

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-third 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.

(September 9's installment was incorrectly labeled as the "twenty-first" and should have read "twenty-second".)

CHAPTER 7: To the Lord be all the Praise - Part 3

1885 began with a general meeting at Bridgewater, January 9-15, featuring inspirational preaching blended with training in Sabbath School work and the consideration of various items of conference business, including the purchase of a new 60 x 100-foot camp meeting pavilion and 25 family tents, and a 40-foot tent to be used exclusively in "the German work."²³

During the year, work was continued at Milbank by A.O. Olsen, and at Brookings, where George H. Smith, Marcus Stremann and B.J. Cady held tent meetings. Despite prejudice arising from a publication begun by certain "Norwegian brethren" which, although advocating Adventist doctrines, "was such as to turn many from hearing the truth", the evangelists were able to add at least six "Americans" to the seven or eight existing Sabbath-keepers. A church was organized at Brookings by 1886, and later reports speak of "the church" at Milbank.²⁴

In the meantime, the Swan Lake church enjoyed the labors of Elder Louis Johnson of Minnesota who brought thirteen new members into the church, swelling the membership to 85.²⁵

New areas entered during 1885 included Wentworth (Lake County), where "nine adults have fully decided to keep the Sabbath of the Lord", and Lake Byron (Beadle County), where believers from Iroquois and from Spink County held services on the shore of the lake, generating interest that resulted in the organization of a church by 1886. At Delmage, (Lake County) and Colman (Moody County), M.M. Ruitter worked in the spring, adding six persons to an existing group of Sabbath-keepers at Delmage and finding a few converts at Colman, including the elder of the Presbyterian church. At Watertown (Codington County), G.H. Smith and B.J. Cady held tent meetings, preaching to congregations of up to five hundred, but finding only a few willing "to obey God." At Clark (Clark County), however, Smith and Cady apparently organized an eleven-member church.²⁶

By 1885 Adventist settlers had begun arriving in the Black Hills of South Dakota and were calling for ministerial help. A.O. Olsen visited a few isolated Sabbath-keepers, baptized two people, and organized a small church at Hot Springs (Fall River County) in October. Olsen, finding people from other nearby communities anxious for his services, held a few sessions at several different locations during his short visit, reporting excellent interest and steady growth in attendance at Hot Springs.²⁷

In 1886 the General Conference sent L.R. Conradi to Russia to follow up interest generated, to a significant degree, by the German-Russians of South Dakota. Before leaving he made one final visit to South Dakota's three German churches, reporting that the membership of the Milltown Church had tripled and that over seven hundred Germans in different parts of the nation had become Seventh-day Adventists since Milltown was established in 1882. Shortly after his departure, the fourth German church, at Childstown, was organized by A.O. Olsen.²⁸

Also in 1886, a new evangelistic concept was piloted, as the Dakota Conference established its first "city mission" at Huron. Under the plan, a rented house in a selected city became the headquarters for a group of Bible workers and, later, literature evangelists, who worked for several months prior to a camp meeting to be conducted, with an evangelistic emphasis, in the same city, with a goal of establishing a new church or strengthening an existing one.²⁹

The camp at Huron was pitched on the open, treeless prairie on the outskirts of the city. Assuming that the rest of the conference was just like the barren scene before him, General Conference representative D.M. Canright commented, "Groves (the typical camp meeting setting) are out of the question in this conference." The weather, reported Canright, was "quite unfavorable nearly all the time... dry, hot and exceedingly windy", but the nearly 600 Dakotans who attended seemed to take it in stride and enjoyed the meetings in the various languages. Forty-nine people were baptized at the close of the session. Canright reported that "The Conference now has churches 20; members 550; preachers 10; Sabbath Schools 21 with 760 members; missionary societies 21 with 369 members, who made 536 visits, distributed 991,000 pages of reading matter and did other work in proportion."³⁰

The rich public relations potential of such a large frontier gathering was exploited to significant advantage. "The dailies," reported Canright, "gave us two-column reports each day, and a good report was given in each of the weeklies, occupying all the space we asked." The weekly papers also printed a press release that outlined the camp meeting sessions and gave a doctrinal statement and statistical report of the Church and its work in Dakota. Proof sheets of the article were taken to various papers in the territory; others carried it "of their own accord" under the byline of one of their special correspondents. Twelve hundred additional copies were printed and distributed for use in missionary work by church members.³¹

Among matters considered during the business meetings of the conference session held in connection with camp meeting was a resolution "That the Executive Committee of this Conference be authorized to establish a Conference mission school, for the purpose of helping to educate laborers in the cause, and to give our youth and children an opportunity to attend school without being exposed so freely to the corruptions of this age." The resolution was referred back to the committee by the delegates and returned later in considerably weaker form: "*Resolved*, that in our judgement we ought to have a mission training school in this Conference, and that our Churches, where it is practicable, should support local schools in their midst." Nevertheless, it was a first step

toward the later establishment of Elk Point Academy in 1902.³²

23. *Ibid.*, February 3, 1885, 78.

24. *Ibid.*, February 24, 1885, 124; August 11, 1885, 507; August 10, 1886, 509; August 19, 1886, 523; March 15, 1887, 172.

25. *Ibid.*, 1885, 140.

26. *Ibid.*, March 24, 1885, 188; August 11, 1885, 507; June 30, 1885, 412; September 15, 1885, 588; August 10, 1886, 509.

27. *Ibid.*, November 24, 1885, 931.

28. "Louis Richard Conradi," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 302, 303; *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 26, 1886, 61; May 18, 1886, 311.

29. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 19, 1886, 44.

30. *Ibid.*, July 20, 1886, 458.

31. *Ibid.*

32. *Ibid.*, August 10, 1886, 509.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 7, "To the Lord be all the Praise" - Part 4 by Robert K. DuPuy

If you are a new subscriber or have missed the earlier installments, you can find all issues of the Dakota

Dispatch on our website: <https://www.dakotaadventist.org/communiques/dakota-dispatch>

The first installment of *Nothing to Fear* starts in the October 22, 2020 issue.

Alumni Weekend IS Happening

CALLING ALL DAA, SRA, & PVA ALUMNI!

HONOR CLASSES (2020):

1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981,
1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

HONOR CLASSES (2021):

1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982,
1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2021

WHEN: OCTOBER 1-2

WHERE: DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Come join your friends on the beautiful campus of Dakota Adventist Academy for a double-the-fun alumni homecoming weekend October 1 & 2, 2021. Plan to come see double the friends on this special weekend!

Alumni Weekend - October 2021

Alumni Weekend Schedule
(Events and times subject to change)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 2:00 – 7:00p Registration
- 4:00p Pioneer Reception
- 7:00p DAA Showcase

SABBATH, OCTOBER 2

- 10:00 – 11:30a Morning Service & Roll Call
Honor class pictures immediately following the Morning Service
- 12:30p Lunch
- 2:30 – 5:00p Open – visit with friends
- 5:30p Buffet Supper
Compliments of the Alumni Association
– all are welcome
- 7:15p Sundown Worship
- 8:00p Basketball & Volleyball games
Alumni vs DAA

***Information to be updated on the DAA website
www.mydaa.org

Charles Blondin was a famous tight-rope walker. In 1859, Blondin took part in an amazing stunt and traveled to Niagara Falls to walk across the gorge on a three-inch-wide wire. If it was not crazy enough that he was going to attempt this stunt without any safety net below, he also did many other stunts while attempting the journey over the falls. Several of these antics include blindfolded, in a sack, pushing a wheelbarrow, on stilts, sitting down midway while he cooked and ate an omelet, and standing on a chair with only one chair leg on the rope. That's not all, Blondin pulled one more stunt that was greater than the rest. He carried his manager on his back while walking on the wire. This is a crazy amount of trust happening between two people.

Imagine if halfway across the wire Blondin's manager had decided that he would stop being carried and travel across the rest of the wire himself. That sounds crazy right? Well, this is an accurate way to describe what happened with what Paul was going through with the Galatians. Paul had previously shared the Gospel of Jesus with them and they had accepted Christ into their lives. But we see here in Galatians 1 they turn away from that, "You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all" (Galatians 1:6-7 NLT). The Galatians were halfway across the falls being carried by Jesus but they decided instead to go the rest of the way themselves. Thinking they could do it on their own was turning away from the good news they had previously heard from Paul. So often life can get in the way and we start to focus on what we can do. But rather we need to come back, focus and draw close to Jesus. Jesus has been carrying you, keep trusting in Him.

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Jason Woll, associate pastor of the Goodrich / Mandan / McClusky / Turtle Lake church district, in North Dakota.

ABERDEEN REGIONAL 2021



OCTOBER 9 - 10:00am CT

Holgate Middle School
2200 N Dakota St, Aberdeen, SD

**ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING
THE MEMBERS OF THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE**

Please take special note that there will NOT be a potluck at this Regional meeting, plan to bring a sack lunch for your family. Afternoon seminars will begin at 2pm and will be held at the Aberdeen Adventist Church: 825 12th Ave SE.

Learning About Nature

“The things of nature are the Lord’s silent ministers, given to us to teach us spiritual truths. They speak to us of the love of God and declare the wisdom of the Great Master Artist” (Adventist Home p.146).

Listening to the wisdom set forth in the above quote, Prairie Voyager Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School used the week of September 13-16 as their Week of Spiritual Emphasis to study in God’s great outdoors. On Monday the students went on a “listen and watch” nature hike along the Red River of the North. After a quick roll down the hill, students began to listen to and identify different sounds; squirrel, birds, a dog's bark. They took mental pictures to observe the beauty of nature around them. The class was blessed from the sighting of a doe with this year's fawn.

Tuesday the entire day was spent at Turtle River State Park. The day started with a presentation from the Ranger Station about birds and how to identify them. The ranger provided students with binoculars and took them on a nature walk to birdwatch. Blue jays, chickadees, nuthatches, and crows were sighted. A picnic in the park, nature scavenger hunt, and time to play in the creek finished the day.

Wednesday was a classroom day studying about the life cycle of butterflies. Thursday was another hiking day, this time with Soil Conservation teaching the students about soil, water, trees, and their interaction with each other to preserve and clean the landscape.

Nature is speaking of God. Are we taking the time to listen? The students from Prairie Voyager School encourage you to find space in God’s great outdoors and listen for Him.



Article and all photos except in front of school sign by Leanne Erickson, teacher at Prairie Voyager in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Photo of students in front of sign by Mandy Panasuk.

DAA Class of 2022

This year at Dakota Adventist Academy, there are twelve students in the senior class that come from different walks of life. The class is made up of individuals from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Canada, and South Korea. When they started their freshman year only five students made up the class - four females and one male. Half way through freshman year the class gained another male student. During sophomore year one student left the class, but they then grew to twelve with a split of six males and six females. Junior year brought a loss of a few members and their sponsor. That year they gained a new classmate and two new sponsors. This year the class has added three new members and another new sponsor. The class of 2022 has had to adapt to change and has been welcoming of their classmates and sponsors. Through this time, they have grown into leaders and friends.



Article and photo by Stephen Staff, head boys' dean and athletic director at Dakota Adventist Academy.

Dakota SDA Kids



Dakota SDA Kids
No subscribers

Dakota Conference

Get Ready Kids!

Our YouTube channel launches October 1 with content designed just for you! Join us for daily devotional videos as we dive into:

- Old Testament stories in October
- New Testament stories in November
- Advent study in December

Stay tuned for “Storytime with Zeus,” Dakota Kid Spotlights, music, crafts, and so much more.

Contact Kelli Wasemiller at (920) 319-6678 or dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com if you have ideas or want to be involved in digitally ministering to the kids of the Dakota Conference.

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

Offering schedule is in purple.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

September -

- 23-26: Women's Retreat in Mandan, ND
- 25: **Dakota Challenge**
- 25: **Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Wahpeton, ND**
- 26: Executive Committee at Conference Office

October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 1-2: DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend at Dakota Adventist Academy
- 2: **Local Church Budget**
- 9: Aberdeen Regional in Aberdeen, SD - **Elder Mark Weir preaching**
- 9: **Camp Development**
- 16: **Local Church Budget**
- 23: **Dakota Challenge**
- 23: **Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowman, ND**

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

Blessed & Kept

May you wage peace

The world does not need more fighters
It does not need more weapons
But the world could really use more peace makers

May you be a peace warrior
May the shalom of God be your way of life
May waging peace be your truest calling

When the divisions of our world beg you to pick sides
May you lift up Jesus so that all sides may be drawn to him and to each other
When those who assume you are on their team make disparaging comments about the other side
May the way of Jesus be made clear to you

May you persevere in the loneliness of peace making
May you receive the great blessing of fellow peace makers who might join you on your journey

The path before you will not be easy; but that is why it's travelers are called blessed.

May you be a peace warrior
May the shalom of God be your way of life
May waging peace be your truest calling

May our Lord call you blessed.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

September 23 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Charlie O'Hare in Divide County, North Dakota (north and west of Fortuna).

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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 - [!\[\]\(f51929fecf7b0dc947ac13f4c4835e8f_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(dfbf0e54bcca114319aa65c906feb8d0_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
 - [!\[\]\(64792950f1b7ee883a860b5f0af110c3_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)
 - [!\[\]\(a4c91228d412dab12bd635819fc28c10_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)
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