



Dakota Dispatch

KEEPING DAKOTANS FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS®

70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN MANFRED PHYLLIS NUDD



On July 26th, five generations of Art and Ruth Fischer's family gathered to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 20, 1939 in Mandan, North Dakota by a justice of peace. As no one had rice to throw to celebrate, God "provided" pea-size hail on their way home to milk the cows. The Fischer's are life-long members of the Manfred Seventh-day Adventist Church.

RETIREMENT WITH GOD

PHYLLIS ALEXANDER

Editor's note: This article was originally written for another publication featuring retirees working for the Lord. Due to space constraints, it was not utilized. I believe many will be inspired by the content, and have decided to publish it here (edited) and on the web (in its entirety).

The date was February 6, 1996 as I stood in front of a room full of associates, doctors, church members, and ancillary personnel. After working 21 years at the same hospital, and after 50 years working as a Registered nurse, it was a day to remember.

For several months I had this tremendous dream of putting aside my nursing career and working for the Lord. I had no idea what to do or what God had planned for me, but I could not put this desire out of my mind. I looked at many options to make sure I could retire and still be financially stable and also maintain my standard of living. No matter where I turned every door was opened. I could find no excuse to change my dreams.

As I stood in front of the room full of people I looked at our CEO and told him, "You and many others do not know I will be working for another place of employment. The benefits you offer here are nothing to what I will be receiving. The retirement plan outweighs everything, vacation time has already been allotted to me; I will not receive any sick leave as there is no need. You may be wondering what I will be doing. Next Thursday, I will have applications at my home at 7:00 PM, and you are all welcome to join me. I am going to be working for my Lord. When you come, please BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible), but I have many at home that I can share with you."

I had never given Bible Studies before and with the help of the pastor's wife, I began the studies that Thursday with eleven people coming to my home. Was God ready to employ me? Did He have a role in my life?

Retirement for many people is to travel, to do things they had planned throughout the years. During my nursing years here in Rapid City I had many times been in contact with the media for the newspaper, radio and TV stations, and was well acquainted with them. Now God took that training and put me in situations to use the media outlets for His work.

Another door opened in 1997. I was asked if I would be interested in working in the disaster field, as the Dakota Conference had just gone through the big Red River Flood and discovered they were not prepared for such situations. This was yet another door opened. I began with disaster classes, and every time as a class was available, I increased my knowledge. I never imagined by 2007 I would be Director for Adventist Community Service and Disaster Response for the Dakota Conference.

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The Dakota Dispatch is an electronic publication of the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. Have any news, photos, or information you would like to share? Email submissions to Heidi Shoemaker at heidi@fredandheidi.com.

DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

DAA'S ALUMNI WEEKEND APPROACHING

In less than a month, Sheyenne River and Dakota Adventist Academy alumni will flood the halls of DAA's campus for Alumni Weekend on October 2-4. Celebrating 105 years of academy education, this year we are honoring the Classes of 2005, 2000, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1970, 1960, 1955, 1950, 1945, and 1940! Over 500 alumni are represented in those classes! Jolene Engelhart, Alumni Association president is working hard with the other officers and class agents to plan the weekend. Meal ticket information should be sent to Larry Stolz and room reservation requests should be sent to Ruthanne Altsman at the academy. Registration begins at 2:00pm on October 2 in the main lobby. Information about the weekend will be in the mail shortly, and you can always check out www.dakotaadventistacademy.org for all the details as well.

RETIREMENT WITH GOD (CONTINUED)

After my first training I felt we should begin working with the community and making ourselves available to others. I walked into the Black Hills Area Chapter of the American Red Cross with my training book and told them what I had to offer and how could I work with them; I am on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross in this area.

I could go on and on telling what God has done for me. Early on, as I walked into the Red Cross office and told the secretary who I was and who I was with, she started to cry. After hugs she said, "My daughter was killed in the Oklahoma bombing and I will never forget the Adventist help they gave me and the counseling that I received from Pastor Mark Finley."

How can you work in disasters and not know the people around you and with whom you work? Doors continue to open. I belong to the Emergency Managers in the western part of South Dakota and always give a report detailing what Adventist Community Service and Disaster Response is doing or how they are involve. During one of the meetings I had the opportunity of presenting a full workshop for both North and South Dakota Emergency Managers, informing them of our services. At this time, I am (as ACS/DR Director) tentatively on the agenda for their state meeting this month. I have also given three-day workshops with FEMA on Donation Management.

These are just a few of the things where the Lord has lead me, and many other doors I do not yet know about. Is this retirement? Every morning during my devotions and prayers my one plea to God is, "I do not know what you have planned for me today, but do not let me step aside, but make me aware and help me to walk in your footsteps."

To me, my dreams are realized. I have never questioned what God has planned for me. There are many times I take the wrong road, not everything is wonderful, but I have the assurance that His hand and mine are always clasped together.

What a day that will be when I can retire with Him and share and learn what was still in my future. A walk with God each day is the joy and blessings that He gives me.



"Energizer Bunny" Phyllis Alexander enjoying her 'retirement' working with ACS/DR, Red Cross, and other organizations.

Regional Meetings

Begin making plans to attend the fall Regional Meetings coming soon to a South Dakota church near you:

Central Regional Meeting • November 14 in Aberdeen
Southeastern Regional Meeting • November 21 in Sioux Falls
Black Hills Regional Meeting • December 5 in Rapid City

Plan now to join the conference office team and your extended church family for a day of fellowship and worship. More info coming soon!

Youth Rally

October 17, 2009

Bismarck Adventist Church

Special Guest: Marland May

Afternoon activities include breakout sessions (How to Give Bible Studies, Witnessing to Friends in Public School, Having a Devotional Life, Preaching a Sermon), vespers, and The Great Adventist Race

For more info email Loren Nelson III at lnelson5@hotmail.com.