



## Nothing to Fear

This is the 42nd 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 10: The School is a Live Question - Part 1

An electrifying, almost tangible suspense pervaded the campground at Carrington as constituency session delegates and the remnants of the nearly five-hundred-strong camp meeting crowd took their places in the tent for the 9 a.m. business session on Friday, June 26, 1903.

Discussion of the dramatic recommendations returned by the Committee on Plans the evening before had gone on in the tents and wagons until the early morning hours.

The small North Dakota town of Harvey, learning of the desire of the newly formed North Dakota Conference to establish an industrial school for training its youth, had apparently offered \$2,000 and a quarter-section of land to the Adventists if they would build a school to accommodate at least fifty pupils and operate it for a minimum of five years.<sup>1</sup>

When the surprising recommendations that grew out of this offer were read to the delegates Thursday night, the discussion was so animated that Conference Secretary A.E. Christian recorded in the minutes, "It was quite evident by the lively

discussion of this recommendation that the school question is a live question in our conference.” To give the delegates time to think it over, the session adjourned without taking action on the recommendation.

By the time the Friday morning session was called to order, the “school question” was uppermost in every mind. Recommendation number eight, prepared by the plans committee, was read once again: “In view of the pressing need of an intermediate school in our state, and the opening now presented before us: We recommend that the conference take immediate steps for the establishment of the same.” Three additional resolutions specified plans for selection of a site and for funding the new school. Voting privileges were extended to all present at the camp meeting and, recorded Christian, “It was unanimously decided to erect a school in North Dakota.”<sup>2</sup>

Nine laymen were selected to work with the conference committee in choosing a site and launching the new school - Richard Graham, Fred Wentland, a Mr. Mercie, Charles Rider, Fred Reitter, Henry Humann, Morten Rasmussen, John Fjale, (or Fjole) and C.L. Kendall - and an offering of \$2,700 in cash and pledges was taken to launch the new enterprise.<sup>3</sup>

In August the committee selected a site on the Sheyenne River three and a half miles north of Harvey. Some of the committee members thought the location was too far from town, but armed with the written counsels of Ellen White, the majority soon settled on the more rural location.<sup>4</sup>

(A persistent notion through the years has been that the site of the academy was personally chosen by Ellen White during a visit to the area. There is no documentary evidence to this effect. In fact, all available records support the explanation given above. Furthermore, a careful check of Ellen White's usually quite accurate diary lends no support to the notion that she ever visited the site of the academy, or indeed ever set foot in what is now North Dakota.<sup>5</sup>)

1. Text of agreement between the board of Trustees of Harvey in the North Dakota Conference, August 7. 1903. (Photostatic copy of original document)

2. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book. op. cit.* I, 29, 30, 33.

3. *Ibid; Advent Review and Sabbath Herald.* July 21, 1903, 21.

4. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 17, 1906, 3, 4.

5. Ellen White's diary. examined by the author with the assistance of D.A. Delafield, Paul Gordon and A.L. White of the Ellen G. White Estate in Washington, D.C. does not place her in or near North Dakota during this time and the only

reference to any visit to "Dakota" by Ellen White was in connection with the organization of the (South) Dakota Conference in July of 1879.

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

**Chapter 10, "The School Is a Live Question" - Part 2 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.



**DAKOTA CONFERENCE  
WOMEN'S RETREAT**

"Teach me good judgement  
and knowledge, for I believe  
in your commandments."  
Psalm 119:66 (NKJV)

**Class is in Session**  
**September 30 -  
October 2, 2022**

The Abbey of the Hills  
46561 147th St  
Marvin, South Dakota

Brochures and registration  
information is available at:  
[dakotaadventist.org/ministries/  
womens-ministries](https://dakotaadventist.org/ministries/womens-ministries)

For more information and to register online, [click here](#).

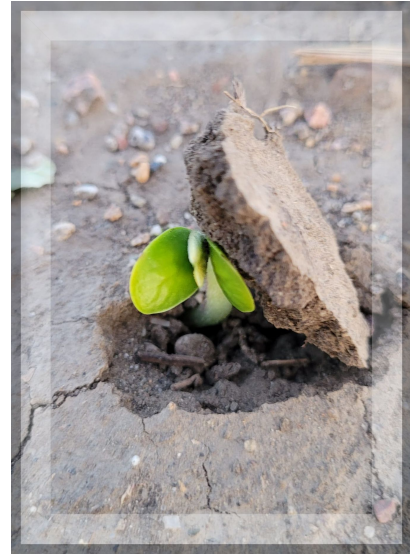
## Strength To the Weary

*"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" (Isaiah 40:29).*

Little round soybean seeds are planted at a depth of 1.5 to 2 inches into the soil. Once seeded, the field gets another once-over with field rollers that deliver up to 500 pounds of pressure per foot, pressing protruding dirt clumps and rocks back down to the soil surface. Flat, smooth fields make harvest easier and more productive.

All that extra weight from the rollers really compacts the soil. Those soybeans must really feel the pressure after being rolled over like that. Somehow, though, they survive.

Once the seed drinks half of its weight in moisture from the surrounding soil, it sends out roots and begins creating a seedling at the end of a hooked stem. That stem stretches, and the seedling pushes with all its might and after about seven days, bursts out of the soil. Finally, the sunlight reaches the seedling and replenishes energy stores, allowing leaf development and further growth.



Are you feeling tired and your efforts seemingly unnoticed day after day? Drink deeply of the water of the Spirit, and he will renew your strength. As your roots of faith deepen, you'll find a way to keep pushing until you have a personal breakthrough. You will then be able to reap the rewards of all your efforts. God gives you the strength to persevere even in the darkness under all that pressure. And soon you'll see it was worth the effort.

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

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

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## Vacation Bible School in Bowdon

The Bowdon Country, Manfred, and New Home Adventist churches joined a community of Christians, including Lutheran and Catholic denominations, to provide a fun Vacation Bible School for the community's children. The event was held at the Lutheran church located in the heart of Bowdon, North Dakota. A team of people from each denomination contributed to the event on June 6-9.

This year's theme was "Children of the Bible". The stories presented were of Miriam, Samuel, David, and the little maid in the story of Naaman. The team followed a lesson outline put together by Kathy Tebelius of the Manfred Adventist Church. Over 20 children attended the event. Many of the same volunteers from our churches helped with another community VBS that took place in Fessenden later the same month.



*Article and story by Pr. Harold Chin, pastor of the Bowdon Country / Harvey / Manfred 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.



## Dakota Teacher In-services

Adventist teachers from across the Dakotas gathered together at the Conference Office earlier this week. Elementary and secondary met separately during the day on Monday but joined together in the evening to experience a Lewis and Clark Riverboat cruise. "It was fun connecting with those we don't see on a daily basis,"

commented one of the teachers. Earlier in the summer, Dakota Conference churches joined together with small donations that added up in a big way to treat the teachers and staff with the cruise.

On Tuesday, staff met together and went through Mindy Saylers' workshop on mental health. Many found it helpful and one teacher stated that "this was needed". Mindy used the story of Hagar and Ishmael in the desert and wove it into the presentation highlighting the importance of being a "thriver" not just a "survivor." Self-care is deeper than just bubble baths, Netflix, or junk food. TJ Roberts, Sioux Falls' teacher, said, "Mindy provided an alternative perspective on the story of Ishmael. This opened my eyes to the Biblical map on how to handle the struggles and conflicts we often face as teachers." Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams, Dakota Adventist Academy's vice-principal and English teacher, expressed, "Her presentation was a much-needed breath of fresh air. Issues of self often get ignored. It was nice to be able to face it head-on." "Mindy was just what I needed for this in-service. I could tell she spoke from the heart and experience. It was interesting, applicable, interactive, and inspiring," related another educator.

Overall, teachers felt this year's In-service provided a lot of good tools to take back to the classroom. Please keep teachers and students in your prayers as they begin the new school year in just a few weeks.

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Article and photos by Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director.

## OUTLOOK Magazine

OUTLOOK's theme for this year has been Strengthening our Spirituality and this month we are focusing on how that is done through Adventist Education. Teaching is a tough career, made harder by COVID-19, and we need to intentionally express more appreciation and encouragement to all our teachers—both those who are retiring and those who are willing to continue or begin their ministry as first-year teachers.

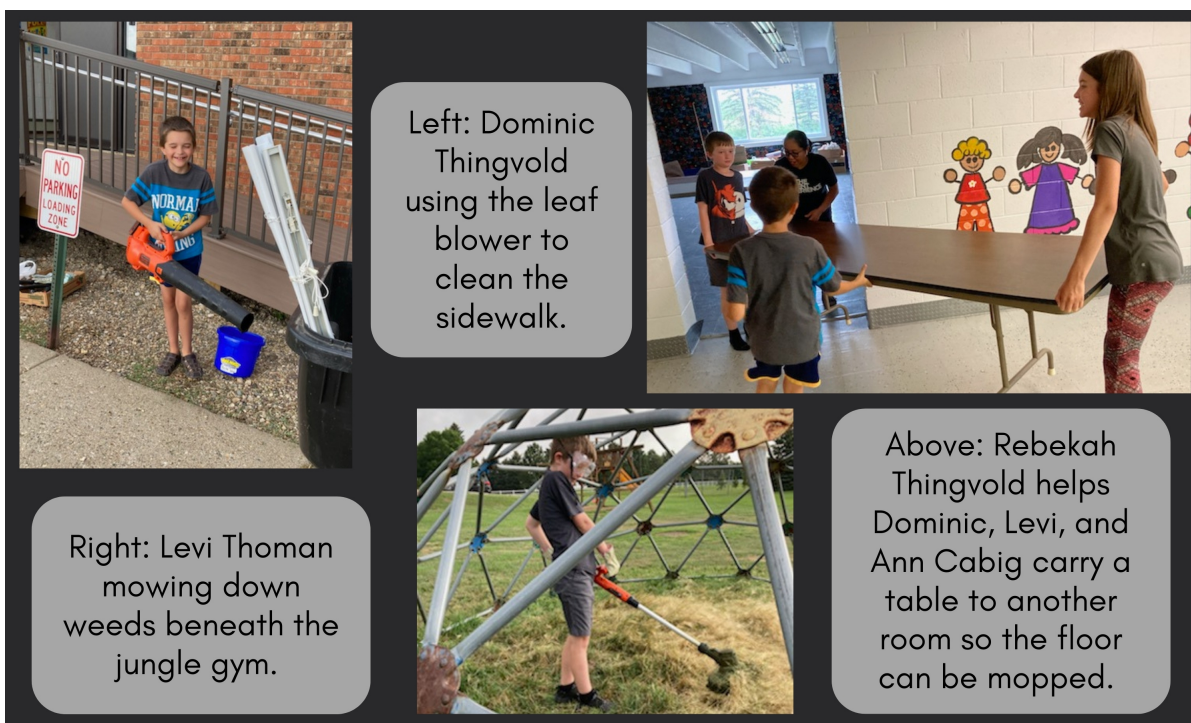


[Click here](#) to read the OUTLOOK online.

## Brentwood Work Bee

When August rolls around, it means it's time to go back to school and that also means it's time for a work bee. This year was no different. The school was covered in dirt and grime and lots of dust. It took a lot of hard work to get things cleaned up, but I am proud of my students for diving in and lending a hand with the adults.

The students moved desks, ran the weed eater, operated the leaf blower, pulled weeds, washed windows, moved tables, and jumped in to help us on several other projects that needed attending to. It's been said many times before that the kids of today are the church of tomorrow, but I would say that the kids of today ARE THE CHURCH OF TODAY. God bless them!



*Article and photos by Ron Reese, teacher at Brentwood Adventist Christian School in Bismarck, North Dakota.*

## GC Session Delegate Shares Perspectives

My name is Delvin Hansen and I live in Harvey, North Dakota. I have attended numerous conference constituency sessions, but this was my first time at a General Conference Session.

Upon arriving, my cell phone was given an app to facilitate electronic voting during the session. Typically the session is two weeks long, but this one was condensed



into one week. We met at 8:00 am for worship and had three sessions throughout the day ending at 9:00 pm.

On **Monday** we started the GC Session with worship highlighting the Holy Spirit. We heard from Mark Finley on “The Power of the Holy Spirit,” Dwight Nelson asked us to “Seek the Holy Spirit,” and Barry Black said to prepare our lives for the “Outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” These were powerful messages and I was hoping that I would be able to discern who indeed was being led by the Holy Spirit throughout the week.

### **Early Votes**

As we started the session to approve the agenda, a motion was brought to the floor to include a discussion on the immunization statement passed by ADCOM (the GC administrative committee) in 2015 and 2021. Elder Ted Wilson stated that he considers this topic to be an administrative item, not a session item. The motion did not pass.

The nominating committee was then dismissed to do its function and we proceeded to vote on changes to the Constitution and *Church Manual*. Two of the more noteworthy ones are:

Church board meetings are now allowing members to participate through electronic methods.

Ordination services for deaconesses are not necessary if they’re already ordained as an elder.

### **Facts and Figures**

The North American Division represents 6 percent of the world church membership, so our representation at the GC Session makes up 6 percent of the delegates. Interestingly, the GC receives 44 percent of its tithe from the NAD.

The nominating committee brought the name of Ted Wilson for GC president and he was elected by the delegates with a split of 75 percent "Yes" to 25 percent "No".

All voting was done electronically via cell phone, laptop, or internet (Zoom) through the app known as Election Buddy.

**Tuesday** started off with another excellent worship service. The speaker, Dwain Esmond, talked about the Three Angels Message: 1) the blessed of the story; 2) the blessing of the story; 3) the rest of the story.

The delegation from Ukraine wore their national dress and handed out Ukrainian flags with “Pray for Peace” on them. A special prayer was offered and collection jars were available for donations to Ukraine.

### **Reports and Questions**

Reports from GC Secretariat and Treasury showed we are approaching 22 million world members in over 90,000 churches, and 2.7 billion in tithe (over five years).

The nominating committee brought their report for GC department heads who were voted in a block of names. Ladies from Iceland, Western Norway and the Central States Conference expressed their concern for the lack of or low ratio of women nominated to leadership positions; it was less than 10 percent.

**Wednesday** we did more revisions to the Constitution and *Manual*. We voted on the leaders of the 13 world divisions. The question arose again: Why were there no women or young people nominated as division secretaries or treasurers?

**Thursday's** worship was presented via zoom by Charissa Torassian. She is the prayer/women's ministry leader in Australia and spoke on Mary Magdalene. As I listened, I put her at the top of my list of speakers for the GC Session.

### **Final Votes**

Thursday was the wrap-up day—we needed to complete all our transactions. In the afternoon we were presented with the “Resolution of the Holy Bible.” It's a concise affirmation, taking us from creation to the creation of the new earth. Several individuals expressed concern about the wording in certain areas, so after 30 minutes of discussion, it was voted 2:1 to send it back to the committee. I voted to send it back because our name “Seventh-day Adventist” emphasizes the importance of the seventh day of creation. But there is no mention of the Sabbath anywhere in this resolution.

Yet after a passionate speech by a well-known evangelist, the chair called for a re-vote. I still voted No, but the resolution was accepted and will not go back to the committee. Ah, the power of personal influence and the power of the chair!

Quite disappointing was the habitual clapping after a motion was passed, in spite of the chair's request for respect.

One individual had a frequent propensity to “call a question on the motion,” which immediately stopped the discussion. It was generally welcomed as it stopped a lot of unnecessary rambling.

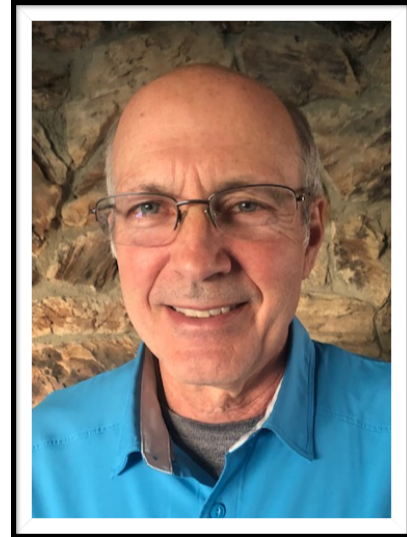
My observation is that when the GC makes resolutions or changes to the governing guidelines of the church at Fall Council or by ADCOM, they expect us to accept them in totality, which we did the majority of the time. A few times the chair acknowledged that a return to the committee was appropriate and a few times it was not welcomed. I pray that the GC will not evolve into a modern-day version of the old Jewish Sanhedrin.

### **Wrapping Up**

My total expense for attending the GC Session was around \$2,400. My guesstimate is that the GC spent over 7 million dollars to hold this session. We had 1,768 delegates present and approximately 400 attending electronically via zoom. Those attending via zoom were obviously from all corners of the world, which saved a tremendous amount of money.

From what I observed the hybrid approach (including internet Zoom) worked well. There was frequent interaction with them. Yet my heart goes out to those who were 12 time zones away, as they were up all night.

I am grateful for the unified message of Jesus Christ that we share as a world church. However, as a church, we have the daunting task of harmoniously functioning with so many culturally diverse regions and countries.



**Read Delvin Hansen's full report at [outlookmag.org](https://www.outlookmag.org)**

["The Life and Ministry of Mary Magdalene" with Charissa Torossian | #GCSession 2022 on Vimeo](#). For a listing of all the items that we discussed/voted on at GC Session, go to 120GS for the "Resolution of the Holy Bible": [session-agenda.pdf \(gcsession.org\)](#). [Documents - General Conference Session \(gcsession.org\)](#).

*Article by Delvin Hansen, member of the Harvey Adventist Church. Story and photo reprinted and used with permission by OUTLOOK Magazine and Delvin Hansen.*

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## Pierre Church Takes Part in Parade

The Pierre Adventist Church in South Dakota participated in their local 4th of July parade with a float of their own. Church members had a wonderful time and since it was 100 degrees, tossed water balloons to parade onlookers. The group received second place for the "most patriotic float".

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

## Dakota Camps

Summer camp is over for this year! Friends were made, youth were baptized, fun was had, and Jesus was lifted up. Thank you for sending your youth to our camps. We are already looking forward to next year!



*Photos by Halie Garrett.*

## Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

**Theme:** Media & Communication

**Pastoral Staff:** Marveen Gentillon, Darren Purdy, Sam Thomas

**Education Staff:** Annabelle Harper, Jamie Howell, Madison Hudema

**Office Staff:** Mark Seibold, Ted Struntz

**Adventist Entities:** Black Hills Health & Education Center, Custer Church, Hermosa Church, Hot Springs Church, Rapid City Church, Rapid City School, Spearfish Church

## Southwest South

**Dakota:** Spearfish, Sturgis, Rapid City, Hot Springs, Custer, Wall, Pine Ridge Reservation

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

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

Meeting ID: 841 1749 9925  
Passcode: 382190  
Call In: 669.444.9171

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117499925?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDI1mc2NoZz09>

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 Wasmiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent.*

## Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

### August -

- 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 Bob Forbes preaching in Edgeley Church, ND
- 13: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Wahpeton Church, ND
- 13: NAD Christian Record
- 14: DAA Registration
- 20: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Mandan Church, ND
- 20: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Medora, ND for Richardton / Grassy Butte / Bowman district meeting
- 20: Local Church Budget
- 27: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Watertown Church, SD
- 27: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Hurley Church, SD
- 27: Dakota Challenge

### September -

- 3: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Wahpeton Church, ND
- 3: Local Church Budget
- 5: Conference Office Closed - Labor Day
- 10: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hermosa Church, SD
- 10: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching at Minot Church, ND
- 10: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown Church, SD
- 10: World Budget
- 11: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a) \*changed from Aug 28
- 11: Southeast Adventist Community Services (ACS) Federation Meeting in Pierre, SD (10a)
- 12: Northeast ACS Federation Meeting in Jamestown, ND (10a)
- 12-15: Elementary Outdoor School at Northern Lights Camp
- 13: Northwest ACS Federation Meeting in Grassy Butte, ND (10a)
- 14-18: DAA Homeleave
- 17: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Spearfish Church, SD
- 17: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching at Richardton Church, ND
- 17: Local Church Budget
- 18: Southwest ACS Federation Meeting in Rapid City, SD (10a)
- 24: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Grassy Butte Church, ND
- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Bowman Church, ND
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 25: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a) \*changed from Sept 18
- 30-2: Women's Retreat in Marvin, SD

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 believe we are all made in the image of God.

May you strive for the true equality this belief naturally stirs us to yearn for.

May you confront your own discomfort at the prospect of equality.

May the feeling that you deserve more because you have worked harder or are less annoying dissipate at the realization that there is only one seat of honor at Christ's table. And that seat belongs to Jesus.

May the feeling that you deserve less because you have been lazy or have willfully done wrong dissipate at the realization that there are no seats of shame at Christ's table. They were eliminated when Jesus took on all shame so that we might receive righteousness.

In your striving for equality, may you lift up those who feel less deserving of it.

May you deal gently with those who feel they deserve more.

May you affirm people's worth not by what they do, but by who they are.

May your compliments be of people's character, rather than their physical traits or skills.

May the truth of our equality, help you to see those whom you have perceived as less than with greater dignity;

May it help you see those whom you have perceived as your enemy with greater respect.

May you stop comparing yourself to others, for we are all made in the image of God.

*Written by Casey Bartlett.*

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

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## August 4 Dispatch Photo





*Photo by Paulette Bullinger of the Grant Marsh Bridge that crosses the Missouri River and connects Morton and Burleigh counties in North Dakota.*

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.

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- [!\[\]\(2bcc37677ea6b96900e4d746ad300082\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(b62812e390f75b509ead0f847e76b4ce\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

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