



Journal from 1938

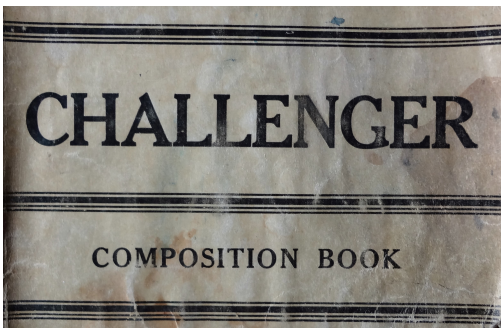
Excerpt from a Dakota Adventist girl's journal:

Grandfather's Clock

My grandfather's clock was too large for the shelf,
So it stood ninety years on the floor.
It was taller by half than the old man himself,
Tho' it weighed not a penny-weight more.
It was bought on the morn of the day that he was born,
And was always his treasure and pride.
But it stopped - short - never to go again,
When the old man died.

Chorus:

Ninety years without slumbering,
(tick, tock, tick, tock)
His life seconds numbering,
(tick, tock, tick, tock)
It stopped - short - never to go again,
When the old man died.



Elliott Coughlin is Confident in Her Beliefs



Fifteen-year-old Elliott Coughlin doesn't run on Saturday. It's not because she just doesn't want to, or because her parents say no, it's because as a Seventh-day Adventist, Saturday is the Sabbath day and she made the choice to celebrate and honor God that day.

Coughlin, a freshman this year at Trinity Christian High School in Williston, is the only girl on the cross-country team. And although the team has meets that fall on a Saturday, the coach and team always find a way to make sure she competes and doesn't feel left out.

"She's got a very supportive coach and supportive teammates," said her dad Adam Coughlin. "It's not like, 'Hey, Elliott, why aren't you running on Saturday?'" Instead, he said the team and coach do not give it a second thought.

Elliott, sitting relaxed in a chair in her dad's office at the school, looked at her dad, as he talked about how supportive her team was, and said, "Yeah, they don't think it's weird." And they shouldn't.

Within the last couple of years, Adam Coughlin said he has asked his oldest daughter if she ever thought about wanting to race on a Saturday or felt left out. "I don't at all," Elliott said, confidently while shaking her head.

Ever since she was a little girl, she was always in some type of sport or activity. It started with t-ball and as she grew she became involved with activities at the Williston Area Recreation Center. "I played t-ball, softball and basketball and then in fourth grade, because my dad was always running he was like, "Do you want to go to the running club?" and I was like, "Sure!" she said.

But it wasn't until sixth grade, while being home-schooled, did she compete competitively. She said at the time, several of her friends invited her to run on the Williston cross country team. Then, in seventh grade she enrolled at Trinity and kept running in track but didn't run cross country until a year later. That came after a brief stint with volleyball. "Ha!" she said, when asked what happened with volleyball. "I lasted like half a season," she said, agreeing that ultimately it wasn't for her and is more suited for her younger sister.

"When I'm running I'm not even thinking," she said, looking down at her shoes, the ones she wears for practice. "I just tell myself, 'Keep going, don't stop. I mean I'm running for the Lord, and I just want to glorify him through me and when I'm running, I'm just thinking, 'Go fast so you can be done.'"

Elliott explained her relationship with God and what it meant to her to be able to accept Him in her life and share His will. And there is one thing that she tells herself that has stuck with for this long. "If you want to serve the Lord, would you rather meet him when you're 70 and then only serve him for 10 years or meet him when you're 10 and then serve him for 70 years," she said, looking at her dad. "Why not spend your whole life with a guy who just loves you and wants to show His love toward everybody and bring Him to you? Why not spread His love toward other people by showing them what I love to do." Adam Coughlin smiled at his daughter and jokingly said, "Wow, where is this kid at home?"

Elliott said there is one person she looks up to and uses for inspiration when it comes to running: Ethan Decker. Decker graduated from Trinity in May and was a track star. "Even though he is a sprinter, I'm like wow he can do that and be really good at this,

why don't I do it," she said.

However, she said she never gets nervous, at least not anymore. She recalled a time during her first track meet where she was "kind of" nervous but now it's nothing. Elliott said every time she runs, she's running with some of her best friends so being the only girl is not intimidating. "I've known a lot of these kids since I was born or in kindergarten and they've literally been my best friends for my entire life," she said.

And because of this friendship, they all have a special pre-game ritual that they do after they pray or whenever they sense someone might need it. "Me and the boys will pray together, then we kind of have this saying where we'll walk up to each other and we'll say, 'Suck it up and slap some oils on it,'" she laughed. "So we'll go around and slap each other on the back and say suck it up."

She laughed between words when she recalled the memory while she acted out the motion of slapping someone once on the back. Adam Coughlin said this saying originated because "they all come from a bunch of moms who use essential oils."

As for goals, Elliott said she obviously wants to improve her time but is not really setting any expectations yet, until she runs in the first meet. "That will tell me where I want to go," she said.

Article published with permission from the Williston Herald, August 14, 2020. Story & photo by Analicia Haynes.

SECONDARY EDUCATION ENDOWMENT SABBATH IS OCTOBER 31, 2020.



Hot Springs Church Volunteers for Food Pantry

On September 16, 2020 volunteers for the Hot Springs, SD, food pantry gathered in a parking lot to distribute food courtesy of "Feeding South Dakota", a Rapid City non-profit organization. By the time they opened, nearly 100 vehicles had lined up to receive food. Head Elder Wayne Garnick and Pastor Sam Thomas, along with six other volunteers, spent the next hour or so directing traffic and loading groceries. At the end of the event, there were many grateful hearts and fulfilled volunteers.



Photos and news by Pastor Thomas.

DAA Students Take a Break

Through the eyes of a typical teenager, school is hard, stressful work. One has to get up early, sit in class and listen to teachers continuously talk about the importance of knowing algebraic formulas or facts that happened hundreds of years ago. After an exhausting day of listening and writing, students get to look forward to homework and study for quizzes and tests. As you can see, this is very taxing work!

To break up the information stream that comprises the typical day of an average teenager, deans at Dakota Adventist Academy decided to take charge of the weekend activities. What does that mean? Boys' weekend camp-out and girls' weekend relaxation on campus.

The boys explored the banks of the mighty Missouri River. They camped, fished, hiked, and cooked over an open fire; these were just some of the activities that refreshed and rejuvenated the young men over the weekend.

The girls took a warmer route and camped in the dorm's rec room. They styled their hair, did their nails and makeup, as well as played games. Saturday evening hobo dinners were cooked over a fire at the Peterson house.



School at Dakota Adventist Academy is about competently completing academic studies, but also about positive, nurturing experiences that keep students engaged and active in life. Romans 1:20 says, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” Taking a little "down-time" to enjoy what is around them was exactly what students needed for a recharge!



Article by Recruiter Tracy Peterson; photos by Colter Roffler and Jessica Winistorfer.

Highlights from Invitation Hill Adventist School



Invitation Hill Adventist School (IHAS) in Dickinson, ND, welcomed five new students from the community this fall. This is the highest enrollment added at one time, outside of church members' children, and they are thrilled for the opportunity to offer Christian education to community members. The mother of a new first grader contacted the school because she liked what she heard about IHAS from a friend who had enrolled her son this fall. She explained that one of her reasons for wanting him to attend was that he was asking questions about God that she didn't know how to answer. She wanted him to be in a school where he could get answers. The teaching team praise the Lord that He directed this mother and her son, as well as the other new students, to their school.

A few weeks after the school year started, the name of each student and teacher were put on the back of a card along with a written prayer for each. Teachers asked members of the church congregation to take a card if they would commit to lift up that individual in prayer each day. Participants were encouraged to occasionally write a note and let their person know they are remembered daily. Staff and students are so appreciative of a church family that faithfully supports them with prayers and generosity.



Recently students, staff, and three homeschooling families spent an afternoon riding bikes, running, or walking around the trail at Patterson Lake in celebration of Let's Move Day. Students were sponsored for each mile travelled to earn money toward Invitation Hill Church's "Temple Coins Project". Participants covered a total of 224.8 miles and raised just over \$1,400 in pledges. They ended the day with ice cream at YUM Froyo. This is the third year the school has celebrated Let's Move Day, and it has always been a fun day. Each year

God has blessed the event with good weather and no injuries.

Thank you to everyone who prays for the young people, teachers, and schools in the Dakota Conference. And thank you to those who sacrificially give; this continues to make Adventist Christian education a reality even during difficult financial times.



Article & photos by Janna Wright, head teacher.

ABC Located at Dakota Conference in Bismarck

Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm (If you happen to be in town during other hours, please stop by, we will try to accommodate.)

Friday: ABC & office closed

Dakota Conference Calendar

October -

- 8-14: GC Fall Council - Virtual
- 9 -11: Women's Retreat - Abbey of the Hills, SD
- **10: NAD Voice of Prophecy**
- 12-13: New in Ministry Training - Virtual
- **17: Local Church Budget**
- 17: South Central Regional - Aberdeen ****CANCELLED**
- 21: DAA Home Leave
- **24: Dakota Challenge**
- 25: K-12 Board Meeting - Conference Office (10 am)

- **Oct 31: Secondary Endowment**

November -

- 7: Southwest Regional - Rapid City ****CANCELLED**
- 7: Fall Festival - DAA
- 14: Southeast Regional - Sioux Falls ****CANCELLED**
- **14: Annual Sacrifice**
- 16-19: MAUC Year-end Meetings - Virtual
- **21: Local Church Budget**
- 23-29: DAA Home Leave
- 25-26: Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- **28: Dakota Challenge**

Job Opportunity

The Dakota Conference office is seeking to hire someone for the front desk/administrative assistant position. The individual will need to have public relation skills, computer processing knowledge and the ability to type, be self motivated, highly organized, and exercise confidentiality. Pay will depend on applicable experience and include retirement contribution, subsidized health insurance and educational discounts at Dakota Seventh-day Adventist schools.

Interested parties should contact Mark Seibold for a job description and questions at: vp.finance@dakotaadventist.org

October 8 Dispatch Photo



Photo by MiKayla Torres

If anyone has local church news or stories to share, please send

event information, news suggestions and/or articles and pictures
to: j.dossenko@gmail.com

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 Jodi Dossenko at j.dossenko@gmail.com. Bison [Copyright](#)

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