



Pastor Wayne Easley

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

# Dakota Messenger

## COVID-19 and the Servant

*Neil Biloff, President*



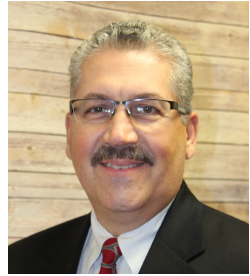
Driving past an older gentleman on the street corner the other day, I noticed his bright colored sign which read, **Jesus is Coming Soon!** Great message I thought, Seventh-day Adventists have been sharing that same hope-filled proclamation for years. COVID-19 has definitely gotten people's attention. Jesus is coming soon. What should we be doing in preparation? Going back to the office, I opened my Bible to Matthew 24, and sure enough, Jesus did not leave us wondering for long. Reading the remarkable account of events leading up to His return, the chapter concludes with these often overlooked words, <sup>45</sup> *"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the Master has put in charge of the servants in His household to give them their food at the proper time?"* <sup>46</sup> *It will be good for that servant whose Master finds him doing so when He returns."* There it was in Jesus' own words. The faithful servant at the Second Coming is the one caring for others, not one sleeping or one whose hair is on fire but the person busy caring for others. Some may push back and say that Jesus was only speaking to pastors and spiritual leaders, but wait, are we not all spiritual leaders? Upon accepting Jesus as our Savior and making a commitment through baptism, did we not all become servant leaders and are we not all responsible for the feeding and caring of the household of God? And how big is that household? Did Jesus not die for the whole world? The apostle Peter says it beautifully, *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."* <sup>10</sup> *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God..."* According to these texts, and more, the wise and faithful servant waiting for Jesus' return and trusted by the Master is feeding and caring for others until He returns. The writer of Hebrews was definitely thinking of this very parable of Jesus when he wrote, *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works."* <sup>25</sup> *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."* We were told that caring for the household of God would not be easy in the last days and COVID-19 has definitely made that prediction come true, but through technology we can still encourage and meet. It is also possible to feed one another both physically and spiritually. Let us join together to be God's trusted faithful servants until Jesus comes.

## The Small School Advantage

*Mark Weir, VP of Administration, Education*

Are there benefits to being part of a small school? This is what **U.S. Department of Education** research discovered when they looked at small private schools:

1. Private school students perform higher than public school students on achievement tests.
2. Private school students are more likely than public school students to complete a bachelor's or advanced degree by their mid-twenties.



We operate a school system that qualifies under the description as small. As I have visited our schools, I have to say that small is beneficial. Yet the purpose of this article goes one step further, there are benefits of being in a multi-grade room as well.

Parents may think that having their son or daughter in a room with same-age students is the best learning environment. However, there are beneficial aspects to a multi-grade school. These include:

1. The opportunity for students to work and develop at their own level on a continuous basis;
2. Ability to group students outside of their "normal" age range and ability which can benefit students who are working below (or above) their grade level;
3. Academic, physical and social competition between peers is reduced, as is the anxiety and preoccupation of having to compete. This often leads to less discipline issues;
4. The learning and social atmosphere is cooperative rather than competitive;
5. Positive social behaviors and expectations may be modeled by the older students and can assist the teacher by modeling for the younger students;
6. Older students may help younger students, which clarifies and solidifies their own understandings;
7. Differences are the norm and become more accepted;
8. Students regularly spend time working independently which improves self-discipline;
9. Being with the same teacher more than one year creates increased trust, clarity of classroom expectations, and teacher rapport with parents.

A multi-grade school may not always be fantastic. We are people with both strengths and challenges, yet by and large, these are the types of things that happen within the classroom that benefit the students in ways beyond academics.



Photo by [Element5 Digital](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Unprecedented Times

*Mark Seibold, VP of Finance*

“Unprecedented times” is a phrase we are, understandably, hearing a lot lately, along with, “Never before in our history . . .”

In our particular “unprecedented” times, Dakota Conference faces some difficult challenges. Given that church attendance has been put on pause for some weeks now or that some members may be unemployed, a positive expectation for tithes and donations is not likely. Therefore, like other organizations, your conference has been finding savings where we can. Due to the 2019 donation shortfall, we had begun this process before the current pandemic. A few points:



- Current travel expenses have dropped to a fraction of the budgeted amount, but when normal operations resume, last year’s travel policy change will continue to yield savings. Last year this change saved thousands of dollars over previous years.
- Staff attrition: Dakota Conference is not currently replacing departing pastoral and office staff. While this may affect service in various districts, payroll reductions are crucial in light of reduced income. Other conferences are reducing staff outright, but we hope to avoid this if at all possible.
- The treasury department has been placing increasing emphasis on expense awareness. Savings have been found in streamlining printing, mailing and use of office supplies. We know small changes can add up.
- Some committee meetings have been reduced from bi-monthly to quarterly, saving time, travel, lodging and food. As we are getting used to teleconference meetings, we may see more use of this cost-saving technology in the future.
- Property improvements are largely on hold. Allowed expenditures emphasize maintaining safety and preventing property damage.
- Emphasis placed on additional online giving will potentially increase donations.
- A few conference staff are volunteering instead of receiving a salary; others are working at 75% salary; some are cutting hours to save money for the conference.

Regarding online giving, those who have recently started participating will find it convenient regardless of the times. A reminder that those who give via the Dakota Conference Church portal will not receive a receipt from your local treasurer, nor will you receive a year-end summary. It is therefore important to retain the receipts provided by the conference office.

We hope to continually earn your trust as we work together to promote the Great Mission – the most important mission of all!



Photo by [Michael Longmire](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Please keep Dakota Conference in your prayers and giving plans as we navigate today’s uncharted waters together.

## Zooming in Prayer

*Pastor Barry St. Clair, Prayer Ministries*



Prayer ministries leaders from around the Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Zoomed in support of a live prayer broadcast with Iowa-Missouri Conference staff and members on KPOG-LP 102.9 FM radio Thursday April 30. The live prayer program *Let's Pray* was initiated in a declaration by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds who declared April 9th as a day of prayer for Iowans. The station whose call letters represent the Power of God has dedicated eight hours of programming to praying for the community. KPOG.org has continued the program for successive Thursdays since.

Barry St. Clair, prayer ministries coordinator for the Dakota Conference, joined Iowa-Missouri Conference President Elder Dean Coridan and his wife Gail Coridan for a lunchtime prayer call. The focus was two-fold: praying God will stay the plague and “trimming our lamps.”

St. Clair participated in an evening half hour with Peggy Wagley and Gail Coridan. The evening session focused on students, teachers and families. Wagley is an administrative assistant to the president and ministerial of the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

## Dear Dakota Youth & Young Adults,

It is with great sadness that we announce that in-person camping programs for this summer will not be happening as planned. Due to social distancing regulations still in place, as well as recommendations from the North Dakota Department of Health and the CDC, we are unable to gather campers together for summer programs at this time. For the time being, we will be working with a small team to put together a virtual experience for the summer. Many other camps in our states and within our union are shut down for this summer and are unable to offer alternatives, so this truly is an important opportunity for something revolutionary to take place. We believe that the talents afforded us by this small team will make our virtual experience super fun, exciting and deeply spiritual. We hope that the youth of our conference will tune in to take part in this new thing that God is doing. Please keep our department in prayer during this time of creativity and transition. We need your support.



Please watch our Facebook (Dakota Adventist Camps) and Instagram (@dakotayouthandyoungadults) pages as well as our website ([dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps](https://dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps)) for upcoming dates and information regarding happenings for this summer and how you can be involved. You may also find this information via the conference website ([dakotaadventist.org](https://dakotaadventist.org)) and communications.

Grace & peace,  
Dakota Conference Youth & Young Adult Department

## Little Italy's Mama's Mystery Meal

*Tracy Peterson, DAA Recruiter*

Have you ever wondered what you were ordering at a restaurant? Usually there is some sort of a description. Well, Mrs. Oucharek gave us all a run for our money! What would you expect to be receiving if you ordered Tombstones...certainly not bruschetta on garlic bread medallions. What would be a Farmer's Friend? Or Robin Hood's 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice? Or a Lovers Cuddle? Those would be the items you would need for silverware.

Each course, of the three-course meal, consisted of four items of your choice from the menu. I watched one lucky diner eat his Twine and Rolling Stones (spaghetti and meatballs) with a cup because he had not make a silverware choice! The other entrées were Elfin Ribbons (fettuccine alfredo) and Postal Smiles (cheese ravioli).



Photo by [Henley Design Studio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

One of my table mates ordered what turned out to be two drinks, a knife and dessert for the main course. So what did she order? Eve's Destruction (apple Martinelli's) and Napoli Glacier Rainbow (Neapolitan ice-cream and a cookie). My personal favorite was the Mud Bath Pick-me-up, which was tiramisu.

Both the students and staff enjoyed the playful meal. What a blessing it is to have students at the school with which to share these wonderful memories.

## Paulette Bullinger Accepts Women's Ministries



Paulette Bullinger was baptized into the Adventist faith in 1998. She was born and raised Roman Catholic. Following a series of life events and self-reflection, she prayed for God to show her a faith that would accept her "as she was." At that time, a Mark Fox Prophecy Series was coming to the Mandan-Bismarck area. Paulette received a postcard invitation to the series in the mail. She had started to study prophecy during this time and decided to attend the series. The Holy Spirit led her to accept the call to join the Adventist faith.

During the last twenty-one years, Paulette has been called to various church ministries, including women's ministry, Sabbath school leader and elder. She is a member of the Mandan Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Although recently retired from Odney Advertising, Paulette keeps busy as a local tour guide for the Bismarck Tour Company. She and her husband have purchased a historic community hall in her hometown of Huff, ND, which they are renovating. She enjoys time with her grandchildren and leads a photography club at church. She also converts her photographs into greeting cards, which are a Pride-of-Dakota product.

Paulette has published a historical fiction set in the 1900s of events around the Bismarck-Mandan area. This book witnesses to her spiritual transition into the biblical truths of scripture. Her hobbies include photography, writing, hiking and historical research.

Paulette and her husband Bob have a blended family of seven children and six grandchildren.

**2020 CAMPMEETING RESERVATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF MATTRESSES NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND FULL AMOUNT WITH RESERVATION**

**DORM ROOM:** Full time \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily \$35.00/day \_\_\_\_\_

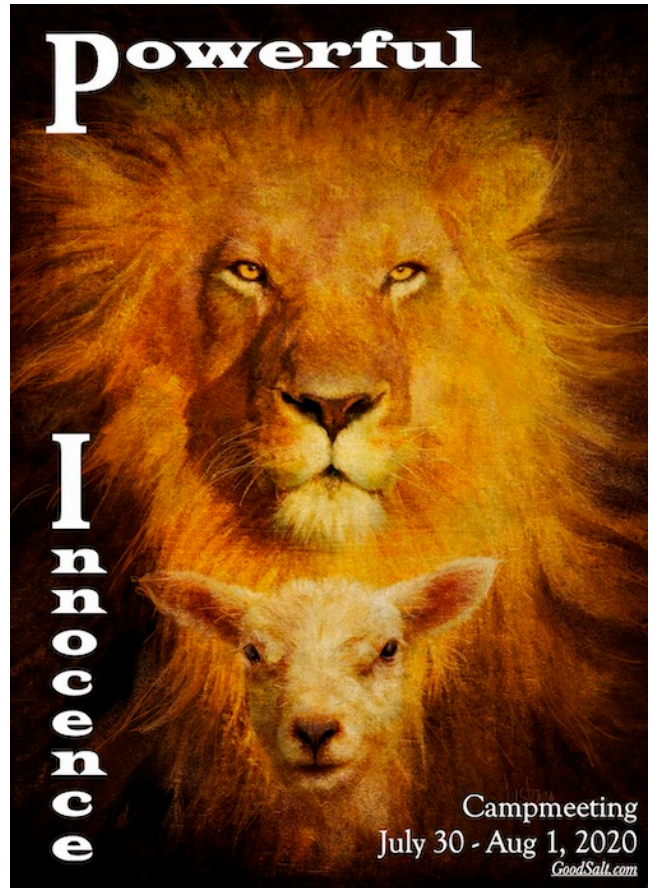
**REFRIGERATOR:** If available \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMPGROUND:** Full time \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily \$18.00/day \_\_\_\_\_  
(RV/Campers/Tents with hook-ups)

**NO HOOK-UP:** Full time \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Tent space or self-contained RV)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Dakota Conference  
Send to: Campmeeting Reservations  
Dakota Conference  
7200 N Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503

Reservations may be made online, [www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)  
Full reservations take precedence over daily stays. **All 2020 reservations on file will be transferred to the new dates unless a refund is requested.**



**Campmeeting will be July 30 - August 1, 2020**



August 1, 2020 Kings Heralds, Sabbath Musical

Elder McPherson, Dr Hudson, Dr Toews, Dr Weir

# Teachers on the Move



Gary and Janet Way served at DAA for 18 years. Gary taught English and Art and Janet was the Food Service Director. They will be retiring to Minneapolis, MN.

Rahel Hartman taught at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary this past year. However, she is getting married at the end of the month (May) and following her husband to his job location.

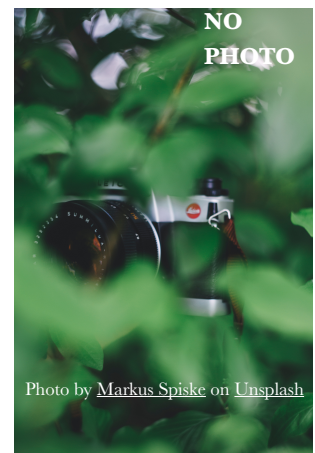


Mindy Juhl has been the Girl's Dean at DAA for seven years. She has decided to move to Minnesota.



Lana Miller has served as the assistant girls' dean and worked in the cafeteria at DAA. She has been hired as the Food Service Director for next school year.

Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams has been hired to teach English at DAA. She was born and raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She has taught at Holbrook Indian School since graduation from Union College.



*Teachers plants seeds of knowledge that last a lifetime.*

# Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## May

20 Hillcrest 8th Grade Graduation (7pm) **TBD**  
21 Sioux Falls 8th Grade Graduation (7pm) **TBD**  
22 - 24 DAA Graduation Weekend **TBD**  
25 Office Closed for Memorial Day  
30 Prairie Voyager 8th Grade Grad. (11am) **TBD**

## June

10 - 13 Campmeeting at DAA **Postponed** until July 30  
12 Executive Committee - CO (10am) **TBD**  
14 Dirt Kicker Charity Run **Postponed** until Aug 2  
17 - 21 **Virtual** Cup Camp at FMC (ages 8-10)

C  
A  
L  
E  
N  
D  
A  
R

21 - 28 **Virtual** Junior Camp at FMC (ages 11-13)  
25-Jul 7 General Conference Session **Postponed** to 2021  
28-Jul 5 **Virtual** Teen Camp at FMC (ages 14-17)

## July

08 - 12 **Virtual** Cub Camp at NLC (ages 8-10)  
12 - 19 **Virtual** Junior Camp at NLC (ages 11-13)  
19 - 26 **Virtual** Teen Camp at NLC (ages 14-17)  
27 - 30 Pastors' Meetings/Camp Pitch at DAA  
30-Aug 1 Campmeeting - DAA  
30-Aug 2 Family Camp & Spiritual Feast at NLC **Cancelled**  
Aug 02 Dirt Kicker Charity Run - DAA (8am)

### President, Evangelism, ASI

Neil Biloff

### VP of Admin, Education Supt

Mark Weir

### VP of Finance

Mark Seibold

### Ministerial Director

Merlin Knowles

### Associate Treasurer, Trust Director

Cindy Miller

### Youth, Young Adults, Pathfdrs, SS

Ricky & Brooke Melendez

### Receptionist, Adm Assistant, Clerk

Jodi Dossenko

### ABC Manager, Adm Assistant

Lynette Miller

### Communication, Treasury Clerk

Jacque Biloff

### Development

Lynette Miller, Sharon Heinrich

### Assoc Trust Services Director

Charles O'Hare

### Trust Services Adm Assistant

Julie Brude

### Maintenance

Marlin Miller

### Adventist Community Services

Bob Forbes II

### Disaster Relief Director

Phyllis Alexander

### Women's Ministries Director

Paulette Bullinger

### Men's Ministries Director

Randy Rubbert

### Prayer Ministries Director

Barry St. Clair