

### **Nothing to Fear**

This is the 50th 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 11: The Good Work - Part 2

On another occasion, J.H. Roth, Education and Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the conference was called in (probably because of his proficiency in the German language) to debate a local pastor on the Sabbath question. "Greatly to the disappointment of Elder Roth," reported the *Reaper*, "this preacher never showed up."<sup>5</sup>

The debate, between Nash and the Methodist minister from Edgeley, eventually did take place in the filled-to-overflowing general store. The debate, according to Mrs. Guy Searle, "only made the ones who had just been convinced that the Sabbath was Saturday... all the stronger."

On June 2, the Diesem church was organized on the banks of the James River at Grand Rapids, North Dakota, with thirty-five newly baptized members. Several more were added in the ensuing weeks.<sup>7</sup>

From Diesem, Nash went to Edgeley to continue his evangelistic endeavors. During his ministry in the Diesem-Edgeley area, Nash encountered more than theological opposition when a group of irate citizens placed a rope around his neck and threatened to hang him from a telephone pole. Nash's serenity in the face of death and a timely interruption by public authorities aborted the lynching attempt short of its goal and, reported Northern Union Home Missionary Secretary Anol Grundset, "from even that little hamlet, earnest souls have come out of darkness, rejoicing in

present truth."8

Before leaving the area, Nash raised over \$1,400 in one evening for the construction of Diesem's first church building - now the only remaining structure in this North Dakota ghost town - used by the Adventist congregation until its new sanctuary was built in Edgeley in 1973. The Diesem church was dedicated, free of debt, July 19, 1919.

"This interest," commented Nash in his report to the *Reaper*, "was started by one of our faithful colporteurs. Let all of our canvassers take courage." 10

The important role played by literature and the Tract and Missionary Societies in establishing Adventism in the Dakotas has already been noted. The facts that: 1. 1873, the first year of documented Adventist presence in southern Dakota, was also the year the General Conference asked S.N. Haskell to visit existing conferences promoting tract and missionary work; 2. The General Conference Tract and Missionary Society was formed in 1874, even as evangelistic work began in Dakota; and 3. the organization was expanded to become the International Tract and Missionary Society in 1882, near the time that work began in northern Dakota; seem to be more than coincidental."<sup>11</sup>

Concurrent with these developments was the origin of another facet of evangelism-by-literature which has also had a significant impact on the growth of Adventism in the Dakotas - the door-to-door sale of larger Adventists books by literature evangelists or "colporteurs".

By 1879, Ellen White had begun urging the two Adventist publishing houses to sell doctrinal books to the public through house-to-house canvassers, but it took the vision of Canadian-born George A. King to prod the reluctant publishers into action.

Having found that he could sell Uriah Smith's two small books, *Thoughts, Critical and Practical on the Book of Daniel* and *Thoughts, Critical and Practical on the Book of Revelation*, King, in 1881, urged the Review and Herald Publishing Association to print the two books as one subscription edition in a larger size.

The Review finally agreed to print 5,000 copies if King would assume responsibility for 1,000 himself.

First, the publishers made up sample copies, binding together existing sections of the two books. After King and others sold them successfully, the two books were reprinted together in a larger size with continuous paging and illustrations.

King sold the first copy of *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation* for \$2.50 to D.W. Reavis on April 3, 1882, the very morning it came off the press. 12 The "good work"

had begun.

Two years later, G.C. Tenney was calling for "canvassers" to sell Adventist books to northern Dakota settlers for use during the long winters.

One who apparently responded to that call, the first known literature evangelist in the Dakota Territory was R.H. Peters of Grand Forks. "I commenced canvassing at Fargo, North Dakota, in the fall of 1884," reported Peters, "and meeting with good success desired to continue the good work; but, having a farm on my hands, was unable to do so till last June, (1886) when I rented my place and now intend to do all that I can for the cause. Canvassing for our publications is a glorious work, and one that will make anyone who will engage in it earnestly, a good living." 13

- 5. Ibid., March 26, 1918, 5.
- 6. Ibid., April 30. 1918, 6; Minnie Searle, op. cit.
- 7. Northern Union Reaper, July 23, 1918, 2; July 30, 1918, 4.
- 8. *Ibid.*, July 19, 1921, 6, 7; August 27, 1918, 7. Although the account by Grundset refers to the town as. "Blank " and the minister as "Brother X", recollections of church members tend to establish Nash 's identity and internal evidence in the article favors Edgeley as the location
- 9. Ibid., September 24, 1918, 3; July 22, 1919, 4.
- 10. Ibid., August 9, 1918, 3.
- 11. "Tract and Missionary Societies," Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, op. cit., 1324, 1325. See also chapters 3 and 6 of this book.
- 12. "George Albert King"; "Literature Evangelist," Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, op. cit., 660-706.
- 13. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, December 23, 1884, 812; Signs of the Times, July 22, 1886, 442.

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

#### Chapter 11: The Good Work - Part 3 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 Dakota Adventist Academy's annual Celebration of Praise weekend coupled with the Bismarck Regional on December 16 and 17. A Christmas program featuring community music numbers, DAA students, and speaker Ben Dossenko will start on Friday at 7:30p with a social hour to follow. The next morning, Sabbath School begins at 10:00a, followed by the church service spotlighting DAA

staff and students with Elder Mark Weir preaching. Lunch will be provided by DAA, but please bring a dessert to share. At 1:30p, breakout sessions on church life presented by conference workers will be available to choose from, as well as a "plarn" making service project to take part in. Plan to stay for DAA's 4:30p Christmas concert to finish out the day. All programming will take place at Dakota Adventist Academy. Come experience a "Rebirth" with Jesus, DAA, and from within.

For those of you who would like to take part in the "plarn" service project, some things that would be helpful to bring along, but not required to attend, are scissors and if you know how to crochet, a size 16 crochet hook.



### **Blurred View**

I was washing windows on the semi one morning this fall. We wash the windows on all of our harvest equipment every day to clear off the previous day's grime and get things ready for a new day for our crew. I get started long before dawn with my bucket of water, squeegee, and a headlamp around my neck.

This time of day is one of my favorites! The sun is just beginning to make itself known in the eastern sky. The rest of the world is still dark, but there is a little sliver of light promising new adventures and new insight for the day.

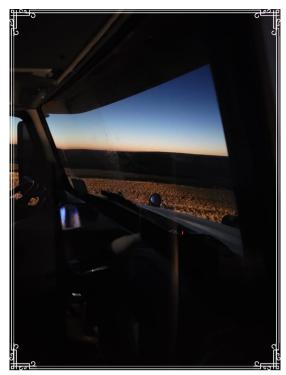
Looking at the sunrise through those half-washed windows reminded me of a story in the gospel of Mark - the chapter of a blind man whose friends took him to the feet

of Jesus, begging to heal him.

Jesus took him by the hand and led him out into the country. He hocked a loogie and put that on the guy's eyes. Then they had a conversation. Jesus asked, "Can you see anything now?"

"I can see people... but they look like trees walking around." His vision was still a little blurry.

So Jesus touched the guy's eyes again. This time his eyesight was completely restored, and he could see clearly.



Can you see how much more clear the view is through the right side of the semi's window I just cleaned versus the one on the left?

Sometimes I feel like I need an extra measure of spit and conversation with Jesus too. I get a general sense that God has a good, adventurous plan for my life, but the details are so blurry!

Do you ever wish you could sit down with Him face to face and ask what His big plans for you are? Like, why am I here in this phase of my life right now? What's the plan?

I feel like this harvest season God led me by the hand out to the field at 5:00a so he could get me away from distractions. He knew how the virtual world pulls me in, and He wanted to have more direct conversations with me. No scrolling, no computer work. Just me and my squeegee out in nature with Him.

The sunrise is different every morning, yet each day it brings a little more clarity and a renewed zest for life. That's what farm life and faith do for me.

"Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly" (Mark 8:25).

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 School Update**

What a ride it has been since beginning a new teaching position here at Hillcrest in Jamestown! Both Carlene Lang and I have had a steep learning curve coming from other conferences, but thanks to many kind, helpful people we are having a successful school year thus far and both of us are enjoying making new friends as well as reconnecting with old friends.

Hillcrest Help Out Day is a tradition that initiates the school year. In September students go into the community to assist with a project. This year, Mrs. Lang and the K-4 students went to the Jamestown Regional Medical Facility to pick up litter around the hospital grounds. After having a snack, they also helped assemble guest kits for pediatric patients. We are so thankful for opportunities to help our community while instilling the value of serving others as Jesus did and wants us to do.

Usually, the entire student body participates in Help Out Day; however, this year, the upper-grade class was invited to attend North Dakota Eco Education Day at the local Farmers Union camp. It was so convenient and interesting! A bus came to pick us up at the school and took us to the camp, then returned us to school. It was an all-day affair. The upper graders rotated through eight different class periods which included such topics as ND soil and water conservation, native animals, prairies, trees, and a live animal show featuring reptiles from North Dakota as well as other parts of the world.

Another outreach the K-4 students were involved in was going to the Eventide care facility near the school. They sang to shut-in members of the Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their voices brought smiles by the miles to the faces of these elderly folk. Mrs. Lang plans to make more visits there throughout the year.

The upper-grade classroom has been actively involved in creating cards and border sheets with notes and Bible verses to comfort and encourage church members as well as others that have suffered loss or are ill. We have delivered cards and notes to a shut-in across the street who reciprocated by sending our classroom cupcakes

as a thank-you gift.

October 21 was Preview Day, a day when surrounding schools were not in session. To raise the community's awareness of Hillcrest, the students were encouraged to invite friends attending other schools to come and experience a day at our school. This year, seven visitors participated in the special activities showcasing what is offered as a part of our curriculum.

At this point, Mrs. Deanne Reinke and her husband Bruce have been practicing songs with the students in preparation for the church and school Christmas program to be held on December 17 during the Sabbath church service. We are so thankful for the volunteers that give their time and means to support Hillcrest.

It seems unreal that the school year is almost halfway complete, but we are so thankful for the Lord's grace and provision thus far and trust that He will attend our coming and goings throughout the rest of this school year as well.



Article by Trudy Smith, head teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, ND. Photos by Trudy Smith, upper grades teacher, and Carlene Lang, lower grades teacher.

# **Employee Spotlight**

Kelli (Vigil) Wasemiller has served as the Dakota Conference elementary education superintendent for the past year and as the children's ministries coordinator for an additional year. The days she is not working from home are spent on the road

visiting schools and attending meetings. Kelli is a part-time employee though she graciously volunteered her own time to create a YouTube channel and add content for children's ministries while working on her master's degree in ministry leadership and human services.

In college, Kelli worked for the Dakota Camps and was impressed by how dedicated the Dakotas were to their young people. Because of this, she later felt compelled to accept a job teaching upper grades at the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School. She spent three years in Rapid City before taking a teaching position out west.



While working at Orcas Christian School, Kelli was introduced to Stephen Wasemiller, a North Dakota native. After deciding they were both pretty great for each other, the couple decided to be the only people to ever have a "destination" wedding in Minot, North Dakota (Why not Minot?!). They settled in the Rapid City area for Stephen's job, to be closer to family, and ultimately because they love living in the Dakotas. The couple has two fur children, Zeus and Clyde.

Kelli credits Pastor Rich Carlson, former chaplain at Union College, for being an incredible example of servant leadership in her life. "He used to say, 'As long as it's not illegal or immoral, let's try it.' He was not change-adverse and taught us the importance of empowering, not delegating. He believed in vision casting together and dreaming big dreams so we could watch God work." A person can see Pastor Rich's advice at work when watching Kelli - she is a forward thinker and always passionate about the things she tackles in life.

Anyone who has met Kelli knows she has a passion for young people. A favorite part of her career has been watching her students fall in love with Jesus. She recounts, "A real memorable moment would be the science experiment that went all wrong. A

drop of acid found the one bare spot on my foot and gave me an acid burn. I rushed over to the classroom sink to rinse my foot, all the while telling the kids that this is why we use protective equipment and look how powerful acid is! But then the acid residue rinsing off my foot reacted with whatever solution



had been used to clean the sink and noxious fumes filled the classroom. We quickly opened all the windows and went outside to play on the playground for the remainder of science. Those students are now in college, but anytime I see them, they bring up the time I got an acid burn and they got to go play on the swings."

Kelli would like our readers to know, "If anyone in the Dakotas has ideas or wants some resources for teaching or ministering to kids, please contact me. We are all on Team 'Your Kid'!"

Article & headshot by Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director. Family photos by Kelli Wasemiller.

## **Community Partnerships Made the Difference**

The Career Learning Center of the Black Hills (CLCBH) was as busy as ever in the early spring of 2020. CLCBH Adult Education and Literacy Coordinator, Stephenie Rittberger, had 179 adult learners pursuing GED® completion. Some were beginning to look ahead with excitement to the future. Many were already dealing with the challenges of the working poor: a lack of affordable housing and childcare, long hours of work without healthcare benefits or paid leave, to name a few.

However, by mid-March 2020 with COVID-19 infection numbers rising across the country, it became clear that public health and safety measures needed to be put in place. CLCBH staff moved quickly to respond to the new challenges facing CLCBH learners.

Rittberger says having strong partnerships made the difference in keeping adult learners engaged in their studies during the pandemic. Connecting with community organizations and non-profits was instrumental in providing the resources needed for adult learners.

When Rittberger realized some adult learners and their families were in need of hygiene items and laundry supplies, she reached out to her church member, Ann Hanel, who leads the Community Service Ministry at Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Hanel says, "I mobilized the church, and they donated what was needed. Steph let us know what a family needed, and we gathered the supplies from church members. Everyone came to the rescue and got a lot done. People rallied around and got people taken care of."

Hanel dropped off hygiene boxes on the porches of students who were sick with COVID-19 and could not get out themselves to replenish cleaning and laundry supplies. Hanel says, "We just made sure that it was as easy as possible to access

because some people had Covid so they couldn't get out."

The Community Service Ministry started giving away food bags in 2018. Hanel says the need greatly increased during and after the pandemic; she kept track of intake forms and saw that the numbers of people served more than tripled during that time in 2020 and 2021. So far, it seems the need has slowed down a bit in 2022.

Hanel says she has grown in her knowledge and awareness of her community over the past two years: "There's a lot I didn't know before. During the pandemic we had people come in who were dirt poor and some who had never been in that situation before. The pandemic neutralized social status. One girl who came in only wanted a hug. People were lonely and afraid. I'm just grateful we were there for them to talk to them and minister."

Rittberger says this was the biggest lasting impact of the pandemic for her personally: "You can't do it on your own. If you reach out it's amazing what can happen. I know that now more so that I did previously. Now if there's a need I can call. I can call one of 88 community partners with something to fill the gap. The extreme need present during the pandemic forged the bond even more deeply."

Hanel says, "Steph is amazing. She knows I'm always available for her if she needs help."

Like many other organizations, CLCBH was inspired to start an emergency relief fund during the pandemic. Named the "Student Success Fund," it continues today and helps fill in the gaps for learners financially.

Article by Julia Monczunski.

## **National Honor Society**

Dakota Adventist Academy's National Honor Society (NHS) welcomed five new members on November 5th. NHS president, Noah Lee, welcomed Jessica Winistorfer as former NHS president and guest speaker. Each year, current members have the privilege of "pinning" new members into the group and welcoming them into the prestigious academic group.

The National Honor Society prides itself on upholding high academic standards, community involvement, leadership, and service. By being a part of this group, students must participate in extra community service activities, demonstrate high moral character, and maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout their high school experience. This group provides the students with a leg up on their resumes and college and scholarship applications.

It is anticipated that the students will find themselves in a group where they not only encourage each other to achieve excellence but also encourage their peers to do the same. DAA's group is unique from other NHS groups in that a spiritual aspect of the program is also emphasized. The sponsors believe in the students and encourage them to use their gifts and talents given by the Lord that are meant to help them in their lives. Their teachers hope to assist each member in growing in their spiritual and academic life.



New Inductees left to right: Abby Chin, Liz Struntz, Kaeden Miller, Kiera VanWart, Jack Tretter.

Article by Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams, English teacher and vice principal at DAA. Photos by Lynnette Struntz

### **Dakota Youth & Young Adults**

The Dakota Camp ministry is a huge evangelistic effort in our conference. Each summer, kids from around our churches and surrounding communities join us at

Flag Mountain and Northern Lights for a week of fun and worship. It is because of you, our faithful members, that we are able to provide this ministry for our young people. I believe each of our camps is a sacred trust that needs to be carefully guarded and improved this is a stewardship principle. We see this in the Bible where Jesus tells the parable of the coins. Three servants are given coins; two are faithful and



improve and increase what was given to them, but the third does nothing. Jesus teaches through this story that when we faithfully use the treasure God gives us, He will bless us with more.

We want to be faithful stewards of our camps; this means that some of our facilities need to be updated. It also means that we need to provide activities for our campers that are safe with opportunities for learning and growth. I would like to invite you to partner with us in camp ministry. We are raising money and accepting other donations that will help provide the best possible camp ministry in our conference. God bless you as you consider how you can partner with us!

~ Pastor Ted

#### Flag Mountain

- Gaga Ball Court
- New showers for the Fourplex and Duplex
- · Plumbing for the Craft House
- · Quonset Hut we need safe, durable storage
- Side-by-side vehicle/Gator

#### **Northern Lights**

- · Golf Cart
- · Bunk Bed railings for Boys' and Girls' Cabins
- · Gaga Ball Court
- · Screen doors for Boys' and Girls' Cabins

#### **Camp Ministry**

- Mobile climbing wall
- Archery targets
- 10 concert or tenor ukuleles

Article by Pr. Ted Struntz, conference youth director.

# **Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis**

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

**Theme:** Coming Advent - Remembering the First Coming, Applying the Spirit, Looking for the Second Coming

Pastoral Staff: David Moench, Roy Morris, Darren Purdy

Education Staff: TJ Roberts, Ryan Peterson, Delilah Treft, Kisa de Bruin

Office Staff: Cindy Miller

Adventist Entities: Hurley Church, Huron Church, Mitchell Church, Sioux Falls

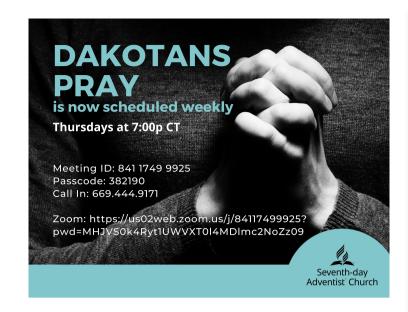
Church, Sioux Falls School, Yankton Church

Southeast, South Dakota: Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Yankton, Hurley, Huron,

Brookings, Vermillion, Yankton Reservation

Other: General
Conference & World
Divisions

<u>Click here</u> to visit the Prayer Ministries' webpage.



### **Kid's Corner**

As Seventh-day Adventists, we look forward to Jesus's second coming. This Christmas season, Advent is a time to celebrate when Jesus came the first time. Yellow Chair Devotionals has begun a new Advent series exploring the 25 reasons why Jesus came and how He is the greatest gift of all.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FTsLQbMSeY

How does the birth of Jesus tie into the big picture of the Bible? Enjoy the beautiful Christmas story, "One Wintry Night," written by Ruth Bell Graham.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BDbGCgWDj0

Happy Birthday, Jesus! The North American Division's (NAD) Children's Ministries Department has created a 25-day activity devotional that can be used with the entire family. This devotional takes you through the first 25 days of December, to help you celebrate and remember Jesus, the real reason for the season. Click here to follow the link and download your free activity devotional.



Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, <u>Dakota SDA</u> Kids, and explore the many videos available for children.



Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent & children's ministries coordinator.

### **Dakota Conference Calendar**

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

#### December -

- 10: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Sioux Falls Church, SD
- 10: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in New Home Church, ND
- 10: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Spearfish Church, SD
- 10: Elder Vernon Herholdt preaching in Cleveland Church, ND
- 10: NAD ACS (North American Division Adventist Community Services)
- 11: Dakota Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 16: DAA Celebration of Praise evening program (7:30p)
- 17: Celebration of Praise & Bismarck Regional at DAA (10a) with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 17: Local Church Budget
- 17-1: DAA Christmas Homeleave
- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Jamestown, ND
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 26: Office Closed Christmas (observed)
- 27-29: Office Closed limited staff in building
- 31: Dakota Evangelism

#### January -

- 7: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD
- 7: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Cleveland, ND

- 14: Elder Vernon Herholdt preaching in Spearfish, SD
- 16: Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Sioux Falls, SD
- 22: K-12 Board of Education via Zoom (10a)
- 23-26: Pastors' Meetings at Dakota Conference Office

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: <a href="www.dakotaadventist.org/events">www.dakotaadventist.org/events</a>

# **Blessed & Kept**

May you experience freedom.

May nothing hold you back from receiving the abundant life Jesus offers. May you find within yourself a deep-seated belief that you actually are a new creation.

May freedom reign in your life today.

May you let go of your insistence that who you were yesterday matters. May you let go of your need to hold onto the mistakes of your past. May you let go of your fear that you can not change.

May courage lead you past that fear.

May you transcend fear through the confidence that you have already been changed.

May you live as if it were true.

May your soul find reprieve from the burden of trying to live up to expectations. May you count yourself among those who are free indeed.

Written by Casey Bartlett. To follow Casey's Podcast Blessed & Kept click here.

# **December 8 Dispatch Photo**



Photo from the Badlands National Park in South Dakota by Myndi Clements, from the Rapid City Church.

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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