



Nothing to Fear

This is the 74th 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 8

Major North Dakota daily newspapers carried lengthy, front page articles about Rowen and her followers, in the days just before and after February 6, including detailed reports of the actions of Rowenite groups in Washington D.C., New York, Nebraska and California, and quoted C.S. Miller, pastor of the Colledgeview, Nebraska, Adventist church that “*he had been told* that in North and South Dakota, some of the followers of the Rowen theory had sold their farms to await the end,” and were using the proceeds to “broadcast Mrs. Rowen's propaganda.” (emphasis supplied) ⁴⁴

Several papers quoted an official statement issued by the church headquarters in Jamestown, that “February 6, 1925, will pass without the return of Jesus, to the dismay and chagrin of the supporters of the Rowenite theory.” The *Grand Forks Herald* quoted church leaders as declaring that they “had no record of persons of their faith or *of the followers of the Hollywood woman* selling their personal effects or real estate in anticipation of the allegedly (sic) crack of doom .” (emphasis supplied) ⁴⁵

Weekly newspapers in the areas of known “reform movement” influence are silent on local manifestations of Rowenite activity around February 6. Only an editorial in the *Foster County Independent* even mentions the event at all, talking generically of “thousands over the United States who sold or gave away their earthly possessions in preparation for the ascension into heaven.”⁴⁶

The total lack of specific North Dakota example in the extensive coverage given the Rowen

incident by the contemporary press must cast doubt on the notion of the existence of major pockets of Rowenite influence in North Dakota by the time her prophecy failed.

The obvious conclusion is that both Rowenite and German influences existed in North Dakota from the earliest stages, each using the other for the common purpose of attacking the organized church. It seems that Margaret Rowen and the Germans were considered to be two facets of the overall "reform movement" by the people exposed to it in the 1920s in North Dakota. Although the Rowen influence is undeniable, the core issues upon which the "movement" in North Dakota was based were those of the German Reform and not the flimsy claims of Margaret Rowen. When Rowen dropped out of the picture, the movement did not cease with her, but went on in its other emphasis.

Considering the obvious cooperation of the two movements in the mid 1920's in North Dakota, and the embarrassment the Rowen debacle must have been to the German Reform Movement, it is interesting to note that two of the most prominent German leaders who worked in North Dakota in this time period, Jacob Miller and Heinrich Spanknoebel, two of the signers, with B.E. Fullmer, of the 1922 *Open Appeal*, were later repudiated by the German Reform Movement.⁴⁷

There may have also been a few followers of the "reform movement" in the Bismarck-Mandan area where Miller worked and later established a "Naturopathic Rest Home," theoretically operated in accordance with ideal health reform principles.⁴⁸

Perhaps in response to the criticism of the reformers regarding health reform, the 1923 North Dakota Conference session (the one that disbanded the Cathay church for alleged Rowenite involvement) approved a resolution recommending that, church members "heed the instruction in the *Testimonies* regarding the evil effects of the use of tea and coffee and...discard the use of flesh foods...discourage the use of patent medicines and drugs...and...study how to use simple water treatments." Another recommendation "dealt very specifically with...the guarding of the pulpit against occupancy by false teachers."⁴⁹

After February 6, 1925, passed, Margaret Rowen's influence declined rapidly, apparently disappearing from North Dakota altogether in a short time. She tried in vain to hold her disintegrating movement together with a variety of stunts including staging before witnesses her death and resurrection.

Dr. Fullmer, by now accumulating considerable evidence of Rowen's questionable activities, used the pages of her own publication to expose her as a fraud. With the help of two associates, Mrs. Rowen tried unsuccessfully to murder Fullmer in 1927 to silence the investigation he was conducting.

After less than a year in prison for the attempt, during which time she was a model prisoner and worked for the conversion of fellow prisoners, Mrs. Rowen was released on parole. She violated her parole and tried to resume her former activities. Soon after, Margaret Rowen

was lost in obscurity and apparently died in the 1940s.⁵⁰

Because of the German Reform element, the “reform movement” in North Dakota survived the Rowen debacle and was strengthened by subsequent visits from the movement’s leaders.⁵¹ About 1940, North Dakota Conference President, Daniel Wall, aided by Daniel D. Kurtz, former elder of the Cathay church and “superintendent” of the North Dakota Reform Movement, who had become disenchanted with the Reform Movement, had recognized its negative influence and had returned to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, made a concerted, successful effort to reunite the two rival Seventh-day Adventist churches in Lehr, spelling the doom of the “reform movement” in North Dakota.⁵²

While many details of the bizarre convergence of these two movements in North Dakota in the 1920s will probably always be unclear, the lessons to be learned do not suffer from such ambiguity.

However noble the motives of the reformers, the evidence indicates that the movement soon became a catch-all for dissidents of various types. The actions of these extremists in their attacks on church practices brought a response from the church leaders that was often hasty, over-reactionary, and lacking in Christian love. As a result, many sincere people were severed from church fellowship with the dissidents and became embittered. Only a few, comparatively speaking, ever returned.

Furthermore, the internal squabble between Adventist groups largely nullified the work of both groups in the communities affected and served to create prolonged prejudice and misunderstanding.

These reform movements were neither the first nor the last that have arisen, neither will the church ever be secure from them as long as a supercritical spirit exists. If reliving these experiences will underline the truth that such a spirit carries with it the seeds of its own self-destruction, the sad tale of the reform movement in North Dakota will not have been told in vain.

44. *Jamestown Daily Alert*, February 6, 1925, 1; February 7, 1925, 1; *Grand Forks Herald*, February 6, 1925, 1; February 7, 1925, 1.

45. *Ibid.*

46. *Foster County Independent*, February 12, 1925, 2.

47. Telephone conversation with Oscar Kramer, May, 1978.

48. See “Pictures of the Past” section of this book for a photograph of Miller and his Naturopathic Rest Home.

49. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, II, (unpaged), draft of resolution from plans committee; *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, August 30, 1923, 17.

50. Arthur L. White, “The Margaret Rowen Story,” *op. cit.*, 52-66; “Reformed Seventh-day Adventist-Rowenite,” *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1058.

51. Telephone conversation with Oscar Kramer, May, 1978.

52. Conversations with Harold Miller of Napoleon, North Dakota, a witness to the events, 1978.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 14: Hard Times, Good Times - Part 1 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:

dakotaadventist.org/communiques/dakota-dispatch

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



For more information and to register, [click here](#) visit our website.

Just Right

Sometimes the best tool for the job isn't the shiniest, biggest, or most expensive one. Sometimes all those frills and fluff and special features of the "better" tools get in the way. Never underestimate the effectiveness of a simple tool.

My little orange screwdriver was the only tool I could use to remove some screws tucked into the corner of my big wooden desk. The corded drill driver couldn't even reach the screw, and the other screwdrivers had big heads that couldn't sink into the slot of the screw. They were useless to me—expensive tools I had invested a lot of money in, but worthless in this instance.

My little orange screwdriver, on the other hand, cost less than \$4 and didn't have a magnetic head, a cushioned grip, or electrical power. It was just a simple slotted screwdriver. Yet it could reach into the corner, and it slid firmly into the slotted screw head. Getting the screw to turn around was easy with the right tool!

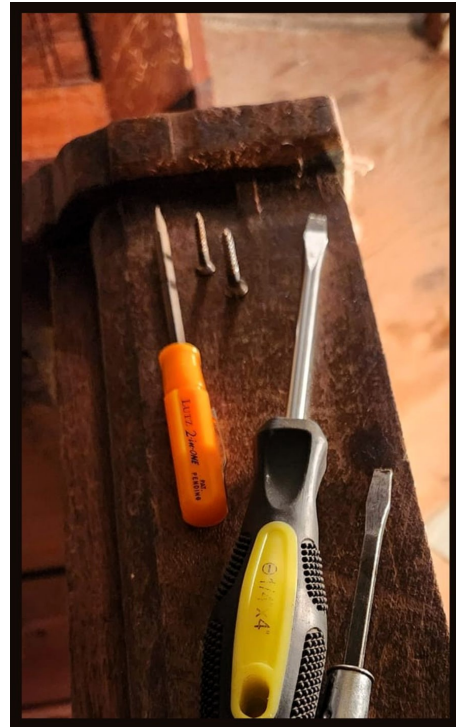
You might not think you are big enough, rich enough, or fluent enough. Never forget that God created you just as you are for a very specific purpose. When God calls you, it is

because He knows what He can do through you that He can't do through any other person.

You are just the right size with the right life experiences and the right demeanor to reach out and impact someone else's life. God wants to use you, just as you are.

You are enough. You are perfect.

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13: 20-21).



Worship Thoughts and photos 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](#).

Robotic Club Competition Held at DAA

A robotics competition was organized by FIRST Robotics Club in Bismarck, where twenty-four schools participated in the annual Robotics Club Competition. The event was held in Dakota Adventist Academy's gymnasium on January 12, 2024.

Instructor Ryan Peterson leads the Robotics Club of Dakota Adventist Academy. The first semester is dedicated to teaching the students the basics of robotics.

The students compete with other schools in the second semester, showcasing their robot-building skills. The club's objectives are to encourage innovation, creativity, and teamwork while exhibiting the potential of robotics. Ultimately, the club hopes to inspire future engineers and inventors.

The competition had several challenges, including obstacle courses, speed tests, and mock battles. Each challenge tested the robot's ability to navigate various terrains, complete tasks, and outsmart its opponents.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement as the robots from different clubs went head-to-head, showing off their unique features and capabilities.

Some robots were designed for speed, while others were built for brute strength or precision movements.

Spectators watched in awe as the robots performed various tasks, such as picking up objects, climbing walls, and shooting projectiles.

The competition was judged by a panel of experts from the robotics industry, who evaluated each robot's performance based on several criteria, including speed, accuracy, and innovation.



Article by Sathiyaseelan Raman, DAA principal. Photos by Darla Reed, DAA recruiter.

Hot Springs Community Learning to Eat More Healthfully

According to the Lakota legend, the Native American tribe treasured the southern Black Hills of South Dakota for its warm waters, which they believed held the power for healing. Now, members of the Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church are working to rebuild that reputation of health in their community. On the second Monday of every month, members of the church's Health Ministries Department gather with the community for the Plant-based Supper Club, which includes a meal featuring plant-based deliciousness, a cooking demonstration showing how to prepare these foods, a medical presentation (led by physicians) on the health benefits of plant-based eating and other lifestyle choices, and an interactive, motivational discussion to close the evening. Attendance has grown steadily with each session; the last one in January 2024 had over 40 people in attendance (with about 20 people from the community). The church may soon need to face the "problem" of having to find a larger space to hold the classes (certainly, not a bad problem to have)!

Having recently obtained board certification in Lifestyle Medicine to add to her 17-year experience as a board-certified pediatrician, Jaime Bohlman MD resurrected the Health Ministries Department at Hot Springs Adventist Church with the passionate goal of

educating the community about the importance of LIFESTYLE to health. “I want everyone to realize that with lifestyle changes—such as diet, exercise, fresh air, sunlight, rest, and a healthy social-spiritual rooting—one surely CAN prevent, treat, AND reverse the chronic diseases that plague our nation today. I have seen many people reduce and even come off of chronic medications for high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, inflammatory diseases, and cholesterol—just by changing their diet, getting healthy exercise, and managing stress! The best part? This is what we have known for over a century as our Adventist health message,” she says. “Currently, we are seeing trends moving back towards lifestyle as medicine. By capturing the interest of the community to health as it is relevant to their lives, we are given the unique opportunity to introduce the Gospel to someone who otherwise might be closed to our witness. In real-time, we are seeing the fulfillment of Ellen White’s prediction that the health message IS the ‘right hand of the gospel’ and that is so exciting!”

The Hot Springs Church members are a TEAM! Special recognition goes to Pastor Nathan and Charolet James, menu and demonstration leaders; the “unnamed” graphic designer and group discussion facilitator; Anne Darnall and Wanda Sitzman, kitchen and chef support; doctors Michael and Jaime Bohlman, physician presenters; and other Hot Springs Adventist Church members, whose roles included taste testers, greeters, and support staff, for their ongoing dedication to the health ministry of the Adventist Church in the Hot Springs, South Dakota, area.



Would you like to see samples of the Hot Springs Church's recipe books or medical handouts (including bona fide medical studies explained in simple terms)? Check out the

Health Resources' page of their website by [clicking here](#).

Article and photos submitted by Dr. Jaime Bohlman—member, elder, clerk, communication director, Pathfinders director, and more at the Hot Springs Adventist Church.

Knightly Knews: DAA Newsletter



If you are interested in receiving the *Knightly Knews*, a monthly newsletter about the happenings at Dakota Adventist Academy, [click here](#) to sign up!

Grand Forks Church Welcomes New Members

The Grand Forks Adventist Church in North Dakota joyfully welcomed three new members into their community. On January 28, Olivia and Odele Rajpathy, both students at the University of North Dakota, were baptized. In addition, their mother, Minnie Kalyanasundaram, joined the church through a profession of faith. All three women are dedicated professionals in the medical field, and they have expressed their commitment to contributing to the campus ministry mission in the Refugee Camps in 2025.

The baptisms were officiated by Pastor Darrel Lindensmith from the Fargo/Wahpeton church district, who made the journey to Grand Forks for this special occasion. Adding to the joy of the day, Pastor Mike Temple and his family were present to witness and celebrate this significant moment in the church's life. The entire congregation looks forward to the continued growth and fellowship with these new members as they embark on their spiritual journey together.



Photos submitted by Pr. Darrel Lindensmith, pastor of the Fargo/Wahpeton church district; and Leanne Erickson, head teacher at Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary in Grand Forks.

Rapid City School Hosts Jaime Jorge Concert

Do you ever get that feeling where you just can't stop smiling, no matter what happens? I experienced that very thing this past fall when our school in Rapid City, South Dakota, hosted a concert featuring world-renowned violinist, Jaime Jorge, on October 14, 2023.

Jaime graciously agreed to perform at our church to help raise money for the school. The one day that worked for everyone's schedule just happened to coincide with the Rapid City Regional date, so there were church members from the whole region who attended. There were also community members who heard about the concert and came to listen.

The music was beautiful! After a busy Regional Sabbath, it was lovely to just sit back, close my eyes, and listen to relaxing music. During the concert, Jaime talked about how important Adventist Education is and how it helped change his life.

As the event came to a close, Jaime shared information about the specific causes our school was fundraising for, including our Worthy Student fund and enhancements to our gym and playground. All students participated by passing out pledge cards and envelopes. The donations were counted during the final song, and I had the privilege of announcing the impressive total amount raised—\$13,847! When I saw the figure, my jaw dropped, I started to smile, and it seemed like I couldn't stop smiling for two days straight! In the nine years that I have been at this school, we have never raised so much money in one night.

We feel so blessed to have received all these generous donations, enabling our students to attend our school and have a nicer place to play and learn. I would like to thank everyone who participated that night and who gave to help make the fundraiser a success.



Article by Jamie Howell, head teacher of the Rapid City Adventist Elementary School. Photos by Annabelle Harper, upper grades teacher at RCAES; and Stephen Wasemiller, communication director for the Rapid City Adventist Church.

Youth & Young Adults

Summer camp is a BIG part of our youth department ministry in our conference, and finding and recruiting quality staff is vital to our successful summer camp ministry. This year, we started our college recruiting in the Ortner Center at Union College, where the youth directors from around the MAUC encouraged young people to join camp ministries. We were excited to meet with many young people interested in summer camp ministry. It was awesome to hear their stories, share stories of our own, and pray together for God's leading in their lives.

Following our time at Union College, Lynnette and I traveled to Southern Adventist University to visit with previous staff and meet with new ones. It was so great to see our Dakota Adventist Camps summer staff family! It brought back so many of our summer memories, and it was great to take time to reminisce about the miracles and highlights of the previous two summers. At each stop, it is exciting to share with prospective staff the ministry that takes place at Dakota Adventist Camps. Very few conferences provide a two-camp experience for the staff and even some of our campers, and it is a privilege to share the mission of our camps with others.

This year a large number of our 2023 staff is returning to once again be a blessing to our

campers. We are excited that so many of our staff family is returning for another year of ministry together. It's going to be a great summer! Please pray for our 2024 recruiting and those staff that join us for summer ministry. We still have a few spots available. If you know of a young person interested in summer camp ministry, please encourage them to visit our website and apply online: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org.

If you have campers, you can also register them now at the website above! Registration opened on February 1. Be sure to reserve your spot today! We are looking forward to an awesome summer in the Dakotas!



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

Make Memories this Summer!



Have Fun



Make Friends



Sharpen Skills



Relax & Unwind



Register
Online!

Flag Mountain Camp Hill City, SD

CUB (ages 8-10) **June 12-16**
JUNIOR (ages 11-13) **June 16-23**
TEEN (ages 14-17) **June 23-30**

Northern Lights Camp Bottineau, ND

CUB (ages 8-10) **July 10-14**
JUNIOR (ages 11-13) **July 14-21**
TEEN (ages 14-17) **July 21-28**



Conquer Fears



DAKOTA ADVENTIST CAMPS

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Blessings for Blended Families

Pastoral Staff: Barry St. Clair

Office Staff: Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Bison Church

Northwest, South Dakota: Bison, Rosebud Reservation

Other: Blended Families, Single People, Married Couples, Single Parents, Widowed People, Grandparents

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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVvXT0l4MDlmc2NoZz09>



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

Kids' Corner

It's time to get ready for Vacation Bible School! VBS is a fabulous evangelistic ministry for your community and leaves a lifelong impact in children's lives as they fall in love with Jesus. This year's theme is, "Thunder Island: Where Jesus is Always With Me." The kit is currently on sale from AdventSource for \$125 and resources are available on the Adventist VBS website. Learn more at: adventistvbs.org



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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...), 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.

February -

- 3: Local Church Budget
- 3: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Pierre, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 4: Dakota Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom (10a)
- 5: Constitution & Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 10: Adventist TV Ministries
- 10: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Pierre, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 17: Local Church Budget
- 23-24: DAA Preview Days
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Dickinson, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 25: Constitution & Bylaws Committee at Conference Office (Time TBD)

March -

- 1-3: Pathfinder Bible Bowl and Pinewood Derby at DAA
- 2: Local Church Budget
- 2: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Dickinson, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 3: K-12 Board at Conference Office (10a)
- 8-10: Men's Retreat at Medora, ND
- 9: Secondary Endowment
- 9: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Minot, ND
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 16: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Sioux Falls, SD
- 16: Mid-America Union Pathfinder Bible Bowl in Lincoln, NE
- 23: Dakota Challenge
- 23: Dickinson Regional with Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 24: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 24-26: New in Ministry Meetings at Conference Office

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

Blessed & Kept

May you trust the promise.

You are never alone.

May the presence of Christ overwhelm you.

May the scales of stress, worry, and pursuit of your own desires fall from your eyes so that you may see God.

May the burning bushes you normally miss be unavoidable.

May you stand on holy ground.

As you recognize the now obvious presence of God in your place of work,
May you erect an altar as Jacob did declaring, surely God is in this place and I was not aware of it.
May this physical altar, be it an object in some place of prominence, a sticky note on your laptop, a drawing on the whiteboard, or even your favorite pen, may this altar serve as a reminder of God's continued presence with you.
May you look on this altar for the rest of the week, month, and year and say a prayer of thanks that even in the darkest times you are not abandoned.
May you remember in those moments that the creator and sustainer of all creation is rooting for you.

May you trust the promise of Jesus,

I am with you always. Even to the end of time.

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

February 1 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken in Stutsman County by Chrystal Rittenbach, member of the Jamestown Adventist Church in North Dakota.

The Dakota Conference Communication Department is always looking for beautiful photos to use in the *Dakota Dispatch*, the *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.

Communication Director / Editor - Jodi Dossenko

E-mail: communication@dakotasda.org

If you have local church news or stories to share,
please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles,
and pictures to the email listed above.

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 the Communication Department at communication@dakotasda.org. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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