



Nothing to Fear

This is the 48th 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 7

Near the close of 1911, academy student Ira Evenson of Sarles (on the Towner/Cavalier County line) became the first of a long line of SRA alumni to enter the foreign mission service of the church when he left for Europe to take up literature evangelism work. About two years later the *Reaper* reported that he was a "missionary teacher in central Africa." Evenson was soon followed by SRA alumni John Schmidt of Bowdon, who left for Brazil in 1912, and Jacob H. Peters "of Stutsman County", who also went to Brazil the following year.⁴⁷

The cost of an academy education (room and board apparently included) evidently remained fairly constant throughout most of the period under consideration. In 1910, the tuition was reduced from \$15.50 per month to \$15.00, with each student being required to devote one hour of labor per day as part of his or her tuition. By 1918 tuition was \$18.00 per month paid monthly in advance, with forty-two hours of work required each month. Subsequently, tuition, room, and board were charged as separate items averaging a total monthly charge of \$24.00 for the balance of the school's second decade, with the work requirement increased to forty-eight hours per month.⁴⁸

Two events during this period heralded the “coming-of-age” of Sheyenne River Academy, indications of stability that would lend permanence to the institution. The first was the beginning of regular graduating classes with the completion of the four-year academic curriculum by Regina Litwinenco in 1912 and Marian Edwards in 1913. Although there were no graduates in 1914, the next graduating class consisted of five members and the school produced graduates for every remaining year of its existence. Graduation services were conducted in connection with camp meetings, the graduates being addressed by such notables as General Conference President A.G. Daniells.⁴⁹

The other indication of permanence and stability was the efforts of students, faculty, and administrators to bring the school up to the standards required to achieve denominational accreditation. In late 1915 the English classes of the academy under the direction of their teacher, Emily Johnson, and a student, Clara McClelland, organized to solicit donations of money and books to increase the number of books in SRA's library from 500 to the 1,500 required for accreditation. The campaign succeeded in increasing the size of the library to 1,200 books which, by the following year were supplemented by enough additional volumes to reach the required level. Additional grants of money during several years went for the purchase of science laboratory equipment also necessary to meet standards for accreditation, which Principal Schmidt predicted would be conferred in the fall of the 1917-1918 school year.⁵⁰

Schmidt served as principal from 1911 to 1913 and again from 1916 to 1919. H. Haughy filled in for Schmidt when health problems caused him to have to lay down his responsibilities between his two terms as principal. A.G. Goude (1919-1922) and J.C. Harder (1922-1924) complete the list of administrators of Sheyenne River Academy's first twenty years.⁵¹

Community living on the open prairie was not without its hazards; Conference Treasurer E.L. Spencer, visiting the academy in 1910 encountered for the first time a Dakota prairie fire, and as the *Reaper* drolly reported, “had an occasion to take his coat off.”⁵²

Disease, however, was one of the most frequently encountered hazards of the closely knit school “home”, with each new illness making its way through a substantial segment of both faculty and students. An outbreak of measles in June of 1913 caused an early end of the school year and apparently contributed to such an extended delay in the start of the following school year that Christmas vacation was cancelled and nine months of continuous schoolwork was scheduled to help catch

up.⁵³

Health problems at the academy also provide a sad footnote to a worldwide health crisis, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 that claimed the lives of 500,000 Americans and twenty million people worldwide. Shortly after opening for the 1918-1919 school year, the academy was forced to close down when about fifty of the seventy students enrolled contracted influenza. Two of those students, Martha Peetz and John Miller, died from the disease and its complications. A lonely undesignated grave in a small cemetery on the abandoned Sheyenne River Academy campus probably marks the resting place of, at least, Martha Peetz, an orphan who was working her own way through the academy.⁵⁴

Another victim of the epidemic was Dr. R.C. Reimche of Harvey. Reimche, an Adventist physician, had gained control of the Harvey Hospital in early 1916 and had transformed it into a "Sanitarium and Hospital" run on the basis of Adventist health principles and operated as a missionary outreach endeavor. The institution was enjoying increasing success and a growing reputation when Reimche succumbed to the disease following a visit to the academy to treat its ailing students.⁵⁵

By far the greatest hazards that Sheyenne River Academy was to face, however, in the years to come, were a pair of periodic nemeses that were to dog the academy throughout its existence, the fickle agricultural economy on which both state and conference were based, and the fickle loyalty of North Dakotans to their academy. The symptoms began to be evident during the 1921-1922 school year when economic conditions left SRA with \$6,000 in unpaid school accounts and a student body of only about sixty. Contributing to the enrollment decline was a vigorous recruiting program by the German Seminary, now renamed Clinton Theological Seminary, in an attempt to bolster its shaky college-level program by attracting academy-age students from heavily German ethnic areas such as North Dakota. Academy and conference administrators implored church members to be loyal to SRA, and not to be persuaded by the "special inducements and superior advantages which might be offered by the larger schools."⁵⁶

Fortunately for Sheyenne River Academy, it was as a well-established, mature educational institution at the threshold of its third decade of service to North Dakota Adventists, that the academy prepared to face the challenges of the next fifty years.

47. *Ibid.*, December 4, 1911, 5; September 9, 1913, 3

48. *Ibid.*, August 30, 1910, 5; September 11, 1917, 5; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement*, 1918-1919, 17; *Ibid.*, 1919-1920, 1920-1921. 1921-1922, 1922- 1923, 1923-1924.
49. *Ibid.* ; And Annual Announcements for Succeeding Years; *Northern Union Reaper*, June 27, 1916, 6.
50. *Ibid.*, January 18, 1916, 5; Clara McClelland, *op. cit.*; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement*, 1916-1917, 10, 11; *Northern Union Reaper*, September 11, 1917, 5.
51. "Sheyenne River Academy," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1190; Clara McClelland, *op. cit.*
52. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 12, 1910, 4.
53. *Ibid.*, July 22, 1913, 2; December 23, 1913, 5.
54. *Ibid.*, November 5, 1918, 2, 3.
55. *Ibid.*; May 23, 1916, 1; the account is that of Adeline Reinche of Lodi, California - a descendant of the doctor.
56. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 26, 1921, 12; September 13, 1921, 6; September 27, 1921, 5; October 4, 1921, 12; December 13, 1921, 2.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 11: The Good Work - 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.

You Are Invited

You are invited to attend the upcoming Aberdeen Regional on Sabbath, November 12 starting at 10:00am. Due to the church size and lack of venues to rent in Aberdeen, this year's event will be held at **Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota**. A fellowship meal will follow the worship service prior to the afternoon seminars at 2:00pm. Children's programming will be presented during Sabbath School. Please bring a fellowship dish to share for lunch and then plan to stay for supper provided by the Ellendale Church.

NOVEMBER 12 - 10:00AM

ABERDEEN REGIONAL 2022

"Tell Someone"

TRINITY BIBLE COLLEGE
50 SIXTH AVE S, ELLENDALE, ND

A fellowship meal will follow the worship service prior to the afternoon seminars. Please bring a potluck dish to share - extra food for hungry teens is appreciated. Make note that there will be no ovens available, but plenty of electrical outlets. Supper will be provided following the seminars.

SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS

2:00PM



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EADVENTIST

Julie Brude: Membership Clerk



DOES MY CHURCH COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY?

Jodi Dossenko: Communication Director



RESOLVING CONFLICT BIBLICALLY

Elder Vernon Herholdt: Ministerial Director



TELLING OUR STORY: THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADVENT MOVEMENT TODAY

Elder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR Director



HOW TO PLAN FOR EFFECTIVE OUTREACH TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Elder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR Director



DOLLARS & SENSE

Mark Seibold: VP of Finance



PRAYER MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Elder Barry St. Clair: Prayer Ministries Director



YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

Elder Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adults Director



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY THAT CAN GROW A CHURCH

Elder Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adults Director



GENERATION WHY: CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Kelli Wasemiller: Education Superintendent



EVANGELISM BOOTCAMP

Elder Mark Weir: President

As Long As the Earth Remains

They're back.

Every year when the weather on Victoria Island in northernmost Canada turns cold, the geese make their way through our fields to Mexico.

A gaggle (that's what to call a herd of geese) of snows and blues arrived last Friday.

To me, it's more than just the marvel of the distances they fly each year, spring and fall. It's more than the joy of seeing them clean up the bits of grain and weeds we left behind when we harvested. It's even more than the joy of knowing how much natural fertilizer they'll poop into our fields before once again taking flight.

It's that God made me a promise, and he's busy keeping that promise faithfully, year after year.

That knowledge grounds me.

God is behind the changing of the seasons. He whispers to the gaggle, "It's time to go," and the geese rise into the air and make their flight to Mexico. Their arrival in our fields reminds me that God keeps his promises.



This promise is one he gave to Noah after the flood. He assured Noah that a worldwide flood wouldn't happen again. He encouraged him, saying, "As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night" (Genesis 8:22).

I can depend on the changing of the seasons because God promised it would be.

In a world full of chaos and uncertainty, seeing those geese grounds me. I'm happy to see them, and happy that God is faithful and keeps his word. All the time.

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

Follow Brenda on Facebook for more devotional thoughts at [Farm Girl Faith](#).

Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School



Lower graders at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary in Jamestown, North Dakota have been studying bees in science class. Last week the class took a field trip to the Miller Honey Farm in Gackle, North Dakota.

Photo by Carlene Lang, lower grades teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School.

Rapid City Church Hosts Regional

Sabbath morning, October 15, over 260 people worshiped together at the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Dakota. Due to COVID and the lack of a meeting place, three years have passed since the last Rapid City Regional and people in the area were happy to meet together for the event once again. Local area church members, Dakota Adventist Academy staff and students, along with Conference officers, workers, and pastors helped present a full day of programming. This year, the event was held in Rapid City's new church and school. The spacious building easily accommodated the extra people and still has room for growth.

The day started with Sabbath School. Local Rapid City children's division leaders hosted extra kids in their classes while Pastor Ted Struntz, conference youth director, taught a teen class. In the adult program, Tracy Peterson, DAA recruiter, along with two students, Celeste

Gareau and Zorryn Erickson, spoke about life at the Academy. This was followed by Elder Mark Weir, conference president, and a panel of pastors for the lesson study. The church service was enriched with musical numbers from DAA students and a children's story by Pastor Ted. After Elder Weir's sermon, a large potluck was held before moving into the afternoon seminars.

Several children's ministry leaders from the area stepped forward and provided programming for the children during the afternoon breakout sessions. Dr. Michael Bohlman from the Hot Springs Church and Luanne Larson from the Rapid City Church taught two pathfinder honors - "Antelopes" and "Dogs". Marla Hawronsky and Erika Lopez, members of the Rapid City Church, provided games and a program for Adventurer-aged children and younger.

Breakout sessions on church life were presented for the adults by the following people:

- Elder Mark Piotrowski, vice president of administration / human resources director: *How to Deal With Disappointments and Setbacks*
- Elder Mark Weir, president: *Evangelism Bootcamp*

- Kelli Wasemiller, education superintendent: *Generation Why: Children's Ministries in the 21st Century*
- Mark Seibold, vice president of finance: *Dollars and Sense*
- Elder Ted Struntz, youth and young adult director: *Youth Ministry in the Church and Children's & Youth Ministry That Can Grow a Church*
- Jodi Dossenko, communication director: *Does My Church Communicate Effectively?*
- Elder Vernon Herholdt, ministerial director / district pastor: *Resolving Conflict Biblically*
- Elder Barry St. Clair, prayer ministries director / district pastor: *Prayer Ministries in the Local Church*

The day ended with a soup supper, organized by the Rapid City church's social committee, and a question and answer time with Elder Mark Weir. A lot of positive feedback was heard regarding the day's events.

All are invited to attend the upcoming Aberdeen Regional on November 12 at the Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota.



Article and photos by Jodi Dossenko, Dakota Conference communication director.

Employee Spotlight

This is a new segment designed to help each of our readers get to know the Dakota Conference employees. Each issue will spotlight a pastor, teacher, or office worker with the purpose of our members becoming more acquainted with the staff.

Darrel Lindensmith has spent over 30 years in the Dakota Conference serving as a pastor in various church districts across the Dakotas. Currently, he pastors the Fargo / Wahpeton church district in North Dakota.

Pastor Darrel began a career in ministry 39 years ago when Jesus transformed his

life. "Through most of my teens, I was a mess. Addicted, selfish, in legal trouble, and spiritually lost," he admits. During a life crisis at the age of 19, he thought back to his childhood days spent in the Methodist Church and how he used to pray to God. With those thoughts, Lindensmith realized that he had lost God in his life. It was soon after this that he heard the gospel clearly for the first time, accepted Christ as his Savior, and experienced a change of heart and mind. A year later, he became an Adventist Christian, abandoned his college Biology program, and transferred to Union College to study theology.

Darrel Lindensmith



It was at Union College that he met and fell in love with his wife, Karen. He also came to know and be mentored by many wonderful teachers that included Dr. & Mrs. Ralph and Beatrice Neal. From them, the Lindensmiths learned to love Greek (a class he had tried to get out of taking). The professors shared their experience of being missionaries in Cambodia and Vietnam, which planted a seed in the hearts of Darrel and Karen to also join the mission field. Because of this decision, they spent nearly seven years in Japan planting churches. After returning to the United States in 1991, to the astonishment of the Central California Conference, the Lindensmiths turned down a call to work in California in order to move to the Dakota Conference. "It was a great choice indeed!" states Pastor Darrel.

The pastoral couple has four children. During their time spent in ministry, they love to share that "God is good" and have come to appreciate the people in their lives who have become dear friends.



Karen & Darrel Lindensmith - children pictured left to right Scovia, Emily, John, & Ijjo

Article by Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director. Photo by Pr. Brooke Melendez (top right), others submitted by Darrel Lindensmith (family photos).

Dakota Adventist Academy's Fall Festival



 FALL 
FESTIVAL

11.05.22 | 7:30-9:30
DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

ENJOY A NIGHT OF GOOD FOOD AND FUN

SEE YOU THERE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MRS. ADAMS AT 619-438-4101

Small School, Big Dream

Like many Seventh-day Adventist teachers, I grew up going to Adventist schools. So many memories were made in a multi-grade classroom, learning how to navigate childhood with a room of kids both older and younger than myself. After experiencing the whirlwind of adolescence and early adulthood, God brought me back to him and I became a teacher. A dream blossomed to one day teach at an Adventist school and demonstrate to a city what our schools have to offer. After several years of teaching in California, Washington, and Idaho, I felt prepared and experienced enough to take on that challenge. I would take a small school experience and share it with hundreds of kids. The public school would fear my name.

So last year, I arrived in South Dakota, and this mountain man found himself flatfooted in the flatlands with an opportunity before him. A tiny school of four kids in my first year, and I was able to add one half-day student. But that was it. I was bummed. I was defeated. I thought, "I was sent here to grow a school, but this is not growth!" This was embarrassing. I had failed. I arrived a year ago with the idea that I would be the key to growth, that I would have the skills and intelligence needed to change everything and create the booming school I had just left, and the church would be singing my praises from the pulpit, and I would humbly accept their praise. I would receive a pass to be allowed to go through the line first at any Adventist potluck for my amazing feats. But I hadn't achieved any of this. I changed nothing. I had simply kept things going.

I'm not sure if you caught it, but the word "I" was in that last paragraph a lot. I was stuck in my vision for a school, what I would do, and the praise and honor I would receive. So over this last summer, my vision changed. It became that God would create a school here in Sioux Falls, the school he needed as a tool to bring more students where they should be, where God can speak to them. That God would be able to use me as nothing more than a shovel or hammer to prepare others for where they should be.

God began doing his thing. As July hit, we had three students enrolled and I prayed that we would be the school that God wanted us to be. Even if that meant only having three kids, we would be the mightiest three kids Sioux Falls has ever seen. Soon God sent us another student. Then God honored me with the opportunity to teach my niece. Followed by a partnership with another Christian school in town through which God has inspired many conversations and witnessing opportunities.

Then, through time and prayer, God blessed us with the opportunity to serve two more of his children, then two more who connected us with the local Spanish Church. With each addition, I learn a new lesson about teaching and life.

The moral of the story is as Christian teachers, we must throw away our vision of success for God to work. Instead, we must let him lead us where he needs us and always keep our hearts open to love and serve. Through this service, God can be the master craftsman he has always been. Oddly enough, God answered my original dream - to have one of those small schools I grew up in, where memories and a foundation in God are made.



Article and photos by TJ Roberts, head teacher of Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary School in South Dakota.

Dakota Youth & Young Adults

One of the fun things I get to do as the Dakota Conference youth director is to go to our Regional meetings. Every single one is different, but at each one I get to meet new people and reconnect with others. At our most recent Regional in Rapid City, I

was able to meet up with several of our amazing summer camp staff, campers, and families. It was great spending time with them again! We are already looking forward to next summer together!

Another part of the Regionals I really enjoy is the seminars, where I get to share information and ideas for ministry to our children and youth - something that I am truly passionate about. One of my seminars centers around Pathfinder ministry. In so many of our congregations we see our kids and wonder what we can do for them, and we look for all kinds of programs to implement for them. What we seem to forget is that Pathfinders is a ministry that is a time-tested resource that builds up our kids in the faith and connects them to our churches. It also gives them a place to learn and practice new skills in various areas while providing them with a stable and safe environment where they can grow with other Christians. In fact, during our Rapid City Regional, we had Pathfinders earning honors during the afternoon seminars! Great job, Pathfinder leaders!

Pathfinder ministry is also a powerful ministry for outreach. One of the things that have become abundantly clear over the past several years is that youth are yearning for things to do and ways to grow. They seek out ways to connect and develop relationships with others. Pathfinders provides an excellent outlet and solution for all of these.

Currently, we have several dynamic clubs in our conference that are working hard to provide for our youth. Each club approaches the Pathfinder program in its own unique way to best fit the needs of each individual community. We even have a district of churches that has combined resources to create a club for the entire district's youth. Another club has taken advantage of combining with the Adventurer Club, so their staff can minister to a greater number of kids. I am so grateful to the churches that are seizing this life-changing ministry opportunity for the youth of their community.

Maybe your church is thinking about starting up a Pathfinder program. I want you to know I will do everything in my power to help you successfully do so. I would love to see the number of our clubs double in our conference. It doesn't matter how old you are; if you are feeling a need for a club in your church or district, you are the right age. Please contact me if you have any questions, or if you want to start a club ministry, I would love to help you make that a reality.

~ Pastor Ted

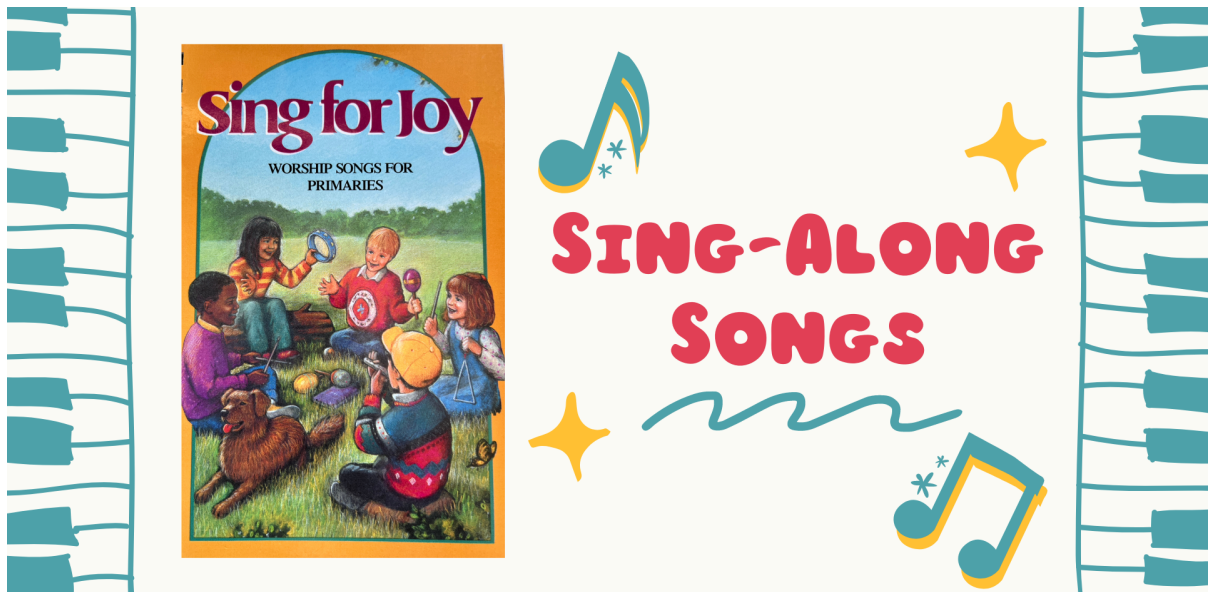
Other: Native American Ministries, North American Division

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

Kid's Corner

Join us in singing through the entire *Sing for Joy* songbook! Kelli realized that growing up in Sabbath School, they usually sang familiar songs and skipped over the rest. It's time to learn new songs and revisit our favorites together. [Click here to view.](#)

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 & children's ministries coordinator.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

at the Dakota Conference Office

The Dakota Conference Office is looking for a front desk receptionist/administrative assistant. The individual who is hired will need to have public relations skills, computer processing proficiency in Office Suite programs, be self-motivated, have the ability to work independently, be highly organized, and exercise confidentiality. Please send your resume to: j.dossenکو@gmail.com

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

October - Pastors' Appreciation Month

- 29: Endowment Sabbath
- 29: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grand Forks Church, ND
- 29: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Richardton Church, ND
- 29: Secondary Education Endowment

November -

- 5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Lehr Church, ND
- 5: Local Church Budget
- 5: DAA National Honor Society Vespers (6:30p)
- 5: DAA Fall Festival (7:30p)
- 6: K-12 Board & Executive Committee Combined Meeting at DAA (10a)
- 12: Aberdeen Regional in Ellendale, ND, with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 12: Annual Sacrifice
- 14-17: MAUC Year-end Meetings in Lincoln, NE
- 17: MAUC Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE
- 19: Local Church Budget
- 23-24: Conference Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 23-27: DAA Homeleave
- 26: Dakota Challenge

December -

- 3: Kelli Wasemiller, education superintendent, preaching in Turtle Lake Church, ND
- 3: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Custer Church, SD
- 3: Local Church Budget
- 10: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in New Home Church, ND
- 10: NAD ACS (North American Division Adventist Community Services)
- 11: Dakota Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 16: DAA Celebration of Praise
- 17: Celebration of Praise & Bismarck Regional at DAA (10a)
- 17: Local Church Budget
- 17-1: DAA Christmas Homeleave

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

Blessed & Kept

May you bond with nature.

May the perfectly calibrated planet we have been given as a home be an inspiration and rejuvenation to you.

May you take a moment to marvel at the awesome world we live in.

May you participate in the life cycle of all living things on Earth.

May you raise your awareness of the death required to bring you life through your food.

May you participate in the life-death cycle by letting go of the dead things rotting your soul.

May you participate by living fully alive.

May you have joy in the midst of sorrow; beauty in the midst of pain; laughter in the midst of tears.

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

October 27 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger of the BSNF bridge over the Missouri River 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

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

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[!\[\]\(3dfb8d66e81160ad61421a3452093d1b_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

[!\[\]\(99f58673407353e96a019fbca558fd72_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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