



Keene Adventist Church's History Part 3 of 3

The Bible that Wouldn't Burn

Four books are stacked on the mantle above the fireplace in my parents' living room. They are very special books, very old and worn from daily use. My great-great-grandmother Steiner's big German Bible bears evidence of her constant devotion. Some of its pages are falling out, and the last Sabbath school lesson she had been working on is still a placeholder for the text. Tucked in its pages are a number of letters written to her daughters - all in German. There's a small German New Testament and another book. But the book that my eyes are always drawn to is the simple, small German Bible, its cover cracked and frayed. It belonged to my Great-grandmother Josie. It is precious, handled rarely and only with the utmost reverence and care.

My great-great-grandfather Melchior Steiner was an Austrian Jew from Vienna who emigrated to the United States in 1882. He later found himself in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he met Mary Eggar, an emigrant from Pamhagen Austria. Mechior, though non-religious, saw something special in this devout young girl with the rosary and they married in 1886.

The couple had eight children together, one dying shortly after birth. By 1907 they had moved to McLean County in North Dakota near the Missouri River. Their oldest son, Joseph, set out west of the Missouri to McKenzie County where land was available. He met up with a Scots-Irish adventurer who worked the ranches breaking horses and

cooking for the other cowboys from his chuck wagon. His name was Johnny Budd. Johnny and Joseph homesteaded adjacent land while living in a sod house. During the summer of 1914, Joseph succumbed to tuberculosis and died. Johnny took his body back to the Steiner family. While at Joseph's funeral, Johnny met Josie Steiner.

Johnny went back to his sod house, now without his friend or any family of his own. Loss was a familiar and uninvited guest to Johnny, who had lost his mother and sister to influenza when he was a boy back in Vermont. Deserted by his father and taken in by a reluctant family, Johnny set out on his own as soon as he had a chance. Alcohol became his only real comfort. Eventually, the Steiner family moved further west and took up residence at their son's homestead in McKenzie County, which made Johnny and Josie neighbors and a close friendship was formed.

One day an itinerant evangelist pitched a meeting tent down the road at what was known as "Johnson's Corner." Soon the tent was full of ranchers curious to see what the preacher had to say. Perhaps out of curiosity, or maybe something stronger, Johnny literally stumbled into the tent one day with Josie and her sister, Rosalia. They heard the gospel, the messages of the Three Angels and of Christ's plan to rescue His people. Johnny felt God rescued him that night, and believed there was truth in the prophecies he heard. Soon the three began attending the meetings regularly. This newfound love for the Scripture was not welcome in Melchior's home. Josie and Rosalia had to climb out of their bedroom window to hear the truths they thought were presented especially for them. The sisters kept their German Bible tucked away in their dresser drawer.

One day when Josie and Rosalia were out, their father found their Bible and decided he would rid his house of this menacing Word once and for all. In a rage, he took the Bible and threw it into the burning wood stove. Later, when their mother Mary came to stir the fire, she opened the door and found the Bible intact and unharmed. She called Melchior, and to his horror he realized the Bible remained untouched by the flames. He took the Bible out of the ashes, wiped it off and commanded Hannah, his youngest daughter, to put it back in the drawer. Melchior warned Mary and Hannah not to speak a word of it to anyone, threatening them with their very lives if they did.

New Life on the Prairie

Johnny and Josie married and began sharing the truths they held so dear with everyone they met. They were so eager to share what they had learned that they became colporteurs and traveled by train to Bismarck, North Dakota, and sold the Adventist books they had come to love. They had ten children between 1919 and 1938. They faithfully prayed for each of their children every day and taught them the



Grandma Josie (right) stands with her sister, Rosalia (left), just before the girls moved to McKenzie County, North Dakota.

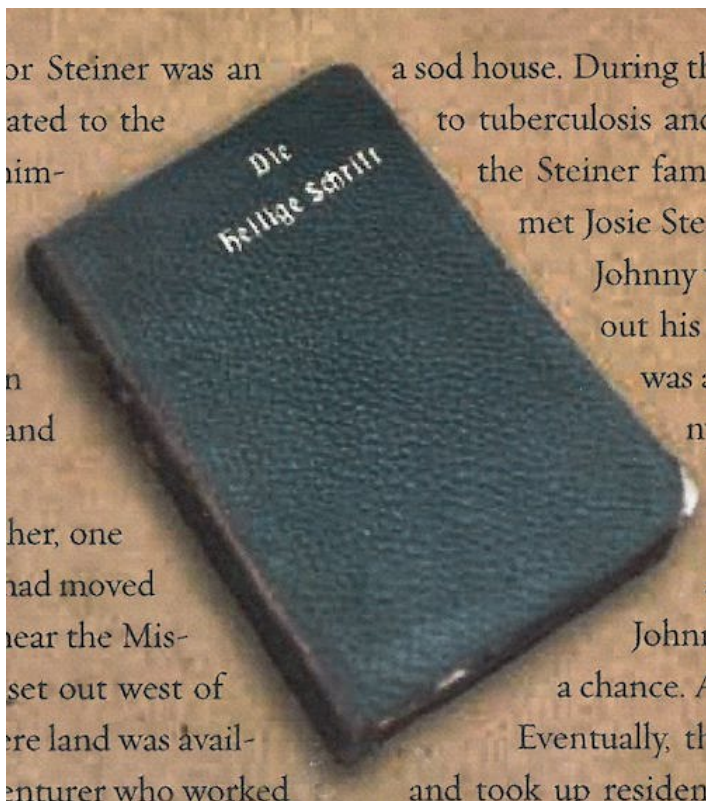
importance of spending time with God's Word. Each followed closely in the footsteps of their parents.

It wasn't until years later that my Grandma Josie learned the story of her precious Bible, which she had kept safe and close to her heart for so many years. It had accompanied her from North Dakota back to Minnesota, and then across the mountains of Montana and Idaho to where they settled in the Walla Walla Valley, where her precious children could receive a Christian education.

My Grandma Josie passed her love for the scriptures on to each of her ten children, including my grandmother, Hazel. My earliest memories of my

grandmother were of crisp winter mornings, long before light. I don't know why I would awaken so early when staying with Grandma and Grandpa, but I would open the door of my bedroom, the room which had belonged to my father when he was a boy, and quietly tiptoe to my grandparents' room. There I would find my grandmother on her knees. It was a sacred time that I knew not to interrupt. I quietly knelt beside her and attempted my own conversation with Jesus. Sometimes I opened my eyes to notice tears streaming down her cheeks - tears of joy as evidenced by her beaming smile.

When Grandma finished her time in



prayer, she gathered me up in a warm blanket and took me to the kitchen to sit on the bench in front of the wood stove with her well-worn and marked-up Bible in hand. As I reflect on the warm images of her stoking and stirring the fire, I realize she was also kindling a fire in me. We'd talk and read the Bible until long after the sun came up. God's Word became as precious to me as those times we spent together.

When my Grandma Josie died, she left her Bible with her oldest daughter, Rose. Before Rose passed away several years ago, she gave Grandma Josie's Bible along with some of her library to my father. It is a precious piece of family history, but more than that it is a constant reminder of God's faithfulness. God accomplished His purpose for our pioneer family by protecting His Word, and He assured me He will accomplish His purpose in my life, too.

Author Josie M Burns; Lake Union Herald, March 2010, page 14. Used with permission.

Looking Ahead at DAA



The campus at Dakota Adventist Academy is quiet and calm. The horses are grazing in the pasture, the chickens are growing quickly, enjoying the coop students built for them and life seems right. But there is something missing; where are the chatty students?

Mark your calendars, August 16th is registration day and the 17th is the start of another school year! Dakota Adventist Academy will be open for students to be on campus, residing in the dorm. After the craziness at the end of school last year for most of the students, starting this upcoming year is very exciting. There are still many unknowns

regarding many high schools around the nation but rest assured DAA will be ready for students.

There is a great opportunity to grow the student body. Do you know any high school students whose school is going to be online and they didn't enjoy that last semester? How about a student whose school is not reopening? Or someone that desires to have their horse at school with them? What about someone wanting to do a pottery class, auto tech class or construction class? Share what DAA has to offer. Help Dakota Adventist Academy help students find a consistency in this crazy world!

Article and photos by DAA Recruiter Tracy Peterson



Flag Mountain Camp Update

We just finished our first week of Cub Camp! There have been a lot of exciting things going on at Flag Mountain Camp and we wanted give you an update.

We're Having Camp?

Flag Mountain Camp is one of the only camps open this season due to COVID-19. That being said, there are lots of new protocols to follow to ensure we are running a safe camp.

Registration has moved to an open area before the gate into camp so we can limit the amount of visitors on campus to help discourage the potential spread of the virus.

The same system for registration and pickup will be used at Northern Lights Camp. During registration there are private medical screenings for the campers who are coming onto campus to check potential symptoms and see if there has been potential exposure to COVID-19. Three times a day door knobs and other commonly touched

areas are sanitized by designated sanitation staff and furthermore each camper and staff receives private temperature checks morning and night to monitor any changing symptoms.

We are doing our best to comply with all governing agencies' recommendations, thank you all for your cooperation thus far!



We Have Campers!

For Cub Camp at Flag Mountain Camp there were 12 campers for a half-week. They were so much fun and made the first camp of the summer an absolute blast! The kids were happy to be out of their houses and it showed by the smiles on their faces.

Junior Camp is currently underway, which provides new opportunities to show Jesus through our programming and relationships we build with them. They have been eagerly participating in all the activities, songs and games.

Pray that their hearts continue to be warmed by the message of the gospel this week!



New Activities!

Under the leadership of Pastors Ricky and Brooke Melendez and staff, changes have been made to the activities and the campers are enjoying them. The staff have been working overtime every day to ensure safety and fun for the incoming campers both for this year and years to come. They have blazed new mountain biking trails throughout the camp's gorgeous property as well as found new spots for rock climbing and zip lining. The rock wall area has four different routes of varying difficulty levels to accommodate all of the campers. The staff also cleared trees from the river allowing for a longer route to kayak and tube, which has definitely been a camp favorite.







Our Team!

The staff have gone above and beyond the last few weeks while working at Flag Mountain. They have been working hard making this camp safe for your campers as well as taking care of some needed maintenance. We are so happy to have them and all their unique skills and talents.

What Lies Ahead?

There is one more week of camp at FMC (Flag Mountain Camp) and then we will be headed to NLC (Northern Lights Camp) to wrap up the camping season and get ready for Campmeeting. We will see you there!

Please continue to support the camps with prayer as we spread the gospel to these young souls yearning to learn more about the love that Christ offers them.

Stay tuned for more updates!

-Dakota Camp Staff

We encourage you to check out our social media outlets and our website where we post regular updates!

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/dakotayouthandyoungadults/>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/dakotayouthandyoungadults/?hl=en>

Website - <https://www.dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps>

Author Rylee Jo Peterson; photos by Caleb Haakenson, Rylee Jo Peterson, and Sam Dinzey



Planned Giving and Trust

Services is a department of the Dakota Conference established to help families with estate planning.

Assistance with the following documents is available:

a Will; Durable Power of Attorney; Health Care Directives; Charitable Gift Annuities; various kinds of Trusts and other documents as needed.

Basic estate planning documents are done at no cost to you.

Please contact us with any questions or for help preparing these documents. We are here to serve you.

Things to consider:

- Who should be guardians of our children should something happen to me and my spouse?
- Who will make medical or financial decisions for me if I am unable to make them myself?
- How may I be faithful to God as He has been faithful to me?
- What is a Medical Power of Attorney and how does it differ from an Advance Directive?

Contact information:

- 701.751.6177, ext. 202
 - trust@dakotaadventist.org
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Dakota Conference Calendar

June 21-28 Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)

June 27 **Dakota Challenge**

June 28-05 Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

July 4 **Local Church Budget**

July 6 Office Closed for Independence Day

July 8-12 Cub Camp at Northern Lights Camp (ages 8-10)

July 11 **Local Covid Budget**

July 12-19 Junior Camp at Northern Lights Camp (ages 11-13)

July 18 **Local Church Budget**

July 19-26 Teen Camp at Northern Lights Camp (ages 14-17)

July 25 **Dakota Challenge**

July 27-30 Pastors' Meetings combined with Camp Pitch at DAA

Jul 30-Aug 1 Campmeeting at DAA

Jul 30-Aug 2 Family Camp & Spiritual Feast at NLC - **cancelled**

Aug 2 Dirt Kicker Charity Run

Aug 3 Office Closed for Campmeeting Recovery Day

Aug 5-6 Teacher In-services at the CO

Aug 15 Spiritual Feast Weekend at FMC

Aug 16
Aug 30

Registration day at DAA for 2020/2021 School Year
K-12 Board Meeting (10 am)

June 25 Dispatch Photo





Photo by Ron Wright of Dickinson, ND

Dispatch Mission: To build a climate of encouragement and blessing through the sharing of witnessing and evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jacquie Biloff at jbiloff@icloud.com. Bison [Copyright](#)

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