



Nothing to Fear

This is the fifth installment of a multi-part series taken from Bob DuPuy's book, *Nothing to Fear : The Story of Seventh-day Adventism in the Dakotas*, published in 1983.

CHAPTER 2: THE HARBINGERS - Part 1

Lisa Andersdotter stood up and started preaching the message the church had banned: the message that Jesus Christ was coming again - soon. She could do what grown men had been imprisoned for doing, because Lisa was a child, aged 16.¹

The state church in Sweden felt severely threatened by the great awakening of interest in the biblical prophecies of Christ's coming (the Old World counterpart of the Millerite movement), that was sweeping Europe.

Not only was the message banned from the pulpit, but all gatherings of people in private homes for religious purposes were forbidden, with penalties for disobedience.²

Into the spiritual vacuum stepped children, boys and girls in their early and even pre-teens, proclaiming in public and in private the need for repentance in light of the coming judgement.³

Although bitterly opposed by the clergy, the preaching of the children was accepted as the voice of God by the common people who were led to a thorough work of reformation. As one observer reported: "Very many listeners were prompted to denounce sin. Drinking, dancing, and card playing practically vanished... When Stina Carlsdotter, in Rydaholm, began the call of repentance, within a fortnight seventy distillers declared themselves unwilling to distill further, which fact was

publicly mentioned in the pulpit by Pastor Bexell.”⁴

Even thoughtful investigators among the clergy, and physicians called in to determine the cause of the “preaching sickness”, were compelled to admit the possibility that the hand of God was indeed upon the children.⁵

The Scandinavian children apparently did not set dates for the return of Christ, but their emphasis on the fact of His return, and upon the prophecies, contributed to the overall “advent awakening” on the European continent.

Even in Russia, where its Orthodox Church took great pride in the fact that the Protestant Reformation had not secured a strong foothold there, religious movements, both native and imported, were preconditioning a positive response to Adventism.

Although the Bible was not available in the language of the common people until the second half of the nineteenth century, some Russians in each generation tried to live according to its precepts as best they could discover them. There are brief and sketchy references to Sabbathkeeping Christian groups in Russia beginning in the fourteenth century. The deeply spiritual Molokans, encountering persecution in Central Russia, fled or were exiled south, establishing pockets of Protestantism in southern Russia, along the Volga and Don Rivers, into the Crimea, and the Caucasus late in the sixteenth century.⁶

Into this seedbed of dissent poured another Protestant stream in the eighteenth century. German immigrants accepted the invitation of Czarina Catherine II, bringing their superior techniques of farming to southern Russia, lured by Catherine’s generous offer of, among other inducements, exemption from military service “forever.”⁷

Many of these immigrants to the Caucasus and the Crimean Peninsula brought with them the “advent hope” of the return of Jesus which they had learned from the teachings of Johann Bengel, a German Lutheran theologian and Bible commentator who expected the Second Coming in 1836.⁸

Bengel did not calculate his date from the 2300-day prophecy; it was left for Joseph Wolff, “missionary to the world”, on his travels in the Caucasus and the Crimea between 1821 and 1845 to teach the followers of Bengel, the Mennonites, and the Tatars, about the cleansing of the “sanctuary” at the Second Coming which he looked for in 1847.⁹

Thus, a vocabulary had been established. Years later, when these people heard the Adventist teachings of the Sabbath, Second Advent, and sanctuary in the New World, the concepts sounded familiar and were often believed and embraced readily

as old friends.

The advent awakening in Russia was also aided by widespread dissatisfaction with the Russian state church, both among the newly freed peasants and among the intellectuals. Many joined Bible study groups called Stunden ("hours"). Soon national evangelists developed from among the Russians. From the "Stundist" movement arose three strong Protestant groups, Evangelical Christians, Baptists, and-Mennonite Brethren.¹⁰

Meanwhile, in the New World, the very same methods, (that is, Bible study and evangelism) were basic ingredients in the growth of Seventh-day Adventism and have been ever since. Thus, when the Germans and Russians arrived in North Dakota years later, they were acquainted not only with Adventism's message, but with its evangelical methods as well.

An interesting study of the social and religious factors affecting at least one segment of the German-Russians, authored by Dakota Conference minister Loren Seibold (see Appendix A), concludes that, by the time they immigrated to America the Germans were, by religious heritage, prepared to accept a message based on strict interpretation of Scripture, containing strong eschatological (end of the world) elements, stressing the sanctified life and scrupulous obedience to biblical law, defending the believer's right to refuse to take life, even in the service of one's own country, demanding separation from even close family and community ties, if necessary, in order to follow "truth", and even a message that allowed for continuing guidance for the church from post-biblical prophets! This message, of course, was Seventh-day Adventism.

By the mid-to-latter 1800's, the actors in the saga, the youthful Seventh-day Adventist Church, the newly organized Dakota Territory, and thoughtful Bible students in Western Europe, were awaiting in the wings, largely oblivious to the fact that political, economic, and social factors were about to raise the curtain and call them on stage.

That call had been articulated by Editor Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune* in 1850 - "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country." In 1862 Congress made "going west" a more practical idea by passing the landmark Homestead Act by which a settler could acquire as much as 160 acres of land by living on it five years, improving it, and paying a fee of \$10.¹¹

1. Froom, *op. cit.*, III, 671-686.

2. *Ibid.*, 673.

3. The proclamation of a gospel message by children when adults are either restricted by law or intimidated is not without precedent. As E.G. White writes: "When Jesus drew near to Jerusalem attended by the rejoicing multitudes that, with shouts of triumph and the waving of palm branches, heralded Him as the Son of David, the jealous Pharisees called upon Him to silence them; ...the people,

intimidated by the threats of the priests and rulers, ceased their joyful proclamation as they entered the gates of Jerusalem but the children in the temple courts afterward took up the refrain, and waving their branches of palm, they cried: "Hosana to the Son of David!"

The Great Controversy, (Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1888), 367.

4. Cited by Froom, *op. cit.*, 685.

5. *Ibid.*, 681-686.

6. "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," *Seventh-Day Adventist Encyclopedia*, (Washington, D.C: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1966), 1345.

7. *Ibid.*

8. Froom, *op. cit.*, II, 709-713.

9. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1346.

10. *Ibid.*

11. Thomas A Bailey, *op. cit.*, 574-575.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear* :

Chapter 2, "The Harbingers" - Part 2 by Robert K. DuPuy

Piotrowski Accepts Call to Dakota Conference

Mark Piotrowski has accepted the position of vice president of administration and education superintendent for the Dakota Conference. Mark will also serve as human resources director. His employment officially begins on January 1, 2021.

Piotrowski was born in Poland before moving to Australia and then South Africa. He earned a Bachelor of Theology at Helderberg College where he met and married his wife Elbie. Following graduation, he served two years as an army chaplain before entering into full-time pastoral ministry. In order to further his education, the couple moved to the United States in 1995 so he could attend Andrews University. There Mark earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

After completing his studies in 1999, the family accepted an invitation to pastor in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. In addition to pastoral duties, Piotrowski has served the conference as Prayer Ministries coordinator for the last 13 years. Elbie currently teaches middle school science in the public school system where she will finish the current school year before moving north.

Along with their two daughters, Adeline and Cherise, the Piotrowskis enjoy spending time together in the outdoors, travel, tennis, astronomy and socializing with friends.



Pictured left to right: Cherise, Mark, Elbie, and Adeline Piotrowski.

Article by Jodi Dossenko; photo by Dennis Starkey.

Huron Church Welcomes New Members

October 2020 was an exciting month for the Huron Seventh-day Adventist Church. Two beautiful ladies, Loa Cox and Mae (Lizzy) Randow, made a public commitment to follow Jesus through baptism.

Loa had a childhood friend she would occasionally study the Bible and attend church with. After her friend moved away Loa's relationship with the Lord came and went for many years. Loa wanted to be baptized for a long time but felt she wasn't ready and needed to learn more. About a year ago, she moved to Huron, South Dakota, to be closer to her son and grandson; her childhood friend also happened to live in Huron. Loa started attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church with her friend and also joined Wednesday evening Bible studies. When Loa heard that Lizzy was planning to be baptized, she mentioned that maybe she should get baptized as well.

Lizzy Randow has been attending church and learning about Jesus for most of her life. A little over three years ago, she witnessed her sister's decision to give her heart to Jesus which made an impression on Lizzy. The girls' father lives in a different town and eight months ago after a visit with him, she decided to show her father and her church family that she really loves Jesus. Pastor Rob Carlson started studies with Lizzy and then COVID-19 hit, so Bible studies continued over Zoom. Pastor Rob moved away during the summer, but Lizzy wanted to finish the studies with

Pastor Rob and have him baptize her; they continued studying together over Zoom every Tuesday evening.

The Huron church was excited to have their former pastor and current pastor present and have not one, but two people make a public decision to follow Jesus and become a part of the family of God!



Pastor Dave Moench is the current pastor of the Huron/Mitchell district.

Article by Belinda Hofer; photos by Belinda Hofer and Pr. Dave Moench.

Light that Overcomes Darkness

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks
A new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices

O night divine
O night when Christ was born

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains He shall break
For the slave is our brother
And in His Name
All oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy
In grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy Name

Christ is the Lord
O praise His Name forever
His power and glory
Evermore proclaim
His power and glory
Evermore proclaim

This familiar Christmas tune has really caught my attention this year. I would dare to say that few carols have been written that contain such a level of depth and a beautiful juxtaposition of the somber condition of man with the divine hope of the gospel-come-to-life. It draws our thoughts not to the warm and cozy feelings that other tunes do, but rather to the light that overcomes darkness and the call to a higher, more loving reality.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14, ESV) The original text actually translates to something more along the lines of “the Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us.” God, in Jesus the fully human and fully divine One, left all the riches and glory of heaven in order to bring heaven to earth. He pitched His tent among us in order that we might know Him not just in His grandeur, but in His intimate simplicity. He’s not just the God of greatness; He’s also the God of smallness. The infant God. The refugee God. The homeless God. The rejected God. The **human** God.

This Christmas season, let us discover **this** God. Let us discover the Jesus who came to us, bringing love, peace, freedom, brotherhood, justice, joy and hope. Let us discover this God whose coming is good news that will cause great joy for **all** people. May it cause you great joy this year.

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Brooke Melendez; "O Holy Night" lyrics written by Placide Cappeau

DAA Encourages the Love of Horses

There are many people that have a disease known as “horse obsession”, I myself suffer from this. When attending academy boarding school, I had to leave my equine buddy at home and longed for homeleaves so that I could ride my horse.

That is not the case with students at Dakota Adventist Academy. DAA was the blessed recipient of a beautiful nine-stall horse barn. With 12x12 foot stalls, round pen, pasture, and soon an arena, students are able to de-stress from their school day by spending some time with their horse. This is offered to any of our students who would like to have their horse with them, even while away at school. Students are responsible for the care and grooming, as well as the cleaning of their horse’s space. Learning to organize their time is a challenge that helps students move into adult life a little more prepared.

The students who take advantage of the beautiful pasture trails surrounding the school have been blessed - whether on horseback, on foot, or with their bikes. God has blessed DAA with a solid connection to Him in the nature that surrounds us. For those young people who find their peace and connection to God through a horse, we are happy to provide that opportunity.

There are openings in the barn! Come, join us and bring your horse during second semester, or even the 2021/2022 school year!

HORSES ARE A GIRLS' BEST FRIEND

HALIE & ELECTRA

BROOKE & SPARTAN

CLAIRE & SHINE

HEATHER & CHACHI

Spending the Afternoon with my handsome boy

obsession

Article by Tracy Peterson, recruiter and barn manager;

Photos by Tracy Peterson, Amanda Garrett, Brooke Stewart, and Claire Playle.

Mid-America Union Hosts Virtual Prayer Summit

LINCOLN, NE — “Come up to the Lord, you... and seventy of the elders...” “So, could you not watch with me one hour?”... “And when they had prayed...”¹

The God of the Universe invites us to come near to Him - to commune with Him in a respectful, yet candid expression of His greatness, our unfitness, our neediness, and thanksgiving for His response of grace and mercy.

Prayer ministries has received new lift through seeking God's presence during times of turmoil and concern. We are never muted before God. He truly knows all about us - the naughty and the nice. But our response to Him isn't always stellar. We sometimes mute Him through unfaithfulness, hardness of heart, and unbelief.

Prayer calls, virtual prayer meetings, and virtual prayer summits are sweeping the nation as the Christian community presses boldly to the throne of grace praying together for unity and healing.

Virtual prayer summits in the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Mid-America Union Conference, and most recently Southwestern Union Conference have brought people to prayer conferences from great distances using virtual technologies.

The Mid-America Union Conference Prayer Ministries leaders hosted a Prayer Summit that inspired and motivated individuals to slow down and connect with each other through prayer, music, presentations that shared ideas to enhanced individual and corporate prayer life, and the preached Word of God. Each conference of the Union was represented through the weekend's program.

“The Prayer Conference was a great prayer experience just as the disciples of Jesus had a mountaintop experience in the transfiguration miracle,” said Eduardo Jacobo, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “I look forward to another opportunity to fellowship and share such powerful prayer experiences.”

“I was totally blessed to see the hunger to connect and prayer,” commented Roger R. Wade, Church Ministries director for the Mid-America Union (MAUC). “Looking ahead, more opportunities will afford us to meet members and communities where prayer can make a difference in their lives,” he continued.

The opportunity to fellowship in prayer is planned for January 6-16, 2021 with [Ten Days of Prayer](#). MAUC Prayer Ministries is planning a short virtual experience to support and connect local churches and members across the union in an expanding

prayer effort as we begin 2021 looking to the One who invites us to partner with Christ in His intercession and reconciliation ministry.

¹ Exodus 24:1; Matthew 26:39; Acts 4:31, ESV



10 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAKOTA CONFERENCE
JANUARY 6-16, 2021

SEEKING REVIVAL
TENDAYSOFPRAAYER.ORG


Seventh-day
Adventist Church

The prayer summit which took place virtually on Zoom November 13-14, was hosted by MAUC, Minnesota Conference, and the Prayer Ministries Department of the North American Division. There were nearly 200 participants in three two-hour sessions, with prayer rooms provided following each session for several hours.

Contact your conference prayer ministry coordinator, Pastor Barry St. Clair, for more information on becoming involved in prayer ministries in your church and community. You can reach out to him at: redriversda@gmail.com

Article Pr. Barry St. Clair.

NDSU Just Jesus Campus Ministries' African Mission Trip Scheduled

Two years ago, college students traveled to Africa to share their skills and minister for Jesus in the Refugee Camps in Northern Uganda. This coming November 29 - December 13, 2021, NDSU Just Jesus Campus Ministries is returning to build, educate the locals on new techniques in agriculture, provide medical relief and share the Gospel with the dear brothers and sisters living in these United Nations Refugee

Camps.

A matching fund of \$10,000 has been set up for these projects. If we raise the matching \$10,000, totaling \$20,000, students from America and Uganda will have the funds needed for the 2021 Mission Trip. In the next 10 months we are attempting to raise \$9,000.

If you have a heart for missions and would like to see college-age students from the Dakotas be transformed by cross cultural Cross centered ministry for Jesus, then please pray for next year's trip and if possible send a gift to make this opportunity happen. Checks can be made to:

Fargo Adventist Church (Mission Fund)
4112 47th Street NW
Fargo ND 58102

College aged students who would like to be a part of this Mission experience, will only need to raise \$1,300 for their own round trip tickets - all other expenses will be taken care of.

For more information or if you would like to go on the Mission trip, contact:

Pastor Darrel Lindensmith
701.391.9131
darrellindensmith@outlook.com



**MISSION TRIP TO
UGANDA IN 2019**

YOUTH - MAKE PLANS NOW TO BE
A PART OF 2021'S TRIP

↑ FARGO YOUTH PLANNING TO ATTEND THE 2021 TRIP

Article & photos by Pr. Darrel Lindensmith; bottom left photo by a trip participant.

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

CHRISTMAS HOURS: The ABC and office will be closed December 23 - 31.



		Case	Single
		Special	Special
CANNED:			
LL Diced Chik	12 13 oz	56.70	5.30
LL Fri Chik	12 12.5 oz	56.70	5.30
LL Vege Burger	12 19 oz	66.80	6.25
LL Vegetable Skallops	12 20 oz	66.80	6.25
LL Vegetarian Burger	12 20 oz	66.80	6.25
FROZEN:			
Dinner Roast	6 2 lb	79.99	13.99
W Rolls	4 4 lb	104.79	29.99
(May mix rolls for a case)			

sale dates: December 1-31, 2020
quantities may be limited

2021 devotional books are now available, [click here](#) for details. Prices are good in person at the Dakota Conference ABC or by phone through the Kansas/Nebraska ABC: 402.488.3395.

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

December -

- 18: Celebration of Praise - DAA ****Cancelled**
- 19: Central North Dakota Regional - DAA ****Cancelled**
- 19: Local Church Budget
- 20-Jan 3: DAA Home Leave
- 23-31: Conference Office & ABC Closed
- 26: Dakota Challenge

January -

- [2: Local Church Budget](#)
- [9: Dakota Challenge](#)
- 13-29: School Winter MAPS testing
- [16: Local Church Budget](#)
- 18-21: Pastors' Meetings - Conference Office

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: www.dakotaadventist.org/events

Blessed & Kept

May you trust the promise.

It will not always be this way.

May you perceive the impermanence of the state of things in our world.

May you view struggle, pain, and suffering as temporary.

May you approach the difficulties of life with the certainty of the second coming.

Jesus is coming - then all will be well.

May this realization give you a curiosity about your present circumstances.

May you discern the value of what you are living through right now.

May you learn from your current experience, because it will not always be this way.

May the return of Jesus give you renewed purpose.

In Revelation, after the world has been re-created and the new Jerusalem has descended, Jesus declares, "I am making all things new".

Even after all things have already been made new - he is still making things new.

May you adopt the spirit of Jesus.

May you begin to make all things new.

May the creative energy that made and is re-making the world flow through you.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

To follow Casey's Podcast *Blessed & Kept* click [here](#).

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



From your friends at the Dakota Conference Office

The office staff extend their greetings to you and your family! Thank you for your support and prayers in 2020, it has been a pleasure to serve you.

Please be aware the office and ABC store will close on the evening of Tuesday, December 22 and reopen on Monday morning, January 4. You can look for the next issue of the Dakota Dispatch to be delivered in your inbox on January 14. Have a safe and wonderful Christmas season and a happy New Year!

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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[!\[\]\(d84e7ea36f695d92cb39ec32c307ac93_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

[!\[\]\(feabb98897b440bc8695a03336a6e2df_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

[!\[\]\(9dfdaff1d86ba3c1f8353b4d1b61b8c5_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

[!\[\]\(83f22ed94ec5517769dd76d702c6bfd8_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)

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