



Nothing to Fear

This is the 70th 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 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - Part 4

A correspondence allegedly began between Mrs. Rowen and the Mills that resulted in an invitation to come to Philadelphia, accompanied by a check to cover her expenses. Mrs. Rowen claimed that she returned the check in order to pay her own way, and not to presume on their kindness.

From Philadelphia, Mrs. Rowen wrote letters back to her followers in Los Angeles telling of her "mother's" delight in receiving her daughter back again. She wrote of how her wealthy mother insisted on sending her an allowance from time to time and making her heir to the family fortune. She said that Mr. Mills brought out the deeds to a whole city block which he owned, offering them to Mrs. Rowen; she refused the offer, she explained, when she learned that there was a saloon on the block.

On her return to California, she brought with her a signed affidavit from a Dr. E.C. Cavanaugh of Philadelphia which described her physical condition in vision, and a picture of herself with her "mother", Mrs. Mills.

We now know, of course, that the Mills, the Gillettes, and Dr. Cavanaugh simply did not exist. The Mills alleged wealth provided a simple, plausible explanation for the substantial sums of money Mrs. Rowen received from time to time, sums that were tithes and donations she diverted from her organization, the Los Angeles, California Seventhday Adventist Reform Church. The picture of Mrs. Rowen and her mother was a composite of two pictures of Mrs. Rowen, one dressed and made up to look young, the other to look as old as possible!

But at the time, it appeared to be the ultimate proof of Margaret Rowen's authenticity, for who would make up about herself such a scandalous story?³⁰

The third piece of evidence to which Mrs. Rowen's followers clung, even after her movement began to fall apart in the mid-1920s was the so-called "St. Helena document."

Sometime in 1919, Margaret Rowen explained to Dr. and Mrs. Fullmer that she had some time ago seen in vision that there was a document in the files of the writings of Ellen White at her Elmshaven home in St. Helena, California, that named Margaret Rowen as her successor in the prophetic office. Mrs. Rowen claimed that on a subsequent visit to Elmshaven, she had seen such a document in the files. Eager to read it but afraid of the reaction of W.C. White, who had charge of the files, she took the document and put it in her purse.

Now she felt that it needed to be returned and nothing said about it again!

The Fullmers volunteered to undertake the mission, and during a November 11, 1919, visit to Elmshaven, Dr. Fullmer secretly placed the forged document in the 1911 manuscript files.

About a month later, F.L Richardson, an Adventist minister who had become a Rowen follower, arrived at Elmshaven to search for the document. He did not know about Dr. Fullmer's placing the paper in the file, but was acting on the word of Mrs. Rowen who told him that the document could be found in the files from 1910 or later.

Presently, Richardson, W.C. White, and his son Arthur, came across a document that described a falling away in the church and the work of a reformer who would encourage prayer bands as a means of bringing the people back to God, and closed with the words "I saw that many of the leaders refused to accept the messenger. I saw that the one sent of God was one of limited education, small in stature, and would sign the messages, Margaret W. Rowen." The document was signed, Ellen G. White.

Numerous discrepancies in format, size, and even the signature pointed to forgery. Mrs. Rowen was called in to discuss the matter. After examining the document, she announced that indeed it was a forgery, but explained that the wording on the document was identical with what she had seen in vision, therefore there must be a genuine one somewhere.

A few days later, W.C. White received a genuine-looking copy of the document, with a proper signature accompanying a letter from an Elsie Miller who claimed to have stolen the genuine and replaced it with the false.

This letter and document were, of course, also forgeries, but Mrs. Rowen's disclaimer of the first document as false and the appearance of the second seemed convincing to

those sympathetic with Mrs. Rowen and they looked upon it as a providential series of circumstances.³¹

Even when church leaders branded Mrs. Rowen's visions as spurious, a number of concerned Seventh-day Adventists, troubled over worldly trends in the church saw no possible harm in her appeals for the formation of small prayer bands as a vehicle for reform within the church. It was not until the end of 1923, when Mrs. Rowen began to predict the return of Christ on February 6, 1925, that many of these people began to reevaluate her claims and find other errors and inconsistencies.³²

30. *Ibid.*, 8-22.

31. *Ibid.*, 22-38.

32. Arthur White states that the exact time Margaret Rowen began predicting the return of Christ is not known. (*Ibid.*, 48). The Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia ("Reformed Seventh-day Adventist - Rowenite," 1058.) says that it was November of 1923.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - 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/communiques/dakota-dispatch>

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

DAA Fall Festival



Arrive early, at 6:15p, to attend Dakota Adventist Academy's National Honor Society Chapter for Vespers and induction for new members.

At the Fall Festival, DAA's senior class will be doing a silent auction to raise funds for

their class trip and gift. If you have an item you would like to donate, please reach out to Ryan Peterson via text or call at: 605.228.5049.

Rejoice!

The other morning when I let in my dog, Oreo, two of my outdoor cats waltzed in as well. One was Tortellini. She hasn't quite yet embraced the fact that we want her to be an outside kitty, so we are constantly picking her up from the food dish and gently relocating her to the outdoors.

While Tortellini scurried to the food dish, the other cat stayed right by my side at the open door. In fact, he started rubbing on my ankles appreciatively.

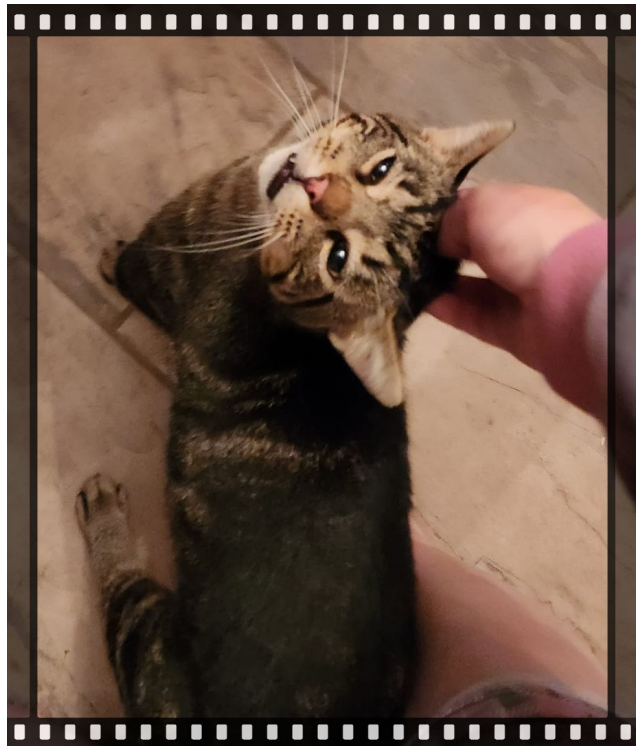
Funny, I thought. Nugget isn't usually so bold about being indoors. If Nugget comes in, he usually slinks under a chair or behind a couch, in stealth mode, so he won't be noticed and then sent back out. And this cat is slimmer and blacker than I remember. Wait a minute! This isn't Nugget at all. It's Stan! Stan has returned!!

I scooped up my long-lost cat and sat in the rocking chair to give him my full attention.

Silly Stan has a habit of disappearing for weeks or even months at a time, and then reappearing out of the blue. We think he might wander two to four miles away to another farm because his coat looks shiny, and he looks healthy and happy.

Whatever his reason for returning, I was happy to see him. I took lots of pictures and shared the good news with all my kids.

I still love Tortellini and Nugget (and Pedro and Tiny and Jorge). Stan's return hasn't made me love my other cats any less, but Stan's return was cause for great rejoicing.



Just think how Christ rejoices with the angels in heaven when one of his lost souls returns home. We would do well to celebrate together with the one who came back, and not turn him away.

I didn't tell Stan to go away. I didn't reject him just because he chose to wander away from me. I didn't tell him to go back to where he wandered off. Not at all. I gave him prime lap time, my best cat food, a dish of water, and told him, "Welcome home."

In Luke 15:7 it states, "In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

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](#).

WE ARE HIRING

Join the Dakota
Conference elementary
teaching team. Scan
the QR code for more
information.

- **Sioux Falls
K-8 Head Teacher**



Contact: education@dakotasda.org

Custer Church Hosts Special Song Service

On May 20, 2023, a heartfelt event unfolded at the Custer Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Dakota. George Mintle's sisters, along with his brother-in-law and niece,

gathered to share their musical talents in a memorable song service. The larger congregation, which numbered more than 30 people that day, was a refreshing change from the church's typical attendance of around 10, and it was a significant blessing for all involved.

This group had a history of performing gospel music in various towns and venues for several years, although they hadn't sung together extensively since 2004. The day was particularly meaningful, as it allowed George and the attendees to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit and the love of God when they raised their voices in harmony. Such moments, when the family of God unites to make a joyful noise, are truly cherished.

In the photo, from left to right, you can see George Mintle, who serves as the head elder of the Custer Church; his brother-in-law Alan Ewoldt; his sister Velma Ewoldt, who, along with her husband, runs a hometown grocery store in Thedford, NE; his niece Caitlin Simmonds, a farrier; and his sister Sylvia Mintle, who works as a BSN at a hospital in North Platte, NE. Both Sylvia and Caitlin call Thedford home. Their presence at the church and their melodious offering to God made it a memorable and uplifting occasion.



Story and photos submitted by George Mintle, head elder of the Custer Adventist Church in SD.

Knightly Knews: DAA Newsletter

DAKOTA
Adventist Academy
— Est. 1902 —

Knightly Knews

Your way to stay up-to-date on the happenings of Dakota Adventist Academy

If you are interested in receiving the *Knightly Knews*, a monthly newsletter about the happenings

at Dakota Adventist Academy, [click here](#) to sign up!

HAPPY

PASTOR APPRECIATION

MONTH!

"And I will give you
pastors according
to mine heart, which
shall feed you with
knowledge and
understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15
(KJV 1900)



The Dakota Conference is grateful to the pastors in this region! Thank you for the time and effort that each of you pour into your church and congregation!

[Click here](#) to read Jodi Dossenko's recent article, published in Mid-America Union's [OUTLOOK Magazine](#), about Dakota pastors and their "Undeniable Call to Ministry."

Dakota Constituency Town Halls

DAKOTA CONFERENCE TOWN HALLS

Constituency Delegates & Guests Welcome

Sioux Falls - Nov 11, 5:30p
Bismarck - Nov 28, 6:30p
Minot - Nov 29, 6:30p
Jamestown - Dec 4, 6:30p

Dickinson - Dec 6, 6:30p
Aberdeen - Dec 12, 6:30p
Fargo - Jan 3, 6:30p
Rapid City - Jan 9, 6:30p

Each meeting will be held at the local church.



The purpose of the Town Hall meetings is to:

- Provide orientation regarding procedures, processes, and session rules of order
- Discuss any issues pertaining to the session
- Gain input and advice from the representatives of local churches
- Raise issues that may be added to the session agenda
- Elect representatives to serve on the nominating committee for the constituency session.

Town Hall meetings will be held at the local Adventist Church; see graphic for locations and times. These meetings are geared primarily towards delegates, but all members are encouraged to attend and support your conference. Please plan to arrive and register approximately 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each church supports its own delegates; consider carpooling to save expenses.

Regional Church Breakdown:

- **Sioux Falls:** Hurley, Huron, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Yankton
- **Bismarck:** Bismarck, DAA, Goodrich, Mandan, McClusky
- **Minot:** Bottineau, Bowdon Country, Harvey, Manfred, Minot, Turtle Lake
- **Jamestown:** Cleveland, Edgeley, Jamestown, New Home
- **Dickinson:** Beulah, Bison, Bowman, Grassy Butte, Invitation Hill, Richardton, Watford City, Williston
- **Aberdeen:** Aberdeen, Bowdle, Ellendale, Kulm, Lehr, Pierre, Watertown
- **Fargo:** Fargo, Grand Forks, Wahpeton
- **Rapid City:** Custer, Hermosa, Hot Springs, Rapid City, Spearfish

Youth & Young Adults

It's hard to believe that winter weather has arrived, but the snow outside proves that it has. After a busy summer, it feels just a little sad to know that both of our camps are off-limits for the next six months; they are completely winterized and buttoned up for the winter season.

So much happened at our camps this past summer! We had new programs and activities for our campers and life-long memories for all involved in our camp ministry. It was a lot of fun to watch the excitement of campers as they fished at Flag Mountain Camp (catch and release only), skied or sailed for the first time at Northern Lights Camp, and practiced hitting the bullseye in archery. However, my favorite memories every year are our evening worships. Nothing makes me smile more than the memories of the staff and campers singing praises to God.

In addition to these great memories, our staff and campers also took home stories of

God's hand at work over and over again during camp this summer. One amazing experience happened on a Friday evening as we were preparing for the Sabbath and the agape dinner at Flag Mountain Camp. We had been having a tremendous amount of rain, but thankfully it had stopped late that Friday afternoon. Around 6 PM, as I was working at the sink in the kitchen, all of a sudden there was a loud "boom," and the lights went out. I looked out the window and saw that the transformer on the electrical pole was on fire. Immediately, I yelled to our camp ranger, Nathan, that we had a fire, as I cleaned my hands and headed to grab a fire extinguisher. Praise the Lord for Nathan! He immediately grabbed a nearby fire extinguisher and headed toward the pole. In case you are wondering, yes, a standard-size fire extinguisher does have the power to put out a fire as high up as a transformer. With the fire out, we were tasked with contacting the power company to come out to camp on a Friday evening. It took some time, but we finally got in touch with the right person to get help on the way.

We all took a few minutes to pray and ask God to send help as soon as possible. We also prayed that the lack of power wouldn't ruin our Friday night program. Now all we could do was trust and wait.

Fortunately, since we always eat outside on the porch during Friday's agape dinner at FMC, lighting wasn't a huge problem, but after we were done, we were still without power, and it was getting dark outside. So, we had our Friday night vespers with the last of the sun's rays providing light. Darkness couldn't stop the praise to our Savior or the decisions that were made that night to have Jesus be a Forever Friend. As we finished worship, the power crew showed up and started to work. In a short period of time, by 9:30 PM, electricity was back on, and we thanked God for His blessings to us.

We are blessed to have our camps here in the Dakotas. They aren't just places where campers come to play; they are sacred ground, where God works daily to show young people He is a God who cares and answers prayers. Our camps are places where the King of the Universe demonstrates His power to His children.



Article by Pastor Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director. Photos by Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director, and Jahsoulay Walton, 2023 Dakota Camp worker. **Note: pictures of power crew were taken in night mode and therefore appear lighter.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Thanksgiving - For God's Abundant Blessings

Pastoral Staff: Darrel Lindensmith, Nate Skaife, Mike Garcia

Education Staff: Trudy Smith, Dusty Ricketts, Dixie Thoman, Laura Zakari

Office Staff: Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir, Connie Seibold

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

Adventist Entities: Fargo Church, Wahpeton Church, Ellendale Church, Jamestown Church, Hillcrest School, Cleveland Church

Southeast, North Dakota: Fargo, Moorhead, MN, Wahpeton, Ellendale, Jamestown, Cleveland, Edgeley

Other: Native American Ministries, North American Division (NAD)

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

Kids' Corner

Due to Kelli's workload, she won't be creating any additional video series at this time. If you are interested in contributing devotional or craft videos to be shared with our conference kids, please contact her at 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 elementary education superintendent.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching/visitation schedule is in blue.

Conference Regionals and Town Hall schedule is in green.

October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 26-31: NAD Year-end Meetings - Columbia, MD
- 28: NAD Voice of Prophecy
- 28: DAA Church-to-Church Program in Hermosa, SD

November -

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grassy Butte, ND
- 4: DAA National Honor Society Vespers (6:15p)
- 4: DAA Fall Festival (7:30p)
- 5: K-12 Board of Education - Conference Office (10a)
- 6: Dakota Constitution and Bylaws Committee - Zoom (7p)
- 7: Executive Committee - Zoom (7p)
- 11: Dakota Challenge

- 11: Sioux Falls Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 11: Sioux Falls Constituency Town Hall Meeting (5:30p)
- 13-16: MAUC Year-end Meetings - Lincoln, NE
- 16: MAUC Executive Committee - Lincoln, NE (9a)
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 18: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdle, SD
- 18: DAA Church-to-Church Program in Spearfish, SD
- 22-23: Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 25: Annual Sacrifice
- 28: Bismarck Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 29: Minot Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)

December -

- 2: Local Church Budget
- 2: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Sioux Falls, SD
- 2: Jodi Dossenko singing in Fargo, ND
- 2: DAA Church-to-Church Program in Turtle Lake, ND
- 4: Jamestown Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 6: Dickinson Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 9: NAD Adventist Community Services
- 9: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Spearfish, SD
- 10: Executive Committee - Conference Office (10a)
- 12: Aberdeen Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 15: DAA Celebration of Praise
- 16: DAA Celebration of Praise and Bismarck Regional - DAA (10a)
- 16: Dakota Challenge

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

Blessed & Kept

May you believe the prayer, “your kingdom come, your will be done ON EARTH”

May you stop seeing the world as a detour on your road trip to Heaven.

May you embrace this world that God loves as your home.

May you not ignore the struggles of the world.

Rather, may you, like God, step into the struggles of the world to bring hope and healing.

May you remember the rainbow, and its promise that God will never, ever give up on humanity.

May you take a similar long term view of your life on planet earth.

May you settle in for the long haul.

May this encourage you, for you have a lifetime to bring about the kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven.

May you then, be the answer to the prayer of Jesus.

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

October 26 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken in Sims, near Almont, North Dakota, by Paulette Bullinger, member of the Mandan Adventist Church and Conference women's ministries director.

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 communication@dakotasda.org with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

If you have local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles, and pictures to: communication@dakotasda.org

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 communication@dakotasda.org. Bison [Copyright](#). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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- [!\[\]\(781510d64f329bf3c880acf086e884d6_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(93cdf5b84f2bfec404f7441e84b6ba5c_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(0f0f932ce3b5577a82f34ad23239a6e5_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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