



## Nothing to Fear

**This is the 63rd 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 8**

Scandinavian evangelists including A.V. Rhoads, M. Ruskjer, O. Ronning, and, later, German evangelists M.H. Schuster and R.T. Nash aided in the work among the multi-cultural settlers of District 7, establishing a church of twenty-two members at Zenith (Stark County) by 1915, companies or Sabbath Schools at Belfield (Stark County), Fryberg (Billings County), Freda (Grant County), and Amidon (Slope County) as well as adding strength to the existing church at Beach. The westward surge of the Adventist church in North Dakota is further demonstrated by the fact that camp meetings were held in 1917 at Wibaux, Montana (across the state line from Beach) and at Belfield during 1918.<sup>44</sup>

Some of the Scandinavians, like Lars Neilsen, employed the methods of the German itinerant evangelists primarily in their work, answering specific calls wherever interest arose from a variety of sources, often the witnessing of a Scandinavian Adventist settler to his new neighbors. Neilsen started a Scandinavian Sabbath School at Eckman (Bottineau County) in 1908 from such a contact, and organized Swedish Churches at Skogmo (Sheridan County) and at Anamoose (McHenry County), (or perhaps a single church made up of members from the area between the two towns) in 1909.<sup>45</sup>

Other Scandinavian evangelists, however, followed the pattern of Martin Olsen, who made Valley City his headquarters and, although branching out to organize a Scandinavian church at Woodworth in 1919 and working with small groups (some may have been organized companies or churches) at Wilton, Lincoln, Lisbon,

Cooperstown (Griggs County), Wimbledon (Barnes County), Clifford (Trail County) or even as distant as Bowsmont (Pembina County), always returning to encourage and reinforce the local congregation that considered him its pastor.<sup>46</sup>

Two of the Scandinavians carried this emerging pastoral concept even further with the aid of their wives, who proved to be effective Bible workers and pastoral assistants in the absence of their husbands.

In 1909, A.V. Rhoads and his wife moved to Minot becoming the first Seventh-day Adventists in one of the state's largest towns and N.M. and Bertha Jorgensen moved from Velva to Grand Forks, where the church had dwindled down to only two members and had possibly been officially disbanded. Neither man actually served as pastor of his respective headquarters church, as the word is used in modern terms. Rhoads, for example, in addition to his extensive work west of the Missouri, conducted a crusade at Leonard (Cass County), apparently resulting in the organization of a company as early as 1910, and assisted M. Ruskjer in the organization of the Harvery Swedish church early in 1914.<sup>47</sup>

But each man, and in his absence, his wife, worked diligently in his home territory also, and provided a rallying point for new and existing church members and the visibility needed to help get other conference resources channeled to the needs of his "pastorate."<sup>48</sup>

44. *Ibid.*, August 15, 1911, 4,5; December 30, 1913, 3; February 16, 1915, 3,4; July 24, 1917, 1; April 9, 1918, 4; August 6, 1918, 2; August 20, 1918, 7; February 18, 1919 4; May 20, 1919, 2,3.

45. *Ibid.*, October 6, 1908, 5; September 7, 1909, 4,5.

46. *Ibid.*, August 25, 1908, 3; December 29, 1908, 4; October 27, 1908, 7; May 4, 1909, 5; November 9, 1909, 5; September 13, 1910, 5; September 12, 1911, 5; April 9, 1912, 6; March 28, 1916, 5; November 5, 1918, 2.

47. *Ibid.*, September 15, 1908, 3; July 6, 1909, 5; October 5, 1909, 3; January 20, 1914, 2.

48. *Ibid.*, January 17, 1911, 6; November 8, 1910, 5,6.

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

#### **Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 9 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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<p><b>MULTI-PARTY</b></p> <p><b>RUMMAGE</b></p>  <p><b>SALE</b></p> <p><b>FUNDRAISER</b></p> <p><b>Starting July 20th</b></p>	<p><b>BRENTWOOD ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL</b></p> <p>Fundraiser For Our Parking Lot, Basketball Court, and New Playground Equipment!</p> <p><b>Just off HWY 83, North of the Gun Club</b></p> <p>9111 Wentworth Dr. Bismarck, ND 58503</p> <p>Thursday 20th 11:00AM - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Friday 21st 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday 23rd 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Wednesday 26th 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Thursday 27th 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Friday 28th 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday 30th 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM</p>
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## Jesus, Our Creator

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." On the surface, that looks pretty cut and dried. I would like to plead with anyone reading this to take ten minutes, get your Bible out, and read the first two chapters of Genesis.

I realize that there are some who are only Old Testament or only New Testament Christians. I can only say that Jesus had only the Old Testament and that He inspired the New Testament (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It was not until reading the New Testament that I had light on this subject that helped me understand our topic more fully. John 1: verses 1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." It's a fair question to ask, who is this "Word"? The safest way to get the right answer is to go to the Bible. If we will just drop down to verse 14 we read, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." That is as straightforward as we can find. There is only one who can fill this description and that is Jesus.

If that isn't proof enough, turn to Colossians 1:16-17, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." Paul very plainly explains that to us.

I'm in my 55<sup>th</sup> year of construction, and if there is anything I have learned it is that you have to have a good foundation to build on or your house will fall. The same goes for our spiritual foundation. We can't base our whole faith on one or two

verses, much less on tradition. We are told in Hebrews 1:1-3, “God, who at various times and in various ways, spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High.”

I believe that we have had enough evidence to know beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Jesus was the creator of all things. As we look at the next issue's article, this one will give us faith and hope to believe that He has a vested interest in each and every one of us. God bless and guide us all into a closer walk with Him.

*Worship Thoughts by Gary Messer, member of the Richardton Adventist Church in North Dakota.*

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## You are Invited



**What:** Spiritual Feast Weekend

**Where:** Northern Lights Camp

**Speaker:** Elder Ted Struntz, Conference Youth & Young Adult Director

**When:** August 4-6, 2023

Friday evening Vespers begins at 8:00p.

Sabbath School starts at 10:00a with the church service to follow.

Sabbath lunch and supper will be potlucks (supper will be around the campfire), and all other meals will be on your own. For lodging, contact Scott Timothy at: 701.839.5118. Bring your own bedding and personal items.

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## Lehr Prairie Bible Camp

Prairie Bible Camp is a rural, non-denominational youth camp that has been established for over 100 years. It is held at the Lehr Tabernacle, located one mile east of Lehr, North Dakota. This year's event took place on June 13-16, and the camp buzzed with 70 attendees, aged 8-18. For the last 13 years, Adventist youth from across the Dakota Conference and beyond have been involved in leading out as directors and staff of the camp. Prairie Bible Camp has provided amazing opportunities for outreach and evangelism in the community. Camp is run in conjunction with the local non-denominational country camp meeting and in the evening, adults from the community come and join the kids for an evening meeting sermon. This year the evening sermons were presented by Roper Karges, an Adventist young adult from Hazen, North Dakota. The topics covered each evening were the great controversy, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

This year's camp theme was "The King's Character" and the directors focused on better understanding God. They talked about God, His true character, and how the world misunderstands Him and thinks that He desires judgment and death—That He punishes people indefinitely and takes loved ones away. This is not who God truly is. He is a God of love who wants only the best for us as a good Father.

The week of Prairie Bible Camp was filled with devotionals, crafts, field games, water games, service projects, skits, campfires, and much more. One of the fun opportunities provided was a question-and-answer time with the kids to answer the life and spiritual questions that they have on their hearts but aren't getting answers to at home or in their churches. The staff members dug into their Bibles and life experiences to answer the questions from a Biblical perspective. The kids asked probing questions like: "Why did God put the tree in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve to sin? If God knows what we'll choose, why do we have choices? How do I know when or how God is speaking to me?" In conjunction with the theme of exploring God's character, staff members had the opportunity to share a *Steps to Christ* with each camper.

Each year it is so exciting to see how God leads, how He touches hearts, and to see how hearts and doors are opened in the community! Please join in praying for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit in these young people's hearts!



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

## New Leadership at DAA

The Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has recently extended a call to Raman Sathiyaseelan, also known as Mr. Sathiya – pronounced Sateeya. As he completes his visa papers, Pastor Gary D. Wilson, a retired Adventist educator, will be filling in to start the school year.

Raman Sathiyaseelan was born in Sri Lanka and finished high school at Lakphana Adventist College. He then went on to Spicer Adventist College in India and completed an undergraduate degree from Southern Adventist University as an accounting major. He stayed on and completed his master's degree in education and administration from Andrews University.



Sathiya moved back to Sri Lanka and served at Lakpahana Adventist College as a teacher and vice principal for seven years (2007-2013). He then taught at Adventist International School in Sri Lanka as an economic, business studies, and accounting

teacher from 2013-2015. In 2015, Sathiya accepted a call to serve as a teacher at Chiang Mai Adventist Academy in Thailand (2015-2018). He has just finished five years in Guam Micronesia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists as principal of Ebeye Adventist K-12 School.

In his own words, "I'm grateful that God is allowing me and my family to join Dakota Adventist Academy as principal. In my spare time, I enjoy outdoor activities such as sports [Sathiya is a very good cricket player], hiking, and swimming. I also enjoy reading. My vision for DAA is to make sure that every child who wants an Adventist education can receive it; and for those students to draw closer to Jesus and have a strong relationship with Him and know that He is always with them to have a wonderful life."

His wife, Naw Pa Saw Wah, was born in Myanmar and is also a graduate of Spicer Adventist College. She has a degree in elementary education. The couple has four children: Jonathan, David, Karen Jane, and Samuel Marshal.

Pastor Gary D. Wilson has served with his wife Kathleen as an Adventist educator for 52 years. Their most recent term was in Egypt. Wilson has served several schools in varied areas of North America, as principal and teacher, and overseas in Guam Micronesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. He has also done over 25 Maranatha trips with his students and preached or directed ten *Share Him* evangelistic campaigns. God has allowed him to visit and work in over 40 countries. "I believe God has directed Sathiya to the Dakotas and I know God has great plans for DAA in the coming years!"



*Article and photos submitted by Gary D. Wilson, interim principal at Dakota Adventist Academy.*

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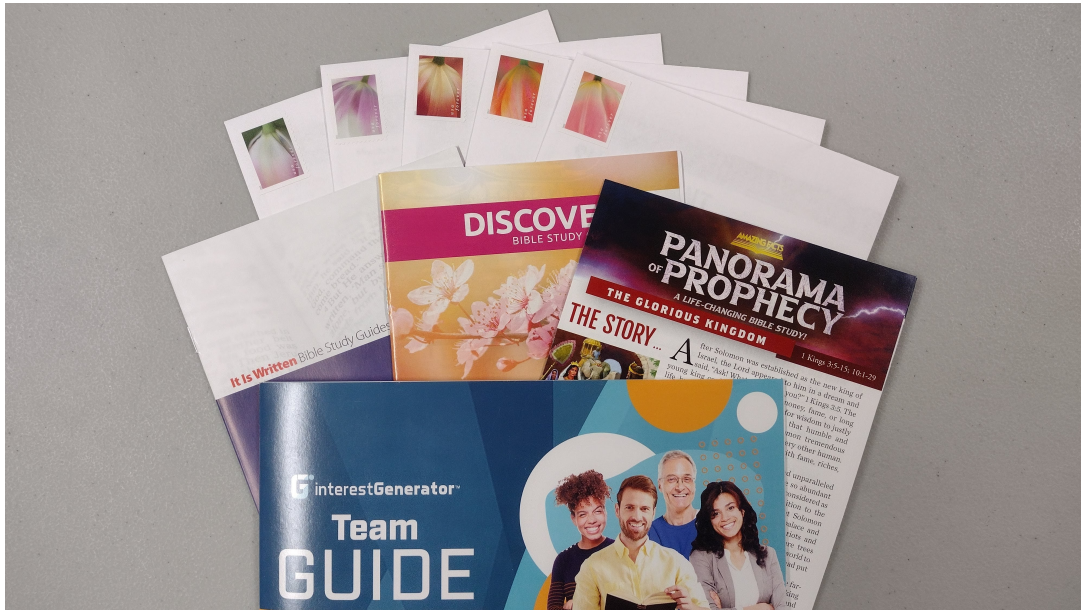
## **Harvey District Starts LeadGenerator Program**

June marked the beginning of Pastor Harold Chin's church district's third month in SermonView's LeadGenerator program. Earlier this year, Harvey, Manfred, and Bowdon Country churches were presented with a Bible study generating opportunity and each church's members decided they wanted to try out other means of getting the gospel message out to more people.

Instead of each church working independently, they all decided to work together

compiling Bible studies and other inspirational material to send to prospective interests. As Pastor Harold spoke with the representatives from SermonView to work out the details of their campaign, it was discovered that the area's population wasn't high enough to qualify for the guarantee they were offering of "five leads per month or your money back." Pastor Harold went back to the churches and they each expressed they didn't care about the guarantee - "Let's just go ahead with it!" To date, the district has received ten interests!

Please add the Bowdon Country / Harvey / Manfred church district to your prayer list as they continue to reach out to those who are hungering and thirsting for Jesus!



*The picture is just a sample of the Bible studies, most of which are being mailed to the interests (one individual is receiving studies via email). Also pictured is the leadership guide detailing how best to communicate with the interests that are sent to the churches.*

*Article and photo by Pr. Harold Chin of the Bowdon Country/ Harvey / Manfred district in North Dakota.*

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## Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

**Theme:** Freedom, Military, Law Enforcement, First Responders

**Pastoral Staff:** Jason Logan, Brian Norton

**Education Staff:** Betty Hay, Janna Wright, Thomas Chapman, Madison Hudema

**Office Staff:** Cindy Miller, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir



**Adventist Entities:** Beulah Church, Bowman Church, Grassy Butte Church, Invitation Hill Church, Invitation Hill School, Richardton Church

**Southwest, North Dakota:** Bowman, Hettinger, Dickinson, Beulah, Hazen, Grassy Butte, Richardton, Standing Rock Reservation

**Other:** Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders

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



**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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0l4MDI1mc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Dakota Youth & Young Adults

On Tuesday morning, bright and early at 7am, my son was glum on the deck of our cabin at summer camp. When I asked what was wrong, he said, "There's absolutely no wind and I signed up for sailing for the first period. How am I supposed to sail to Canada if there's no wind?!?" (❤️😞😞)

We are at Northern Lights Camp, right on the North Dakota-Canadian border (Manitoba).

"Oh, don't worry!" I said. "It'll work out! Did you pray for God to send wind?" *We also could use some wind to blow out the smoke from Canadian wildfires*, I thought.

"Yussss, but there's still no wind!"

"Just be patient. God heard your prayer." I said, as I silently prayed for God to answer the prayer of this little boy who is growing his faith.

Within two hours, we had winds up to 20mph, and my husband, Michael Bohlman, had to go along to help with the two young boys. They had a blast!

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them (Mark 11:24 NKJV)."



Photos and article adapted from Jaime Bohlman's Facebook post. Jaime is a member of the Hot Springs Adventist Church in South Dakota and one of the doctors on our Dakota Camp medical team.

Although the camp season is almost over, it is not too late to sign up for Teen Camp at Northern Lights! It will begin on Sunday, July 23, and last one glorious week. [Click here](#) to register! Here are some photos from Northern Lights cub and junior camps to make our case. We are so proud of our Summer Camp program and our workers!



Photos by Jahsoulay Walton, Dakota Summer Camp staff member.

## 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 [dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com](mailto:dakotachildrensministries@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.

### July -

- 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: Pastors' Retreat at Northern Lights

### August -

- 1-3: Pastors' Retreat at Northern Lights
- 4-6: Spiritual Feast at Northern Lights with [Elder Ted Struntz preaching](#)
- [5: Local Church Budget](#)
- [5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Richardton, ND](#)
- [5: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Custer, SD](#)
- 7-10: North American Division Teachers' Conference in Phoenix, AZ
- 9-13: Dakota Conference Pathfinder Camporee at Flag Mountain Camp
- [12: North American Division Christian Record](#)
- 12: Outdoor Church in Washburn, ND -- Mandan / Minot / Turtle Lake led
- 13: DAA Registration
- 14: Dakota Constitution and Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 18-20: Black Hills Convocation at Flag Mountain
- [19: Local Church Budget](#)
- [19: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD \(Revitalization Pt. 1\)](#)
- [19: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Turtle Lake, ND](#)
- 19: Outdoor Church in Medora -- Bowman / Grassy Butte / Richardton district led (10:30a)
- [26: Dakota Challenge](#)
- [26: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD \(Revitalization Pt. 2\)](#)
- 27: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

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 sorrow receive an audience in your heart.

May you accept your sorrow as a valid emotional response to whatever it is you are experiencing.

May you allow yourself to feel it fully.

May you listen to sorrow, for she is wise beyond her years.

May she lead you along the lengthy road of healing.

May you step into the complexity of the human experience.

May you gladly receive moments of joy in the midst of your sorrow.

May you give yourself permission to feel both joy and sorrow at the same time.

May you know in your heart, that the path you are taking will lead you to wholeness.

May you take hope in how God is mending that which has been broken inside of you.

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

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## July 20 Dispatch Photo



*Photo by Lily Metz, member of the Mandan Adventist Church, taken near Center, North 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)

***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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  - [!\[\]\(ba6dc7fecffbf82e7fd414c1c97a1ece\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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