



Nothing to Fear

This is the 52nd 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 4

Although the newly reunited Dakota Conference, in 1896, called for colporteur institutes to be held in both North and South Dakota, an overall lack of leadership and organization seems to have limited the effectiveness of the book work and mitigated against its stability and growth, especially in North Dakota. Christian Sulzle, visiting a 1915 colporteur training institute at Harvey, recalled that he was the only canvasser in North Dakota about the turn of the century.²⁵

In order to strengthen and establish the "good work", the new conference at its 1902 organizational session elected C.H. Staples to the post of "State Canvassing Agent" and passed, as its very first resolution, a recommendation that "those who feel a burden for the work devote themselves to the distribution of our literature."²⁶

At the 1903 conference session, President John Walker reported that a dozen colporteurs had sold \$4,454.81 worth of Adventist literature.²⁷

Apparently, however, no missionary field secretary, as the position was officially called, was elected at that session for the coming year, nor at the conference's third annual session in June of 1904.

In Walker's December 28, 1905, address to the fourth annual conference session,

"our great need of more evangelistic canvassers was set forth and a call made for new recruits to enter this noble branch of the work.

A lengthy recommendation of the plans committee for that session gave some insight into the difficulties that had befallen the literature evangelism work, and outlined the steps the young conference could take to bring improvement. Noting that the colporteur ministry "has not received the support and attention in the past worthy of its importance", the recommendation urged the conference to "continuously employ the services of a competent State Agent", to "request our ministering brethren to ... interest themselves in searching out and encouraging proper individuals ... to enter this line of work, to make a special effort" to secure a number of German and Scandinavian canvassers", to "make an agreement with the Harvey Industrial School board and the board of Union College whereby those who want to attend ... may have the opportunity to canvass for scholarships and secure a year's tuition by selling a certain value of books", (a plan already in operation at South Dakota's Elk Point Academy) and to "hold one or more canvassers institutes in the state."

In his remarks on the recommendation, Elder Walker encouraged canvassers to continue to work during the summer, and even during harvest and threshing seasons, and warned church members not to "draw away the canvassers from their work by alluring offers" of farm work during the busy seasons.²⁸

In harmony with the provisions of the unanimously adopted recommendation, Jesse A. Reiber was elected Field Secretary of the Missionary Department, Sheyenne River Academy sponsored its first student literature evangelist scholarship plan the following year, and annual colporteur institutes, conducted each spring, began by 1907.²⁹

The history of the "good work" for the next decade is a reflection of the elongated shadows of three men whose determination and creativity brought literature evangelism from infancy to maturity in North Dakota - W.B. Payne who succeeded Reiber as leader of the colporteur work early in 1907 and served in that capacity for eight years, Jacob Jutzy, his close associate and protege, who replaced Payne in 1915, and Andrew Roedel, brother of Gottlieb Roedel, who served as Tract Society secretary-treasurer from 1913-1919³⁰ - and of the scores of men and women who served as literature evangelists during those formative pioneering years.

For the first half of the decade, literature evangelism statistics show a see-saw pattern, peaking in 1909 with 20 workers and sales of \$9,085.05 but plunging to seven workers and \$4,025.50 in sales by 1911.³¹

While crop and economic conditions no doubt played a role in the pattern of these years, the make-up of the working force was probably the largest single factor.

The majority of the workers in those early years were students, who worked anywhere from a few days to a few months rather than full time adults who considered literature evangelism their life work.

A common attitude toward literature evangelism was articulated by North Dakota's first president, John Walker at the conference's organizational session in 1902, when he stated that "the distribution of our literature is the best possible preparation for the work of the ministry, Bible work, and other lines."³² Over the years many who have served as literature evangelists have looked upon their work as temporary, a preparation for a life work rather than a permanent vocation or career. This attitude has been, and is, a major challenge to the success and stability of literature evangelism.

25. *Northern Union Reaper*, May 25, 1915, 5.

26. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 12, 20.

27. *Ibid.*, 26.

28. *Ibid.*, 43, 46-48, 50. Lists of Conference leaders elected at the 1903 and 1904 sessions in the record book minutes, make no mention of the missionary department or its field secretary.

29. *Ibid.*, 58, 81; *Northern Union Reaper*, April 9, 1907, 4.

30. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, for the years involved. J.H. Peters apparently held the title and position of "State Canvassing Agent" in 1912 (*Ibid.*, 154), and Roedel was Field Missionary Secretary in 1914-1915, with Payne as Field Missionary Agent (*Ibid.*, 184).

31. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 29, 1913, 3.

32. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 13.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 11: The Good Work - Part 5 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/communiqués/dakota-dispatch>

The first installment of *Nothing to Fear* starts in the October 22, 2020 issue.

Dakota Men's Retreat



You are invited to attend the Dakota Conference's 2023 Men's Retreat. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Next Steps

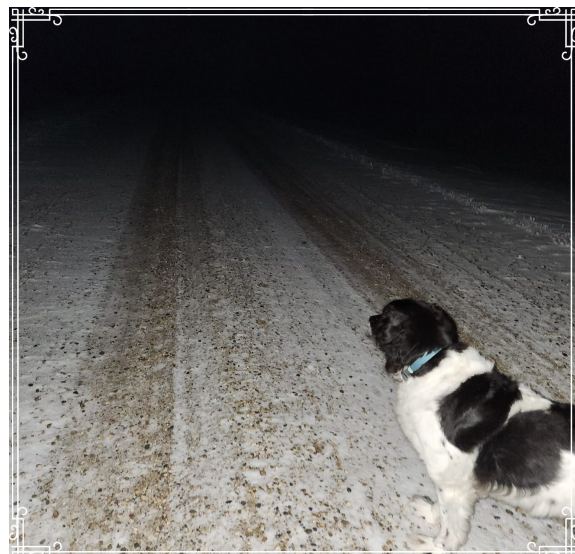
This morning's walk was extra dark. According to the lunar calendar for my hometown, there's a waning crescent moon out there somewhere. Only 2.6% of the moon is exposed, and even that is shrouded completely by the freezing fog hovering just above my head.

On clear nights with a bit more moonlight, I can trek my two miles without the aid of a flashlight. The shadows show me where the road drops off into the ditch, and it shows the next intersection or two. I can clearly see where I've been and how far I have yet to go.

This morning was different. With my flashlight, I could make out the tire tracks in the snowy road about three paces ahead of me. I kept my focus on those tracks and on my next few steps.

When I reached an intersection, the only indication of that other road was the tire tracks splitting off. Some peeled off to the south, and some kept going west. I knew to continue west.

It felt good to take my morning walk and concern myself with only the area lit by my flashlight. I didn't need to worry about the shadows in the field or



get worked up looking at how far yet to my turnaround spot. I could just take one step and then another, over and over. My Fitbit watch told me when I'd walked far enough, and my light kept me planted firmly on those wheel tracks.

Sometimes God, in His goodness, shades our eyes from the enormity of the thing we are walking through in life. He shows us the next few steps but wraps the future in a protective cloak of darkness. It is enough to know that a trail has been blazed for me, and my next action step is clear to see. I can rest in His goodness and take comfort in His Light.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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

FEBRUARY 23 - 26, 2023

Now is the time to
plan your route through
HIGH SCHOOL...

Let DAA be there to
guide your journey to
your future.

REGISTER TODAY
WWW.MYDAA.ORG
z.adams@mydaa.org
701-258-9000 ext 213

Battle Creek Warriors

On November 5, 2022, the Battle Creek Warriors Pathfinder Club was born at the Hermosa Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Dakota. Jennifer DeFluiter is serving as director, Mark Jensen is the deputy director, and Becky McCurdy is the secretary. The eight Pathfinder youth have already had several fun and interesting adventures. One of the Pathfinder girls taught the Bubble honor. The group gathered together outside at the director's home and put into practice what was learned about making giant bubbles. The children also did several experiments learning about the surface tension of water.

On that same afternoon, Pathfinders worked on the Fire Building and Camp Cookery honor. They made foil packs of food baked in the coals and cooked bread on a stick. It was yummy to eat what was cooked, though some of the foil packs were left in the coals too long. Live and learn!

This fall, Hermosa church members chose to gather items for gift boxes for 40+ children in Red Shirt Village on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Pathfinders took those boxes and delivered them to the Native children on the first Sabbath of December. It was a joy to see their faces light up as they were given their boxes along with an apple and a package of crackers.

The Goodland Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Jim and Becky McCurdy's former church in Kansas, donated all the High Plains Pathfinder equipment to the new Hermosa club since all their own children have grown and left. The McCurdys made a trip to Goodland and brought back a pick-up load of valuable items for our club. It was a huge blessing!

Several weeks ago, the club had a great time earning the Pizza Making honor and everyone was able to eat their works of art at the end of the meeting!

Lest you think that all the group does in club meetings is eat, the young people are working diligently to memorize the book of John for the upcoming Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). Every Sabbath after the fellowship meal, the Pathfinders get together to study and quiz each other in preparation for the Dakota Conference PBE to be held at Dakota Adventist Academy February 4. The group also planned a mock PBE with area clubs in January to prepare for the conference event.

The leaders and every person involved are so grateful to God for the opportunity to work with the young people in Pathfinders Ministry!



Article and photos by Becky McCurdy, Hermosa's Pathfinders secretary and pastor's wife.

Let's Not Forget

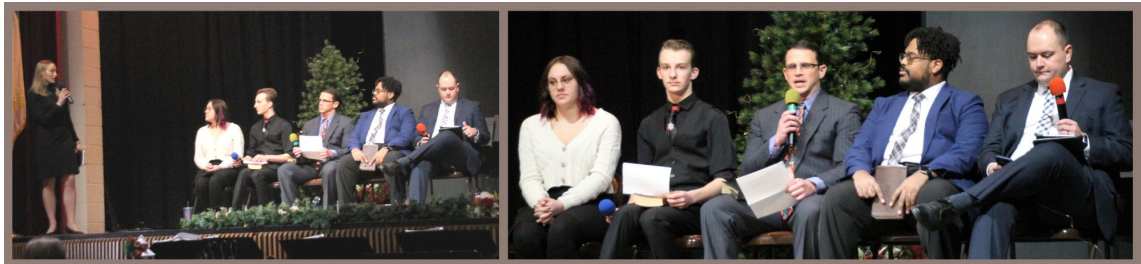
By the time Sabbath comes around every week, I have recently often found myself forgetful of the finer details of the Gospel message. I generally check my schedule and see if I have supervision duties, and sometimes I already find myself randomly lesson planning in my head for the next week before the Sabbath has even ended. Refreshingly, this haphazard cycle was interrupted the weekend of Dakota Adventist Academy's Christmas concert. During the Sabbath school activity in the main auditorium, I was given a gracious reminder about the incredible love of God.

During the discussion, a parent of one of our students eloquently described what it was like each time that he held his children in his arms after their birth. It was a description that made me think twice about who God is and what He is about. "In that moment," he shared, "nothing else truly mattered except for their wellbeing. Everything in my life became about them." As I heard these words, I knew I had been given a loving example demonstrating how God feels about each and every one of us. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8:9, further explains how God feels about humanity: "For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."

When God decided to develop and implement the plan of salvation, everything truly

was about us, and He fulfilled His promises by sending His Son to our world. Jesus came to give everything selflessly, even unto death, so that we might all become rich. These habitual reminders are part of why we are here as a church in this world and, more specifically, why we are here operating DAA. The reality of the love of God was made known to me through Adventist education, and through this powerful education, I was also given intellectual tools to better understand who God is as well as His will for my life. It is moments like the one I experienced during the recent Christmas concert that allows the love of God to be habitually placed before students on a daily basis.

So, I now strive to no longer let my mind stray as easily as it has been lately whenever the Sabbath rolls around, and I eagerly await for the Lord to poke my memory awake during the day-to-day activities throughout the regular school week at DAA. Indeed, for me, one could perhaps say that Adventist education has become sort of a fulfillment of the words spoken straight out of our Lord's mouth in Numbers 15:40, it states: "So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and you shall be holy to your God." So, let's not forget why we are in the world but not of the world. Let's be a part of God's work and help Him draw all people to the One who was lifted up for the healing of many.



Article by Greg Ratter, DAA history teacher. Photos by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director.

Celebration of Praise and Bismarck Regional

After a December snowstorm rolled through the Dakotas, Dakota Adventist Academy's Celebration of Praise and Bismarck Regional was postponed until January. The two-day event was filled with programs, fellowship, and a beautifully decorated facility.

Friday evening found attendees enjoying special music from local church members, monologues by staff and students, and a devotional by Alumni President Ben Dossenko. Following the program, guests mingled in the circle enjoying each other's company and delicious treats made by the cafeteria staff.

Sabbath morning opened with a Sabbath School panel that consisted of local Adventist pastors and DAA students discussing the life of Christ with moderator Pastor Kisa de Bruin. Recruiter Zak Adams and students Liz Struntz and Isaac Bonner spoke about life at DAA, and then a special offering was taken for the DAA Worthy Student fund.

The church service began with a treat from Bismarck Adventist Church's Adventurer's Club. Dressed in their Adventurer uniforms, the club marched on stage, recited the pledge, and sang several songs. DAA students and staff continued to be involved in the church programming, and Dakota Conference President Elder Mark Weir shared the sermon. Lunch was served in the cafeteria, followed by two rounds of afternoon seminars and social time before the DAA Christmas program. "I was so blessed by the day's activities and fellowship," stated one member. "It was wonderful that the weekend was rescheduled instead of canceled."



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

Lehr Church Evangelism Retreat

The first weekend in November, the Lehr Adventist Church family met together at an Airbnb in Oakes, North Dakota, to have a weekend of revival and evangelism planning for 2023. The event was filled with lots of prayer, seminars, visioning, spiritual growth, evangelism planning, great food, and games. It provided a great opportunity for the church members to bond and come together after a long year of numerous personal struggles and situations that threatened to distract the church body from its real mission and purpose.

Elder Mark Piotrowski joined the Lehr church family and presented seminars on “God’s Church, a House of Prayer.” When planning evangelism, it is impossible to neglect the aspect of prayer. Prayer is the most vital element in reviving communities and helping small churches grow. Elder Piotrowski reiterated multiple times, “Little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power,” and this phrase is so true! By the end of the retreat, everyone came away with new determination, a deeper focus, closer friendships, and a strong game plan for the coming year.

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” We have been given a message and a game plan through the Bible and spirit of prophecy. Now it is our responsibility as local churches to determine how to implement that plan in a way that is meaningful and appropriate for our community. Our command to present the three angels' messages and warning of the soon return of our loving, kind, patient, and all-knowing Saviour is not optional. Presenting the love of God to our friends and neighbors in tangible ways such as community outreach events, Bible studies, seminars, and acts of kindness is a privilege that we sometimes overlook. This is something that will bless us beyond our wildest imaginations if we will do the work faithfully. We have good hearts, our motives are pure, and we desire to share Jesus with others. However, sometimes we are overcome with apprehensions, insecurities, fears of not being eloquent or adequate enough, or are simply at a loss of where to start... Uniting your church members to tag-team initiatives, utilizing each other's individual strengths, and praying without ceasing is the best thing you can do in reaching your communities.

The Lehr church family highly recommends that your church plan a weekend to fellowship, brainstorm, encourage each other, make a goal, and implement a plan on how to accomplish your goal. We all know that life gets busy and good intentions are great, but unless there is a plan and a schedule, it is hard to make things happen to accomplish your dreams and goals.

Bring your church together, make a plan, and go hasten the Kingdom!



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

Dakota Youth & Young Adults

New Associate Youth and Young Adult Director

We are blessed to welcome Lynnette Struntz as our new associate director for youth and young adults. Lynnette started working for the conference in January and comes to us with a strong background in communication and years of experience working with and ministering to young people. Her position was made possible due to the generosity of a private donor who deeply values youth ministries and wants to specifically see the young people of the Dakota Conference ministered to.

Lynnette is certainly not new to youth ministry. She has been a Pathfinder Master Guide for nearly fifteen years and has helped with numerous Adventurer, Pathfinder, VBS, summer camp, and mission trip programs over the years. Before moving to the Dakota Conference, she taught English Language Arts and Advanced Placement English Literature for four years at Portland Adventist Academy in Oregon. She has also served as a facilities manager, office manager, managing editor, graphic designer, and an English teacher at two of our Adventist universities. Last summer, she served as Associate Director of our summer camps.

Already, Lynnette has been busy using her talents to bless our youth ministries in Dakota. She has created all of our camp marketing and recruitment materials and

just designed our new Pathfinder Conference Patch from pictures she took around our conference. In her new position, she will assist in the planning and implantation of department programs including Club Ministries (Pathfinders and Adventurers), Camp Ministry, youth and young adult retreats, and rallies. She joins her husband, Ted, who is conference director for our Camp, Club, and Youth and Young Adult Ministries.



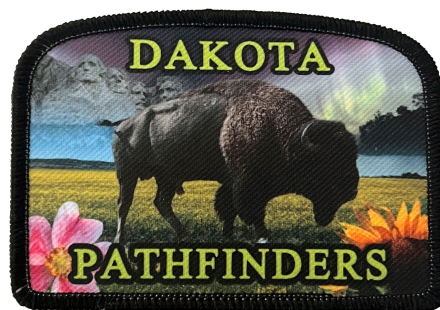
Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience & Honors Weekend

This weekend Pathfinder Clubs from around the conference will be gathering at Dakota Adventist Academy for our conference's Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) and Honors weekend. For months, our Pathfinders have been diligently studying the Gospel of John. Clubs that finish with a first-place finish will be eligible to go to Union College to participate in the upcoming Union PBE on February 18. We are so blessed to have committed leaders who are helping the young people of their churches learn scripture and who provide leadership for this important ministry.

If you would like to come support our Dakota Pathfinders, join us this Sabbath starting with Sabbath School at 9:00a CT on the campus of DAA, or attend as a spectator of the PBE program which starts at 2:00p.

New Conference Pathfinder Patch!

We are excited to share the completed design of our new Conference Pathfinder Patch! We were down to our final few Conferences patches, so we decided it would be a good time for an updated patch that better highlights some of the beautiful wonders of God's creation in North and South Dakota. All of the pictures were taken in North or South Dakota--and the Northern Lights picture (above the bison's head) was taken this year at our own Northern Lights Camp on Lake Metigoshe. We hope our Dakota Pathfinders will love the new patch as much as we do!



DAKOTA ADVENTIST CAMPS

REGISTER: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

SUMMER 2023

Flag Mountain Camp

CUB	June 14-18
JUNIOR	June 18-25
TEEN	June 25-July 2

Northern Lights Camp

CUB	July 12-16
JUNIOR	July 16-23
TEEN	July 23-30

REGISTER ONLINE!

Article and photos by Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference Youth Director.

Kid's Corner

Join us in February for a new Yellow Chair Devotional series. Every day we'll experiment together and explore a scientific concept that teaches us more about God, the Master Scientist.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT8TBICrTY6f4igRJJuNJkh2Doal1ko-hW>

Handprint Craft Corner

A new month means a new craft corner! Let's take our unique handprints and make some art while celebrating that we are each fearfully and wonderfully made.

https://youtu.be/vtp_4TCqHTk

Vacation Bible School

It's time to start planning for VBS 2023! This year's program is entitled, "Fiercely Faithful: God Always Keeps His Promises" and allows kids to visit a desert oasis and journey through the story of Ruth and Naomi. The Dakota Conference owns the kit, backdrop, and cut out animals, and it's all available for your church to use this summer. Learn more at <https://www.adventistvbs.org>

Contact Kelli Wasemiller at dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com to request the kit or learn more about VBS.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Job Opening

Invitation Hill Adventist School in Dickinson is looking for an elementary teacher willing to serve as a long-term sub for the 2023-2024 school year. Please spread the word on the Adventist grapevine, and help us find someone willing to step in and save the day!

Contact Kelli Wasemiller at superintendent.dakota@gmail.com or (920) 319-6678 to find out more details.

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.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

February -

- 3-5: Pathfinders Weekend at DAA
- 3: Pathfinders Vespers at DAA (6:30p)

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 4: Elder Ted Struntz preaching at DAA, ND
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Ellendale, ND
- 4: Dakota Pathfinder Bible Experience at DAA (2p)
- 4: Pathfinders Gymnastics Honor at DAA (6:30p)
- 9-11: Elementary & DAA Music Festival at DAA
- 11: Adventist TV Ministries
- 11: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Minot, ND
- 11: Ministerial Director Elder Vernon Herholdt preaching in New Home, ND
- 11: Elementary & DAA Music Festival Concert at DAA (2p)
- 13: Dakota Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom (7p)
- 15: Sioux Falls Town Hall (6:30p)
- 16: Rapid City Town Hall (6:30p)
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 18: Mid-America Union Pathfinder Bible Experience in Lincoln, NE
- 20: Office Closed - Presidents' Day
- 24-26: DAA Preview Days
- 25: Dakota Challenge
- 25: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Hot Springs, SD
- 25: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot, ND

March -

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot, ND
- 4: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in New Home, ND
- 5: Dakota K-12 Committee Meeting at Conference Office (10a)
- 10-12: Dakota Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 11: Adventist World Radio
- 19: Dakota Executive Committee Meeting at Conference Office (10a)
- 25: Dakota Challenge
- 25: Jamestown Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching

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

Your Help is Requested

A church member is seeking an old set of cassette tapes from the early 90s. Elder Willis Hacket 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

Thank you for your help!

Blessed & Kept

May you have courage today.

May you courageously speak out against injustice where you see it.
Not to look good in front of others, or to feel good about yourself
But because it is right.

May you courageously trust in the goodness of God.
When presented with an opportunity for your trust in God's care and provision to be stretched beyond your comfort level, may you be filled with gratitude.
May you praise God in that moment because you know that you are loved. And if you are loved, then you are cared for.

May you courageously offer love, grace, and acceptance to another person today.
May someone be assured of a good and loving God because you saw them; you affirmed their humanity and their dignity.
May that person feel valuable today.

May you, today, be brave enough to allow God's love to flow through you onto a desperate world.
May you be brave.

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

February 2 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Melissa Erickson, member of the Cleveland Adventist Church 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.dossenکو@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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- [!\[\]\(aed6947356668967079310026052edc0_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(e61aeb0d9066d5d9e54d9b655f50da3d_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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