winnebago) Reservation, Black River Falls, Wis.
- Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation, Hayward, Wis.
- Lac Du Flambeau Reservation, Lac Du Flambeau, Wis.
- Menominee Reservation, Keshena, Wis.
- Oneida Reservation, Oneida, Wis.
- Red Cliff Reservation, Bayfield, Wis.
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Crandon, Wis.
- St. Croix Reservation, Hertel, Wis.
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Bowler, Wis.

Not Federally Recognized (not eligible for services)

- Brotherton Indians of Wisconsin

ILLINOIS

There are no registered American Indian tribes in the state of Illinois. The state got its name, however, from a confederation of tribes known as the Illini. They called themselves Illiniwek, which means "people." Illinois is a French version of Illiniwek. Scholars estimate there were approximately 12,000 people among the Illiniwek, in 60 villages, in the 1600s. By the time of the *Declaration of Independence*, their numbers were reduced to less than 1,800. About the time the Adventist church was organized, the 84 remaining members were relocated to a reservation in Oklahoma.¹

¹ www.500Nations.com

Protecting Our Freedom

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY REPORT

BY VERNON L. ALGER

During the past quinquennium, the public affairs and religious liberty (PARL) department has again faced as its major challenge the preservation of jobs for church members when their employer's schedule conflicts with Sabbath observance. The latest numbers indicate that in the North American Division approximately 15 Seventh-day Adventists per week lose their jobs over Sabbath/employment conflict. Legislation to help correct this problem was introduced in the past several congressional sessions, and was pending during the entire quinquennium period. However, neither house of the United States Congress has voted on any of these bills. There was a hearing in a House committee November 10, 2005, but the committee has not reported the bill out of committee for a vote by the House. The bills pending in Congress right now are H.R. 1445 in the House of Representatives, sponsored by Mark Souder of Indiana along with 18 co-sponsors, and S. 677 in the Senate, sponsored by Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania with 15 co-sponsors.

One bright spot in the Sabbath/employment conflict area is in the Michigan Court of Appeals where, on January 12, 2006, it reaffirmed a lower court decision that individuals are entitled to unemployment compensation if their employment is terminated because of their religious belief. The same result occurred in a case involving a Seventh-day Adventist in the mid-1980s, which was also church-sponsored litigation. It is not known at present if the State of Michigan will pursue an appeal or ask for a rehearing.

Church-state issues have recently been highlighted in the news. The line separating politics and religion is becoming increasingly blurred. Religion used as a political device is divisive, and preventing societal division over religious differences is one of the reasons for having church-state separation. It is one of the principles that has preserved our republic since its founding.

One of the areas of church activity in which government regulation has escalated is that of door-to-door solicitation and sales of books and periodicals. As our society becomes increasingly private, fewer people are willing to be interrupted by someone knocking at their door to discuss, promote, or distribute religious literature, or solicit funds. Jehovah's Witnesses have taken the lead in some of the litigation which has gone to the U.S. Supreme Court with resulting court decisions providing many of our religious solicitation protections. This was particularly true during the 1940s. However, as with other religious freedoms, we have seen this right diminished.

The Jehovah's Witnesses brought a case to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002, challenging a village ordinance that restricted their calling on private homes for religious purposes. Because of the importance of the argument in interpreting the Court's opinion, some members of the PARL department attended the oral argument in the Supreme Court chamber the morning it was argued. It had been stipulated that the door-to-door activity was religious in nature and involved no money, either through sale or solicitation. The Court ruled eight to one that door-to-door contact for religious or political purposes, with no money involved, could not be regulated by the village government. That was a victory for freedom of religion to the extent that religion involves only discussion or the distribution of literature.

Unfortunately, Justice Stevens, in his opinion, suggested that the ordinance might well have been constitutional had



Vernon L. Alger, LUC
public affairs and
religious liberty director,
trust services director



Patricia Young, secretary
to Vernon L. Alger

the village applied it “only to commercial activities and the solicitation of funds.” Thus, the ordinances of many cities and towns regulating solicitation were not affected by the ruling. Therefore, the issues of Ingathering and the distribution of books and periodicals are still a matter of dispute, and will continue to present problems for us and prompt litigation.

The PARL department is active in working with other denominations and organizations, and on its own when

necessary, to support legislation and litigation when appropriate to preserve religious freedom.

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance,” is a statement attributed to Thomas Jefferson. Ellen G. White said it differently: “We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience” (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 716).

Vernon L. Alger is the Lake Union Conference public affairs and religious liberty director.

Protecting Our Future

TRUST SERVICES REPORT

BY VERNON L. ALGER

The Lake Union Conference trust services department is a resource for the trust services departments of the local conferences. As such, it keeps current with tax laws, relates to other sources when appropriate, and works to provide the initial education and the continuing education for all certified trust officers in the Lake Union. Currently, we have 24 certified trust officers in the Lake Union and its five local conferences.

Estate planning is a continuation of stewardship of a person’s assets and resources established during life. An appropriate estate plan can provide for surviving dependents, as well as offer an opportunity to make gifts to individuals, to the church, and to other charities. The local conference trust services department informs members regarding options to meet these obligations and charitable intent in a manner consistent with the members’ desires, and consistent with their principles and the principles of the church.

During the past quinquennium, the funds left to the church and church-related entities from estate plans established by the conferences in the Lake Union exceeded \$8 million. The General Conference trust services department reported that the cumulative benefits to churches and church-related entities worldwide from the church’s trust

programs exceeded the one billion dollar mark this past year, calculated from 1968, the year trust services became a department in the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist church. We are grateful for God’s blessing in providing dedicated individuals at our conference trust services departments who are willing to take the required specialized training and continuing education to maintain their status as certified trust officers.

One of the greatest benefits to the church’s trust services department is the education, certification, accreditation, and audit program the church started in the 1980s. This program has received many favorable comments from non-church entities that have seen it in operation, and it has been copied by other charitable organizations in establishing their own trust programs. This program provides standards to assure the individuals working as trust officers are properly trained; the funds are properly invested, recorded, and distributed; and the audit by the General Conference Auditing Service provides all the relevant information to the managing boards.

You are invited to contact your local conference trust services department to meet with a trust officer.

Vernon L. Alger is the Lake Union Conference trust services director.

Telling the Story of God's Love

BY MYRNA EARLES

Lake Union women have committed themselves to be active contributors to finishing the Lord's work, both at home and throughout the world.

With this in mind, they tell the story of God's love in various ways through ministry in their churches. Through their ministries they help improve family relationships in the homes as well as in the church.

During the past five years there have been 120 women's ministries retreats in the Lake Union. These retreats gave women the opportunity to come and receive a spiritual uplift, as well as enjoy fellowship with friends. They also attended seminars where they received fresh ideas and training, plus enjoyed a time of spiritual emphasis. More than 1,000 women from other denominations attended these retreats. Some retreats are held in hotels and others at youth camps. In one conference, a mother/daughter retreat was held for the first time in 2005 and will now be an annual event.

In 2004, nearly 200 Lake Union women attended a one-day *Passionate Leadership* training event held at the Berrien Springs Village Church. The session included all women in



During the Indiana Single Moms retreat, mothers enjoyed a meal at the Olive Garden restaurant while their children participated in activities with staff back at camp.



*Nearly 200 Lake Union women attended a one-day *Passionate Leadership* training event at the Berrien Springs Village Church.*

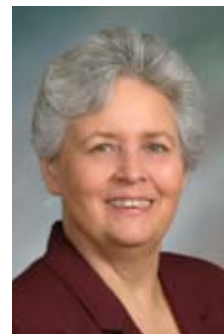
church leadership and was co-sponsored by North American Division and Lake Union women's ministries.

Hope for Hurting Hearts, a weekend for survivors of domestic violence and abuse—physical, emotional, and sexual—was held at Camp Wakonda in Wisconsin with 29 attending. Two years later, the same program was held at Camp Wagner in Michigan with 35 attending. These programs were sponsored by Lake Union women's ministries.

During the past five years, approximately 600 training seminars were held, not only at the conference level, but also in the local churches.

There have been 28 evangelistic meetings led by women which resulted in 60 baptisms, plus 150 members being reclaimed.

The *Heart Call* program is designed to reclaim women who find themselves distanced from the church. This is done through gift subscriptions to *Women of Spirit*, a magazine designed especially for



Myrna Earles, LUC women's ministries director

women. Women in the church who have a burden to win back hurting women become involved in this ministry by giving the women they're trying to reach special attention. They also reach out to women who are not members of their congregation but have shown an interest through Bible studies, retreats, evangelistic meetings, etc.

Women of the church want to be active contributors, not only in their own church but around the world. At some



Brenda Walsh ministered dynamically at the Wisconsin women's retreat.

retreats special offerings are taken to help support needy women in other parts of the world who do not have the privileges we have in America. There is an offering taken in all churches in North

America each July to help further the work of women's ministries. Your giving has helped the Lake Union Conference sponsor three of the unique events above.

Myrna Earles is the Lake Union Conference women's ministries director.

2006 LAKE UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES EVENTS

April 8

Indiana Women's Ministries Spring Retreat

Indiana Academy, Cicero, Indiana
Information: Call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: c2jloucks@aol.com

April 7-9, 14-16, and 21-23

Michigan Women's Ministries Retreats with Cathy Ireland

Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Michigan
Information: Call Myrna Earles at (517) 886-1093; or e-mail mearles@misda.org

June 10

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

June 22-25

Indiana Single Mom's Retreat

Timber Ridge Camp, Spencer, Indiana
Information: Call Julie Loucks at (317) 844-6201; or e-mail: c2jloucks@aol.com

July 29

NAD Women's Ministries Offering

July 21-23

Lake Union Hispanic Women's Ministries Retreat

Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan
Information: Call Areli Rivera at (414) 760-6396; or e-mail: ajoselin@sbcglobal.net

August 26

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day

September 22-24

Michigan Women's Ministries Retreat with Vicki Griffin and Evelyn Kissinger

Camp Sagola, Sagola, Michigan
Information: Call Gina Stearman at (906) 630-5720; or e-mail: nurseskeepthebeat@yahoo.com

September 29-October 1

Indiana Women's Ministries Retreat with Ginny Allen

Oakwood Inn, Syracuse, Indiana
Information: Call Shari Blackburn at (260) 622-4749; or e-mail: smbblackburn@juno.com

October 6-8

Northern Illinois (Chicagoland) Women's Retreat with Kay Kuzma

Location: To be announced
Information: Call Sarah Aragon at (708) 596-2000, ext. 2404

October 6-9

Lake Region Women's Ministries Retreat

Location: To be announced
Information: Call Doris Gothard at (586) 786-0035; or e-mail: dorisgothard@aol.com

October 13-15

Michigan Mother/Daughter Retreat with Jo Ann Davidson and daughter, Rahel Schafer

Camp Au Sable, Grayling, Michigan
Information: Call Myrna Earles at (517) 886-1093; or e-mail mearles@misda.org

October 27-29

Wisconsin Women's Ministries Retreat with Linda Lynch

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
Information: Call Susan Boon at (262) 835-4914

November 3-5

Southern Illinois Women's Retreat

Location: To be announced
Information: Call Cathy Sanchez at (618) 218-4335

November 5

Michigan Women's Ministries Leadership Workshop

Charlotte, Michigan
Information: Call Myrna Earles at (517) 886-1093; or e-mail mearles@misda.org

A Chosen Generation

BY RONALD H. WHITEHEAD

Youth ministry in the Lake Union goes back to 1879 when Luther Warren and Harry Fenner, ages 14 and 17, gathered together for prayer in Hazelton, Michigan, to establish the Adventist Missionary Youth Society. In 1901, the General Conference voted to establish a youth department and in 1916, the Lake Union Conference established a youth department to better serve the needs of Lake Union youth and young adults. Since 1996, Ron Whitehead has coordinated Lake Union youth ministries for three union presidents.

The Lake Union historically and currently values youth and young adults. This union of conferences believes their youth are not only the church of tomorrow, but they are the church today. Here are a few ways our youth are involved in the mission of the Seventh-day-Adventist Church.

MISSIONS

Each year, hundreds of young people take the Matthew 18:19 commission to heart. To illustrate their dedication and how quick Lake Union young people can respond to God's call, look no further than Hurricane Katrina. Hundreds of youth rotated into the Gulf States area to be "salt and light" for Jesus. For more information, visit: www.cywecare.org.



Lake Union youth were quick to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

MISSION EVANGELISM	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Student Missionaries/Taskforce	38	36	28	32	35
Short Term Domestic Trips	17	21	18	20	31
Short Term International Trips	30	38	31	32	33
Total Participants (estimate)	978	1,216	1,008	1,072	1,315



Campers form lasting memories at Indian Village campfire worships.

SUMMER CAMP EVANGELISM

Year after year this form of evangelism pays big in the following areas: baptisms, decisions for Jesus, young adult leadership training and employment, and pure fun. Beautiful Camp Akita in the Illinois Conference is the newest conference center and camp in the Lake Union.



Ronald H. Whitehead, youth ministries director

CAMP EVANGELISM S = Staff C = Campers R = Request for Baptism NA = Not Available

	2001			2002			2003			2004			2005		
	S	C	R	S	C	R	S	C	R	S	C	R	S	C	R
Illinois	NA	NA	NA	25	172	NA	25	180	NA	31	285	NA	35	316	NA
Indiana	28	286	55	30	350	70	32	470	90	35	420	90	38	530	125
Lake Region	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71	29	1,400	71
Michigan	90	1,672	443	90	1,632	374	92	1,714	390	96	1,769	371	90	1,802	453
Wisconsin	30	311	57	30	270	62	30	286	43	30	254	56	32	296	53
Totals	177	3,669	626	204	3,824	577	208	4,050	594	221	4,128	588	224	4,344	702

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER EVANGELISM

Pathfinders and Adventurers are the strongest local church youth programs within the Lake Union. These two ministries effect “our” youth. They learn Christian values, build a relationship with Jesus, discover the world around them, and train for leadership, as well as Bible evangelism, etc. Adventurers and Pathfinders are for those in grades one to 12. Barna Research Group well documents if young people do not make a decision for Jesus by age 14 they are only four percent likely to make that decision later on.

In 2001, the Lake Union Pathfinder Camporee was held with just over 1,800 in attendance. In 2004,



An Illinois drummer marched in a parade at the 2004 Faith on Fire Camporee.



Adventurers learn many new skills. They enjoy collecting patches from their classes for their sashes.



Adventurers enjoy making new crafts at Adventurer Fun Day.



More than 30,000 attended the 2004 Faith on Fire Camporee in Osh Kosh, Wis.

the Lake Union hosted the world camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with more than 30,000 in attendance. The Lake Union will host its quinquennial camporee September 14–17, 2006. For more information, contact Terry Dodge, Michigan Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer director: tdodge@misda.org.

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER EVANGELISM

PC = Pathfinder Clubs PM = Pathfinder Members AC = Adventurer Clubs AM = Adventurer Members

	2001				2002				2003				2004				2005			
	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM	PC	PM	AC	AM
Illinois	22	298	10	175	24	324	11	196	27	328	13	228	19	396	15	257	26	412	17	306
Indiana	11	280	11	258	13	358	12	270	17	390	13	253	17	425	15	270	18	380	14	298
Lake Region	26	531	13	222	26	531	22	291	26	531	21	254	26	531	15	216	26	531	12	193
Michigan	59	1,122	28	479	61	1,135	40	385	69	1,310	47	578	62	1,314	40	648	60	1,206	37	547
Wisconsin	13	150	8	40	13	120	8	42	13	125	8	39	13	107	8	41	13	113	8	40
Totals	131	2,381	70	1,174	137	2,468	93	1,184	152	2,684	102	1,352	137	2,773	93	1,432	143	2,642	88	1,384



Abdiel Quetz portrayed Jesus in the 2005 Andrews University Passion play.

PUBLIC DOCTRINE EVANGELISM

During the past few years, increasing numbers of youth and young adults are seeking more involvement in various forms of public evangelism. Some youth are holding Revelation seminars, others are starting Bible correspondence schools, while still others are preaching the gospel. One of the most recent Lake Union youth evangelism efforts was held in Ghana, Africa, with 49 Pathfinders. More than 500,000 pieces of literature were distributed and 702 people were baptized. With more youth evangelism training and funding taking place in the Lake Union, we expect more youth and young adult involvement.



Andrews University students lead the dynamic Fusion worship experience monthly at the Howard Performing Arts Center.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

There is a wise saying, “what you value, you measure.” This is true in the corporate world, but also applies to our personal and spiritual lives. In ministry, we value people. In youth ministry, we especially value young people and are overjoyed when they make a decision for Christ. There are a number of indicators that suggest what we are doing through summer camp, Pathfinders, missions and outreach ministries is having a significant impact on the number of youth baptisms. New software technology is now being em-



Ron Whitehead baptized this young woman from Ghana, Africa, during the Pathfinder evangelistic effort there.

ployed to track this information so we can monitor baptisms for young people under the age of 17 and between the ages of 18 to 35. With this information, we can better assess the effectiveness of our ministry to the young.

The youth and young adults around us are a chosen generation called to usher in our Lord’s return. To this end, the Lake Union youth department stands ready to support its youth.

Ronald H. Whitehead is the Lake Union youth and young adult ministries director.

ADVENTIST MIDWEST HEALTH REPORT

SHARING *the* LIGHT

THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE

BY ERNIE SADAU

During the past five years, Adventist Midwest Health developed a stronger presence in the Chicago suburban market through its ownership, management, and operation of Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, and Adventist Bolingbrook Medical Center. Plans to open Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital in 2007 are in progress and this state-of-the-art facility is recognized as the first new hospital in the state of Illinois to be built in 25 years. The region also includes Chippewa Valley Hospital, the physicians of Adventist Health Partners, and other affiliated organizations.

Significant historical milestones were also reached by our organizations—100 years for Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, 50 years for Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital, and 25 years for Adventist GlenOaks Hospital.

With more than 5,000 employees, more than 1,200 volunteers, and a medical staff of more than 1,200 physicians, Adventist Midwest Health handles in excess of 31,000 inpatient admissions and 410,000 outpatient visits annually.



Ernie Sadau,
AMH president/CEO



ADVENTIST BOLINGBROOK MEDICAL CENTER AND ADVENTIST BOLINGBROOK HOSPITAL

Opened in 1981, Adventist Bolingbrook Medical Center provides outpatient services and emergency care to the area residents. In 1998, this facility was certified as the first free-standing emergency center in Illinois, offering 24-hour emergency care. As community needs grow, our partnership with them continues to reach new heights. In Fall 2005, construction began on Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, a

138-bed, full-service hospital that will include 102 medical/surgical, 20 obstetrics, and 12 intensive care beds. Plans also include an office building added to the campus to serve the growing community.

ADVENTIST GLENOAKS HOSPITAL

A 186-bed facility, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital is ready to meet the health care demands of the growing community in the western suburbs. Providing more than 47,000 patient visits per year, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital offers acute care, obstetrics, cardiology, and behavioral health services. As a pioneer in reducing emergency department wait times, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital currently has plans for a new emergency center and medical office building.

Adventist GlenOaks Hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary, with various programs that included a series of week-long cultural diversity celebrations designed to honor and understand the different cultures represented at the hospital.

ADVENTIST HINSDALE HOSPITAL

The centennial celebration in 2004 marked 100 years of service and was an excellent opportunity to remember the strong foundation set by David and Mary Paulson, physicians and co-founders of Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital. The rich legacy they began led to the health care ministry Adventist Hinsdale Hospital offers today. Recent renovations to the Koplin Emergency and Trauma Center, Koplin Family Endoscopy Center, the pediatrics unit, and other patient care units, feature the latest in patient comforts, staff efficiencies, and technological advances for diagnosis and treatment. The hospital is a 426-bed facility that delivers high-tech tertiary care, including Level III neonatal services, and features several centers of excellence—Rooney Heart, Birk Family Women and Children Center, and Opler Can-



Actor Richard Garvey portrayed David Paulson, physician, at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital's centennial celebration.

cer, Koplin Family Endoscopy Center, the pediatrics unit, and other patient care units, feature the latest in patient comforts, staff efficiencies, and technological advances for diagnosis and treatment. The hospital is a 426-bed facility that delivers high-tech tertiary care, including Level III neonatal services, and features several centers of excellence—Rooney Heart, Birk Family Women and Children Center, and Opler Can-

cer Center. Adventist Hinsdale Hospital ranked 32nd among hospitals in the United States for Neurology and Neurosurgery by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2005.

ADVENTIST LA GRANGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 and is looking forward to the opening of its new five-story, 225,000 square foot Patient Care Center later this year. The addition will provide private rooms, expanded waiting areas, and a state-of-the-art medical facility that includes a 27-bed intensive care unit. The new facility will offer easy access to the campus with welcoming interiors and integration of technology. The 223-bed hospital will continue to provide a full range of cardiology, oncology, and medical/surgical services to the surrounding communities.



Luke Sewall, M.D., is performing an interventional radiology procedure at Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital.



CHIPPEWA VALLEY HOSPITAL

Chippewa Valley Hospital serves a rural community in Durand, Wisconsin, with a 25-bed critical access hospital and an attached 58-bed skilled care nursing facility.

ADVENTIST ST. THOMAS HOSPICE

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice began in 1980 as a volunteer program and has grown into a full-service hospice, touching over 800 families in 2005. Named after a courageous 17-year-old teen battling cancer, Adventist St. Thomas Hospice follows the hospice philosophy of specialized assistance for individuals with advanced, incurable illnesses who seek palliative care or relief from pain or discomfort. The program also offers support for patients' family and close friends, including a grief support program for children called *Tommy's Kids*. The group is for children who experience significant loss due to the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, or friend. An informal adult grief sup-

port group meets simultaneously to discuss opportunities adults have to deal with children's grief and how help them through the loss.

ADVENTIST GLENOAKS THERAPEUTIC DAY SCHOOL

Adventist GlenOaks Therapeutic Day School celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2005. This fully-accredited, third-through 12th-grade program offers a variety of curriculum and therapies for students with social-emotional disorders and learning disabilities, at three campuses throughout Chicago's western suburbs—Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, and Aurora. This highly-specialized, educational organization is the top referral choice of area school districts, thanks to its 100 percent graduation rate. The school teaches lifelong principles, including social, living, and vocational skills. The goal is to assist students in the development of self-awareness, confidence, and problem-solving strategies so they can re-enter community schools and transition into successful careers.

Ernie Sadau is the Adventist Midwest Health president/CEO.

Living our Mission

Ghana, West Africa

In addition to community outreach, education, and Spiritual Ambassador programs, Adventist Midwest Health participated in a mission trip to Ghana, West Africa. Administrators and employees worked side by side to conduct medical ministries, youth and children's programs, as well as help build a block and concrete women's dormitory for a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Hurricane Katrina

On Friday, September 12, Adventist Midwest Health was recognized by the American Red Cross as a lead corporate partner in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Employees represented the organization at a state-wide telethon to raise funds for the hurricane victims. Held at the Hewitt Associates offices in Lincolnshire, Illinois, and hosted by the Illinois Broadcasters Association, the telethon was a great success, garnering \$6,488,793 in less than 24 hours. Adventist Midwest Health and its medical staffs presented a corporate donation of \$150,000 on behalf of employees and physicians.

Reflecting our Faith

In November 2004, Adventist Midwest Health changed its name from Adventist Health System Midwest Region to provide a more concise reflection of who we are and what we represent. As a part of this brand strategy, the hospitals and affiliated organizations incorporated "Adventist" into their names.



Stewards of a Legacy

BY NIELS-ERIK ANDREASEN

During the 2005 General Conference Session, members of the World Church poured through the Lake Union to visit two icons of Adventism—Battle Creek’s Historic Adventist Village and Andrews University (Andrews). St. Louis and Berrien Springs might not seem like twin cities, but University Relations recorded more than 600 guests who visited campus for a tour. Many more came through unannounced and most also made a stop in Battle Creek.

With the close proximity of Andrews and the Lake Union Conference office, there is a dynamic relationship not possible anywhere else. Andrews is grateful for the generous spirit of collegiality between our leadership and for the generous financial support of the Lake Union. We are pleased to provide global resources in the context of Adventist higher education to the Lake Union.

We are also grateful for the support and partnership with Lake Union secondary institutions. For the past four years, almost 40 percent of all graduating Lake Union academy seniors chose Andrews University, a six per-

cent increase over the previous four years. Our gifted and committed students, with our scholarship support, become the future leaders of our church and community.

Following is a brief quinquennial report of what has been accomplished, with God’s blessings, in partnership with the Lake Union and the General Conference, for the benefit of our Adventist young people.



Niels-Erik Andreasen,
Andrews University
president

EDUCATING FOR GENEROUS SERVICE

Today, more than 3,000 students from nearly 100 countries study at our Berrien Springs campus, in five schools and one division, and choose from 180 undergraduate and graduate programs. The university’s educational strength extends worldwide through affiliate and extension programs where another 1,700 students are working toward Andrews undergraduate and graduate degrees at 16 affiliated institutions on five continents. Andrews alumni number more than 28,000. They work across the globe, with literally thousands serving in the world church in leadership positions.

Andrews enjoys a diverse teaching faculty dedicated to academic excellence and spiritual development. In addition to teaching, Andrews faculty are challenged and committed to scholarly research and publishing. We are proud of our faculty who made the commitment to our students, understanding that during the few years our students are with us the interactions in and out of the classroom will mold our students’ decisions about career, friends, and service to God and society.

Some of our students’ educational success is demonstrated through national standards. Our undergraduate students are entering college with scores consistently higher than national averages on standardized tests. Our retention rates are nearly 15 percentage points higher than similar private universities, reflecting a six point increase since 1999, demonstrating our students’ success and commitment to Adventist education at Andrews.

The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, which recently commemorated its 70th anniversary, had a record

enrollment of 768 students in Fall 2005. Seminary students come from all inhabited continents of the world to join one of the most diverse campuses in North America.

Creating a physical environment that fosters learning and builds community among students, faculty, and staff is an ongoing challenge in a time of stretched financial resources. Thanks to the generosity of the Lake Union and other university friends who are also committed to education for generous service, we completed two major building projects during the last quinquennium. The facility that houses the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary underwent a much-needed renovation and expansion, spaces that foster intellectual, spiritual, and social community among the students, staff, and faculty of the Seminary.

The second building project remained a dream for over a quarter century. However, in October 2003, Andrews dedicated the Howard Performing Arts Center to the Giver who dreams of a world filled with His song, healed by His music.

“Educated for Service” is demonstrated creatively and practically in various disciplines. Our music students and faculty offer free lessons in their spare time to disadvantaged children; music performance organizations spend vacations bringing music to inspire the hearts of those stricken with AIDS in developing countries; architecture students serve the building needs of small communities in South America; biology students tutor disadvantaged children in the local community; a potpourri of students volunteer their time each Sabbath for street ministries in nearby Benton Harbor; and hundreds more dedicate their varied talents and time for the annual Easter weekend Passion play which ministers to more than 8,000 guests.

FAITHFUL WITNESS TO CHRIST AND TO THE WORLDWIDE MISSION OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Where do Andrews students get the energy and inspiration to serve? It is through the fresh and energetic youthful enthusiasm—an element that brings great joy to the educational work on campus. Students thrive in the Christ-centered classrooms and daily worship services expected on

a Christian campus, but Andrews students also take hold of their faith experience and live it out in bold new ways. Every Sabbath there are nearly 30 worship opportunities in the Michiana community, including eight options right in Berrien Springs. Bible study in the tradition of Sabbath school has enjoyed a revitalized interest through the grassroots initiative and leadership of Andrews students with the support of their families in the community.

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

For nearly a century and a half Andrews has provided higher education to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1960 that commitment was redoubled by the General Conference, which established Andrews as a comprehensive university charged with serving the needs of a growing and changing denomination.

However, there remains a tremendous need for educated leaders to support the church’s expansion, to bring



New students get acquainted during Andrews’ All Fired Up orientation week.

Adventist influence to various fields in the public sector, and to provide faith-based education for the world Adventist family. Andrews stands on the cusp of a new era in Adventist education and is uniquely prepared to serve the global needs of our worldwide church.

Andrews looks to the future with confidence. With God’s guidance and grace, we will strengthen Andrews’ academic programs to make them responsive and adaptable to the needs of church and society. We will nurture our outstanding faculty, who embody the academic excellence and spiritual maturity that inspires students and

prepares them for distinctive leadership roles, and we will remain faithful stewards of the physical spaces of our campus, continuing to develop and provide a physical plant that builds community and supports educational values.

At Andrews we are stewards of a legacy of leadership that inspires us to take seriously what Adventist education sets out to do. We are stewards of resources measured in the lives of people and the walls of buildings, and we are stewards of a mission inspired by our namesake, John Nevins Andrews.

Niels-Erik Andreasen is the Andrews University president.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE REPORT



Sitting High on Candlesticks

BY KENNETH A. DENSLAW

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house” (Matt. 5:14, 15).

The lights are high on the candlesticks in Illinois as members share their faith where they live and work. Members have prepared to share their light through personal Bible study, prayer, daily readings of the Spirit of Prophecy, regular church and Sabbath school attendance, as well as active participation in evangelism.

SHARING THE LIGHT IN OUR CHURCHES

Through the work of the local church, more than 2,200 new members were added to church membership through baptism and profession of faith, and net membership increased from 11,659 to 12,645 in this quinquennium.



Kenneth A. Denslaw, Illinois Conference president

For one new member, Kristina Jones, married to an Adventist, Randy Jones, the journey toward church membership took some time. The couple decided their children needed a Christian upbringing. They chose the Adventist faith and over ten years ago she began taking their six children to Sabbath school at the Downers Grove Church. More recently the family began attending church in Dela-
 waun, Wisconsin.

“When my husband and Pastor Goia began conversations about starting a church (Crystal Lake) in McHenry County, my interest in spiritual things was rekindled and I began serious Bible study. Through the years he never pushed me, although he always answered my



From left (back): Crystal Lake pastor, Gavril Bardan; Kristina Jones, and husband, Randy Jones; the Jones’ children (left); and Pavel Goia, pastor, (front right)



To accommodate the growing congregation gathered together for a baptism, Crystal Lake Fellowship members worship under a tent.

questions,” Kristina said. Her family and friends stood by her side as she was baptized by the pastor in the Nippersink Creek at the home of Gerald and Jacque Weiland in Spring Grove, Illinois.

In addition to Crystal Lake, new congregations were started in Caledonia, Naperville, Bensenville, Berwyn, Ro-



Camp meeting is a special time each year. The 21 Illinois Hispanic churches get together as one family to worship the Creator. Among the many activities held that weekend, the most important is the baptism.

chelle, Rockford, West Chicago, Palatine, Peoria, and Fairfield, some of which are Spanish-speaking congregations.

Many members now worship in new facilities: the Chicago Central Korean, Chicago Fil-Am, Salem, Woodson, Melrose Park Romanian (now Addison

Romanian), Little Village Hispanic, Elgin Agape Hispanic Church, and the Southwest Church (merged South Suburban and West Park, with newly purchased property in West Frankfort). Princeton Church members raised in excess of \$175,000 to replace their more than 100-year-old facility in Spring 2006. The Lake Union Chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries is supporting this project.

SHARING THE LIGHT THROUGH EDUCATION

Students at Broadview Academy (BVA) are involved in a new approach to learning, being watched by educators all over North America. The new BVA experience can best be remembered by "BVA CARES." Students are offered



Broadview Academy students travel throughout Illinois. The choir, under the direction of Noemi Tanada, recently visited the Southwest Adventist Church.

education to help them become "Centered in Christ, Active and Healthy, Ready for Life, Engaged in Learning, and Socially Responsible." Interestingly, many BVA students are not Adventists. During the past two years, more than ten students were baptized.

Students in the secondary program at Hinsdale Adventist Academy and North Shore Junior Academy, as well as those in the elementary program, continue to receive quality Christian education. More than 130 students were bap-



The Oak cabin at Camp Akita has room for 20 girls.

tized through the teaching ministry of Illinois schools in this quinquennium.

Financing Christian education continues to be a priority. Several options are being explored and will be implemented next year.

SHARING THE LIGHT THROUGH YOUTH

Since the last Lake Union constituency meeting, a brand new camp was designed and built for our youth, also serving the entire constituency. The camp, a former Boy Scouts facility, was named Camp Akita. Set in the heart of Illinois, along the Spoon River, Camp Akita offers facilities nestled in a quiet and peaceful setting. Akita is an Indian name meaning "discovery."

The camp is located on 612 beautiful acres, with several ponds and a lake for water activities. The Lakeview Lodge, equipped with state-of-the-art media equipment and a commercial kitchen, accommodates groups as large as 300. There are nine guest rooms in the lodge, each with private bathroom facilities. The rooms are heated and air conditioned, as are the Oak and Cedar cabins, which are actually three cabins in one. Each floor of the cabin has bunk beds for ten campers and two bathrooms. There are also separate rooms for adult sponsors.

Camp Akita has a 38-space, full-hookup recreational vehicle park to accommodate just about any size vehicle. And, of course, there is plenty of space for tent camping. Activities for individuals and groups visiting Camp Akita include: canoeing, climbing tower, horseback riding, swimming, mountain biking, walking/hiking, and winter activities—sledding and cross-country skiing.

Although groups have roughed it at the camp since its purchase, Camp Akita officially opened in June 2004 with



Complete with a large lobby, commercial kitchen, nine guest rooms, laundry facilities, an office, and meeting rooms, Lakeview Lodge is the center for Camp Akita activities.

a ribbon cutting ceremony and camp meeting. Each year attendance has steadily increased at the week-long camp meeting. There was a 32 percent increase in the number of young people blessed by the summer ministry at Camp Akita the second year of operation in the new buildings. In addition, there were dramatic increases in other camp programs, such as Senior's Retreat. Plans are in place to extend the camp program and build new cabins to accommodate more children in the summer camp program and those attending events and retreats.

SHARING THE LIGHT THROUGH SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

On the financial front, for the first time in several years, the Illinois Conference operated under a balanced budget in 2005.

Tithe increased from \$9,116,523 in 2000, to \$10,571,791 in 2005, a 15.97 percent increase. In 2005, despite two Illinois offerings allocated to aid tsunami and Hurricane Katrina victims, donations for Illinois ministries increased over the previous year. Illinois members are "Sharing the Light" through their faithfulness in returning tithe and offerings.

"Sharing God's Grace with Our World Through Teaching, Preaching, and Healing" continues to guide the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in everything done to reach the more than 12.7 million people in Illinois. Yes, lights are on, sitting high on candlesticks, giving light to everyone in Illinois—in every possible way!

Kenneth Denslow is the Illinois Conference president.

ly care. Hey, we just love kids! Honestly, we just think of it as God's school.

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(check out Isaiah 54:13)

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A Season of Thanksgiving

BY GARY THURBER

The Indiana Conference has many reasons to count its blessings for all the Lord has done in this field over the last five years. It was a season of thanksgiving, sadness, and change.

For nearly two years of this quinquennium, Clay Farewell was conference president. Near the end of 2002, Clay retired after 35 years of service and leadership for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Farwells moved to Tennessee. In December 2004, Clay came out of retirement to serve as assistant to the president in the George-Cumberland Conference. He was tragically killed in a plane crash on his first assignment in that position. Clay was dearly loved as a friend and leader in Indiana. His tragic death caused each of us to long for the coming of Jesus all that much more.

A SEASON FOR INVOLVEMENT AND GROWTH

It was exciting to see our membership's involvement increase in nearly every aspect of church life. Our people are leading evangelistic series, presenting very impactful health/temperance programs, giving leadership to mission trips and other global outreach projects, and carrying out varied ministries in churches and communities throughout the conference.

With the Lord's blessing, the Indiana Conference grew very strongly

during this quinquennium. During these five years, we realized 1,235 baptisms and professions of faith. In addition, ten new companies and congregations were planted in our territory. As a result of this growth, membership now stands on the threshold of 7,000 members; we ended 2005 with 6,972 members.

Many new congregations formed as a result of the very enthusiastic ministry of our Spanish-speaking constituents. Under the leadership of Orlando Vasquez, Indiana Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, and our team of Spanish-speaking pastors and lay leaders, the growth of our Hispanic work was phenomenal.

A SEASON FOR COMPASSION

Not only are Indiana Conference members hard working, they are full of compassion as well. When Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf coast, members responded to a conference-wide offering appeal with donations exceeding \$63,000. In addition, a very dedicated group of lay persons, under the leadership of Jose Vazquez, Indiana Conference community services and disaster relief direc-



Gary Thurber, Indiana Conference president



Disaster response volunteers stayed busy helping families.



Cathryn Kuszmaul, Barbara Hainey, Rebecca Terry, and Ellen Thornton helped a tornado survivor.

tor, dispatched two semis loaded with relief supplies and three semis with water and diapers to the devastated area. Several Indiana teams were organized to go help with the relief effort as well; one group, largely comprised of Indiana Academy students, gave up their Thanksgiving break to serve others.

Our community services and disaster response team also made a profound impact on our state as they responded to numerous floods and tornadoes that devastated Indiana communities and individuals. Most recently our team responded to the tornado that ripped through the Evansville area. In this one response, a total of 87 volunteers put in a combined 1,671 hours of service and helped 743 people recover from the tornado's devastation.

A SEASON FOR YOUTH

Our youth were also busy in this quinquennium. Under the leadership of Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, and Dean Whitlow, Indiana Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer director, our youth programming is stronger than ever. Senior youth events and Pathfinder functions are at record levels of participation. In addition, during the past five years attendance has nearly doubled at our summer camp program at Timber Ridge



Charlie Thompson, Indiana Conference youth director, and the Timber Ridge Camp staff show the love of Jesus to campers. Charlie was privileged to baptize his daughter, Katie (left), and Ashley Trubey (right), at camp in 2005.

Camp; this past summer attendance topped 500 campers for the first time in the camp's history.

We have young people who not only benefit from the conference's youth programs, but who are also involved in ministry themselves. A number of Indiana young people traveled to places like Africa, India, and Brazil to preach in evangelistic series there. We've had young people in our conference hold evangelistic crusades right here at home, too. Many others are involved in small group Bible studies and various other outreach projects. It is exciting to see God use our young people to finish the work.

A SEASON FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

During this quinquennium emphasis was given to the development of special ministries, including our health and temperance program, community service and disaster relief, and family ministries. Gary Case, former Indiana Conference health and temperance director, and Clinton Meharry, current director, gave wonderful leadership to the conference's health and temperance program with many new initiatives taking place all around the conference. Under Clinton's leadership the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) took hold in many areas and made great inroads into communities.



CHIP graduates appreciated learning ways to live healthy at one of several outreach programs sponsored by the Cicero church.

Ron Kelly, and his wife, Collene, Indiana Conference family ministries directors, brought many new opportunities for family ministries to Indiana. Through the resource library they created, as well as programs they offered, families and individuals were enriched.



Indiana members traveled to India to share the hope of Jesus. Many individuals gave their heart to Jesus following several series of evangelistic meetings.

For many years, Marjorie Driscoll, former Indiana Conference women's ministries coordinator, and her team, worked hard to build our women's ministries program in Indiana. The women's ministries convocations and retreats are well-organized and a blessing to many. The Single Mom's Retreat at Timber Ridge Camp, a cooperative effort of the women's ministries, youth, and family ministries departments, has been an extremely appreciated and well-attended event during this quinquennium.

A SEASON FOR LEARNING

Christian education continues to beat in the hearts of our constituents. Currently, we have a teaching ministry at 13 elementary schools and junior academies as well as Indiana

Academy. As this quinquennium came to a close and we began the next, Indiana Academy enjoys one of its best school years anyone can remember. There is a wonderful spirit on campus among students and faculty, with a real focus on strong academics as well as the students' spiritual life. We have much to be grateful for in the dedicated leadership and staff at all our schools.

A SEASON FOR FAITHFULNESS

Financially, as a conference, we have much to praise the Lord for as well. During this quinquennium, our conference faced some very serious deficit budgets. However, through the faithfulness of our people and the prayers of many, the conference is poised to achieve a balanced budget in 2006. Despite difficult economic times, our tithe increased 14.73 percent over the last five years, a real testament to the faithfulness of our people.

We thank our Lord for His bountiful blessings in our territory. It is our hope and desire to continue to serve Him with all our hearts as together we look forward to His soon coming.

Gary Thurber is the Indiana Conference president.



family.

Indiana Academy is a family. Like a family, we care about the spiritual, academic, social, and physical development of our students.

Like a family, we begin our school days with worship. Like a family, our teachers are prepared with experience and education to care for our students. Like a family, we plan social and fun events. Like a family, we care, pray, and encourage each other to be successful in life. Come join our family.



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A “Praise God” Report

BY JEROME DAVIS

It has been my privilege to serve as Lake Region Conference president for the past six months. In God’s providence, He allowed me to inherit this responsibility at a time when regional conferences were celebrating their 60th anniversary. What an honor! It also should be noted that Lake Region Conference was the first regional conference established.

Our heavenly Father has been very good to this conference, and especially during this quinquennium. During the past five years, Lake Region Conference experienced many challenges, much pain, and its share of heartache. But the Lord saw us

through all our trials and tribulations, and continues to bring about healing. So this report is a “Praise God” report!

Stunning events took place on the world field since our last Lake Union Session in 2001, events which indicate our Lord’s coming is nearer than when we first believed. The shattering and tragic events of 9/11, and the subsequent passage of the “Patriot Act,” and other laws that greatly constrict personal liberty, are prophecies being ful-



Anthony Kelly, Lake Region youth director, baptizes a young person who gave her heart to Jesus. Baptism is celebrated as an annual feature of camp meeting.

filled before our very eyes. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the unbelievable devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and the loss of millions of jobs, are just some of the powerful reminders this earth is waxing old like a loose garment and Jesus is soon to come. As our Lake Region Conference family witnesses these events, we are building our hopes on things eternal by seeking to save those who are lost. Consequently, through aggressive evangelism, our membership has grown to more than 28,000 and we plan to surpass the 30,000 membership mark by

this time next year. Praise God!



Jerome Davis, Lake Region Conference president



Lake Region pastors pray with attendees of a special camp meeting anointing service.



Elene Rodgers teaches a kindergarten class of eager children about being a part of God's family.

In a great many ways, the Lake Region Conference is a microcosm of the World Church. On any given Sabbath, services are conducted in a number of languages, including English, Spanish, French, Korean, and Chinese. The growth among our non-English-speaking churches has been tremendous. This work is continuing to grow under the leadership of our vice president for multi-lingual ministries, Eddie Allen. He has already communicated to our Hispanic churches his vision for doubling the membership in the next five years through a plan called, "Everyone Reach One." Praise God!



The Pathfinder parade is one of the highlights of the camp meeting experience.

No conference or institution enjoys being laden with debt. The Lake Region Conference can say "Praise God" because through our Strategic Financial Plan, spearheaded by Theodore Brown, treasurer, and approved by the four areas of our conference, we have paid all our bills in full! This doesn't mean we don't have financial challenges. On the contrary, over the next five years we will have to seri-

ously tighten our belts to stay in the black. And what more can I say about the faithfulness of our members? They have supported this conference with their means through good times and bad. Did I mention we had more than an 11 percent tithe increase in 2005? Praise God! This accomplishment deserves another "Praise God!"

One of our biggest challenges, at least since I've taken office, was to place pastoral leadership in all our churches. There were seven English-speaking church districts without ministers. Today, each of these districts has been assigned designated conference leadership. May I say "Praise God!" Our next goal is to do the same for our Hispanic churches. Already, we have formulated plans to achieve that objective.

Christian education remains a great challenge in the Lake Region Conference, as it is in every conference. I take my hat off to all our parents, teachers, principals, and school boards for everything they have done to ensure our boys and girls are taught of the Lord. It is our intention to see that every parent/guardian who desires to have his/her child receive a Christian education in a Seventh-day Adventist school, will have their dream fulfilled. For that I say, "Praise God!"

This report would not be complete without giving special thanks to George Bryant, Lake Region Conference executive secretary. He served as acting president during a time of severe turbulence, but worked very closely with the executive committee to keep this conference stable. Praise God!

In closing, we know the future holds greater challenges for the Lake Region Conference, but we have the assurance that He who is with us is greater than he who is against us. We review the past five years with thanksgiving to God for His mercy and grace, and look forward to tomorrow with great anticipation, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Once more we say, "Praise God!"

Jerome Davis is the Lake Region Conference president.



Brandon Dent Sr. is one of several volunteers who staff the camp meeting radio station, LRC Radio 88.7FM, which brings music, interviews, and information to camp meeting attendees from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight daily.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE REPORT



Getting the Message Out

IN A POST 9/11 WORLD

BY JAY GALLIMORE

It was just a few months after our Lake Union Session in 2001 when the world changed. We continue to see and feel the effect of those changes. No one needs to remind us our freedoms are under attack by powerful religious forces.

Hope for the Homeland was our response in 2002. Michigan Conference held 212 evangelistic meetings; six thousand guests attended the opening meetings and there were nine hundred baptisms. Praise the Lord! It was the highest number in



Last summer, 453 persons made decisions for baptism at Camp Au Sable. Jim Micheff, Michigan Conference youth director, baptized Cynthia Smith at Family Camp.

Then there is the story of the Clare (Michigan) Church. Several years ago the Michigan Conference had to disband the church and sell the property. Various efforts were made to revive the work there. Finally, a small company was started, but then it failed and the group asked the executive committee to disband it. The Lord led the Conference to ask retired literature evangelist director, Russ Thomas, a pastor, and his wife, Faith, if they would help. A month later the executive committee was asked to restart the company. By May 5, 2001, the group bought ten



Jay Gallimore, Michigan Conference president

21 years. Ninety lay preachers joined 120 pastors to conduct those meetings. Pastors not only prepared and held their own meetings, but also coached their lay brothers and sisters on how to do theirs. As members, we can look back at our response to the tragedy of 9/11 and know that when God said "Move!" we moved. We did not just wring our hands. We united, and by God's grace made our best efforts for the Lord.

acres on I-27 and broke ground for a new church.

By February 1, 2003, Clare members opened the doors to a beautiful church. Three months later they dedicated it debt free with 35 members. By December 2005, they had 66 members. You do the math.

What is the secret of their success? They do evangelism the old-fashioned way. First, they have at least one part-time colporteur, Pam Knechtel, who works very closely with the pastor. She finds the interests. The pastor and his wife follow them up. Members are assigned to give Bible studies. Then, the pastor "persuades" one of the Conference evangelists to hold a week-long "reaping" series. They



In January 2006, conference leaders met with many of the 30 Bible workers ministering in Michigan churches to give both training and encouragement.

always have a crowd of guests. Of course, the members are there as well, giving the meetings their full support.

The church members and their pastor are already making plans to start work in a nearby town where there is no church. Nothing beats door-to-door, cooperation between the pastor and members, Bible studies, public evangelism, love, and the truth. I wonder what would happen if we tried this everywhere? The results are predictable!

Consider the General Youth Conference (GYC). As many of you know, the Michigan Conference is sponsoring Secular Campus Ministries, under the direction of Samuel Pipim. Young people have a way of generating wonderful surprises. Israel Ramos, along with some others, decided it was time for Adventist young people to unite to help finish God's work. They were weary of the shallow, entertainment preaching and music that so often was directed at the youth. They wanted to be part of sharing the distinctive message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They started networking with youth from all over the country and organized a training convention that would affirm the faith and equip youth to witness.

Their first convention was held in Southern California. They expected 200; more than 400 came. The next time they held it in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They expected 800; 1,200 came. The next time they held it in Sacramento, California. They expected 1,200; 1,800 came. In December 2005, they held it in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They expected 2,200; 3,700 came.

In order to help prepare for Mark Finley's evangelistic meetings, on Sabbath afternoon 1,800 young people visited 9,000 homes. To date they have received requests for nearly 1,000 Bible studies. GYC! Young people invented it. Young people organized it. Young people are running it. They believe God deserves their best. They want to do their part to see Jesus come again soon.

Look at *ARISE* (A Resource Institute for Soul-Winning and Evangelism), run by David Asscherick, a minister, and his team. They train Bible workers each year for the Michigan Conference. We have far more requests for these graduates to do Bible work than we can meet. Adventists made their greatest advances in America when Bible workers were given a high priority. We must get back to doing door-to-door work and giving personal Bible studies. Some of the greatest teachings of Jesus were given to one person at a time—Nicodemus, and the woman at the well.

Last year, Camp Au Sable staff saw 453 people make decisions for baptism during their summer camp programs. God is blessing with record attendance. We want to do all we can to see youth make that decision to give their lives to Jesus.

We are grateful for our 47 schools. Great Lakes Adventist Academy is enjoying one of its highest enrollments. Every day the lives of our youth are being nurtured and encouraged toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is a lot of health outreach going on in our churches. The health and temperance department has developed their third outreach tool for churches to use. The latest, *Living Free*, focuses on addictions. The first of twelve, in a magazine series that can be used with neighbors and friends, is completed. It is titled, *Balance—Body, Mind, and Spirit*.

Then there were the hurricane disasters. This conference membership responded with nearly \$200,000 in donations. Several truckloads of goods were sent into the disaster zone. In addition, many volunteers staffed the Michigan Conference mobile kitchen that fed the warehouse volunteers in Louisiana.

We are urging our members to have their own parish. Your neighbors need you! Is there anyone in your neighborhood who is sick, addicted, depressed, out of work, lonely, or grieving? Are there single parents, people going through a divorce, marriages in crisis, youth in trouble, or parents who are distressed? Are there people who are wondering about spiritual things? Are there those who long to know somebody who knows the Lord? Maybe they are tired of all the "Christian" glitter and need a real Christian to connect to. What if we just decided to visit our neighbors every few weeks just to pray for those who would like for us to? We need to be about our Father's business, neighbor to neighbor. Not to see what we can get, but to see what we can give.

Jay Gallimore is the Michigan Conference president.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE REPORT



Heaven Bound

BY DON CORKUM

There is excitement among Adventist membership in Wisconsin. The reason for this excitement is they sense the day nearing when they will meet their Lord, face to face, at His return. They are Heaven bound and want to encourage others to share in this great future. Jesus is their Friend and they want their forever friendship with Him experienced by many. The year 2006 began with many evangelistic thrusts in the cities and towns throughout Wisconsin. The past five years also gave many reasons to praise God with evidence His cause is advancing throughout the state.

PRAISE HIM

From 2001 to 2005, 1,261 new members were added through baptism and profession of faith. This represents six percent growth over the previous five years. This was a result of people, all ages and walks of life, allowing the Spirit of God to work through them. Our young people demonstrated evangelism can be conducted effectively by youth, even those in church school. The Green Bay church school conducted a series in 2002 and fourteen people were baptized.

In 2002, when the *Hope for the Homeland* meetings were conducted, 335 people were added to the church. This was the most growth in one year since the



New Hmong members united with the Madison Community Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1970s. We praise God to see new members become a part of God's family. New people groups are a part of this growth. In 2005, an outreach began to the 40,000 Hmong living in Wisconsin. We praise God that about twenty Hmong are now rejoicing in the Adventist message. A Hmong pastor has been employed to help foster this new work.

Church planting is once again strong in this state. New church plants have occurred in communities where previously there was no Adventist church presence. Plans are underway early in 2006 to start a new work in South Milwaukee. An annual church planting rally provides inspiration and training for this growing work.

About 2.5 percent of the 200,000 Hispanics in Wisconsin are Adventists. There is a strong evangelistic outreach to this people group. The Three Angels Broadcasting Net-



Don Corkum, Wisconsin Conference president

work programs in Spanish have been a blessing, as has evangelism by satellite.

The media helps share the Adventist message. Low power radio stations now serve many communities in northern Wisconsin. Three Angels Broadcasting Network has a strong ministry in this state and many people come to the church as a result of watching its programs.

While public meetings and media ministry lay a strong foundation for growth, it takes personal work to help people make decisions for the Lord. During the *Sow One Billion* initiative, about 600,000 cards were sent out in the conference. The responses received from people requesting Bible studies totaled about 1,500. The studies and visits of members with these seekers resulted in contacts and decisions that honored our Lord.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

Youth and Pathfinders were excited once again to have the International Camporee hosted in their conference. About 30,000 youth gathered in Oshkosh to demonstrate “Faith on Fire.” Wisconsin has sixteen clubs and an average of 175 Pathfinders during the past five years.

Jahwi is the federation for the Spanish. This dynamic organization inspires the youth of the church as well as reaches out evangelistically. They have hundreds of youth responding to this ministry. Conventions, church events, and outreach activities give outlet to the enthusiasm of these inspired youth.

Wakonda means a place set apart. Each year, hundreds of youth campers come to the conference camp to hear more about Jesus and enjoy a camping experience. Many other experiences for children take place in the summer to uplift Jesus to our children and youth. Vacation Bible School ministered to more than 2,000 young people during the past five years.

Small groups are an excellent context to minister to people and invite friends to learn more about Him. An annual convention inspires small group leaders to continue this important ministry.

A strong emphasis on parenting and marriage takes place through seminars and weekend retreats. In addition, the women’s convention each year has 300–400 attendees and the men’s convention about 100.

ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education is a key part of the ministry in the Wisconsin Conference. During the past five years K–10 enrollment averaged 266 students in 18 schools, and the academy enrollment average for five years was 110. Wisconsin Academy is a center of ministry to youth. It also inspires



Wisconsin Academy students traveled to Mississippi to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

service. In 2005, students from the academy spent a week in Mississippi helping Hurricane Katrina victims. Seniors dedicate their class trip each year to a short-term mission project in places like Belize, Romania, and Africa.

FAITHFULNESS IN STEWARDSHIP

Wisconsin people continue to demonstrate loyalty and faithfulness to the work of God. In tithes, offering, and through estate planning, they demonstrate their priority to God. Even during difficult financial times, tithe increased each year. During the past five years, \$1,683,000 came through the conference trust department to local church entities, the conference, and other ministries. What a blessing this is to the work of God!

Yes, the people of Wisconsin are Heaven bound and they want their lives to give evidence of their commitment to Him. What a glorious day it will be when we hear our Savior say, “Welcome Home.” Then we can enjoy the future Jesus is excited about experiencing with us.

Don Corkum is the Wisconsin Conference president.

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