



Nothing to Fear

This is the 78th 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 14: Hard Times, Good Times - Part 4

Despite the good intentions of the delegates and the leadership of Henry Meyer, a poor enrollment continued to hang, like a Damoclean sword over the embattled academy. The 1923 constituency session approved a recommendation that North Dakota church members send their children to Sheyenne River Academy for their academy years, rather than to “a school carrying college work,” and Conference President Meyer lamented that several such schools “send their solicitors to North Dakota year after year, yet in the academic grades they have nothing better to offer, only that it costs more.”¹³

The 1924 session noted that of the more than 1200 young people between the ages of six and twenty-five in North Dakota church families, less than one-half were baptized with fewer than 200 attending denominational schools, and urged the church members to send “all young people of academy age to Sheyenne River Academy.”¹⁴

In the meantime, Sheyenne River Academy's enrollment which had rallied slightly following the crisis of 1922 had sagged dramatically to only about sixty-five students by 1925.¹⁵

Fortunately for Sheyenne River Academy, the economic cycle had once again begun to

turn toward prosperity, and although the fundamental problems had not been faced and solved, academy losses could once again be subsidized, if necessary, and talk of closing Sheyenne River Academy abated and disappeared.

During the next five years, a series of undoubtedly providential events occurred which most probably saved Sheyenne River Academy from certain death in the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl years, lurking just around time's corner.

The presidency of Henry Meyer, as we shall see, was a watershed event in the history of the North Dakota Conference, giving stability and continuity to the work of the church. Sheyenne River Academy having gone through three principals since the crisis surfaced in 1922, with the Depression relentlessly approaching, needed similarly stable leadership.¹⁶

In the meantime, Clinton Theological Seminary, which had been so successful in attracting students (many from North Dakota) to its academy-level classes but had never been able to repeat that accomplishment in its post-secondary seminary years, closed its doors in 1925 and merged with Broadview College and Theological Seminary.¹⁷

A former professor of the Clinton Seminary, R. R. Neumann, became principal and business manager of Sheyenne River Academy in 1925, bringing with him hundreds of dollars worth of equipment and furnishings from the now-defunct seminary.

With some of the prestige of the German seminary, in the person of Neumann, now coming to North Dakota, Meyer could visualize a reversal in the exodus of students from the state, and while reporting triumphantly on the new acquisitions from Clinton, announced the "firm intention to make further improvements in the buildings within the next few months."¹⁸

13. *Ibid.*, August 28, 1923, 5.

14. *Ibid.*, July 22, 1924, 8.

15. Summary of enrollment figures, Sheyenne River Academy Registrar.

16. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, op. cit.*, Art. "Sheyenne River Academy", p. 1190.

17. *Ibid.*, Art. "Clinton Theological Seminary" p. 276.

18. *Northern Union Reaper*, September 1, 1925, 6, 7.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 14: Hard Times, Good Times - 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:

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

Jaime Jorge Concert



You are invited to attend a worship event at the Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, April 13 at 6:30p featuring Jaime Jorge.

The proceeds will support Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School.

Jamestown Adventist Church
1201 4th St NE
Jamestown, North Dakota

A Sower Went Out to Sow

This past spring break at Dakota Adventist Academy, I found myself thinking about sowing in a spiritual sense and how challenging it can be at times to do such work. It is difficult to be a sower for God's work: the stories of Joseph, Elijah, and Paul are a testament to that. For years, Paul struggled with the first-century Christian churches. He traveled throughout the Mediterranean world to do the good work of sowing the seed of the Word of God. Many times, he never got to see the full results of his work.

Often, Paul never fully saw how powerful his own letters were for many of the Christians who were part of the churches that he instructed. He most definitely did not imagine you or me, in the 21st century A.D., cracking open one of his letters to a specific church in the first century and applying them to our own modern lives. God used Paul in an incredible way, and his letters account for 14 of the 27 books of the New Testament and have inspired

countless generations of Christians to live a better life closer to the Savior. Though it may be hard to be a sower, God promises us that He will do an incredible work with the seeds that we, Christians, plant in the hearts and minds of others on a daily basis.



This promise of God is assured to us as shown in Isaiah 55:11, “So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where I sent it.” We, as sowers, do not need to be despondent when hard times arrive. Psalms 126:6 lets us know the end results even before the final stats are accounted for: “He that goes forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Ultimately, sowing is worthwhile, and it will be worthwhile when all things come to a close at the Second Advent of Christ.

As an extension of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Dakota Adventist Academy—and Adventist Education in general, is all about sowing. Though I often wonder if what we do at God’s school will be worthwhile in the end, I know it will be. Habitually, I look back at the seeds that were planted in my own life at our sister school, Maplewood Academy in Minnesota, and I know that the work is worthwhile. Sister White reminds us about the overall impact of a single moment of sowing in *Education* page 109: “What deeds of love the memory of that alabaster box broken for Christ’s anointing has through the long centuries prompted! What countless gifts that contribution, by a poor unnamed widow, of ‘two mites, which make a farthing’ (Mark 12:42), has brought to the Savior’s cause!” Though the work of sowing can be difficult and is at times hard to justify without many returns in the short term, it must continue. As Paul says, we have the mind of Christ, and Christ Himself knew that the process of transformation started with the seed sown and then continued, “First with the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head” (Mark 4:28). In the end, there cannot be a plant without first the seed.

Worship Thoughts by Mr. Gregory Ratter, DAA history teacher. Photo from Canva.

Join Us For Easter

You are invited to join Bismarck-area Adventist churches, March 29-30, at Dakota Adventist Academy for a special weekend entitled, "Light Beyond the Shadows." This will begin at 7:00p on Friday evening with guest speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot.

Elizabeth Talbot merges biblical expertise with life insights. With a Ph.D. in biblical studies and a rich business background, she inspires with practical spiritual guidance. Her media presence (*Jesus 101*) and various books powerfully convey Jesus' message, making her talks a source of deep inspiration and practical faith navigation.

FRIDAY 7:00 PM		SATURDAY 11:00 AM	
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	ON SCREEN	WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	ON SCREEN
PRAISE SERVICE	DAA PRAISE TEAM	PRAISE SERVICE	DAA PRAISE TEAM
SPECIAL FEATURE	DAA CHOIR	OFFERING	PASTOR VERNON HERHOLDT
MESSAGE	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT	SPECIAL MUSIC	SCOTT WINISTORFER
CLOSING SONG	DAA PRAISE TEAM	KIDS FEATURE	PASTOR KRIS DE BRUIN
CLOSING PRAYER	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT		PASTOR JACOB PITTENGER
		MESSAGE	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT
		CLOSING SONG	DAA PRAISE TEAM
		CLOSING PRAYER	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT
SATURDAY 10:00 AM		SATURDAY 12:30 PM	
KIDS	BIBLE CLASSROOM	FELLOWSHIP LUNCH	LOCATED IN THE CAFETERIA
CRADLE ROLL AGES 3-5	UPPER CHAPEL		
PRIMARY & JUNIOR AGES 6-12			
ADULTS & TEENS			
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	ON SCREEN	SATURDAY 2:30 PM	
PRAISE SERVICE	LINDA, BONNIE, & JOE	WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	ON SCREEN
MESSAGE	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT	PRAISE SERVICE	DAN SPILOVOY
CLOSING PRAYER	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT	MESSAGE	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT
		CLOSING SONG	DAN SPILOVOY
		CLOSING PRAYER	DR. ELIZABETH TALBOT

Hurley Church Members Attend Recital

The Hurley Adventist Church would like to congratulate Henrique Fortunato, church member and pianist, on his graduate piano recital last week at the University of South Dakota (USD). Several members of the Hurley church gladly attended Henrique's recital to show their love and support—and they were blown away by his performance!

Henrique moved to Vermillion from Brazil to receive his master's degree in music from USD and plans to continue his education with a doctorate.

The church members are extremely proud of Henrique's accomplishments and thank God for bringing him into their church and into their lives!



Article and photos by Cally Larsen, communication director at the Hurley Adventist Church in South Dakota.

Restore the Joy Series

Join members at the Mandan Adventist Church, April 14-20, for the *Restore the Joy* series with Dr. Craig Carr. Dive into topics like anxiety, work-life balance, identity, and leadership. Starts Sunday at 7:00p, nightly until Friday, with a special Q&A on Saturday at 10:00a and the final seminar “How Jesus Dealt with Anxious People” at 11:00a. Bring friends and neighbors to explore how to lead a joy-filled life. Don't miss this transformative week!

Mandan Adventist Church | 4500 30th Ave NW | Mandan ND 58554



Restore the Joy

PASTOR CRAIG CARR

April 14-20, 2024

Every Night
7:00 PM
Saturday
10:00 and 11:00 AM



OUTLINE OF THE JOURNEY

SUNDAY	Dealing with Anxiety and Stress
MONDAY	Balancing Work and Life
TUESDAY	Discovering Your Identity
WEDNESDAY	Becoming an Emotionally Healthy Leader
THURSDAY	Understanding Family Systems
FRIDAY	Living and Leading
SATURDAY	How Jesus Dealt with Anxious People

PASTOR CRAIG CARR

Craig Carr, a lifelong Jesus-follower and pastor, loves reading, traveling, photography, and running—averaging 40 miles a week, including four marathons a year. As the ministerial director for the Mid-America Union, Craig focuses on teaching work/life balance, emotional well-being, and restoring joy to life and relationships. He lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, with his wife, Carisa, and takes pride in their two adult children.

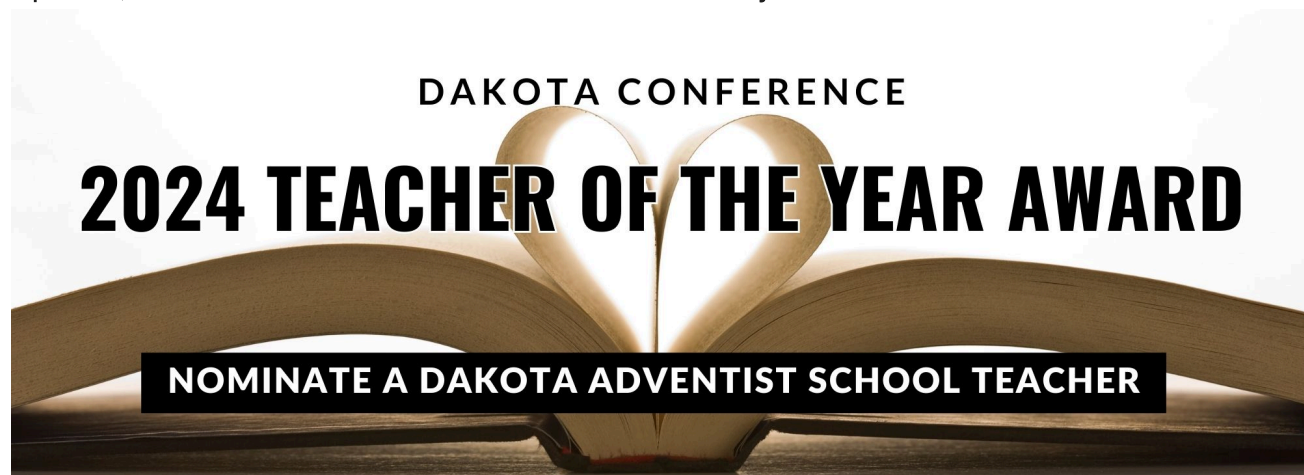


2024 Teacher of the Year Award

The Dakota Conference believes that, “In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, ‘no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.’ 1 Cor. 3:11” (*Education*, p. 30). We are blessed with incredible teachers in the Dakotas, but we annually wish to recognize an elementary teacher and a secondary teacher to honor them for their excellence in the teaching profession.

Award recipients will be selected by the K-12 Board of Education Personnel and Policy Committee and announced during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10, 2024. Recipients will receive a plaque and a \$250 prize.

We encourage colleagues, former/current students, and parents/guardians to submit a nomination form on behalf of a teacher at their local Adventist school. Nominations close on April 15, 2024. [Click here](#) to nominate a teacher today.



Jamestown Church Hosts Grief Seminar

Over the weekend of January 12-14, Steve and Karen Nicola from *Comfort for the Day Ministry* visited Jamestown, North Dakota, to lead a seminar about understanding grief and how to support others going through it. Despite the extreme cold, with wind chills hitting between -55 and -60 degrees, about 20-25 people showed up in person, even though it was recommended to watch online due to the subzero temperature.

The sessions offered practical advice and were well-received by those who attended, making a positive impact. This seminar has helped the church community to deal with past grief and think of new ways to help others in need.

After the seminar, Karen Nicola also ran a smaller grief recovery group for eight people, focusing on dealing with specific losses. This weekend of activities has helped bring the Jamestown Community closer together, giving them tools to support each other better.



Article and photos by Pr. Nate Skaife, pastor of the Jamestown / New Home church district in North Dakota.

Dakota Adventist Academy Work Bee

Dakota Adventist Academy Work Bee



Looking for a way to give back? We are searching for volunteers of all skill levels to donate their time on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Join us at the Academy as we work to revitalize our school while reengaging with our community. Lunch will be provided. Please register online and let us know what skills you can share.

To register, please visit:
dakotaconferenceeducation.org/daa-work-bee

Calling ALL handymen, handywomen, and those with skills in wiring, plumbing, carpentry, sheetrock, sweeping, and cleaning—we need you! If you can hold, carry, or help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our 3rd annual Work Bee on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Lunch will be provided.

This year's Work Bee will take place in the classrooms, boys' dorm, and girls' dorm.

[Click here](#) to fill out a form so we can place you in a suitable work area. Thank you in advance for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!

DAA Boys' Club Banquet

This year, for the boys' club banquet, the boys decided to stage a mystery theater. They spent months practicing their performance, aiming to create something magical for the banquet. All their hard work paid off, and they did a fantastic job of putting on a performance that had the girls laughing and enjoying the festivities. The guys took to this challenge and created an experience that was truly a great spectacle down to the last detail. They also did something unique for the meal that kept the cafeteria staff on their toes.



Article and photos by Mr. Stephen Staff, DAA boys' dean and athletic director.

Fargo Regional

APRIL 13, 2024

FARGO REGIONAL
Never Forget

EVENT SCHEDULE:
10:00A - LESSON STUDY, 11:00A - CHURCH
12:15P - POTLUCK DINNER
1:15P - SEMINAR WITH ELDER PIOTROWSKI, 2:15P - DISMISSAL

The day will start with Sabbath School at 10:00a and will conclude at 2:15p, following an afternoon seminar on church life by Elder Mark Piotrowski. Please bring a potluck dish to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Youth & Young Adults

On March 16, three Dakota Conference Pathfinder Clubs joined 20 other clubs from around the Mid-America Union Conference (MAUC) for the Union Pathfinder Bible Experience held at the College View Church in Lincoln NE. These three clubs, Cleveland Prairie Trails, Black Hills Lightbearers, and Hermosa Battle Creek Warriors, had qualified to participate in the MAUC PBE by earning first-place finishes at the Dakota Conference level on March 2nd at DAA.

The MAUC PBE turned out to be a lengthy program; there were technical difficulties to deal with and a few challenges with the Wi-Fi signal, but our Pathfinders kept their wits together and carried on. The questions were even harder than those they answered on the Conference level. We are so proud of all of them!

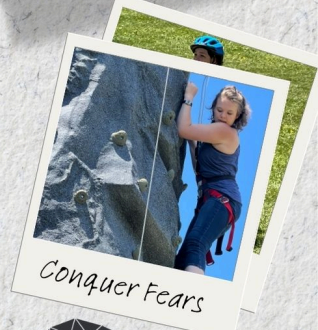
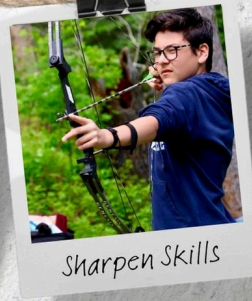
When it was all over, the Black Hills Lightbearers and the Hermosa Battle Creek Warriors earned third-place finishes, and the Cleveland Prairie Trails earned a first-place finish. This means that the Cleveland Prairie Trails team advances to the North American Division PBE held in Greeley, Colorado, on April 20. We will be cheering them on as they represent our Dakota Pathfinders!

We are so proud of our clubs for all the hard work they put into memorizing these two books of Scripture, and we are thankful for all of the support they have had from families and Pathfinder leaders helping them read and memorize scripture. We hope that the Prairie Trails team has great recall as they participate in the final PBE challenge for 2024.



Article by Pastor Ted Struntz, Conference youth and young adults director. Photos submitted by Lynnette Struntz, Conference associate youth and HR director.

Make Memories this Summer!



[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



Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Breaking Ground - Soil Preparation

Pastoral Staff: Stephen Eastwood

Education Staff: Elly Millirans, Delilah Trefl

Office Staff: Julie Brude, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Bowdle Church, Pierre Church, Potential Pierre Church School

North Central, South Dakota: Pierre - SD Capital, Mobridge, Selby, Gettysburg, Eagle Butte, Bowdle, Lemon, Tolstoy

Other: Children of Military Service Men & Women

[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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDlmc2NoZz09>


Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Kids' Corner

Did you know that Pastor Stephen Eastwood from the Pierre/Bowdle church district has a YouTube series full of fun Bible stories for kids?! [Click here](#) to check them out!



It Is Written has launched a special Vacation Bible School series entitled *Flight 3:16*! During *Flight 3:16*, children will visit five exciting countries as they prepare for the ultimate destination—Heaven! This complete VBS kit includes all items needed for 14 children. Start planning your next VBS today! Purchase your kit for \$289.99. Save \$30 when you use

coupon code **Flight316e**. [Click here](#) for more information.

If you are interested in contributing devotional or craft videos to be shared with our Conference kids, please contact Kelli at dakotachildrenministries@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.

March -

- 29-30: Elizabeth Talbot at DAA
- 30: Local Church Budget
- 30: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Manfred, ND
- 30: Youth & Young Adult Director Elder Ted Struntz preaching in New Home, ND

April -

- 1: Office Closed - Easter Monday
- 1-2: Elementary Teacher In-services at Conference Office
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdle, SD
- 6: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in New Home, ND
- 7: Work Bee at DAA
- 13: Dakota Challenge
- 13: Fargo Regional with Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 14: Dakota Conference Nominating Committee at Conference Office (9a)
- 18: MAUC Executive Committee in Lincoln, NE
- 20: Local Church Budget
- 20: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Ellendale, ND

- 21: K-12 Board at Conference Office (10a)
- 23: Executive Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 27: [Hope Channel International](#)
- 27: [Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hurley, SD](#)
- 27: McClusky Ladies' Luncheon at McClusky Church (12:30p)

May -

- 4: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 4: [Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Ellendale, ND](#)
- 5: Union College Graduation
- 6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 11: [ADRA Disaster Relief](#)
- 11: [Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Jamestown, ND](#)
- 11: [Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown, SD](#)
- 18: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 18: [Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hot Springs, ND](#)
- 18: [Youth & Young Adult Director Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Bismarck, ND](#)
- 18: [Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Cleveland, ND](#)
- 24-26: DAA Graduation Weekend

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

Blessed & Kept

The Gravity of Easter: Pondering Jesus's Death and Sacrificial Gift

May you mourn the coming death of Jesus.

Though the death of Jesus has become a source of hope for Christians, may the gravity of His death sink in.

God died.

For however well you know Jesus, may you feel the weight of His death.

May you create space in your heart to grieve the death of one who did not deserve death.

May His act of heroism, sacrificing himself in place of another, make His death worthy of remembrance and His life worthy of imitation.

As you ponder the death of Jesus, may you join the Roman soldier in declaring,

Surely this was the Son of God.

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

March 14 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken in North Dakota by Paulette Bullinger, Conference women's ministry director.

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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 - [!\[\]\(78688513da7a924039ac16e546d7bf8b_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
 - [!\[\]\(508a1136d49b79584e89f03b586dfa9e_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(857a1917d2813fe7f9df1c2d3a9286e1_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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