



Nothing to Fear

This is the eleventh 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 5: The Work is Onward - Part 1

“Though much has been said and written in reference to the moving spirit, it still prevails, and that to an extent which in some communities quite seriously threatens the interests of God’s cause. It is easy for the inhabitant of Minnesota or Dakota, when the thermometer registers forty below, or when the snow flies in blinding clouds across fields and drifts around the buildings, to imagine that in Tennessee, Florida, California, Oregon, or some other warmer climate there is ablest, a happy spot where these things never come.

“And when at such times there comes, through some of our beloved papers, a good report of delightful spring, and how our brethren there are regaling themselves on green peas and ripe strawberries, accompanied with a suggestion of pity for us who have to stay here, it is especially easy to reason that if they have such winters, what happy places they must be in the summer! Under such provocation, we are tempted to resolve that ‘this is the last winter I shall ever spend in this country.’”¹

These words, written to discourage a very prevalent tendency among Americans and Adventists in search of their personal Utopia, to move to each newly settled “promised land” were. penned in 1886 by G.C. Tenney after having moved to Minnesota following his first year in North Dakota.

Lest we draw any hasty conclusions, however, it should be observed that it seems to have been quite typical denominational practice in those days to assign a man to a specific project and move him when it was completed. And calls to labor were sometimes more like transfers than a matter of choice in those days.²

On perspective, Tenney’s move to Minnesota may well have been providential for the work in North Dakota, as we shall see.

The “moving spirit” however, may have taken its toll on the newly established work. The Michigan City and Reynolds churches seem to vanish without a trace, as do the groups at Watson and Larimore, perhaps because many of their members left in search of greener pastures. The same tendency has plagued the church’s work for a century, down to the mid 1970’s where the trend showed some signs of slowing down or even reversing.³ Another attitude which Tenney mentioned, of being “perpetually unsettled, even if the moving-time never arrives” is with us still.

On the credit side of the ledger, it was the “moving spirit” which brought both people in general and Seventh-day Adventists in particular to North Dakota in the first place, giving some indication that despite the foolishness of mankind, the Lord still rules, or at least overrules, in the affairs of men.

In mid-1886, G.C. Tenney sent W.B. White to head up the Northern Dakota Mission and C.M. Chaffee to work with him in tent evangelism, relieving Martin Olsen for work among the Scandinavians, for which Tenney promised additional help.

“The work in Northern Dakota is still of great interest to me;” wrote Tenney, “and I am thankful that in God’s providence it is possible to supply such efficient help.”⁴

The first Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic tent in North Dakota was pitched at Valley City, (Barnes County) July 17, 1886, with White and Olsen alternating nights in the English and “Scandinavian” languages. Interest was poor, due in part to a distrust of all ministers brought on by the unscrupulous deeds of the pastors of some local churches in the past.⁵

The series closed without success, but Martin Olsen stayed by for the winter and worked intermittently in Valley City for the next fifteen years until a church was finally organized on January 30, 1901.⁶ Valley City became a personal headquarters for Olsen until he left North Dakota in the 1920’s, after ministering in one capacity or another for at least 40 years in the state.⁷

If the Valley City meeting was not successful for the preachers, it was for the literature evangelists. A female colporteur working with the tent effort sold fifteen copies each of *Life of Christ*, and *Marvel of Nations*, plus ten dollars’ worth of miscellaneous tracts.⁸

In the Fargo-Moorhead area A.L. Hollenbeck was reporting similar success, as was R.H. Peters in Grand Forks.⁹

Back home at Fargo, White, with the aid of a Minnesota Bible worker, endeavored to solidify and expand the work at the mission headquarters while still reaching out to visit scattered believers and open work in new areas.¹⁰

At Gayton, a steamboat landing on the Missouri River and one of the first settlements in Emmons County, White, in 1886, preached what he described as “the first sermon ever heard in that section.” Adventists from Wisconsin and Minnesota who settled there formed the nucleus of a Sabbath School of twelve members and an eight-member church organized by White in 1887.¹¹

The new church changed its name twice in the next decade, to Hampton (Emmons County) in 1890, and in 1898, to Bismarck (Burleigh County) where the church’s pastor had settled and established a strong work.¹²

A Sabbath School of nine members was organized at Roop, a rural post office settlement in the northern part of Emmons County, on White’s 1886 trip to the area.¹³

1. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*; January 26, 1886, 51, 52.

2. A study of the early *Reviews* would lead to this conclusion.

3. For the first two quarters of 1977, for example, North Dakota Adventist churches showed a 35% greater gain than loss by transfer of membership.

4. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, August 3, 1886, 496.

5. *Ibid.*, August 17, 1886, 523; September 14, 1886, 589, 590.

6. *Ibid.*; Clerk’s record book, Valley City Seventh-day Adventist church.

7. Based on repeated references connecting Olsen with Valley City in the *Review and Northern Union Reeper*, and recollections of Valley City church members.

8. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, *op. cit.*

9. *Ibid.*, September 7, 1886, 572; *The Signs of the Times*, July 22, 1886, 442.

10. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, September 14, 1886, 589, 590:

11. *Ibid.*, October 12, 1886, 635; June 21, 1887, 395.

12. Original clerk’s record book, Gayton-Hampton-Bismarck church.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 5, "The Work is Onward" - Part 2 by Robert K. DuPuy

Dakota Campmeeting



Register online at: www.dakotaadventist.org

God in Every Detail, Every Day

Like many Adventist educators, my main motivation for teaching in a church school setting vs. teaching in a public school setting is the ability to openly and freely share Jesus and His love with my students. This year that privilege seems to have presented itself more frequently and in more ways than usual.

One day, just as we were heading in from recess, one of the lower grade students noticed a perfectly formed snowflake that had landed on her glove. Then, we noticed another on her hat, one on another hat, coats, gloves, the grass, ...everywhere!!! We spent the next several minutes admiring God's handiwork in the striking beauty all around us. The experience left our hearts filled with thankfulness for such a sweet "little" reminder of God's love, power, and careful attention to even the smallest details in our lives.

God can be found in every detail of an ordinary day at school. I have overheard lunchtime chatter filled with unprompted student dialog about God, His love, salvation, and answered prayers. God and His unconditional love is a topic that weaves its way into every subject and every part of the school day; it does not have to be planned or scripted.

Our weekly Revelation studies, joint worship with our pastors, and daily class morning worship almost never end "on time." This is because we regularly find ourselves completely caught up in engaging and inspiring discussions about the devotional thought or that morning's Bible verse and what God is teaching us through it. Our main worship topic or theme Bible verse always sparks additional topics and spiritual questions from the

students. Sometimes students even bring questions they have thought of outside of school, write down, and want to discuss during worship. I treasure these opportunities and know that no extra time spent on sincere, spiritual questions is ever wasted. On one occasion, when we had already gone far past the allotted time for morning worship, I reminded my class that it was time to wrap-up and move into our other subjects. In response, a fourth-grade student pleaded, “can we not do any school work today and just spend the WHOLE DAY with God!?”

The spiritual eagerness, faith, and sincere love for Jesus that is displayed in the life of my students fills my heart to overflowing and reminds me why I do what I do every day. I praise God for the opportunity to be part of my students’ spiritual journey, and for the lessons they teach me every day.



Article and photos by Tabitha Coto, head teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, ND.

Huron Church Welcomes New Members

December was an exciting month for the Huron Seventh-day Adventist Church. There were three baptisms and a profession of faith the day after Christmas.

Matthew and Michael Olson studied with their grandma, Cheri Olson, and Pastor Dave Moench for months and decided they wanted to be baptized. When asked if they wanted to wait until a later date so that other relatives who live some distance away could attend - they said no. They wanted to do it now and have their baptism videotaped for the rest of the family to watch later. The church presented them with a giant Bible that has all sixty-six books summarized with pictures and short stories.

Some close friends of Rich Lyon were genuinely concerned about him when he was hospitalized about 7 years ago and called Pastor Brad Traxler (pastor of the Huron Church at that time) and asked if Pastor would visit and pray with Rich. Rich said that visit was the turning point for him in his decision to follow Jesus. He recovered from an illness and started Bible studies and attending church with his friends. Since the church had things planned

for Matthew and Michael's baptism, Rich was asked if he felt ready to publicly declare his desire to follow Jesus. He said, "Absolutely!"

Jimmy Wipf had been listening/watching different pastors on the internet and came across Doug Bachelor. He said it was a simple message and it felt right. Jimmy sent away for the Bible studies and pamphlets that Doug Bachelor spoke of and began studying on his own. Jimmy wanted to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church but felt he couldn't move to California. He then thought that maybe there might be an Adventist church in Huron, looked in the phone book and was excited to find one! He started attending church about three years ago. When asked about being baptized, Jimmy said that he was already baptized but decided to join the Huron Seventh-day Adventist Church by profession of faith.

On December 26, 2020, Matthew, Michael and Rich were baptized and Jimmy join by profession of faith. It was a high Sabbath for all in attendance.



Article and photos by Belinda Hofer, member of the Huron Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Dakota.

Join us in Dickinson at the Regional March 27

Schedule:

Sabbath School - 10:00am MST

Worship Service - 11:00am

Potluck Lunch - following the service

Afternoon Seminars - 2:00pm

Soup Supper - 5:00pm

AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Sabbath, March 27, 2:00pm



CHURCH HEALTH CHECKUP

Elder Mark Weir / President

A physical exam will give you insight into your overall health. Did you know that a similar checkup can be done to assess church health? Learn how to diagnose your church and the steps to take to help your church achieve better health. **Room D - 3:20**



CONNECTING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS WITH THE CHURCH

Prs. Brooke & Ricky Melendez / Youth & Young Adult Directors

Connecting youth & young adults back to the local church is one of the greatest needs our conference has. Join us as we discuss what our young people are looking for and how your local church can be the place where young people thrive. **Room B - 4:10**



DOLLARS & SENSE

Mark Seibold & Cindy Miller / Treasury Department

Tithe & Stewardship: We know the biblical basis for tithe, but how is your tithe actually distributed by the church? In this seminar we will take a look at tithe, the various types of donations the church receives, and trends in giving in Faith-Based Organizations. **Room A - 2:30**



PEOPLE WITH WILLS LIVE LONGER

Elder Charlie O'Hare / Associate Trust Director

Did you know that people with Wills live longer? This seminar will provide information about the legal documents every adult should have in place. Learn about the services the Dakota Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services Department offers. **Room A - 3:20 & 4:10**



"WAKING THE DEAD": RELEASING RESURRECTION POWER IN YOUR CHURCH

Elder Mark Piotrowski / VP of Administration & Educ. Superintendent

Does your church feel like life has gone out of it? What can be done about the monotony that has overtaken the programs of so many churches? In this workshop you will discover the secret of receiving fresh new life for ministry, practical examples of churches which have experienced a spiritual resurrection, and how your church can make a lasting impact on its community. **Room C - pt.1 at 3:20, pt.2 at 4:10**

AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Sabbath, March 27, 2:00pm



THE DYNAMIC DUO: PASTORS & ELDERS IN MINISTRY

Elder Mark Weir / President

A crucial connection in the local church is between the pastor and the elders. If you wonder what it means to be an effective elder, this seminar is designed especially for you. **Room D - 2:30**



WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Paulette Bullinger / Women's Ministry Director

Women have had an important role in sharing the gospel. Learn about one woman who made a difference in her community. When Jesus asks you to serve Him, He looks at your potential, not at your past. **Room C - 2:30**



YOU LOST ME: WHY YOUNG ADULTS AREN'T INTERESTED IN CHURCH

Elder Mark Weir / President

Why do so many young adults think that church is no longer relevant? What can be done about this? You will discover why too many young adults view church negatively and steps that can be taken to change the perception. **Room D - 4:10**



HORSES HIGHLIGHTING HIS WORD: FOR AGES 5-12

Natalie Weir & Alexandra Short

What does horse grooming and God's grace have in common? In this special seminar for children aged 5-12 they will experience the majesty of God's amazing creation illustrating the wonder of His incredible love. It is strongly recommended that all wear closed toed shoes and outdoor clothes for this experience. **Outside - 2:30-4:00**



YOUTH HANGOUT: FOR AGES 13-17

Prs. Brooke & Ricky Melendez / Youth & Young Adult Directors

Teens matter! Here is a space for youth ages 13-17 to come and spend time together. **Room B - 2:30-3:20**

Don't Make Waves, Make Ripples

Ripples is a Dakota Adventist Academy newsletter. The articles, devotionals, poems, and interviews are written by students, staff, and alumni who are dedicated to sharing good news about God and our school.

Below is a story from the March issue. Click [here to view the entire issue](#).

Conversations with Alumni: Voices of Experience

I recently had the honor of interviewing Plainview Academy Alumnus, Lloyd Binder (Class of '61). I found Mr. Binder to have a depth and beauty of heart as he shared with me, and that the environment of his upbringing was positive. A love for learning and finding gratitude in every situation has carried him through his childhood, teen, and adult years. Lloyd enjoyed his time in the academy thanks to positive social interactions with fellow students and faculty members. Communication at Plainview was much different than any kind he had with others outside the school.

Lloyd considers himself to be more of a relationship learner than a book learner. The opportunity to communicate, relate to others, and build positive relationships with friends was the brightest part of his academy life. Still to this day, he holds connections and conversations with people he grew close to during his time at PVA. PVA was a blessed window of opportunity he never experienced before.

Academy opens connections you cannot receive elsewhere. Lloyd later attended Union College and met his wife Bev, whom he has been blessed to have for 55 years. He hopes the lord with bless them with another 55 years of marriage.

Christine: "What would you tell your high school self if you could?"

Lloyd: "Listen, Gal, I've been trying not to talk to myself with old age and all." We both shared a few chuckles. Lloyd continued, "Sometimes the most planned route we want to take doesn't turn out. Just because you hit a wall doesn't mean you stop; you find another way around it."

PVA molded much of Lloyd's life. He had a teacher by the name of Mr. Melashenko who was a Canadian man, not fully acquainted with the Dakotas. Melashenko told the students, "When you go home, you can show your parents how much you have learned. When they place a chunk of meat on your plate, you can reply, 'No, thank you I can make out with my beans and potatoes.'" The class broke into laughter. Melashenko asked Lloyd what he said wrong. Lloyd's response, "Making out with beans and potatoes just isn't something you say in the Dakotas."

It was with Mr. Melashenko were he also experienced compassion. One day Melashenko told Lloyd to stay after class. Lloyd had done something wrong. He said to Lloyd, "I love you. I do not know why you did what you did. Think about it and go." What Melashenko said and how he responded to Lloyd's imperfection forever made an impact. Lloyd's response to this memory was this, "He could have come up with a hundred things to say, but instead he said, 'I love you.'"

"Our church has a responsibility of spreading the message to our world. But if we miss our kids, we miss the most important job we have." Lloyd stated. "We've all had times in the past where we have fallen on responsibility. It is easy to point fingers and place blame if people do not turn out a certain way. We need to let go of what we can. Sometimes our expectations are too great or not ideal, but we need to learn to take what we have and work with it."

Lloyd is very passionate about Adventist education mainly because long-lasting friendships are formed during teenage years. Academy can be a good experience to build on these relationships while keeping God as the center focus.

When asked what his goals were in life, Lloyd's response was, "They have changed over time. It used to be having children and raising them to be something positive for the community and to help them be successful. Except time goes on and your children grow up. There comes the point in a young person's life when they make up their own minds about their livelihood. You do your best to raise them. Your new goal becomes seeing all those you have lost in life again someday, and God promises that we can."

If Lloyd could give advice to academy-age kids, it is to be aware of what is going on in the world; to be conscious of the kinds of environments you place yourself in. He suggests getting back to the simple things in life; it is there that you can learn so much. "Sometimes we choose the wrong road in life, but we can choose to turn around.", Lloyd adds. Lloyd leaves us with this, "God is the source of strength. Don't ever forget it."

Reprinted with permission from author Christine Taylor, Dakota Adventist Academy girls' dean.

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

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21**

DIRT KICKER CHARITY RUN

RUN EVENT

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UNDER 18 \$20**

**JUNE 13, 2021
8 AM**

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Offering schedule is in purple.

March -

- 25-28: MAUC Church Ministries Convention - Virtual
- 27: Dickinson Regional (10am MST)
- 27: **Dakota Challenge**

April -

- 1: Dakotans Pray (7pm)
- 3: **Local Church Budget**
- 5: Conference Office Closed
- 10: Education Sabbath
- 10: **Hope Channel International**
- 17: Fargo Regional at Fargo (south) Church
- 17: **Local Church Budget**
- 23-25: Academy Days at DAA

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

Blessed & Kept

May your trust extend to the impossible.

May your trust in God's desire for your good be so vast that even when your life circumstances seem to contradict that desire, you trust anyway.

May you learn from Sarah and Abraham, who were promised a child even though Sarah was no longer able to conceive.

Their trust did not extend to the impossible, and instead they oppressed and abused her servant Hagar to force God's promises to come through their own way.

May all the impossible things God has done bolster your trust in what God has promised you.

May you trust that God is working and moving in the world and in the lives of those around you.

May you trust God enough to remove yourself as judge.

May you trust that God is active in the life of those whom don't understand their thoughts and actions.

May your trust allow you to release them from your judgement so that instead you can simply connect with them.

May your trust lead you to a more peaceful; more joyful life.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

March 25 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Barb Chancellor taken west of Hermosa, South Dakota.

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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