



## Nothing to Fear

This is the 41st 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 8

Burley's evangelistic style was anything but low key. During an effort at Max in 1916, he scheduled three meetings daily, at two, four and eight p.m. When conference president, S.E. Jackson, suggested that the evangelists were "perhaps overfeeding their congregation," Burley assured him that the "Russian brethren are not like the American brethren." Noted Jackson, "This may be so and yet it was a little difficult to convince the writer."<sup>47</sup>

In response to the phenomenal growth of the Russian work in North Dakota, the International Branch of the Pacific Press Publishing Association in College View, Nebraska, (moved to Brookfield, Illinois in 1916 after it was destroyed by fire) published the first issue of the Russian language version of the *Review and Herald*, late in 1915.

Burley, in his spare time from evangelism and teaching did editorial work for the new publication. A North Dakotan, Alex Yakavenko, a graduate of the Russian Department at Sheyenne River Academy worked at Brookfield in 1917 setting type and taking care of correspondence and other editorial work.<sup>48</sup>

Although evangelistic work was done at Bergen (McHenry County), apparently at Ruso (McLean County) and north of Belfield (Stark County),<sup>49</sup> the next Russian speaking church to be established in North Dakota was in Dunn County, twenty miles west of Killdeer.

During the winter of 1917-1918, Nicetas J. Michalenko and his bride moved to Killdeer, the end of

the Northern Pacific Railroad spur line into Dunn County. Michalenko did personal evangelistic work from home to home among the Ukrainian farmers between Killdeer and Grassy Butte, some twenty-five miles west (in McKenzie County).

The dominant religions in the settlement were Baptist and a branch of the Dogden group, the *Malenkie Subotniki*: Michalenko found interested persons in both groups, including the pastor of the Baptist church, Steve Sabarowsky.

After a visit by conference president, S.E. Jackson, who apparently spoke in the Baptist church, Sabarowsky and his congregation had a special prayer service, "thanking God for the truth that was preached to them."

By spring, Michalenko had several people ready for baptism but when he returned from camp meeting he learned that the *Malenkie Subotniki* had discouraged about half of his potential converts from joining the Adventist church. Heartbroken, Michalenko attended the baptism and watched the almost-fruits of his labors as they were baptized by the *Malenkie Subotniki*.

Resuming his work, Michalenko, with Mina Panasuk and with his brother-in-law, J.C. Michalenko, (who had been working in this area as a literature evangelist), pitched a tent in Sabarowsky's pasture, 15 miles southwest of Killdeer and began meetings. On August 3, 1918, eighteen people including Sabarowsky and his oldest daughter, Mary, were baptized and organized into a company. Two weeks later, the Killdeer Russian church was organized with about twenty-one members.

Sabarowsky's wife and other children remained members of the Baptist church and he was forbidden to speak in his former church. Perhaps these pressures were some of the problems that caused Sabarowsky later to deny his new faith and leave its membership.

This left the Killdeer church without a local elder and by the time J.C. Michalenko arrived as pastor of the church about 1923, the church was in desperate need of direction. Michalenko reorganized the church with Mike Tachenko as elder. Tachenko donated two acres of land for a church building and worked with Michalenko to gather the funds necessary to build. The new church was built in the summer of 1926 by members of the Killdeer church.<sup>50</sup> This church was renamed Grassy Butte, when another church, consisting largely of Russians, was established in 1943, in the town of Killdeer.

In July of 1942, M.F. Grau and Paul Kemper held a series of meetings in the vacant Congregational church in Killdeer. Two persons were baptized during this series; they and other Seventh-day Adventist families, members of the Killdeer Russian church, living in the area continued to hold Sabbath services in the building which they purchased from the Congregationalists late in 1943.

In the summer of 1943, Elder Grau again held meetings in Killdeer, assisted by B.J. Liebelt. On



November 13, six new converts and the existing members were organized into a new church with seventeen charter members. One of the charter members of the church was a hired hand on Steven Alexenko's farm. At first he studied the Sabbath School lesson with his employers, then began to read the books in the case close to his bed. After attending Grau's second series, Morton Juberg became a charter member of the Killdeer church. Later Juberg became a Seventhday Adventist minister and is, at this writing, Director of Communication for the North Pacific Union Conference.<sup>51</sup>

Unlike the Germans, the Russians never became as dominant a nationality in North Dakota, but throughout the years, they have maintained a cohesiveness that goes beyond even their ethnic ties. Their bonds to one another are even more spiritual than national, they are the bonds of suffering, the bonds of a faith dearer than life itself. These spiritual bonds were manifested in a series of independent Russian camp meetings spanning more than two decades from the 1930's till the early 1950's.<sup>52</sup>

These bonds are still evident today, a living memorial to one of the most colorful chapters in the history of the North Dakota Conference.

47. *Northern Union Reaper*, August 15, 1916, 5.

48. *Northern Union Reaper*, February 15, 1916, 9; April 11, 1916,3; May 29, 1917, 7. The 1911 conference session had taken preliminary steps to establish a Russian publication at the conference level. (*North Dakota Conference Session Record Book. op. cit.*, I, 142, 143.)

49. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 10, 1917, 3; November 16, 1920, 7; May 26, 1925, 6-7; April 19, 1927, 12.

50. *Northern Union Reaper*, December 18, 1917, 9-; August 13, 1918, 8; August 20, 1918, 7; August 27, 1918, 6, 7; September 21, 1926, 6; Histories of the Grassy Butte (formerly Killdeer) church submitted in 1976 by Matt Alexenko and Olga Tachenko of Killdeer; telephone conversation with J.C. Michalenko of Napa, California, May, 1978.

51. *Northern Union Outlook*, August 18, 1942, 6; December 15, 1942, 5; September 28, 1943, 3; November 2, 1943, 7; November 31, 1943, 9; History of present Killdeer church, 1976.

52. Based on a survey of the *Northern Union Reapers* and *Outlooks* of the '30s, '40s and '50s.

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

#### **Chapter 10, "The School Is a Live Question" - Part 1 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.

---



# Outdoor Church

The Turtle Lake, Minot, and Mandan churches invite you!

**August 13, 2022**

**Sabbath School - 10:00a**

**Worship Service - 11:00a**

**Potluck Lunch**

**Singspiration - 1:45p**

**Located at:**

**Fort Mandan, Fahlgren Park, Washburn, ND.**

**2 miles west of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on McLean County Hwy 17  
Watch for signs.**

There are picnic table benches for seating though you may want to bring your own chair(s). Paper products are provided (plates, cups, plastic ware, napkins).

Bring a musical instrument and join us for an afternoon "jam session" making a joyful noise to the Lord!

If you have any questions, feel free to call the following people:

Mitch McLeod - 701.363.2362

Leslie Soules - 701.319.8628

---

## Turn Up the Heat

Did you know corn won't fully mature without enough hot days? Here in North Dakota, early planting dates are critical in order to take advantage of those few hot days in our growing season. Where I live in Wells County, the ideal time to plant corn is before May 25.

The farming industry has come up with something called "growing degree days" to calculate just how much growth happens between the day's coldest and hottest temperatures. It basically tells me that the hotter the day, the more the corn plant will grow. A really hot day is more of a growing degree day than an overcast, moderate day.

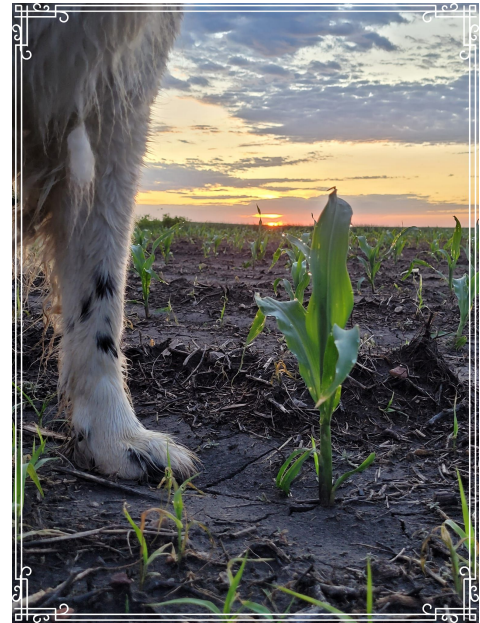
A few years ago our corn fields were unable to reach maturity. The forecast called for several weeks of full sun and plenty of heat, but forest fires in the Rocky Mountains caused a blanket of smoky haze to waft across the plains and linger in North Dakota for days. The haze blocked the sun and reduced our temperatures by 10 or 15 degrees. This stunted the growth of those poor corn plants. They needed the stress of the heat to bring about maturity and decent yields.

I can't help but think about what the apostle Paul told the Romans. He told them the same thing - they needed to have good growing degree days to develop into mature Christians and that

they should welcome their problems and trials. He explained that problems and trials help us to endure, and then endurance develops strength of character, and character deepens our confidence in our expectation of salvation (Romans 5:3-5).

I don't want to be a flailing, spineless Christian with no confidence. I want to thank God for all my growing degree days of intense heat in uncomfortable situations which are actually strengthening my character.

In the field this year, I am hoping for some uncomfortably hot days. These short little baby corn plants, not even knee-high to the dog today, can grow as much as four inches overnight - so fast that you might be able to hear them "pop-popping" as each cell wall stretches, breaks, and then stretches some more.



I am hoping for the same in my life - stretch, break, stretch, and grow. Onward and upward!

*Worship Thoughts and photo by Brenda Klein, member of the New Home Adventist Church in North Dakota.*

---

## Vacation Bible School in Jamestown

Just after Campmeeting, the Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church staged its annual Vacation Bible School under the awesome leadership of Terri Krovoza. This year's theme revolved around the building of a gigantic treehouse. The theme and marquee caught the attention of a number of passers-by and they stopped in during the week to see what was happening.

There were the usual crafts for different age groups, a series of Bible stories that illustrated God's care for us as we venture into challenging situations, and snacks were served. But this year's special features were what made this VBS stand out from past ones. Teree Rittenbach, a professor in the nursing program at Jamestown University, and another local member taught the children many valuable lessons from a health perspective. They taught about diabetes, heart attacks, and perhaps most important, how to apply lifesaving CPR.

The other great thing that happened during the week was scripture memorization. Usually, memory verses are learned during story time, but that method does not always keep information in our memory. To counter that, Terri taught quite a few songs that were Scripture-based which helped the kids learn new texts and hopefully store them in their long-term memory banks.

The week ended with an evening concert to which church members, parents, and friends were invited. A congenial socializing followed and new friends were made.





Article and story by Pr. Peter Simpson, pastor of the Cleveland / Edgeley / Jamestown / New Home church district in North Dakota.

legit  
apps

# DAA HAS AN APP!

AVAILABLE ON THE APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY

DAA has leaped into the current times by developing an app to give parents, students, staff, and friends of the Academy easy access to communication, events, and more! There's access to online payments such as meals, tuition, and donations as well as discounts for merch from the School Spirit Store.



# Prairie Bible Camp

Prairie Bible Camp is a local nondenominational youth camp at the Lehr Tabernacle located one mile east of Lehr, North Dakota. It has been the privilege of the Lehr Seventh-day Adventist Church to be involved with the camp for many years. This year was the 11th year that the youth camp was planned and run by Lehr Adventist church members along with assistance from other Adventist young people from North and South Dakota as well as local non-Adventist young people.

This year's camp theme was "Through The Fire" with a focus on Psalms 66:12 which says, "We went through fire and through water, but you brought us through to rich fulfillment." The goal of the week was to explore Bible characters such as the three Hebrews in the fire, Daniel in the lion's den, David defeating Goliath, and Paul. These Bible heroes were grounded by the principles that established their faith for a lifetime and enabled them to stand firm when the pressure of the world closed in around them.

The week was a blast with 75 campers in attendance, most of which were non-Adventist kids. The days started with morning worship together in the dorms and included group worship in the tabernacle, singing, memorizing scripture, looking up passages from the Bible, and discussing Bible characters. They played group games and took part in team-building activities. Wood projects were made as well as sewing crafts that will be sent to Uganda for a mission initiative there. The afternoons were spent playing water games as well as large group field games. Each evening, campers and staff came together with adults from the surrounding area to listen to a meeting that focused on Bible characters of faith. The campers were given the opportunity to ask questions about God and life, which generated some deep questions that came from the soul. The camp staff was able to guide the campers to answers through scripture passages and life experiences that have established a solid faith in their own lives. God blessed the event and campers left saying that they have a new understanding of how they can come to God with anything. They understand how important it is to be grounded in Christ and have the resolve they need to be able to stand firm in the face of trials.





*Article and photos by Jody Schumacher, member of the Lehr Adventist Church in North Dakota.*

## Cleveland Church Hosts Vacation Bible School

Under the able leadership of Sara Erickson, Cleveland Adventist Church in North Dakota launched their yearly Vacation Bible School the week just after Campmeeting. What a joy that was for all the team members as well as a great crowd of kids that attended. The event was blessed by quite a number of local children from town that came, as Cleveland is not really a big community, and most members come quite a ways to attend.

This year's theme was "Camping". Stories were told about campers in the Bible. The ultimate cherry on the cake was learning that we are but passers-through, living in tents here on earth but soon will move to permanent homes built for us by Jesus Himself and we'll never be nomads again. Every day a skit told the story about a great bunch of kids camping in the woods, harassed by a friendly bear that came around to eat their marshmallows. The little actor in the bear suit did a splendid job and scared everyone each time she appeared on the scene. The story was 'homegrown' by the director herself.



Throughout the week, 'campers' built a shelter, played games in the park, and took home t-shirts they created themselves. The week ended with a unique open-air get-together at the Erickson farm on Sabbath afternoon with some singing, another story by Pastor Peter, and lots of smores and other nice camping treats.

Great week, great kids, and everyone is looking forward to next year!



*Article and story by Pr. Peter Simpson, pastor of the Cleveland / Edgeley / Jamestown / New Home church district in North Dakota.*

## Pierre Church Hosts Spring Events

The Pierre Adventist Church held several wonderful events this spring.

On February 26, 2022, an ordination was held for several deacons and deaconesses during the church service. It was an uplifting event - especially for those who had the privilege of ordaining their adult children.

An Agape Supper was scheduled for a couple of weeks later on Friday evening, March 11. It was a very special service with the pastor and a few of the Pierre members leading out. Two chairs were placed in the room for attendees to partake in a communion service and were encouraged to experience the intimacy of communion with their spouses. Pastor Eaton passed around a crown of thorns and nails that were similar to the time period of Jesus' crucifixion. You could not hold or touch those things without becoming very emotional - realizing just what Jesus went through for each of us. The whole event was beautifully put together.

During the church service the next morning, a quilt made by the church family was presented to Pastor Nicholas and Charné Eaton as a parting gift. Each family in the church was in charge of making a quilt square before a very talented group of women worked to put the quilt together. The Eatons have since moved to another conference.



*Article and photos by Tammy Johnson, member of the Pierre Adventist Church in South Dakota.*

---

## Come to Camp!



# 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](https://dakotayouthandyoungadults.org)

Last week was the first week of summer camp! We are so grateful for all the Cub Campers who came out at Flag Mountain!



Photos by Halie Garrett.



# Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

**Theme:** Freedom, Military, Law Enforcement, First Responders

**Pastoral Staff:** Jason Logan

**Education Staff:** Betty Hay, Janna Wright,

**Office/Field Staff:** Mark Piotrowski, Randy Rubbert

**Adventist Entities:** Beulah Church, Bowman Church, Grassy Butte Church, Invitation Hill Church, Invitation Hill School, Richardton Church

**Southwest, North Dakota:** Bowman, Hettinger, Dickinson, Beulah, Hazen, Grassy Butte, Richardton, Standing Rock Reservation

**Other:** Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders

[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=ZDhqXNNUJjdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09>

Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Kid's Corner

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



*Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent.*



# Charlie O'Hare Retires

After 34 years of service to the Dakota Conference, Elder Charlie O'Hare is retiring in just a matter of days. For those of you who missed the article about him in [OUTLOOK Magazine](#), [click here](#) to read about his life in ministry.

Goodbye Charlie! We are all so thankful for you!



*Photos by Gwen Speak, former associate treasurer at Dakota Conference.*

---

## Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

### June -

- 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
- 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
- 4: Conference Office Closed - Independence Day
- **6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Sioux Falls Church, SD**
- **6: Local Church Budget**
- 13: Outdoor Church at Fahlgren Park in Washburn, ND - **Elder Mark Weir preaching**
- **13: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Wahpeton Church, ND**
- **13: NAD Christian Record**
- **20: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Mandan Church, ND**
- **20: Local Church Budget**
- **27: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Watertown Church, SD**
- **27: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching at Minot Church, ND**
- **27: Dakota Challenge**
- 28: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

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

## No Dispatch in July

THERE WILL BE NO DAKOTA  
DISPATCH RELEASED IN JULY.  
JODI WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE.

The Dakota Dispatch will resume on August 4.



## Blessed & Kept

May you be filled with all the goodness of God.

May God bless you with the blessing of Abraham; the greatest blessing in history.

May you be blessed beyond your wildest dreams and imaginations.

May God bless you with greatness, so that you will be a blessing.

May you receive the Jesus kind of greatness, that wraps a towel around your waist, bends the knee and does the work of a servant for those who are lower in social rank than yourself.

May you bless those who enable your work by keeping it clean.

May you bless those entrusted to your care by profession, title, or birth.

May you bless those whom you are prone to ignore. Those who hold signs and file for unemployment; those facing eviction and homelessness; those who prepare and serve your meals; those whose choices landed them in a cage; those who have served their time and are now trying to survive in a broken world.

May you carry within you the blessing from God that is meant for the other people in your life, because you have been so richly blessed.

*Written by Casey Bartlett.*

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

---

## June 23 Dispatch Photo





*Photo by Brenda Klein of sunrise at her farmstead in Wells County, ND.*

---

---

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](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com)

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

- [!\[\]\(95b42f0077faf7439a26242a54e021ec\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Website](#)
- [!\[\]\(e097ab4c08b8186dd0908330bbc2dc28\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Facebook](#)
- [!\[\]\(1e9d865c5de095f8e3304757c49e79d7\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(735b10d724a5f0ec5005c4eb3eb9c9d1\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(e6250f05bc27fa93236b816562b699f9\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

---

*Copyright © 2022 Dakota Conference, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

