



Nothing to Fear

This is the 72nd 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 6

Mrs. Rowen's influence was apparently only among the German churches, giving evidence of close ties to the German reformers.

Although this notion may well be disputed, the public blend of the two movements seems to be the only way to resolve the many paradoxes that exist concerning the "reform movement" in North Dakota.

The influence of Margaret Rowen is unmistakable, as we shall see, but at the core, the movement seems to be more German in its orientation. So far as we know, Mrs. Rowen had no formal organization outside of Los Angeles, just groups meeting together in various places. The North Dakota "reform movement" had church and even "conference" organizations in the mid-1920s, characteristic of the German-based reform movement.³⁷

Furthermore, the continuation of the "reform movement", without interruption, after the failure of Mrs. Rowen's February 6, 1925, prophecy and subsequent events, gives strong evidence that the "reform movement" in North Dakota was based on more than Margaret Rowen.

The explanation that seems most plausible, based on the available evidence, is that Mrs. Rowen, working in conjunction with the German reformers, was perceived as being part of the "reform movement;" there was no distinction between the two groups in the minds of the North Dakotans. Some perhaps even perceived her to be the prophetess of the "reform

movement". Apparently, neither Mrs. Rowen nor the Germans sought to correct the erroneous notion that the two groups were really one.

Perhaps, the more spectacular elements of the early years of the "movement," such as Mrs. Rowen's disastrous prediction of the return of Christ in 1925, apparently fixed the notion that the movement was homogeneously Rowenite in this period. Later, with Rowenite influence removed, the movement is perceived to be homogeneously that of the German Reform. But in reality, there was only one "movement," one that began in the mid-1920s and ended at the close of the 1930s, as an examination of the most prominent highlights of this period shows.

In Lehr, a separate Reform church was established with a building of its own, diagonally across the street from the regular Seventh-day Adventist Church. Early members cite the issues of military service and health reform - the issues of the German group - as the basis of the split and note that the Reform church was in operation for years following the collapse of the Rowen movement. But others in the community remember sound trucks cruising the streets of Lehr, proclaiming that Jesus was coming,

At Cleveland, a similarly confused picture emerges. Those who remember the events of the period consistently link Margaret Rowen with known representatives of the German Reform Movement when they list the leaders of the "reform movement" in Cleveland. Their recollections also include vivid memories of one Cleveland member, Fred Reile, who joined the "reform movement" and believed that Jesus would return February 6, 1925.

Interestingly, an article in the *Northern Union Reaper* from April of 1925, carries a statement from Reile, repudiating the "reform movement." The article also states that Reile was treasurer of the movement's "conference" in North Dakota, a statement essentially confirmed by Oscar Kramer, a retired leader of the German Reform Movement. And yet, the *Reaper* article, written by Conference President Henry Meyer, within two months of the February 6 Rowen debacle is totally silent regarding the ill-fated prophecy! Once again, the blend of the two movements, with the German element dominant, seems to be the inescapable conclusion.

The Cleveland church building was almost lost to the "reform movement" when the individual who had donated the land for the church joined the dissident group. Fortunately, the deed to the property had been legally recorded and the church was retained.

Successful in attracting substantial support from the Cleveland members as well as from remnants of the Holbenslabon movement (now members of a Sabbath-keeping Church of God) the "reform movement" established one of its three distinct groups in North Dakota at Cleveland.³⁹

37. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 14, 1925, 5, 6.

38. Interviews with Gotthelf Schweigert of Eugene, Oregon, a former member of the Lehr Reform church and Mrs. Reinhold Miller of Lehr, North Dakota, who recalls the sound truck incident, conducted in November, 1977.

39. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 14, 1925, 5, 6; Telephone conversations with Emmanuel Haas of Jamestown, North Dakota, and Oscar Kramer (retired leader of the German Reform Movement) of Sacramento, California, May 1978.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - 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.

JOIN US FOR
*Celebration
of Praise*

COUPLED WITH THE BISMARCK REGIONAL


Dakota Adventist Academy
15905 Sheyenne Circle
Bismarck ND 58503

Schedule of Events

Friday, December 15
7:00p - Music Program & Speaker
Social Hour to follow

Sabbath, December 16
10:00a - Sabbath School
11:00a - Church
12:15p - Lunch in Cafeteria
1:30p - Afternoon Session
3:00p - DAA Student Christmas Concert
Social Hour to follow

Join us for a joyous Celebration of Praise Weekend themed "How Far is it to Bethlehem?" with guest speaker Elder Hubert Morel Jr., Mid-America Union Vice President of Administration. Sabbath lunch will be provided by Dakota Adventist Academy, but please bring a dessert to share.



A Radiant Face

This morning I got a taste of how Moses must have felt after he came off the mountain communing with the Lord.

The Israelites were in the wilderness, and Moses disappeared up Mount Sinai for 40 days to commune with the Lord and to have God write His commands on a second set of stone tablets Moses brought with him.

When Moses came back down, his face was all aglow. Exodus 34:29 says his face was

radiant BECAUSE HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE LORD.

And the people who saw his radiant face presumably felt the shame of their own sins and were afraid to come near him.



So, back to my story this morning...My Toyota Highlander factory settings for dims had apparently too much radiance for oncoming traffic. About half the people I met flashed their brights at me.

Sometimes I flashed back to prove I could get even brighter. Sometimes I just kept driving with my dims on and apologized to them, as if they could hear me.

It was clear that I was unacceptably bright, so I stopped at OK Tire after dropping my teen at school and asked if there was a way to adjust my dims so that people would stop flashing me.

Indeed, they found a way to adjust it with just a few clicks downward.

Hopefully, it will be just enough to stop the angry flashings on my next early morning drive.

Moses covered his radiant face with a veil except when he entered the holy place to commune with the Lord. Every time he came out of his meetings, his face was radiant.

It's interesting how we can tell when someone is close to the Lord. They glow differently.

And, hopefully, oncoming traffic won't be offended by that glow.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

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](#).

Mad About Marriage Seminar in Watertown

On March 24-25, 2023, the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a "Mad About Marriage" seminar led by Mike Tucker from *LifeStyle Magazine*. The event drew seven guests from the public who attended three sessions.

Following the seminar, six weeks of follow-up meetings took place every Sabbath afternoon. Church members led these sessions using the "Mad About Marriage" curriculum.

One couple who attended all sessions found the experience to be potentially life-changing and suggested that the course should be mandatory for all couples before marriage.

This particular couple has stayed in touch with some church members and expressed an interest in attending church someday. The hope is that they will join the congregation for worship. The "Mad About Marriage" seminar left a positive impact, evident in the lives of participants.



Article by Darla Anderson, head elder of the Watertown Adventist Church in South Dakota. Graphic taken from the [Mad About Marriage Facebook site](#).

A Spirit-filled Year of Growth

The Yankton and Hurley Seventh-day Adventist churches in South Dakota experienced a spiritually enriching year in 2023, marked by engaging evangelism series, new memberships, and reconnections with former members.

Commencing the year with a powerful evangelism series in March, Yankton witnessed miraculous results. One former member reconnected with the church, two others joined, and a new family embraced the teachings, becoming cherished members. These outcomes testify to the continuous blessings in the Yankton Adventist Church.

In late October, Hurley Adventist Church concluded an impactful public series, addressing age-old and contemporary truths. Over the course of the meetings, 16 guests attended; two attended faithfully throughout the series. This success fuels the determination of both Yankton and Hurley churches to persist in evangelistic efforts.

Both congregations take pride in members actively reaching out to neighbors, friends, and family. Recognizing evangelism as an ongoing process vital in these Last Days, the commitment of Yankton and Hurley members underscores their dedication to fostering spiritual growth and community bonds.

As 2023 concludes, Yankton and Hurley Adventist churches stand as beacons of faith, embracing challenges and triumphs. Through evangelism, the return of former members, the inclusion of new families, and unwavering commitment, these churches continue to spread the gospel and nurture a vibrant community, inspiring others on their spiritual journeys.



Article by Pr. Roy Morris, pastor of the Hurley / Yankton church district in South Dakota. Photos by Elder Mark Piotrowski, Conference vp of administration.

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!

Investing in the Future: Richard Ray Accepts Associate Treasurer Position

The Dakota Conference is pleased to welcome Richard Ray as its new associate treasurer, succeeding Cindy Miller, who is set to retire in early 2024. Richard brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to service that aligns with the conference's values.

A graduate of Weimar Academy in California, Richard's professional journey began with over ten years of service in the United States Army. Starting as a lab tech, he later transitioned to Human Resources, showcasing his adaptability and diverse skill set. Richard holds an associate degree in medical laboratory technology and a bachelor's degree in business with a focus on accounting.



For the past nine years, Richard has served as the business officer manager at Lisbon and Valley City hospitals in North Dakota. His background in both healthcare and business management positions him well for the responsibilities of the Associate Treasurer role.

Richard's journey to the Dakota Conference Office was unexpectedly divine. During a challenging period at his former job, his father-in-law spotted the associate treasurer ad in *OUTLOOK Magazine* and shared it with Richard. This led him to explore the opportunity, where he found a sense of direction and purpose.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Richard shares a deep passion for youth and their role in the future of the church. He and his wife, Betsy, have been married for 23 years and have three children: Rosalyn (Troy), Tori, and Teddy. The couple has made a conscious decision to invest in children's programs, recognizing the significance of nurturing the next generation. Richard emphasizes, "They are an important investment. Not a lot of people are willing to take charge, but it is something we CAN do and want to do."

As Richard undergoes training with Cindy Miller, the Dakota Conference eagerly anticipates the positive impact he will bring to the team. His unique blend of military, healthcare, and business experience, coupled with a commitment to youth development, aligns with the values and mission of the Conference. With great enthusiasm for continued growth and success, the Dakota Conference looks forward to Richard Ray's leadership as associate treasurer.

Article and photo of Richard by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director. Family photo submitted by Richard Ray, Conference associate treasurer.



Dakota Constituency Town Halls

DAKOTA CONFERENCE TOWN HALLS
Constituency Delegates & Guests Welcome

Sioux Falls - Nov 11, 5:30p	Dickinson - Dec 6, 6:30p
Bismarck - Nov 28, 6:30p	Aberdeen - Dec 12, 6:30p
Minot - Nov 29, 6:30p	Fargo - Jan 3, 6:30p
Jamestown - Dec 4, 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
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Youth & Young Adults

One of the things that we do really well here in the Dakotas is plant seeds—millions of them each year. Some plant seeds professionally for a cash crop, some plant seeds for the joy of planting a summer garden, and some plant for both reasons. Whatever one's motivation, planting seeds is extremely rewarding. You start out with an open piece of land and watch as the seeds sprout and grow.

When I was 12, my grandparents moved to Tennessee, and one of the first jobs I helped my grandfather with was clearing land for my grandmother's garden. She wanted to start with an acre. We were working in the shed when I found a baggie filled with all kinds of seeds, not sorted by kind, just all thrown together into one big mass. My grandmother told me that she got the baggie from her mom. I knew what some of the seeds were but had no idea what others were. I held them in my hands and wondered what they would grow to be; it was a mystery I just had to solve. I wanted to plant them all, so I could discover what they were. Thankfully, my grandmother supported my curiosity and excitement. We set aside a portion of the garden to plant the seeds we couldn't easily identify. It turned out that many of them were herbs and a variety of flowers. To me, it was worth it—no matter the mess and having to transplant some because they were annuals. It was worth it to see the tiny seeds grow.

As I reflect on this past year of ministry for summer camp and club ministries, I see that a lot of seeds were planted. With almost twelve weeks of camp-focused ministry—including the Pathfinder Camporee, many of the youth of our Conference had life-changing experiences. What those seeds will grow up to be, I don't know; however, what I do know is that they will grow. Some of them may need to be transplanted so that they can thrive and produce fruit. Others may be right where they need to be; only God knows. However, we all have the opportunity to nurture our youth as they grow in God. May each one of us take on this privilege of being farmers for Jesus.



Article by Pastor Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director. Photos by Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director, and Jahsoulay Walton, Dakota Camp staff employee.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for **December**:

Theme: Coming Advent - Remembering the First Coming, Applying the Spirit, Looking for the Second Coming

Pastoral Staff: Roy Morris, Darren Purdy

Education Staff: Greg Ratter, Karen Ratter

Office Staff: Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Yankton, Hurley, Brookings, Vermillion, Yankton Reservation

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

**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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDlmc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Other: General Conference (GC) & World Divisions

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

Kids' Corner

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" is a 25-day activity devotional for the whole family created by the North American Division (NAD) Children's Ministries Department. This devotional will take you through the first 25 days of December to help you celebrate and remember Jesus, the real reason for the season. [Click here](#) to visit the NAD website and print all sorts of fun resources including memory games, sticker sheets, and countdown calendars.



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.

December -

- 9: NAD Adventist Community Services
- 9: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Spearfish, SD
- 10: Executive Committee - Conference Office (10a)
- 11: Constitution & Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 12: Aberdeen Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 15: DAA Celebration of Praise (7p) - Speaker Elder Hubert Morel Jr.
- 16: DAA Celebration of Praise and Bismarck Regional - DAA (10a) - Speaker Elder Hubert Morel Jr.
- 16: Dakota Challenge
- 23: Local Church Budget
- 25: Office Closed - Christmas
- 30: Dakota Evangelism

January -

- 3: Fargo Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Fargo, ND
- 9: Rapid City Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 15: Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19-20: Jamestown Youth Weekend
- 20: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 21: K-12 Board of Education - Conference Office (10a)
- 21: School Board Member Training (2p)
- 22-25: Pastors' Meetings - Conference Office
- 27: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Manfred, ND

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

Blessed & Kept

May you mourn the loss of the things you let go of yesterday.

Yesterday, you were blessed with clarity to let go of things in your life that hold you back, rob your joy, and keep your focus away from what really matters.

Today, may you accept the loss of things that had been important to you.

May you pay proper respect for those things—your previous feelings about them were real and valid.

May you allow yourself to feel whatever emotion comes with letting go.

Even though you know it will be better for you to let go, may you feel sad, scared, angry, anxious, or whatever emotion you experience—it's all part of the process. And you can't skip the steps.

May you attain closure so that the death of these things in your life can begin to sprout new life.

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

December 7 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken near Hermosa, South Dakota, by Bonnie Rolof, member of the Dakota Conference Adventist Church.

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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 - [!\[\]\(1e9d865c5de095f8e3304757c49e79d7_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
 - [!\[\]\(735b10d724a5f0ec5005c4eb3eb9c9d1_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(e6250f05bc27fa93236b816562b699f9_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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