



Charles O'Hare Photo

## Let's Change That

*Neil Biloff, President*

Twitter is an interesting platform to share thoughts. President Trump uses it much to the embarrassment of some and the praise of others. This week one of our church leaders asked young adults on Twitter what they would like the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to know about them and their church. The outpouring of information was overwhelming.



Young Seventh-day Adventists want to be heard. Some of the direct quotes are as follows:

1. My church is not a safe place.
2. My church is boring. Theology is disconnected from my life.
3. It's embarrassing to believe that women are not equal.
4. I do not feel heard or seen. Only told to do/think/believe.
5. Lack of opportunities in the mission of the church.
6. Church is stuck in time.

As I read these thoughts on Twitter, I was attending the North American Division year-end meetings. In front of me were young adults on fire for their church asking what more they could do; how could they help share Jesus to the world? The contrast was shocking! Some are excited, wanting to do more while others have either walked away or are ready to walk away. Once again, I am confronted by the realization that things have got to change. Change, or we will die as a church.

What will help our young adults decide between staying or choosing to leave? The answer distills into love, acceptance and involvement. Young people want to be involved and they want to have a voice and be heard. They have great ideas, but someone needs to open the door and love them into leadership in the local church.

Please pray with me that our churches will not be blockades on the road to eternity but outposts of acceptance, love and encouragement. We have lost too many generations of Adventist youth already. Let us not lose another. They love Jesus, but not always their church. Let's work together to change that.

# Treasurer's Remarks

Mark Seibold, VP of Finance

## Mid-America Union Conference of SDA Tithe Comparisons

Nine Months Ending September 30, 2019

2019 - 39 Weeks   2018 - 39 Weeks   2017 - 39 Weeks

Conference	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	2018-2019 Increase (Decrease)	2018-2019 Percent Increase (Decrease)
Central States	3,506,433.13	3,603,747.56	3,645,461.53	-97,314.43	-2.70%
<b>Dakota</b>	<b>3,176,617.84</b>	<b>3,891,818.61</b>	<b>3,529,382.84</b>	<b>-715,200.77</b>	<b>-18.38%</b>
Iowa-Missouri	7,448,379.39	7,676,866.89	7,117,701.37	-228,487.50	-2.98%
Kansas-Nebraska	8,262,044.82	8,254,268.37	7,797,505.71	7,776.45	0.09%
Minnesota	6,285,127.57	6,339,823.06	5,675,654.19	-54,695.49	-0.86%
Rocky Mountain	<u>12,926,604.99</u>	<u>11,886,801.50</u>	<u>10,942,953.61</u>	<u>1,039,803.49</u>	<u>8.75%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>41,605,207.74</b></u>	<u><b>41,653,325.99</b></u>	<u><b>38,708,659.25</b></u>	<u><b>-48,118.25</b></u>	<u><b>-0.12%</b></u>
Adjusted for equal weeks	<u>41,605,207.74</u>	<u>41,653,325.99</u>	<u>38,708,659.25</u>	<u>-48,118.25</u>	<u>-0.12%</u>

For Month of September 2019

2019 - 4 Weeks   2018 - 5 Weeks   2017 - 5 Weeks

Conference	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	2018-2019 Increase (Decrease)	2018-2019 Percent Increase (Decrease)
Central States	383,009.45	402,832.11	457,924.48	-19,822.66	-4.92%
<b>Dakota</b>	<b>365,623.08</b>	<b>393,404.40</b>	<b>314,211.99</b>	<b>-27,781.32</b>	<b>-7.06%</b>
Iowa-Missouri	742,982.45	901,262.56	830,457.55	-158,280.11	-17.56%
Kansas-Nebraska	908,410.34	970,356.53	1,062,253.27	-61,946.19	-6.38%
Minnesota	660,839.75	745,145.95	751,724.16	-84,306.20	-11.31%
Rocky Mountain	<u>1,243,053.02</u>	<u>1,334,075.95</u>	<u>1,433,488.85</u>	<u>-91,022.93</u>	<u>-6.82%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>4,303,918.09</b></u>	<u><b>4,747,077.50</b></u>	<u><b>4,850,060.30</b></u>	<u><b>-443,159.41</b></u>	<u><b>-9.34%</b></u>

## Regionals' Yearly Schedule 2019 - 2020

South Dakota Central	Aberdeen, SD	October - completed
South Dakota Southwest	Rapid City, SD	November - completed
South Dakota Southeast	Sioux Falls, SD	November - completed
North Dakota Central	Bismarck, ND	December 21, 2019
North Dakota Northwest	Dickinson, ND	March 28, 2020
North Dakota Northeast	Jamestown, ND	April 18, 2020

# Dakota Youth/Young Adults

*Pastors Ricky & Brooke Melendez*

We are excited to transition into the role of co-directors for the youth and young adult department. Our position entails keeping track of Sabbath School, Adventurers/Pathfinders, children's ministries, camps, youth, young adults and young families. In short, we will be the go-to folks for anything related to ages 0-40!



As we move forward in this new chapter, we hope you will partner with us for the sake of young people in this conference. We need your help, wisdom, support and prayers in this journey. We hope you will share in our excitement and join us in creating a little bit of heaven on earth.

## Dakota Youth & Young Adults:

*As it is in Heaven.*

Mission-

In our lives and in our prayers,  
may Your Kingdom come.

In the small and in the sacred,  
may Your Kingdom come.

In our culture and in our church,  
may Your Kingdom come.

Through our lives and by our prayers,  
may Your Kingdom come.

Let it be on earth as it is in heaven.



## Dakota Adventist Camps:

*Roam Free.*

Mission-

In our hearts and minds, may we receive Your freedom.

In our actions and speech, may we give Your freedom.

May we walk in step with Your Spirit that brings liberty,  
knowing that because of Christ, we are no longer slaves.

Who the Son sets free is free indeed.



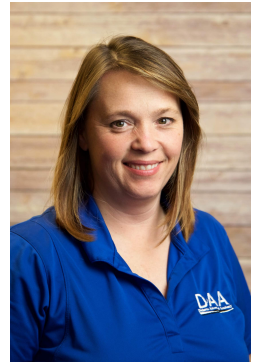
Grace and peace,  
Ricky & Brooke Melendez

# Recognitions at DAA

Tracy Peterson, DAA Recruiter

Quality education is one of the main purposes of any school, so when students go above and beyond in their academics, we get excited!

This year the DAA chapter of National Honor Society inducted two new students, Anna McCarthy of Bismarck, ND and PawLay Pway of Huron, SD. They joined Savannah Ulery, Jessica Winistorfer, Sierra Schlenker, Wesley Kayser and Jaelyn Pickett to form our NHS chapter.



Dakota Adventist Academy recognizes students for more than just academics, we applaud students with traits of outstanding character. This school year we

are spending each month focusing on different positive character traits. In September, Jack Tretter was recognized for his continuous demonstration of being a *Brother's Keeper*. October's trait was *Courage*. The character trait for the month of November is *Purity*. Psalms 119:37 says, "Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways."



During the Alumni convocation in October, we took a little time out for a special treat. Duane Carlson and his sister Ellyn Comegys (née Carlson) presented the school with a Greenspire Linden tree, which was planted along the entryway to the school on the girls' dorm side, just as you enter the circle. This nine-foot tree, which might be small now, will grow to a height of more than 50 feet and a width close to the same. Planted in memory of their late father, Wally Carlson, one of the original visionaries of Dakota Adventist Academy and its design as well as one of the investors and one of the builders, it is to stand as more than a memorial, but also as a symbol. Like the tree, this school started as a dream that grew into what it is today, planting quite the footprint on the landscape, its shade

being a world filled with DAA graduates.

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Both Duane and Ellyn spoke at the service and Dakota Conference President Neil Biloff and DAA Alumni President Jeana Eszler also took a few moments to commemorate the legacy of Wally Carlson. A dedicatory stone was presented to be placed near the tree in the spring announcing to those who stop by the dream that was Wally Carlson's. Duane Carlson also shared his own vision for a memorial fund which he is starting to help with projects maintaining the school plant. This fund, the Wally Carlson Memorial Fund, will be open for donations from other individuals who might like to take part in this legacy.

Friends and family stood in the chilly air for a bit after the service talking about the power of vision, about Wally and about what the school has meant for them. It was truly a nice start to Alumni Weekend.

*Article by Principal Anthony Oucharek*

## Pastors and Staff on the Move



Mark and Judy Weir are relocating to Bismarck, ND, from Spokane, WA, where Mark held the position of ministerial director for the Upper Columbia Conference for several years. Mark has accepted the position of vice president of administration and education superintendent.

Pastor Casper and wife Cindy du Plessis (pronounced du Plah Sea) have joined the Dakota Conference from South Africa. Their children, Ané (pronounced On aye) and Kean (pronounced Kee on) are currently attending Brentwood Adventist Christian School in Bismarck until a church district has been chosen.



Pastor Casey and his wife Courtney Bartlett have accepted the position as pastor of the Wahpeton Adventist Church. Casey has previously served in the Dakota Conference. Welcome back to pastoral-ship Casey and Courtney.

After serving in the Dakota Conference for twelve years, Elder Bob and Gerry Forbes II have announced their partial retirement as of June 2019. Although they have purchased property in Lehr, ND, they will become snowbirds during the colder months.



December 20 - 21, 2019 - Celebration of Praise Weekend at DAA

- Dick Stenbakken - Friday eve vespers and Sabbath church
- North Dakota Central Regional Sabbath in Bismarck at DAA
- DAA Christmas Concert Sabbath afternoon

701-258-9000

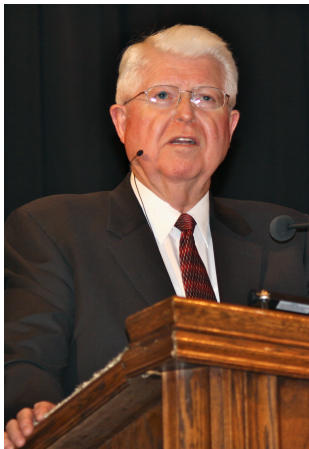
## Campmeeting Highlights

# THE KING'S HERALDS

*Celebrating 92 years of ministry.*



Thursday evening only, June 11, 2020



**Elder Steve McPherson**  
Retired Idaho  
Conference President



**Dr. Petr Cincala**  
Director Church Ministry  
Andrews University

## Campmeeting 2020

**Dakota Adventist Academy**  
June 10 - 13

**Dirt Kicker Charity Run**  
June 14

# 25th Annual Dakota Conference Men's Retreat

Dakota Conference  
25th Annual Men's Retreat

## Men of Issachar: Those Who Understand the Times

MARCH 13 - 15, 2020



**ROUGH RIDER HOTEL**  
301 3RD AVENUE  
MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA

FEATURED SPEAKER:  
**DR. CONRAD VINE**  
ADVENTIST FRONTIER MISSIONS

## Paper Registration

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred roommate \_\_\_\_\_

PRICE	B/4 FEB 29	STARTING MAR 1
<b>Two-man Room</b> 2 nights - 5 meals	\$195	\$220
<b>Single-man Room</b>	\$295	\$320
<b>Retreat Only</b> 0 nights - 5 meals	\$100	\$125
<b>Sabbath Only</b> 0 nights - 3 meals	\$80	\$105

### SEND CHECK / REGISTRATION TO:

**Dakota Conference - Men's Retreat**  
7200 N Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503 701.751.6177

**Online Registration:**  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)

### NOTE:

If you have historical information regarding your church, North Dakota Conference, South Dakota Conference, an Adventist cemetery, or a conference school, please forward it or make copies for the Dakota Conference church files. Some churches have no information in their files.

# Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)



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<p><b>Nov</b></p> <p>09 SD Southwest Regional - Rapid City, SD 16 SD Southeast Regional - Sioux Falls, SD 18 - 21 MAUC Year-end Meetings - Lincoln, NE 21 MAUC Executive Committee - Lincoln, NE 27 - 28 Office Closed for Thanksgiving</p> <p><b>Dec</b></p> <p>08 K-12 Meeting - CO 10 am 15 Executive Committee - CO 10 am</p>	<p>C A L E N D A R</p>	<p>20 - 21 Celebration of Praise - DAA 7:00 pm 21 ND Central Regional - DAA 9:30 am 21 Christmas Concert - DAA 2:00 pm 24 - 25 Office Closed for Christmas 31 Office Closed for New Year</p> <p><b>Jan</b></p> <p>01 Office Closed for New Year 13 - 16 Pastors Meetings - CO 18 - 19 Pathfinder Bible Experience - DAA 26 Union College Board Meeting - Lincoln, NE</p>
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<p><b>President, Evangelism, ASI</b> Neil Biloff</p> <p><b>VP of Admin, Education Supt.</b> Mark Weir</p> <p><b>VP of Finance</b> Mark Seibold</p> <p><b>Assoc. Treasurer, Trust Director</b> Cindy Miller</p> <p><b>Youth Dir., Camps, Pathfdrs., SS</b> Ricky &amp; Brooke Melendez</p> <p><b>Receptionist, Adm. Assistant, Clerk</b> Jodi Dossenko</p>	<p><b>ABC Manager, Adm. Assistant</b> Lynette Miller</p> <p><b>Communication, Treasury Clerk</b> Jacquie Biloff</p> <p><b>Development</b> Sharon Heinrich &amp; Lynette Miller</p> <p><b>Assoc. Trust Services Director</b> Charles O'Hare</p> <p><b>Trust Services Adm. Assistant</b> Julie Brude</p> <p><b>Maintenance Services</b> Marlin Miller</p>	<p><b>Adventist Community Services</b> Bob Forbes II</p> <p><b>Disaster Relief Director</b> Phyllis Alexander</p> <p><b>Women's Ministries Director</b> Brenna Hudson</p> <p><b>Men's Ministries Director</b> Randy Rubbert</p> <p><b>Prayer Ministries Director</b> Barry St. Clair</p>
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