

Charles O'Hare Photo

Dual Application

Neil Biloff, President



In an obscure Old Testament text, a prophetic statement is made concerning a time that would come in the life of Israel. The prophecy states that at some point seven women would ask to marry one man. In today's American culture we laugh at the very thought of a seven to one ratio, but the number seven is intriguing. The text shares that the Israelite women would not ask for any significant change to their lives, they only want to use the name. Most Bible commentaries explain that because of wars and the shortage of young men lost in battle, Isaiah 4:1 is speaking about the rise of polygamy in Israel. But it seems that Isaiah is talking in terms of a dual prophecy. A dual prophecy speaks of things in the past with applications for the future. The Bible often refers to the Church as a woman and Christ as the Bride Groom. The parallels are noteworthy.

Many people today want to be affiliated with an organization or group understood to be larger than themselves. The idea of community gives perceived safety and a sense of belonging. "Let me belong," the person may say, "but let me do my own thing. Please do not burden me with organizational guidelines, rules or oversight." Could this apply to how we presently do church, both in the pews and in ministries involved in mission and outreach?

An abundance of ministries today want to be called by the name Seventh-day Adventist and make a living off the denomination but earnestly avoid oversight from the very body from which they gain financial support. They publicly say, "We exist to finish God's work," but privately, "On our own terms."

We are living in amazing times. This situation is something we all need to consider. Do all ministries in Adventism promote unity in diversity or any unity at all? Will the body (local church) become more or less divided with so many voices vying for "their" share or will we, as in the days of the Judges, do what is right in our own eyes? How does the local church survive if "I am of Apollos but you are a follower of Cephus?" The answers are not easy. Past decisions will be difficult to undo or change. The church is the apple of God's eye. May we ever support it.

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Financial Highlights December 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Increase (Decrease)</u>
1. Tithe Income				
Month-to-Date	1,067,949	873,179	194,770	22.31%
Year-to-Date	5,357,714	4,992,212	365,502	7.32%
2. Dakota Challenge				
Month-to-Date	15,560	18,850	(3,290)	-17.45%
Year-to-Date	133,056	136,735	(3,679)	-2.69%
3. Unrestricted Evangelism Fund Bal.	25,370	0	25,370	
Temp Restrict Evangelism Fund Bal.	335,064	763,474	(428,410)	-56.11%
4. Cash Position (Cash + Investments)	1,885,546	1,854,089	31,457	1.70%
MAUC Revolving Fund	194,067	682,080	(488,013)	-71.55%
Total	2,079,613	2,536,169	(456,556)	-18.00%
5. Accounts Receivable				
Elementary Schools	98,315	101,339	(3,024)	-2.98%
Churches	40,197	45,452	(5,255)	-11.56%
DAA	1,537	72,556	(71,019)	-97.88%
6. Percent of Recommended Working Capital (Note #1)	89.44%	93.92%	-4.48%	
7. Current Ratio (Note #2)	3.59:1	4.84:1		
8. Percent of Liquid Assets to Commitments	189.62%	189.72%	-0.10%	
9. Total Operations	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under) Budget</u>	<u>2016 Actual</u>
Income	6,917,091	5,879,465	1,037,626	7,097,960
Expenses	7,517,604	7,017,018	500,586	6,823,580
Net Gain/(Loss) before Transfers	(600,513)	(1,137,553)	537,040	274,380
Net Transfers In/(Out)	(2,268)	(240,696)	238,428	154,157
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(602,781)	(1,378,249)	775,468	428,537
Net Assets - January 1	3,747,379	3,747,379		3,318,842
Net Assets - End of Period	3,144,598	2,369,130		3,747,379
10. Operations for Selected Departments				
Pastors	2,092,872	1,982,567	110,305	2,004,435
Evangelism	180,142	168,169	11,973	67,625
Elementary Schools	675,651	641,718	33,933	722,110
DAA	951,444	984,500	(33,056)	942,179
Employee Medical	518,642	504,000	14,642	549,831
General Administrative	658,865	646,922	11,943	632,110
Residences	303,957	274,000	29,957	142,502

Note #1 Percent of Working Capital reflects the percentage of reserves the conference has, as compared to policy. Policy recommends that the conference maintain reserves equivalent to 25% of unrestricted income plus 100% of long-term payables, capital functions fund balances, and temporary restricted fund balances.

Note #2 Current Ratio is the comparison of total current assets to total current liabilities.

Use Your Gifts in Ministry

Sue Nelson, Education Superintendent

Elly Millirans of Bowdon, North Dakota is an energetic mother who works several part-time jobs and helps out at church where and when she is able. Part of her ministry includes pathfinders and helping cook for Flag Mountain and Northern Lights camps.

Members of the Bowdon Country Adventist Church cook dinner for the local farmer's market twice a year to raise money for Adventist Community Services, formerly called Dorcas, for projects to be used in the community. For one of the dinners, the usual members were unavailable so they asked Millirans to fill their obligation.



Millirans decided to take advantage of this opportunity; she was going to use the money generated toward scholarships for kids to go to camp. This decision came easily because she knew friends that had wanted to send their children to camp but did not have sufficient funds. With the help of her family, she made a delicious meal and served over 50 people. Since the food was donated they raised over \$350.00, enough to send two kids to camp.

There are children throughout the Dakota Conference that would benefit from a week at one of our two wonderful camps, Northern Lights Camp or Flag Mountain Camp. If you would like to help kids go to camp, send a donation to the Dakota Conference, noting *camp scholarship* on the check. This is an evangelistic outreach with great statistical returns; many campers accept Christ during these formative years.



Ask and ye shall receive... John 16:24. The Dakota Conference has an elementary school that is in need of a vehicle to transport children to and from school. This school has at least five prospective students who are in need of transportation to be able to attend the local Adventist school. If you would like to donate a gently-used vehicle, which could hold five or more students, or donate money towards the purchase of a vehicle please contact Sue Nelson at the Dakota Conference Office. 701.751.6177, Ext. 213.

DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Sharon Heinrich, DAA Development

When God calls, do you listen? He may be calling you to service for Him in your local community, your church, or perhaps in a mission field far away.

Recently, three of Dakota Adventist Academy's younger alumni listened to God's call and answered. Here are their stories.



I arrived in Guam in January 2018 to serve as the Marketing and Social Media Manager for the Guam-Micronesia Mission. God actually brought me out to this position



through my past high school principal at Dakota Adventist Academy, Leonard Quaile. My job is to share the news of what is happening in Micronesia, as well as help recruit through social media for more missionaries willing to serve out here in these islands. The experience has been absolutely incredible. I have been able to experience so many new things in my life for the first time: living in another country and on an island, scuba diving, backpacking, and so many more. I have really seen first hand how much we need lovers of Christ willing to serve Him wherever He calls, individuals willing to selflessly serve others to spread the good news about Jesus. The more I experience life, the more

I can clearly see how God has been preparing me for the places He calls me through my upbringing in North Dakota and attending the academy, as well as being active in other ministries like youth rallies and camp meeting. These places and events helped me grow into who I am today, more prepared to serve the world around me. I am excited to continue to learn and grow each day; hand-in-hand with Jesus, through working in the mission field He has currently placed me in. God is teaching me to care about what He cares about, and it is an amazing and humbling time of personal growth.

Brienne Engelhart, Class of 2012

God's mission field can be anywhere. It can be in the deserts of Africa, the jungles of South America, it could be in your own back yard, or it could be on the tiny island of Yap. Wherever God calls you, you need to be ready to go. When He calls He also provides the means for success! God recently called Mary Alice York and me to the mission field of Yap Micronesia in response to an urgent appeal for teachers! He opened the door for Mary Alice to teach Kindergarten and I will teach 7th-12th grade Bible. Both of us will be serving until the end of the school year. While on the island we will also be helping out in ministry both at the school and church, as well as helping with pathfinders, Sabbath school, and sports, etc.

The burden on our hearts is to give the children an example of Jesus in a life changing way. To put all their time and effort into showing the children the loving character of Jesus Christ and inspiring them to surrender their hearts to Him.

Isaiah 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"



Mary Alice York, Class of 2013 and Jody Schumacher, Class of 2014

Our young alumni listened and answered, "Yes Lord, send me." God is calling you and me to serve Him. Are we listening?

Youth Camps

Loren Nelson III, VP, Camp Director



When mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, auntie and uncle, or perhaps even a friend drops off children and their luggage at summer camp, a different world opens up to these kids. The children experience God, leadership and friendship in a warm and accepting environment - sometimes in exciting ways.

Flag Mountain Camp's Teen Extreme camp in South Dakota pushes young people beyond what they think they can do physically and personally. *Lake Day* includes canoeing across Sheridan Lake to the rocks on the far side. There the campers tackle their fear of heights. This group activity requires team cooperation.

During the summer of 2017, rain showers were noted as likely in the late afternoon on *Lake Day*. The staff and directors were monitoring weather apps on their phones. The campers were enjoying themselves when rain and thunderstorms appeared over New Castle, WY, a driving distance of about 50 miles. Pastor Nelson radioed the team, "You need to return as soon as you can." They radioed back, "We are on our way."

The support team and a few campers were on the beach looking across the lake and saw the three canoes round a bend heading back. The clouds, however, were gathering quickly overhead. Pastor Nelson encouraged them over the radio, "Paddle faster, or you will not make it before the storm." When the canoes were about mid-lake, the wind suddenly slammed into them. Two canoes closest to shore also experienced hail. The third canoe was pushed backward into the middle of the lake. Pastor Nelson yelled into the radio, "Just paddle with the wind." The reply was, "I don't know which way the wind is blowing." In photos taken at the time, three funnels were visible reaching toward the middle of the lake right where the canoes were; confirming why she did not know which direction the wind was from.

Two boats appeared from nowhere guiding the most exposed canoe to port. Pastor Joe Story was on the dock helping campers from the canoe into a dry vehicle. He turned to thank the rescuers but they were already in the middle of the lake and the next time he looked they were gone.

The other two canoes ended up on opposite ends of the lake, their occupants huddled under the canoes trying to stay out of the weather. After the storm passed and everyone was gathered together for the ride back to camp, staff and campers alike shared how they had experienced God's presence. "He put His hand over us and sent aide in the middle of the storm; even in the middle of the lake!"



Photo by Linda Morris

Flag Mountain Camp		Northern Lights Camp	
Junior Camp, 8 - 12 yr	June 24 - July 1		
Extreme Teen Camp, 13 - 17 yr	July 1 - 8		
		Family Camp	July 10 - 15
		Junior Camp, 8 - 12 yr	July 15 - 22
		Teen Camp, 13 - 17 yr	July 22 - 29

Dakota Campmeeting 2018

Day/Time	Wednesday - 13th	Thursday - 14th	Friday - 15th	Sabbath - 16th
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast Served in Cafeteria			
8:30 - 9:30		Dr Schmidt <i>Simply Missional - The Way to Grow</i>	Dr Schmidt <i>Simply Missional - The Beginning</i>	9:15 - 12:00 Sue Nelson Educating for Eternity Dr Patterson The Nameless Servant: Modeling the Servant Leader Elder Mic Thurber So, What About James?
9:30 - 10:15	Fellowship/Optional Art Class			
10:30 - 11:30		Bonita Shields <i>Women & Wealth</i>	Bonita Shields <i>How to Create a Spending Plan</i>	
11:30 - 12:30		Dr Patterson In the Beginning: Creation as Conversation	Dr Patterson Leadership and the Great Controversy: The Up Path and ...	
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch Served in Cafeteria			
2:00 - 3:00		Dr Walter <i>8 Myths of Adventist Evangelism</i>	Dr Walter <i>Creating a Culture of Outreach & Evangelism</i>	Ordination Services R-Table Discussion Dr Schmidt Elder Thurber Bonita Shields Sherri Uhrig Dr Patterson Dr Walter
3:00 - 3:45	Fellowship/Optional Art Class			
4:00 - 5:00		Sherri Uhrig Kids 2 Kid!	Sherri Uhrig Generation Z: Taking on the World	
5:30 - 6:15	Supper Served in Cafeteria			(in Gym)
7:00 - 8:30	Dr Schmidt <i>Simply Missional - The Destination</i>	Pastor Shields <i>Enough</i>	Dr Walter <i>Doing LIFE Together</i>	Music Concert Name
8:30 - 8:40	Fellowship			Hall of Remembrance
8:40 - 9:40				Dr Roger Walter <i>Delayed Expectations</i>

CR/Kindergarten, 0 - 5 yrs
Primary, 6 - 9 yrs
Juniors, 10 - 12 yrs
Youth, 13+

Medgy Chapman
Pastor Nicholas Osborn
Pastor Christian Ronalds
Pastor Brooke Melendez

ACS/DR will be serving a
free Sabbath evening
supper in the gymnasium
at 5:30 pm.



Pastors/Teachers On the Move



Elder **Dave & Jerelyn Moench** (left) are moving from the Bison/Bowman/Grassy Butte district of North and South Dakota to be pastor the Mitchell, SD church plant.

Elder **Joseph & Jimmie Story** (right) of the Pierre/Mobridge/Tolstoy district will be re-retiring after many years of service in the Dakotas. They will be moving to North Carolina to be closer to family.

Elder **Bryce Pascoe** (left) has served the conference as ministerial director for the past five years. He and Genia will be enjoying re-retirement in the Pacific Northwest.

Hans Martin Jr (right), after servicing two years as assistant boys' dean at Dakota Adventist Academy, is seeking a position as full-time PE teacher in Orlando, FL.

Rachel Samson (left), assistant girls' dean at DAA for the last two years, and recently married, will be moving with her husband to Mesa, AZ where she will finish her schooling.

Kelly Vigil (right) has taught at the Rapid City Adventist School for three years. She has accepted a job on Orca Island in Washington state teaching grades 6 & 7.

The Dakota Conference will be losing two employees as Pastor **Casey** and teacher **Courtney Bartlett** (left) pursue new paths into which God is leading them.

Ryan Dennis (right), Bible teacher and chaplain at the academy for the past two years, is moving back to Arkansas to be closer to his family.

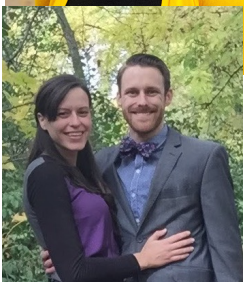
Jeana Eszler (left), DAA registrar for the past six years, has decided to shift careers to be a stay-at-home mom for her and Andrew's young son, Jedidiah.

RaeLea Frishman (right), Hillcrest Adventist Elementary's head teacher, will be going to Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, KS to teach grades 3 & 4.

Charlotte Messer (left), music teacher at DAA, will be moving to Ellendale, ND, after marrying Reed Merkel this summer. She has taught at DAA for four years.

Jerry Davis (right) has been the maintenance director at DAA for 28 years. He has accepted a position as facilities manager at North Tampa Christian Academy in FL.

Each of these talented people will be dearly missed but it is with Godspeed that we wish them well.



Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
www.dakotaadventist.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DAKOTA MESSENGER
NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #38
BISMARCK, ND

<p>May 18 Last Day for Elementary Schools 25 - 27 DAA Graduation 28 Memorial Day/Office Closed</p> <p>June 03 K-12 Board - CO 10 am 13 - 16 Dakota Campmeeting 15 Executive Committee-DAA 10 am 17 Dirt Kicker Charity Run - DAA 8 am 18 Office Closed</p>	C A L E N D A R	<p>18 - 22 Camp Staff Training - FMC 24 - 01 Junior Camp - FMC</p> <p>July 01 - 08 Teen Camp - FMC 04 Independence Day/Office Closed 08 - 12 Women's Crafty Retreat - FMC 10 - 15 Family Camp - NLC 13 - 15 Native American Family Camp - FMC 15 - 22 Junior Camp - NLC 22 - 29 Teen Camp NLC</p>
<p>President, Evangelism, ASI Neil Biloff</p> <p>VP of Admin, Youth Dir & Camps Loren Nelson III</p> <p>VP of Finance, Trust Director Arlo Heinrich</p> <p>Associate Treasurer Cindy Miller</p> <p>Education Supt, Pathfdrs, SS Sue Nelson</p> <p>Receptionist, Adm Assistant, Clerk Jodi Dossenko</p>	<p>ABC Manager, Adm Assistant Lynette Miller</p> <p>Communication, Treasury Clerk Jacquie Biloff</p> <p>Development Sharon Heinrich</p> <p>Assoc Trust Services Director Charles O'Hare</p> <p>Trust Services Adm Assistant Julie Brude</p> <p>Native Ministries Coordinator Deb Claymore-Cuny</p>	<p>Maintenance Services Marlin Miller</p> <p>Adventist Community Services Bob Forbes II</p> <p>Disaster Relief Director Phyllis Alexander</p> <p>Women's Ministries Director Brenna Hudson</p> <p>Men's Ministries Director Randy Rubbert</p> <p>Prayer Ministries Director Dragos Profir</p>