



## Nothing to Fear

This is the 61st 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 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 6

During one banner year, 1917, four new German churches, Cleveland (Stutsman County), Woodworth (Stutsman County), Denhoff (Sheridan County), and Robinson (Kidder County), were organized and were soon joined by organized companies at Oberon (Burleigh County) and at Carrington, where the departure of other Adventists had left Gustav Hoffman and his family virtually alone to carry on the tradition of faith. Other churches, probably also German or with strong German elements, had been established at Driscoll (Burleigh County) by R.T. Nash in 1915, and at Turtle Lake in 1918, and a company of some description had developed at Heaton (Wells County) by 1915.<sup>33</sup>

German immigration continued throughout the period, with the newcomers, as well as restless souls among those who had arrived earlier, pressing into new areas of the state farther and farther from the central pocket of German concentration. Adventist evangelists, never far behind the wagons of the settlers, soon brought their message to each new community. In the far northeastern corner of the state, a church of twenty-seven members was organized early in 1909 at Rosehill, a Mennonite settlement near Munich (Cavalier County) through the efforts of William Wentland and Carl Leer. In the same area, a German Adventist group was centered around Alsen, where a "family" church school was operated during 1912.<sup>34</sup>

Farther west, a persistent, although apparently never formally organized Adventist group, consisting mainly of Germans, seems to have been scattered around the Upham-Bantry-Deering-Granville area of McHenry County. During this same period, a Sabbath School, apparently German, was established at Parshall (Mountrail County) early in 1918, and in the south, evangelistic endeavors around Temvick and Hazelton by R.T. Nash, Conrad Hein, John Seibel, and Carl Leer apparently resulted in the establishment of a church by 1920, the spiritual forerunner of the later Livona and Linton churches.<sup>35</sup>

German immigrants and Adventist evangelists also spilled across the Missouri River in increasing numbers during this period, resulting in the formation of the first German Adventist church in District 7, at Willa (Hettinger County). The Adam Leno family had become Seventhday Adventists in 1895 at Java, South Dakota, and had subsequently moved to the Willa area in 1904. One of Adam's sons found harvest time employment a few years later at Bowdon with John Seibel, who became very interested to learn about the lone family of Sabbath-keepers in that isolated area west of the Missouri. In late 1909, Seibel and J.J. Reiswig held evangelistic meetings in the Leno home, and in June of 1910, a church was organized. The Willa group later joined with new converts from 1918 and 1919 evangelistic meetings by Conrad Hein at Burt (Hettinger County) to form a new church in 1919. The church was in recent years moved to Leipzig (Grant County) and renamed.<sup>36</sup>

Seibel and Hein were also active in the evangelistic endeavors which led to the formation of the Golden Valley (Mercer County) Church in 1919, and, later, in the organization of a church at Taylor (Stark County), the forerunner of the modern Hebron (Morton County) church. In addition, organized companies, apparently German in composition, existed at Beulah (Mercer County) and Dunn Center (Dunn County) during this period.<sup>37</sup>

33. Ibid., April 17, 1917, 3; August 28, 1917, 5; October 9, 1917, 5; Cleveland church history, prepared by church members, March 7, 1911, 4; August 3, 1915, 4; March 19, 1918, 5; March 11, 1919, 5; August 5, 1919, 2.

34. Ibid., April 6, 1909, 3; March 12, 1912, 6.

35. Ibid., December 11, 1917, 7; August 24, 1920, 3.

36. Ibid., February 8, 1910, 4,5; History of the New Leipzig church prepared by church members; May 20, 1919, 3.

37. Golden Valley church history, prepared by church members; June 21, 1921 4; September 7, 1915, 5.

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

### **Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 7 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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## Dakota Conference Women's Retreat



Begin making plans now to attend this year's Dakota Conference Women's Retreat in beautiful Medora, North Dakota. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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## Sonnets of Creation

### Part 6 of 7

God set a slimy small thing on a rock.  
The creature would later be named the tree frog.  
He aided the colt as it learned to walk  
and hitched tusks on the Babirusa Hog.

Sure it was good, but something was missing.  
He loved the birds, the grass, and the rainstorm,  
But still God couldn't help but start wishing  
For a perfect friend made in his form.

Adam's eyes opened, he let out a gasp  
As he sucked in a breath, giving him life.  
God stretched out His hand and gave him a clasp  
lifting him into a world with no strife.

And in that moment, right where the two stood,

God looked and saw that it was very good.

*By Afton Logan, member of the Invitation Hill Adventist Church in Dickinson, ND.*

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## **Rapid City Adventist Elementary**

In early December, the upper-grade students had the opportunity to participate in a local writing contest hosted by the Rapid City Elks Lodge. The theme of the essay was "My American Dream." All of the students worked very hard on their essays. We submitted our essays before Winter Break and didn't hear anything until...we did! In early February, the school got a call that two of our upper-grade students had won! Ashlynn Red Cloud had won first place out of all the 7th graders who had entered their essays. Dustin Larson won third place out of all the 5th graders in the area. There were at least 50 entries in each category.

The Rapid City Elks Lodge was kind enough to host a reception to celebrate all the winners citywide! Each winner received a certificate and a gift card. In early April, we again received a call from the Elks Lodge. All the winning essays from our area had been sent on to the state level, and Ashlynn and Dustin had won again. This time, Dustin placed first in the 5th-grade category, and Ashlynn placed third in the 7th-grade category. Their essays will now be sent on to the national level.

Another reason for us to beam with pride for our students was our Education Sabbath program. We celebrated Education Sabbath on April 8. Our school theme this year was "Do Not Be Afraid." We used our theme and verse (2 Timothy 1:7) as the subject of the service. Two of the highlights of our service were the children's story and the sermon.

For the children's story, Ms. Harper worked on putting together a video on the story of Jonah. The lower graders told the story in their own words and the upper graders acted out the story accordingly. It was fun to try and think of ideas on how to throw Jonah into the sea and watch him get swallowed by a whale! It was a big hit!

The upper graders put together a skit for the sermon. It was called "The Woolly Bully" and talked about how we can trust in God whenever we are afraid, and He will give us the courage and show us how to handle any situation. If you would like to see our Education Sabbath program, you can find it on our school's Facebook page.

In April, the students were hard at work researching Eastern European countries for our Social Studies Fair. Each student chose a country from that region and researched different facts about the country. The students then presented their

boards and a program on May 18.

We are very proud of all our students and their hard work in the different programs and areas of study we covered this year!



*Article and photos by Jamie Howell, head teacher at Rapid City Adventist Elementary (RCAE), and Annabelle Harper, teacher at RCAE.*

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yourself  
here.

[jobs.adventisteducation.org](https://jobs.adventisteducation.org)



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
Dakota Conference

### Inspire others. Become a Teacher in Dakota

Teaching is much more than a job; it is a calling with deep purpose. And teaching in a Adventist school means you also inspire students to find their own true purpose in God. Experience the satisfaction of challenging youth to dream big and to make those dreams come true. Become an Adventist teacher and inspire in each student a life of faith, wisdom, and service.

[Early Childhood](#) | [Elementary/Secondary](#) | [College/University](#)



## VBS in Bowdon Country

June 12 was Bowdon Country Adventist Church's first day of the 2023 Vacation Bible School, with the theme "Armor of God." The group met all week and covered the various pieces of armor and how each child can be confident in the strength and power of God in offense and defense!

The first day had brought 14 kids in attendance. One of the pictures shows the kids and volunteers actively involved in praise time before heading off to classes. The second picture is a selfie of Pastor Harold and his second class (he had four classes total) before they got started with the Bible story of Jesus calming the storm on the

lake. The rest of the week, the class covered the story of Samson, the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace, and David and Goliath.

The Bowdon church in North Dakota partners with other churches in the area that also send their kids and volunteers. Each church is assigned a night to provide supper before the fun begins. We would like to say, "Thank you for all the prayers for the children in our communities!"



Article and photos by Pr. Harold Chin, pastor of the Bowdon Country / Harvey / Manfred church district in ND.

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## Bee Happy!

The Pierre Women's Retreat, *Bee Happy*, was a great afternoon filled with fun, fellowship, and food. There were 16 in attendance and the ladies enjoyed a Bible study on the "Bee Attitudes" presented by Gaye Ozanne. Tammy Johnson gave an inspirational talk and author Dr. James Szana gave a review of his book, *Sarah's Secrets*. Cardmaking supplies were provided for the guests, as well as an abundance of desserts to choose from.



Article and photos by Wendy Brotherton, assistant woman's ministry leader of the Pierre Adventist Church.

## Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

**Theme:** Fathers, Dakota Conference Team, & Campmeeting

**Pastoral Staff:** Dave Moench, George Shaver

**Education Staff:** Anthony Oucharek

**Office Staff:** Lynnette Struntz, Ted Struntz, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

**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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0l4MDlmc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day Adventist Church



**Field Staff:** Camp Staff

**Adventist Entities:** Aberdeen Church, Huron Church, Watertown Church, Potential Aberdeen Church School

**Northeast, South Dakota:** Aberdeen, Redfield, Watertown, Lake Traverse Reservation

**Other:** Fathers, Dakota Conference Team, Campmeeting, Summer Camp Ministry

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

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## **Dakota Youth & Young Adults**

God is truly blessing and watching over us at Dakota Adventist Camps. We just finished a successful Cub Camp at Flag Mountain, and it was great to see our youngest campers eager to sing praises to God. It is amazing to see God working here at camp.

During staff week, our workers saw God's hand of protection over us as we spent the Sabbath in Custer State Park. We were driving around the wildlife loop in three vehicles to see God's creations. Lynnette, who was driving the third vehicle, saw something shiny bounce from the staff member's vehicle in front of her. Since it was during a flat part of the road and a place she had cell service, she pulled off to the side of the road, contacted the first vehicle to pull over, and then got out to go look for the object. There, still on the road, she discovered it was a lug nut from our staff's vehicle. We were able to put the lug nut back on and tighten four more lug nuts that were loose, and then continue our nature drive. If you've been to Custer State Park, you know there are many locations that are twisty with high drop-offs, and much of the park has little to no cell service. Not only did God alert Lynnette to the lug nut, but He also allowed it to come off when the road was flat, and we had phone service.

We are thankful for God's watch care over us. Please continue to pray for us as we minister to the young people in the Dakotas and beyond. Our staff is committed to helping kids see Jesus during their week at Dakota Adventist Camps!



Article & photos by Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director, and Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director.

# DAKOTA ADVENTURIST CAMPS

SUMMER 2023

*Flag Mountain Camp*  
 CUB (ages 8-10)      June 14-18  
 JUNIOR (ages 11-13)      June 18-25  
 TEEN (ages 14-17)      June 25-July 2

*Northern Lights Camp*  
 CUB (ages 8-10)      July 12-16  
 JUNIOR (ages 11-13)      July 16-23  
 TEEN (ages 14-17)      July 23-30

REGISTER ONLINE!

REGISTER: [dakotayouthandyoungadults.org](http://dakotayouthandyoungadults.org)

## Kids' Corner

Dakota SDA Kids is taking a summer break from releasing new material. What should we study this fall in our Yellow Chair Devotional time? Crafts? Songs? Stories? Connect with us at [dakotachildrensmministries@gmail.com](mailto:dakotachildrensmministries@gmail.com).



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.*

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## Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

### June -

- 18-25: Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)
- 24: **Dakota Challenge**
- 24: **Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Williston, ND (Revitalization Pt.1)**
- 25: Dakota Executive Committee - Conference Office (10a)
- 25-2: Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

### July -

- 1: **Local Church Budget**
- 1: **Elder Mark Weir preaching in Rapid City, SD**

- 1: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Williston, ND (Revitalization Pt.2)
- 4: Office Closed - Independence Day
- 8: GC World Budget
- 8: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 8: Women's Ministry Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Mitchell, SD
- 8: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grand Forks, ND
- 12-16: Cub Camp at Northern Lights (ages 8-10)
- 15: Local Church Budget
- 15: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Harvey, ND
- 16-23: Junior Camp at Northern Lights (ages 11-13)
- 22: Dakota Challenge
- 22: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Lehr, ND
- 23-30: Teen Camp at Northern Lights (ages 14-17)
- 29: Worthy Student
- 29: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Edgeley, ND
- 29: Edgeley Church - 50th Anniversary
- 31-3: Pastors' Retreat at Northern Lights

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: [www.dakotaadventist.org/events](http://www.dakotaadventist.org/events)

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## Blessed & Kept

May all things be yours.

In 1 Corinthians Paul settles a dispute not by calling one side right and the other wrong. Or even by calling both sides wrong.

He simply said, all things are yours.

May you drop petty disagreements you have with others.

May you find truth in unexpected places.

May you accept that all truth is God's truth, even when that truth might be associated with some questionable things and questionable people.

In your acceptance of truth from unexpected places, may you also find yourself associated with those unquestionable things. For so was Jesus associated with questionable things.

May your experiences with questionable people allow you to see them with new eyes.

May you leave those experiences convinced of the image of God planted within them.

May you come to see that even our greatest divisions are trivial faced up against the enormous love God has for every one of us.

May every thought, every decision, every breath give you more and more certainty that the grounding of your entire being is the deep and wide and boundless love of God.

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

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## June 22 Dispatch Photo



*Photo by Myndi Clements at Sylvan Lake in South Dakota.*

The Dakota Conference Communication Department is always looking for beautiful photos to use in the *Dakota Dispatch*, *Dakota Messenger*, the website, and more. If you are willing to share, please send them to [j.dossenko@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com) with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

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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)

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- [!\[\]\(2f0a16d48331670e3ba1ef62cc117e02\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(f54e37e084c1f0536e5af6fd7937c2e4\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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