

# DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



## Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-ninth 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 8: To Effect An Organization - Part 3

On June 24, 1902, at 6:00 p.m., “the brethren and sisters assembled in camp at Carrington, North Dakota, proceeded to effect an organization.”<sup>15</sup>

General Conference representative S.H. Lane described the 1902 Carrington gathering as “an old-fashioned camp meeting, such as we used to have thirty years ago.”<sup>16</sup> Although no doubt the attendance by English-speaking and Scandinavian members was reduced by the forthcoming camp meetings to be held at Arvilla and Minot, the composition of the Carrington gathering, 250 Germans, 75 English-speaking people, and 25 Scandinavians, was a clear reflection of the rapidly developing work among the German-Russians.<sup>11</sup>

The new conference chose Fargo as its headquarters because of its superior railroad connections and because of the likelihood that the Northern Union Conference (recently formed from part of the Northwestern Union) would locate its headquarters there also.<sup>18</sup>

Education was high on the priority list of the delegates to this conference session; resolutions were passed suggesting that people moving into the state locate near groups of isolated believers for the purpose of starting Sabbath Schools and church schools; that training institutes in Sabbath School, church and missionary work be conducted; that youth be encouraged to take at least some secondary training; and that a fund be established “for the erection and maintenance of Intermediate and Industrial Schools.”<sup>19</sup>

Financial matters received considerable attention, and a “Six Thousand Dollar Fund” was established. This fund was a kind of Conference-level combined budget in which fifty percent of all money received was to go for a “Depository and Reserve Fund” for a Tract Society and possible conference headquarters building, and the other half was to be divided equally among the Tent, Canvassers, Educational, Relief, Tract, and Foreign Mission

funds.<sup>20</sup>

Putting the needs of the new conference before the people in more concrete terms, repeated appeals for funds for the various programs were made, and the people responded liberally. "The meetings at which the money was raised," reported S.H. Lane, "were among the best of the entire series. The leaders simply stated what they desired, and the blessing of the Lord seemed to accomplish the rest; and as the brethren and sisters pledged, they bore testimony to their love of the truth and their willingness to help it. Several Germans were present who had been imprisoned in Russia, and they said, with hearts filled with gratitude, that while they had filled sentences in the Old World for the truth's sake, they were indeed glad that they now had their liberty that they might earn money to aid the Lord's cause. Including what was given to the Sabbath School, the foreign missions work, etc., five thousand dollars was pledged and paid in cash by the three hundred and fifty people who were encamped. The German brethren seemed to vie with one another in helping the work, and many acres of wheat and flax are growing in North Dakota to aid the Missionary Acre Fund."<sup>21</sup>

The organizational structure adopted in the conference constitution and bylaws consisted of a president and a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer (whose duties were more or less limited to the internal financial affairs of the church) and a business agent who took care of the external business dealings of the church, such as purchasing, care of church property, business matters in connection with camp meetings, etc.

There were only two departments, Educational, which had jurisdiction over both Sabbath Schools and church schools, and the Missionary Department, responsible for lay missionary work, youth work, and the work of the literature evangelists.<sup>22</sup>

15. *Ibid.*, 3.

16. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 22, 1902, 18, 19.

17. *Ibid.*

18. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, 1, 13, 15.

19. *Ibid.*, 12, 15, 17.

20. *Ibid.*, 20.

21. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, *loc. cit.*

22. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, 1, 4-10.

### **Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:**

#### **Chapter 8, "To Effect an Organization" - 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.

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## **You Are Invited**

# BISMARCK REGIONAL AND CELEBRATION OF PRAISE



## ALL IN.

DECEMBER 18, 2021 – 10:00am

Dakota Adventist Academy  
15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck ND

Sabbath School – 10:00a

Church – 11:00a

Lunch provided by DAA – 12:00p

Afternoon Seminars – 1:00p

DAA Christmas Concert – 3:00p

## SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS

*Sabbath, December 18, 1:00pm*



### A FORMULA TO END THE WORLD: JESUS' METHOD FOR COMPLETING THE GREAT COMMISSION

*Elder Mark Piotrowski / VP of Administration & Educ. Superintendent*



### CHURCH HEALTH CHECKUP

*Elder Mark Weir / President*



### PEOPLE WITH WILLS LIVE LONGER

*Elder Charles O'Hare / Trust Director*



### TELLING OUR STORY: THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADVENT MOMENT IN TODAY'S WORLD

*Elder Mark Piotrowski / VP of Administration & Educ. Superintendent*



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

*Paulette Bullinger / Women's Ministry Director*



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

*Elder Mark Weir / President*

## DAA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Sabbath, December 18, 3:00pm*

## The Promise

For the Christian, the true meaning of Christmas is understood as a promise coming to fruition. What was the promise? That God, through His Son, would restore to mankind their lost innocence; restore in us God's own image (Gen. 1:26). Wrote Paul, *"For as by the one man's disobedience [Adam's] the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience [Christ's] the many will be made righteous"* (Rm. 5:19).

God told Adam and Eve that Satan's attempt to rule this world would not go unchallenged (Gen. 3:15). And so, the day the Majesty of Heaven was born in a stable marked the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise. Later, the infant child, now a man, highlighted the conflict with the adversary saying, *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword"* (Matt. 10:34).

Satan thought to completely eradicate the image of God in men through his lies, deceit and trickery. But Jesus, when challenged said, *"The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you"* (Lk. 17:21). This is seen every time we, in sincerity, repeat the Lord's Prayer. When we pray, *"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven"* (Matt. 6:10), we are reassured of the eventual overthrow of the enemy.

The enemy and his hosts know that the end of their reign is imminent. We saw this when demons screamed at Jesus, *“What do You want with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torture us before the appointed time”* (Matt. 8:29; Jude 1:6)? Later, with that appointed time in mind, and His crucifixion near, Jesus said, *“Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out...”* (Jn. 12:31). His victory on the Cross sealed the fate of all God’s enemy’s.

As we celebrate the birth of the Child *“destined to cause the falling and rising of many”* (Lk. 2:34), let’s not forget to take in the whole understanding of Jesus’ coming. The promise fulfilled by God to send His Son the first time paved the way for His second coming, the promise to *“come back and to take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am”* (Jn. 14:3). For He was *“Born to raise the sons of earth; born to give them second birth...”*

*Worship Thoughts by Pr. Dave Moench, pastor of the Huron / Mitchell church district in South Dakota.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**From your friends at the  
Dakota Conference Office**

## **Mats for the Homeless**

The members of the National Honor Society at Dakota Adventist Academy have teamed up with the Bismarck Adventist church to crochet sleeping mats for the homeless. Plastic grocery bags are collected and then made into “plarn” or plastic yarn. Plarn is made by cutting stacks of plastic bags into strips and then looping them together into long strands. The strands are then wound into large balls, ready to be used to make the plastic

mats. It takes 700-800 plastic bags to make one mat! More plastic bags are needed and can be dropped off at Dakota Adventist Academy or at the Bismarck Adventist church. NHS students are having fun learning a new skill and at the same time, helping the homeless.



## MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

*Article and photos by Pam Fenton, DAA science teacher and NHS sponsor.*

## Cleveland Church Hosts Singspiration

How do we get back to "normal" after COVID? In most churches attendance is down, as well as morale. There is a feeling of uncertainty and fear, not to mention many opinions on how the church should respond to COVID in terms of outreach.

Last summer the Cleveland Church board met and voted to move forward with outreach activities done in the past. Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs, "Happy and Healthy" Cooking School, and socials were re-started. On November 20, the annual Singspiration was held after a year and a half break. It was a challenge because some were afraid to come and participate, and some were afraid to be in a large crowd. "I earnestly prayed that no one would get sick and for a great spiritual blessing. I even asked God to give me someone new to study the Bible with," stated Cheryl Erickson.

God answered all three prayers in a very significant way. No one got sick. Although attendance was less than usual, the spiritual blessing was something people went away talking about and continued to recall and enjoy throughout the week. The most outstanding blessing was that Cheryl really did get a Bible study interest. During the lunch following the program, she was sitting at a table with some of the non-Adventist participants. The conversation turned toward prophecy and Cheryl asked the lady next to her if she would be interested in studying Bible prophecy with her. "Yes, I would!" the lady replied. The two women met the following Monday and studied

Matthew 24, and the woman was so interested in the things she had learned, she invited her boyfriend to come to the next meeting. They both felt blessed and want to continue with the entire set of Bible studies.

Cheryl is thankful that God is still leading and blessing efforts to point people to Him and to share with others the good news of His soon return.



*Article by Cheryl Erickson, member of the Cleveland Adventist church in North Dakota. Photos were taken from the church's livestream.*

DAKOTANS PRAY

# Special Edition



**December 31: 7-11p, CT**

**January 1: 3-5p, CT**

**Zoom - 895 8855 6393**

**Passcode - 885424**

**+1 253 215 8782**

You are invited to attend a *Special Edition* of Dakotans Pray scheduled December 31 (7-11pm, CT) and January 1 (3-5pm, CT). Friday evening's theme is *Praise & Petition*. Let's praise God together for His leading in 2021 and make our requests known to Him. 2022's theme is *Live by the Spirit* (Gal. 5:25).

## Hot Springs Brings Back Pathfinders

It has been many years since the Hot Springs church has had a Pathfinder group. The board met and voted two of our newest members of the congregation, Michael and Jaime Bohlman, as Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders. Dr. Michael Bohlman, Dr. Jaime Bohlman, and their three children recently moved to the area from central California. They expressed interest in getting involved in church ministry and mentioned their previous involvement with Pathfinders. The first official meeting was held on December 4, 2021, with nine children from the church in attendance. The Pathfinder group was officially named the Black Hills Lightbearers.

The church members hope and pray to use this Pathfinder club as an outlet to reach others by inviting young people from the community to join. They look forward to the opportunity to serve the community and uplift Jesus as light bearers to the world.



*Article and photos by Pr. Sam Thomas, pastor of the Custer / Hot Springs church district in South Dakota.*

## Kid's Corner

Merry Christmas to all of our Dakota kids! We hope that this holiday season is filled with the child-like wonder and magic that was present that night in Bethlehem. We look forward to creating new ministry materials and opportunities to remind each child of God (young and young at heart) that they are a precious part of God's Kingdom and our Dakota church family.

If you have ideas or feedback please contact us at [dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com](mailto:dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com).

Blessings, Kelli Wasemiller





It is exciting to see that over the last 75 days, our YouTube channel has had over 1,600 views and over 76 hours of total viewing time! We would love to hear your thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve the Dakota SDA Kid's YouTube content. Your input will help us as we plan and create material going into 2022. Thank you for ministering with us!

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdbw.../viewform>



*Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference children's ministries coordinator.*

## ABC Located at Dakota Conference in Bismarck

**Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm**

If you happen to be in town during office hours, please stop by. We will try to accommodate.

**Friday - Sunday: ABC & office closed**

# Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

## December -

- 16: Rapid City School Christmas Program (7pm)
- 17: Brentwood School Christmas Program (7pm)
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 18: Celebration of Praise & Bismarck Regional at DAA - Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 18: DAA Christmas Concert (3pm)
- 23: Conference Office Closed - Christmas Observed
- 25: Dakota Challenge

## January -

- 1: Local Church Budget
- 1: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Richardton Church, ND
- 8: Religious Liberty
- 8: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Spearfish Church, SD
- 20: The Dakota Dispatch's next issue sent out

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: [www.dakotaadventist.org/events](http://www.dakotaadventist.org/events)

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## Blessed & Kept

May you remember the name that gives this time of year meaning.  
Immanuel... God with us.

May you sacrifice your stress and anxiety on the altar of Immanuel.  
May the prayer of your sacrifice be a repetition of the promises of God's presence.

May you have peace, knowing the prince of peace is with you.  
May you not fear the shadows, for God is with you.  
May you not be troubled by attacks from the enemy, for the victor of all things is with you.  
May you know joy, for the author of joy is with you.

God is with you always, to the very end of the age.

May the traditions and rhythms of the season point you away from stress and deeper into the reality of Immanuel.

*Written by Casey Bartlett.*

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

**We wish you joy this Christmas Season!**



*Photo taken by Paulette Bullinger in Burleigh County, North 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](mailto: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](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com). Bison [Copyright](#)

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