



## Nothing to Fear

This is the 51st 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 3

The early literature evangelists frequently worked in conjunction with evangelistic crusades, with notable success. The long winters that Tenney had mentioned combined with the availability of Adventist literature not only in English, but in Danish and German as well, (there was apparently a dearth of other reading matter in these languages), created a ready market for the wares of these pioneer "L.E.'s". Also helpful was the booming North Dakota agricultural economy, which enabled the early colporteurs to specialize in the larger, more expensive volumes.<sup>14</sup>

During the early years of the church's work in the southern portion of the Dakota territory, most literature ministry was done by lay members of "T and M" societies, and by the itinerant ministers, who routinely sold books and magazine subscriptions during their visits to churches and isolated members, and during their evangelistic crusades.<sup>15</sup>

The opening of the work among the German-Russians constitutes a significant bridge to later, organized literature evangelism; the demand for and success of Die Stimme Der Wahrheit inspired broader involvement and increased activity among early "canvassers."<sup>16</sup>

By 1885, the Dakota Tract Society was recommending that "proper persons devote their whole time to the selling of *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*."<sup>17</sup> The following year, a "company" of canvassers was working at Webster during a tent meeting, and the literature work received emphasis during camp meeting at Vilas, resulting in "quite a number" of new recruits for the "good work".<sup>18</sup>

At a "general meeting" in Parker in January, 1887, "the canvassing work received a large share of the attention and thought of the brethren", and it was perhaps at this meeting that J.J. Devereaux was chosen Dakota's first "State Canvassing Agent." By March, Devereaux had conducted Dakota's first colporteur training school at Sioux Falls.<sup>19</sup>

In September of the same year, a similar training institute was conducted for North Dakota canvassers in connection with a camp meeting held at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and by the end of the year, F.A. Lashier had been appointed state canvassing agent for Minnesota and North Dakota and was calling for "persons of good address, of tact, keen foresight and ability", to engage in the literature work.<sup>20</sup>

During the next two years, Devereaux conducted training schools in various places in South Dakota, establishing groups of canvassers working together in specific territories. Commenting on the "company plan", Clement Eldridge of Battle Creek's Central Publishing Association (*Review and Herald*) noted that the Dakota canvassers "who had been working in companies were of good courage, and enthusiastic in their work, while those who had worked alone" were, generally, discouraged.<sup>21</sup>

In 1889 Devereaux announced plans to conduct training schools in "both the English and the foreign languages" at the upcoming Dakota camp meeting at Madison.<sup>22</sup>

The report of the Dakota Tract Society for 1888 noted "the remarkable success" of the canvassing work during the past year, and the society's report at camp meeting the following year credited thirty canvassers with total book sales for the conference of "about \$8,000".<sup>23</sup>

After this initial surge of success, little mention is made of literature evangelism in contemporary records for the next several years. In August of 1894, Conference President N.P. Nelson reported that canvassers on the conference's border at Sioux City, Iowa were "having a hard time of it" due to depressed economic conditions.<sup>24</sup>

14. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 22, 1902, 18, 19; August 19, 1884, 537; "South Dakota," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1223.
15. *Ibid.*, volumes 53-57, reports from Dakota, *passim*.
16. *Ibid.*, January 2, 1879, 7.
17. *Ibid.*, August 11, 1885, 503.
18. *Ibid.*, August 24, 1886, 540; October 26, 1886, 669.
19. *Ibid.*, February 15, 1887, 109.
20. *Ibid.*, August 30, 1887, 557; January 3, 1888, 14.
21. *Ibid.*, March 27, 1888, 205; July 3, 1888, 429.
22. *Ibid.*, April 23, 1889, 270.
23. *Ibid.*, August 7, 1888, 502; July 16, 1899, 461.
24. *Ibid.*, September 4, 1894, 573.

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

#### **Chapter 11: The Good Work - Part 4 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.

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## **You Are Still Invited**

Due to the winter storm last weekend, Celebration of Praise and the Bismarck Regional were postponed until January 13 and 14. Please make plans to attend and support our young people.

You are invited to attend Dakota Adventist Academy's annual Celebration of Praise weekend coupled with the Bismarck Regional on January 13 and 14. 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.

JOIN US FOR  
*Celebration of Praise*  
COUPLED WITH THE BISMARCK REGIONAL  
Come experience a "Rebirth" with Jesus, DAA, & within.

*Schedule of Events*

**Friday, January 13:**  
7:30p - Community / School Program  
- Social Hour to follow

**Sabbath, January 14:**  
10:00a - Sabbath School  
11:00a - Church  
12:15p - Lunch  
1:30p - Seminars by conference workers  
4:30p - DAA Christmas Concert

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## Pa Rum Papum Pum

I love Christmas music. The radio stations gradually switch out their usual fare this month until the week before Christmas, when most of the programming consists of new Christmas songs, or new variations on old Christmas songs performed by today's popular musicians.

One song that I've grown to love has a storyline with no scriptural basis but is so meaningful. It's For King and Country's version of "Little Drummer Boy", the song formerly known as "Carol of the Drum".

Made popular in 1951 by the Trapp Family Singers (remember "The Sound of Music"?), the "Carol of the Drum" tells of a little boy who was invited by the magi to see baby / young boy Jesus. The magi had very expensive gifts for the little king, and the boy wanted to give a gift, too. But alas! He was a poor boy with a great lack of funds. He couldn't afford essential oils, spices, or gold as the magi were giving.

Did that stop him from going to see his King? No way! He joined the pilgrimage to Bethlehem. He gave Jesus what he had, and the little King Jesus was blessed by his drumming. The drummer boy played his best for Jesus, and the barn animals and Mary seemed to enjoy his tune, keeping time to the gift of his drumming.

Don't forget today, my friend, that you have something unique to give Jesus, too. If you give your best to Him, those around you will be blessed. Don't be ashamed of your lack of money, good looks, fame, or any other thing you feel is lacking in you. You are enough, just as you are. I bid you to come and offer what you have to the King. I assure you, He is eagerly awaiting your arrival and the beat of your unique drum. Pa rum papum pum!



"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, working as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23).

*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](#).*

**2023**  
**Dakota Adventist Academy**  
**School Preview Days**

**REGISTER TODAY**  
**WWW.MYDAA.ORG**  
tracyjo.peterson@mydaa.org  
701-258-9000 ext 213

**FEBRUARY 23 - 26, 2023**

Now is the time to  
plan your route through  
**HIGHSCHOOL...**  
Let DAA be there to  
guide your journey to  
your future.

## Black Hills Lightbearers

On Sabbath afternoon, December 17, 2022, a group of sharply dressed Pathfinders & Adventurers and other church congregation from the Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Dakota visited Fall River Health to spread the gospel news up and down the inpatient halls through joyful song. After a long hiatus due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this was the first event of its kind for the group of bright-eyed, energetic bunch - but certainly not the last, as there are already follow-up

visits scheduled to the adjacent Seven Sisters Living Center. Keep your eyes open for future updates!

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations" (Psalm 100).*



*Article and photo submitted by Jaime Bohlman, member of the Hot Springs Church and Pathfinder leader.*

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## Churches Give Gifts to DAA Students

This month, Dakota Adventist Academy had a winter celebration for the students. On Sunday, they gathered together to share a meal and watch some family films. The school put together gift bags for all the students filled with goods and they had an opportunity for the community to get involved as well. Each student had a gift list and Dakota Conference churches had the opportunity to sponsor the kids by giving them gifts from their lists! The students were super appreciative and were then ready to tackle their exams!



*Article and photos by Pastor Marveen Gentillon, associate pastor of the Bismarck and DAA churches.*

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## First Semester Happenings at Rapid City Elementary School

We have been very busy with events and field trips at the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School!

First, we had our annual Harvest Fest on November 5. We had a great turnout with carnival games and a chili cook-off. Although, the best part was giving the attendees a chance to pie a teacher in the face! Students did not shy away and seemed to have the most fun with this activity. Around \$2,200 was raised from the silent auction, pieing the teachers in the face, and donations. So, in light of that, it was a significant success!

As for our field trips, we visited a pumpkin patch owned by one of our school families in early October. They rode on a barrel train and jumped to their heart's content on the bouncy houses. The family-owned business also generously allowed each student to bring home a pumpkin to decorate. Most recently, we visited an outdoor ice-skating rink to kick off our Christmas season. The Main Street Square Ice Rink is always a treat due to its seasonal availability from November to February. Though it was a little chilly, nothing could stop kids when they were out to have fun. There was hot chocolate and laughing galore, with a few wipeouts here and there.

To end this holiday season, we had our annual Christmas program on December 15. The kids spent many weeks practicing and memorizing their lines. It paid off with an outstanding performance packed with music and laughter. The year's program was a spin on the beloved story of Jesus's birth. This version of the nativity story creatively and humorously mixes biblical truths with present-day elements and jargon. The audience got to experience the night's events through reporting from the Nazareth Evening news. Field reporters brought breaking news updates, interviews with eyewitnesses who saw the choir of angels, and reports on the census "debacle."

Overall, we've had a tremendously fun-filled first semester and look forward to an equally excellent second semester.



*Article and photos submitted by Rapid City teachers Jamie Howell, head teacher, and Annabelle Harper.*

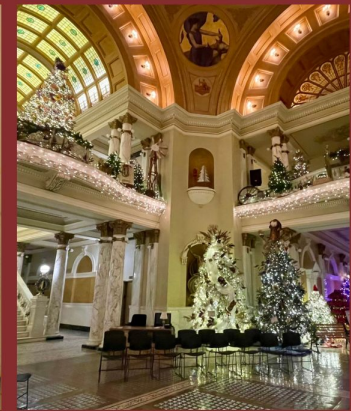
## **Pierre Church Decorates Tree in Capitol**

Each year, the South Dakota Capitol in Pierre fills the building with trees decorated by people and organizations from around the state. Members of the Pierre Seventh-day Adventist Church take part in the celebration and this year used the theme 'A Prairie Christmas' to decorate their tree.





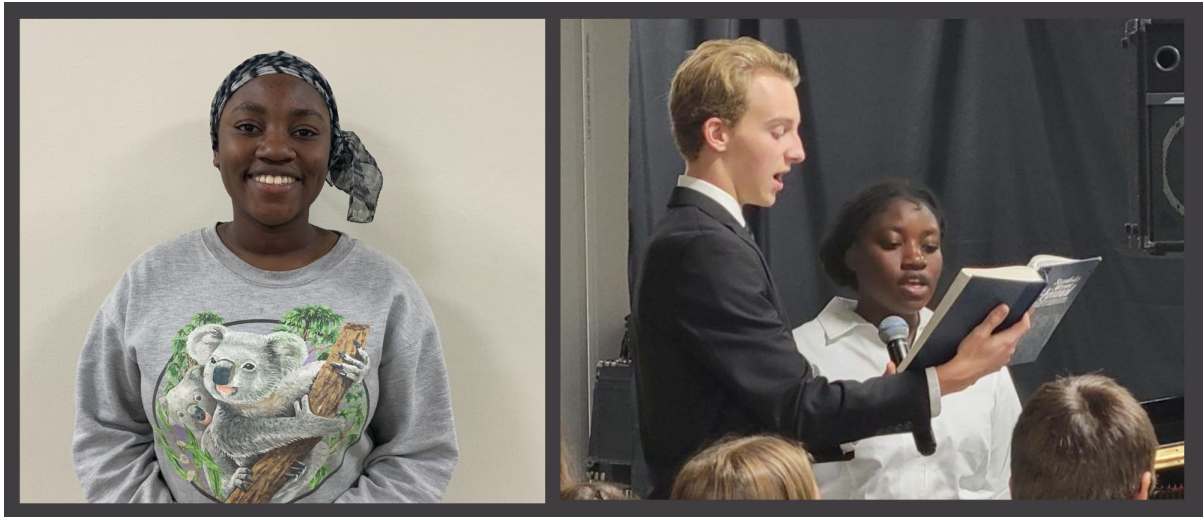
*Members of the Pierre Adventist Church stand beside their decorated Christmas tree.*



*Photos by Tammy Johnson, member of the Pierre Church, and Pastor Stephen Eastwood, pastor of the Pierre and Bowdle church district in South Dakota.*

## **Music Class Is a Blessing**

My experience with the music class at Dakota Adventist Academy has been amazing. You're surrounded by a positive group of students willing to help you and will congratulate you when you finally get your part right. All the songs, sung and played are meaningful to me and genuinely make me happy. Going on trips to other churches to sing or play our instruments makes me happy knowing that we're putting smiles on people's faces and doing the work of God. This semester of music at DAA has been filled with excitement, nervousness, confidence, and fun. I can't wait for next semester!



*Blurb by Sarah Fils-Aime, a freshman at DAA. Photos by David Ballesteros, music teacher, and Tracy Peterson, recruiter.*

## 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 Trefl, 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

**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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0l4MDImc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

**Other:** General Conference & World Divisions

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

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## Dakota Youth & Young Adults



[dakotaadventist.org](http://dakotaadventist.org)

### ATTENTION DAKOTA PATHFINDER CLUBS

If your church has a club for the 2022–2023 year, please email Pastor Ted. We want to ensure that you are receiving all of the communication about upcoming events and club opportunities. Thank you for your help and your ministry.

**CONTACT PASTOR TED**  
[dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com)

Mark your calendars for a fun, upcoming Pathfinder event on February 3-5, 2023. Come experience the Dakota Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience at Dakota Adventist Academy as well as earn some Pathfinder honors. Stay tuned for more information!

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## 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 & 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 -

- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Jamestown, ND
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 26: Office Closed - Christmas (observed)
- 27-29: Office Closed - limited staff in the building
- 31: Dakota Evangelism

### January -

- 7: Local Church Budget
- 7: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD
- 7: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 13: Celebration of Praise at DAA (7:30p)
- 14: NAD Religious Liberty
- 14: Celebration of Praise & Bismarck Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching at DAA
- 14: Elder Vernon Herholdt preaching in Spearfish, SD

- 16: Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21: Local Church Budget
- 21: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Rapid City, SD
- 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
- 28: Dakota Challenge
- 28: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Sioux Falls, 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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## Your Help is Requested

A church member is seeking an old set of cassette tapes from the early 90s. Elder Willis Hackett was the main speaker for a Dakota Campmeeting during that time and preached a sermon on principles versus laws. If anyone has a set of these or knows someone who does, please reach out to Jodi Dossenko at: [j.dossenko@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com)

Thank you for your help!

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## Blessed & Kept

May you remember the name that gives this time of year meaning.  
Immanuel... God with us.

May you sacrifice your stress and anxiety on the altar of Immanuel.  
May the prayer of your sacrifice be a repetition of the promises of God's presence.

May you have peace, knowing the prince of peace is with you.  
May you not fear the shadows, for God is with you.  
May you not be troubled by attacks from the enemy, for the victor of all things is with you.  
May you know joy, for the author of joy is with you.

God is with you always, to the very end of the age.

May the traditions and rhythms of the season point you away from stress and deeper into the reality of Immanuel.

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

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## December 22 Dispatch Photo



*Photo by Lynnette Struntz.*

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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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- [!\[\]\(1233990ad3f0b7475c568d7bf16af31f\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(18570b67a4686b081406cd3de636c1c3\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(411af059a517db12f1097bc63c4fbe36\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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