



Nothing to Fear

This is the 40th 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 9: Hastening the Coming of the Lord - Part 7

Partially as an outgrowth of the Russians' thirst for education, an evangelistic approach was developed about 1917 and continued through the 1920's, that has, in only slightly different form become an effective evangelistic tool of the Adventist Church in the Far East and elsewhere. Throughout the Russian settlements, brief summer schools were conducted, usually by students of Sheyenne River Academy's Russian Department, in which were taught Bible and the basics of reading and writing the Russian language.

The summer schools were also a haven for the children of Russian Adventists who had often suffered ridicule from other children at public schools, who would mock them for their Sabbath-keeping and try to force them to eat pieces of ham. Here they learned Bible stories from Christian teachers who taught them in their native tongue.

In 1924, Conference President Henry Meyer credited the Russian summer schools with a major role in the conversion and baptism of about thirty-five Russian young people.³⁸

During summer vacations and weekends, S.G. Burley worked with J.A. Litwinenco, visiting and strengthening the existing churches and doing evangelistic work in new areas. In the summer of 1911, they traveled west of the Missouri to work among the members of a Russian settlement, probably at Fayette, (Dunn County) where a Russian Sabbath School was established by the end of the year.³⁹

With good pastoral care from both Russian and German ministers the six Russian churches

(Dogden, Williston, Max, Butte, Kief, and Greatstone) became strong and stable, and increased steadily in numbers year by year.⁴⁰

Recognizing the growing impact of the Russian work, the conference purchased a new tent in 1911 to be used as the Russian assembly tent at camp meetings.⁴¹

At the 1913 camp meeting at Bismarck, Litwinenco and Burley were ordained to the gospel ministry.⁴²

During the next year, further work was done at Fayette, and Burley began to work at Makoti, (southwestern Ward County) when he received an urgent call to come to Yale, Virginia.⁴³

A year earlier, according to Louis Halswick's account, two Adventist families had moved from North Dakota to Yale, (M.S. Krietzky recalls that they were the John Oleinicks and the Mina Panasuks) to bring the Adventist message to this new Russian Baptist settlement. Together with the Delenko family who had already begun Sabbath-keeping, these families organized a small church of eight members that met in the Delenko home.

The new church requested the services of S.G. Burley to hold an evangelistic series in a tent pitched in an oak grove. At first only a few attended, but soon the interest grew until the whole Baptist church membership was attending every night.

When unique Adventist doctrines were presented, many were convinced that they were true. At a Sunday service at the Baptist church the entire congregation decided to accept the teachings and to go to the tent that night to make their decision known. When Burley asked, at the close of his sermon how many would plan to unite with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the whole congregation stood up.⁴⁴

The ownership of the church building was transferred and the church became a Seventh-day Adventist church. Since there were a large number of children in the church, a school was established and in 1916, the first North Dakotan to graduate from the Russian Department at Sheyenne River Academy, M.S. Kreitzky, was called to be its teacher.⁴⁵

The work at Makoti, which had been interrupted by Burley's visit to Yale, was continued by his assistant in the Russian Department, N.J. Michalenko, and by S.M. Harkov in 1915, with help at the start from Burley. The outcome of these evangelistic meetings is not known but by the following year we have a reference to a "little group" organized by Burley at Makoti, consisting of former members of the Max church.

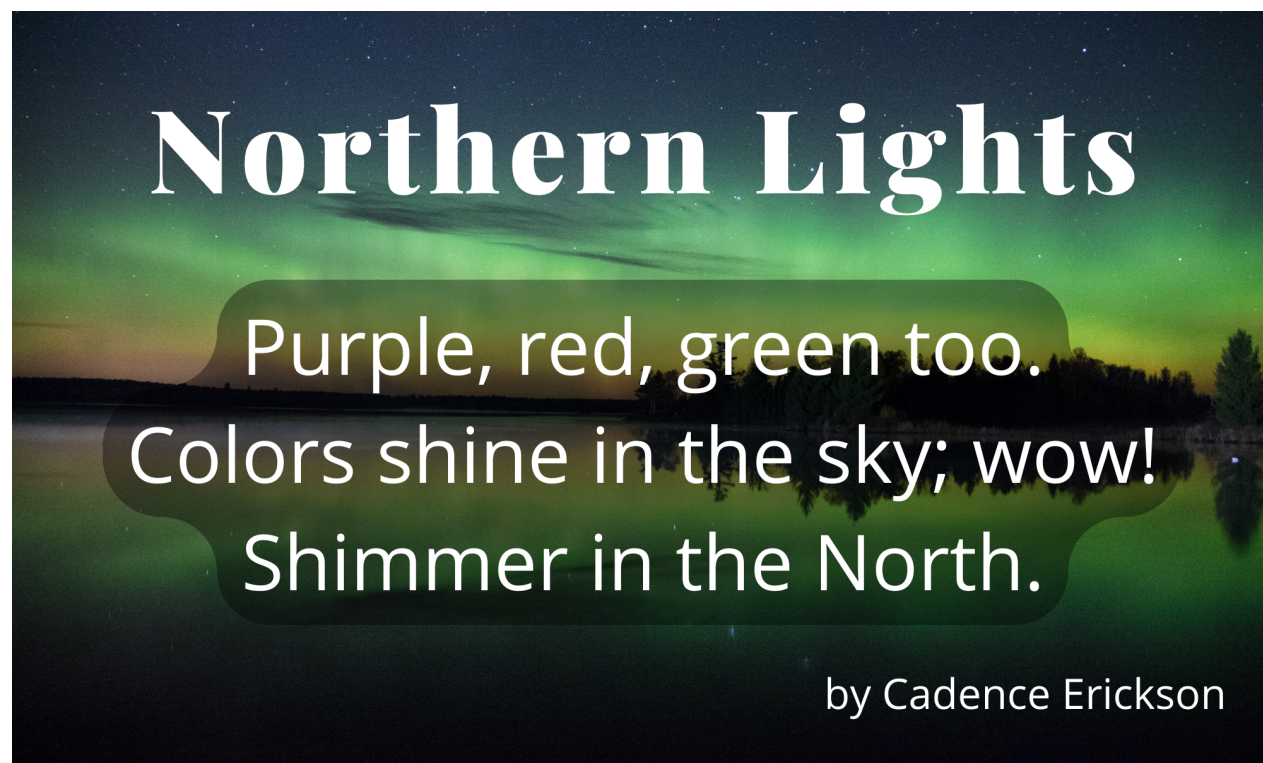
Occasionally Makoti is referred to as a church in the records of the time, but the weight of evidence seems to suggest that it was only a company at best, perhaps, only a Sabbath School.⁴⁶

39. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 18, 1911, 4; July 9, 1912, 4-5.
40. *Northern Union Reaper*, volumes 6-13, (April 1911-March 1919), *passim*.
41. *Northern Union Reaper*, May 23, 1911, 5.
42. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 22, 1913, 3.
43. *Northern Union Reaper*, September 15, 1914, 5.
44. Louis Martin Halswick, *op. cit.*, 91, 92.
45. *Ibid.*; *Northern Union Reaper*, December 19, 1916, 5.
46. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 6, 1915, 4; April 11, 1916, 4.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 9, "Hastening the Coming of the Lord" - Part 8 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.



Haiku by Cadence Erickson, 4th-grader at Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary School in Grand Forks, ND. Photo by Nathan Roe.

Firm In Our Faith

Like many sheep ranchers in the West, Lexy Fowler has tried just about everything to stop crafty coyotes from killing her sheep. She has used odor sprays, electric fences, and “scare-coyotes.” She has slept with her lambs during the summer and has placed battery-operated radios near them. She has corralled them at night and herded them during the day.

But the southern Montana rancher has lost scores of lambs--fifty last year alone.

Then she discovered the llama--the aggressive, funny-looking, afraid-of-nothing llama. Fowler said, "Llamas don't appear to be afraid of anything. When they see something, they put their head up and walk straight toward it. That is aggressive behavior as far as the coyote is concerned, and they won't have anything to do with that. Coyotes are opportunists, and llamas take that opportunity away."



The author of temptation is much like the coyote--he is an opportunist. But if we are firm in our faith in God to give us the strength we need to resist temptation, then he can be beaten.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7-8).

Pastor Mike / [The Open Word](#)

Worship Thoughts used with permission by Pr. Mike Temple, pastor of the Grand Forks Adventist Church in North Dakota. Click the link above to visit the Open Word and sign up for a daily devotional thought. Photo by Kate Levitskaya via Unsplash.

Join the Mandan Adventist Church for VBS 2022

THE MANDAN ADVENTIST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!
"The Pirates Are Coming!"
JUNE 13-17, 2022 | 6:00-8:00 PM | 4500 30TH AVE NW
MANDAN, ND

Huron Church Pays Loan in Record Time

In March of 2019, the Huron Adventist Church, in a business meeting led by Pastor Rob Carlson, moved to proceed with a much-needed remodeling of the church and fellowship hall.

The members decided to re-side the Fellowship Hall, replace the doors, and put a new floor in the kitchen. In the church, the carpet was removed from the wall surrounding the mural in the front of the Sanctuary, and sheetrock was installed. A new carpet was installed, front to back including new flooring in the bathrooms, aging windows and doors were replaced, and the entire interior of the church was repainted from ceiling to floor. The decision was made to connect the two buildings by creating a walk-through from the church to the fellowship hall.

Approximately \$78,000 was spent on the entire project. In the loan request, \$55,000 was requested though only \$42,000 was actually borrowed in the fall of 2019. It was a 10-year note at 4 ½% interest and the church members were determined to pay it off as quickly as possible. In May of 2021, it was paid in full with money left over to cover the repair of the kitchen ceiling. The response of the Huron Church Family to pay off the project's loan so quickly is a tribute to the members' dedication and faithfulness to the cause of Christ.

Church members praise God for His goodness in all of the planning and decision-making. There was a wonderful spirit of cooperation and generosity that is so typical of the Huron Adventist Church. The congregation prays for God's blessing and for their church to be a light to the community.



Article by Pr. Dave Moench, pastor of the Huron / Watertown church district in South Dakota. Photos by Belinda Hofer, member of the Huron church.

General Conference Session

OUTLOOK

NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM MID-AMERICA

HOME

ABOUT

NEWS

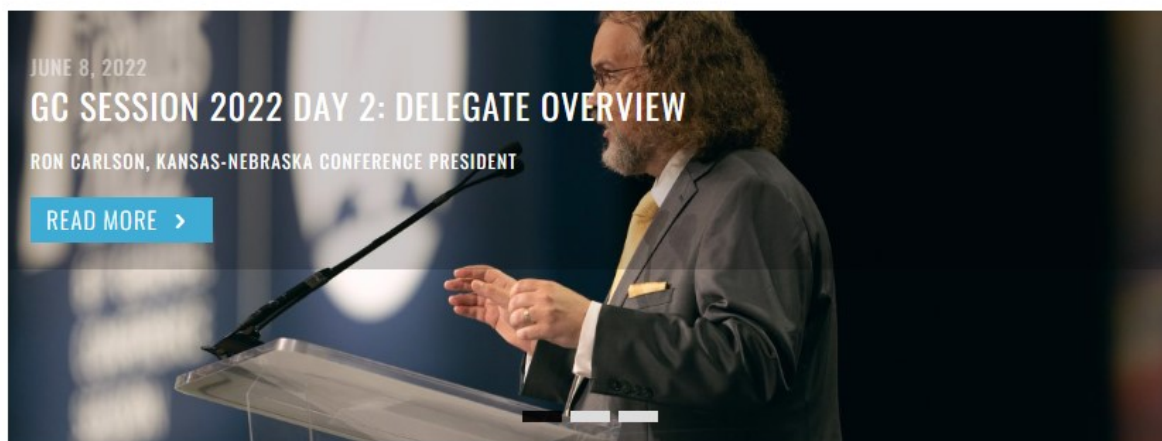
FEATURES

BLOGS

PODCAST

VIDEO

ADVERTISE



Would you like to follow the highlights from the General Conference session? Visit outlookmag.org for daily updates.

Anchored at Dakota Campmeeting

Campmeeting is a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. This year's event was centered around the theme "Anchored" and was packed with excellent speakers, beautiful music, and good food. Though attendance was less than normal, those present for the meetings appreciated the speakers and the comfort of the "red, cushy chairs" in the auditorium. One attendee admitted, "Every year it seems I drag my feet about going to Campmeeting but once I am there, I am so blessed!"

Dr. John McVay, president of Walla Walla University, was the featured speaker and spoke every evening as well as for church reviewing ideas from the book of *Ephesians*. Dr. Kendra Haloviak Valentine, professor at La Sierra University, shared material on *Revelation* and how to be anchored and unafraid during the judgment. Elder Mike Tucker, a former speaker for Faith for Today, presented seminars from his series, *Mad About Marriage*, and offered attendees new communication tools. Elder Gil Webb, former VP of administration for the Mid-America Union Conference and retired minister, spoke about church health and held a dialogue on some "hot

topics" in the church. Dr. Mark Piotrowski, Dakota Conference VP of administration, closed out the week's seminars and presented on how to live a life anchored in the will of God.

Vitalant Blood Services arrived at the Academy in their bloodmobile early Friday morning to hold a blood drive just outside of the front doors. By the end of the morning, ten units were collected. The organization was pleased with the results and stated that "those ten units could potentially save 30 area patient lives."

On Sabbath afternoon, an anointing was held in the Campmeeting Prayer Room with several in attendance for the intimate service. Following this, the annual "Round Table" forum was held on stage mediated by Dakota Conference President Dr. Mark Weir. Those present could submit questions via paper or text them to the podium. The week's presenters were seated on stage and answered the questions in turn. Immediately following the forum, a private event was held on the banks of the Missouri River where Pastor David Werner had the honor of baptizing two young men from the Bowman Adventist Church with whom he has been studying. Dr. Mark Piotrowski "found the baptismal service a very moving event" and was blessed to witness the men giving their lives to Christ.

After the annual *Hall of Remembrance* on Sabbath evening, a touching slideshow of all of those members who have passed away since the last Campmeeting, Elder Weir spoke on what lies ahead for the Dakota Conference. He continues to believe in a prosperous future for the members of our Conference. Pam Tucker then closed out the week by sharing her music and beautiful voice. "I thought the Round Table responses were spot on," stated one of the pastors, "and I enjoyed Pam's concert." A first-time Campmeeting attendee expressed her appreciation for the event; "Campmeeting was deeply uplifting. The speakers, music, and fellowship provided blessings all week."

Campmeeting 2022 may be over, but attendees are still experiencing the good feelings associated with an inspiring week and many have even walked away with new friends or acquaintances. Those that missed this year's event, can check the [conference website](#) in the coming weeks to view archived video presentations. Until next year, stay "anchored" in the love of Jesus.



Article and photos by Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director.

Lost & Found Items at Campmeeting



If any of these items are yours, please call the office to claim them at 701.751.6177.

Goodbye, My Friend

I remember when we first met. It was at a Revelation Seminar at the Civic Center in the spring of 1999. I was in a really bad way, and I was looking for something. My kids were hurting as their dad had just left four months earlier to start his prison sentence. We didn't know what we were in for or what to expect, but it was a pleasure to meet you. I came every night with my three kids in tow and you were there with a caring smile. We got to the end of that seminar, and we met Jesus along the way, and you visited us and took the kids under your wings and cared for us. We were very fragile, and you knew just what to say.

We were baptized that spring, me and my three kids. I was so thankful that what I was looking for was Jesus. I was so glad to have you as my friend. You taught my daughter the piano and were there for my boys. We had a very rough go of it. We stumbled many times. We also lost our way during those years, but I know you always were praying for us, and you never gave up on me. And when the Lord said it was time, you and Pastor Darren came to visit Robert when he started coming back to church and you didn't know he and I had gotten married. It was such an incredible reunion, to see you and talk with you and catch up on all the time we had missed. I was still a mess inside and the Lord said that it was time. I did eventually come back to church and because of you and Pastor Darren, I found Jesus again. My first love, Jesus, and my friend together, I missed you both so much.



Phyllis Louise (Hirsch) Alexander
November 4, 1932 - May 20, 2022

It was a pleasure to visit with you all these years and an honor to help you with the things you needed. It seemed that over the years we needed each other. When I was starting out in Adventist Community Services (ACS) you were there to give me advice and you would listen when I didn't know what to do. You prayed with me and cried with me. We would laugh so hard we couldn't breathe. We had some amazing bible studies and some deep discussions about life.

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings and your kindness! I am grateful for my friend, and I started to cry when I found out that you called me "your treasure."

Goodbye Phyllis, you will be missed! I'll be on that beautiful shore looking for you, and we'll both be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, to meet the Lord in the air. Hallelujah! What a day that will be. I love you!

Letter by Ann Hanel, member of the Rapid City Adventist Church and ACS director.

To read more about the life of this incredible woman, her career, and her service to others, [click here to find the article published in the October 2019 issue of OUTLOOK magazine.](#)

It is not too late to register for Dakota Summer Camps!



**Dakota
Adventist
Camps**

Flag Mountain Camp
cub camp, ages 8-10 • June 15-19 • \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 • June 19-26 • \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 • June 26-July 3 • \$275

Northern Lights Camp
cub camp, ages 8-10 • July 13-17 • \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 • July 17-24 • \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 • July 24-31 • \$275

REGISTER FOR CAMP ONLINE
DAKOTAYOUTHANDYOUNGADULTS.ORG/CAMPS



Register today at: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for the month of **June**:

Theme: Fathers, Dakota Conference Team, & Campmeeting

Pastoral Staff: Kris de Bruin, George Shaver

Office Staff: Mark Weir, Paulette Bullinger

Adventist Entities: Aberdeen Church,
Watertown Church

Northeast, South Dakota: Aberdeen,
Redfield, Watertown, Lake Traverse
Reservation

[Click here](#) to visit the Prayer Ministries'
webpage.



**DAKOTANS
PRAY**
is now scheduled weekly
Thursdays at 7:00p CT

Meeting ID: 895 8855 6393
Passcode: 885424
Call in: 253.215.8782

Zoom:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89588556393?
pwd=ZDhqXNpNUJJdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89588556393?pwd=ZDhqXNpNUJJdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09)



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Kid's Corner

It was so great seeing so many of you at Dakota Campmeeting last week! We're currently planning out new material and would love you hear your ideas! What topics should we study? Any books, crafts, or songs we should explore? What new ideas do you have for us? Contact Kelli at dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com with your ideas.

Coming Soon . . . God & Science! Did you know that God is a scientist?! Join us for science experiments, nature exploration, and praise for our Creator. Check out this month's theme song by clicking on the link: [God of Science \(Our Great God\)](#).

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, [Dakota SDA Kids](#), and explore the many videos available for children.



Kelli Wasmiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent and children's ministries coordinator.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

June -

- 6-11: General Conference Session in St. Louis, MO
- 11: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Hurley Church, SD
- 11: Women's Ministries
- 15-19: Cub Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 8-10)
- 18: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Northern Lights Camp, ND
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 19-22: Pastors' Called Convention in Lexington, KY
- 19-26: Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)
- 25: Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Grassy Butte Church, ND
- 25: Dakota Challenge
- 26-3: Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

July - The Dakota Dispatch will not be published in July.

- 2: Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Turtle Lake Church, ND
- 2: Local Church Budget
- 4: Conference Office Closed - Independence Day
- 9: Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Watertown Church, SD
- 9: World Budget

- 10: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 13-17: Cub Camp at Northern Lights (ages 8-10)
- **16: Local Church Budget**
- 17-24: Junior Camp at Northern Lights (ages 11-13)
- 23: Concert by Stephanie Dawn at Mandan Church, ND (7p)
- **23: Dakota Challenge**
- 24-31: Teen Camp at Northern Lights (ages 14-17)
- **30: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Cleveland Church, ND**
- **30: Worthy Student Fund**

August -

- 1-2: Teacher In-services at Conference Office
- **6: Local Church Budget**
- 13: Outdoor Church at Fahlgren Park in Washburn, ND
- **13: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Wahpeton Church, ND**
- **13: NAD Christian Record**

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

Blessed & Kept

May you give voice to the deepest sentiments of your soul.

May your suffering not remain silent before the throne of God.

May your unease and discomfort not hold you back from voicing the hurt; from naming the pain.

May you unleash that which has been rising within you unfiltered onto God.

If it is abandonment, may your loneliness declare itself to the one who abandoned you.

If it is anger, may it flow from your gut.

If it is resentment, may you hold nothing back in your disdain.

God is no stranger to your pain.

God can handle your deepest and strongest emotions.

It was God who created them.

So may you speak them in their raw and unvarnished form.

May the act of voicing your emotions release the stranglehold they have over your soul.

May you at last, be able to breathe again.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

June 9 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Jodi Dossenko.

If you have local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles, and pictures to:
j.dossenko@gmail.com

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](#). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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 - [!\[\]\(6aefe9a3d997eb8b55c40ecd5fa7053f_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(baa8f8ba8c970db55300f5bb45bb3460_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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