



## Panda Themed VBS

by Jen Erickson

*Pandamonian* filled the Grand Forks Seventh-day Adventist Church for their annual Vacation Bible School. Around 30 children, half of which were from the community, came to enjoy the panda-themed four-day program. They met in the fellowship hall that turned into a jungle, complete with pandas and bamboo backdrop. Their leaders introduced them to songs with actions.



Photo by Jen Erickson



Photo by Jen Erickson

Each day a new Bible story was introduced to the children and reinforced with songs, crafts, snacks and active play. On the final evening families were invited to their performance and then shared refreshments. While the children were blessed with the lessons in God's love, the staff was blessed by the joy of the children.

## Wahpeton Baptism

by Dragos Profir

It was a day of joy and celebration in Wahpeton on June 4, 2011 as Marilyn Carter publicly professed her desire to dedicate her life to Christ and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church family through the waters of baptism. Marilyn had been attending the Wahpeton Church on and off since 2004. However, 2010 proved to be filled with trials and challenges and Marilyn found herself spending more time on her knees and in the Word.



Photo by Aileen Profir



Photo by Aileen Profir

days, Marilyn decided it was time to fully surrender and dedicate her life to Christ. When asked by a co-worker why she was full of joy despite the challenges, she replied, "Because God has been by my side all along." May her testimony be an inspiration and a reminder to us all that God can make a difference in our everyday lives, even during the most difficult moments in our lives.

Realizing Jesus does make a difference every day, even during the more difficult

If you have any news to share or would like to be added to the Dakota Dispatch mailing list, please email Jacquie Biloff at [jbiloff@yahoo.com](mailto:jbiloff@yahoo.com). Visit the conference website at [www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org) and befriend us on facebook.

# Beginning of Another School Year

by Sharon Heinrich

A little over two weeks from now, students and parents will be arriving at Dakota Adventist Academy for the beginning of a new school year. August 14 is registration day.

chapel programs or worships.

--Invite us to visit your church.

--Review the upcoming dates and plan to attend any of our "special weekends".

You may think of other ways - these are just a few suggestions.

## SPECIAL DATES & WEEKENDS

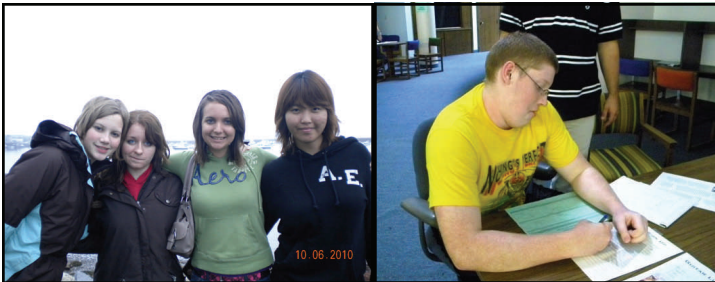
### FIRST SEMESTER

#### 2011/2012 SCHOOL YEAR

August 14	Registration Day - 9 am - 4:30 pm
September 30-Oct 2	Alumni Weekend
October 29	Fall Festival - 7:30 pm
November 5	Central Regional in Aberdeen
November 12	Southeast Regional in Sioux Falls
November 18-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 3	Black Hills Regional in Rapid City
December 16-17	Festival of Carols
December 18-Jan 1	Christmas Break

More information will be available throughout the semester.

Thank you for your support, encouragement, prayers and for being there for our students. We are looking forward to a great year and to sharing it with you.



Some will be returning, excited to begin another year, while others may be feeling a little nervous as they join as new students. Either way, the Administration and staff are preparing to welcome them and begin the new year.

Although you may not have a son or daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew here, we encourage you to plan on being a part of our school year.

#### Ideas to consider are:

- Include the students and staff in your daily devotions.
- Send a note of encouragement to share with the students.
- Send a donation for the Annual Fund or Worthy Student Fund.
- Volunteer your time. Contact us to see how you can assist with projects, or as a special speaker for one of our

## VBS at the Manfred Church

by Wayne Easley

About 25 boys and girls are enjoying VBS this summer at the rural Manfred Adventist Church. The theme is "An African Safari." Bible stories, songs, puppets, games and crafts combine for a fun evening for these young adventurers. Kathy Tebelius of the Bowdon Country Church is the leader but is ably assisted by Karla McKinven of the Manfred Church and an energetic crew of helpers and assistants. Games begin at 5:00 pm followed by a full meal. Four groups then rotate through all the activities of the evening. As one group leader said, "These kids are really locked into the program."

**Caption:** A group of VBS youngsters pose with Abraham and Sarah (Hildor and Nellie Deede of the Manfred Church) after learning of Abram's call to leave his home and settle in a new place where God wanted him.



Photo by Wayne Easley

### BLACK HILLS HEALTH & EDUCATION CENTER

2011 Spiritual Retreat

Hermosa, South Dakota

September 2—5, 2011

Call 605.255.4101 for reservations

Rooms, RV, Tenting and Meals available

### LIFTING UP JESUS

Speakers:

Nathan Renner, Pastor of Sonora Adventist Church

& ARISE Instructor

Chad Kreuzer, Evangelist & Director of Anchor Point Films