

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-eighth 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 8: To Effect An Organization - Part 2

By the criteria used thus far, the Hankinson church might be considered to be a charter church. It appears without comment on a 1907 list of churches. It has not been included because one of its delegates to the 1907 conference session, E.M. Strong was a delegate from the nearby Hamlin church in 1906 and was elected Hamlin's elder in 1892,¹¹ Since there is no further record of Hamlin once Hankinson appears, it seems probable that a large proportion of its members lived nearer Hankinson by 1907, and the church simply changed its name and possibly its meeting place. But the existence of an earlier Hankinson church is at least a possibility.

Remaining charter church candidates include Lisbon -1887, Vang - 1896, Michigan City -1885, Reynolds -1885, Lakota -about 1889, Mohall (which shows up on the 1906 list without explanation) and Antelope (which is introduced for the first time at the 1906 session, where it was disbanded.)¹²

From this point on, the selection process is, at best, educated guessing, based on several reasonable, but inconclusive assumptions: 1. that Vang united with Osnabrock to become Langdon; 2. that Reynolds (of which we have no record since its admission to the Minnesota Conference in 1885) did not survive the "moving spirit"; 3. that Michigan City suffered a similar fate, its remaining members joining with members at nearby Lakota when a "company" of eleven church members and 25 Sabbath School members was organized in 1889; 4. that this company was actually an organized church, or was subsequently organized as a church and; 5. (the most shaky assumption of all) that we have at least some record of organized work in each area where a church was eventually formed.¹³

These assumptions leave a choice of Lisbon, Lakota, Mohall and Antelope.

The selection of Lisbon and Lakota seems quite arbitrary since the existence of the other two churches is documentable closer, even though after, 1902, while the post 1902 records are silent about the former pair. But it

is precisely for the reason of the later appearance of the latter two churches that Lisbon and Lakota were chosen.

The minutes of the 1903 conference session note simply that “three new churches have been organized” since the 1902 session.¹⁴ One of these, as we shall see, was probably Stanley, and for reasons which will be considered later in this chapter, Mohall and Antelope are the most likely, and indeed, of known churches, the only candidates for the other two. Between 1904 and 1907, the records of new churches admitted to the conference are more precise.

These are my choices, based on many weeks of research on this single point. It must be freely admitted, however, that the remaining churches could have included some of the others considered, the “Conference Church”; made up of isolated members, which was sometimes treated as a church for statistical purposes, or, perhaps even more likely, some of which we have no record.

At its session in Des Moines, Iowa, April 3-13, 1902, the newly formed Northwestern Union Conference recommended that North Dakota be organized into a conference separate from South Dakota.

11. *Ibid.*, August 23, 1892, 540; *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 64, 78.

12. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 65, 70, 71.

13. Chapters 4-6 give all the documentation of work reported in the records of the time that I have been able to locate. If we have all the pieces of the puzzle there are few alternatives to these assumptions. If some of the pieces are missing, however, the remaining ones could fit together in many ways.

14. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 26.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 8, "To Effect an Organization" - Part 3 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.

Celebration of Praise and Bismarck Regional

BISMARCK REGIONAL AND CELEBRATION OF PRAISE



ALL IN.

DECEMBER 18, 2021 - 10:00am

Dakota Adventist Academy
15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck ND

Sabbath School - 10:00a

Church - 11:00a

Lunch provided by DAA - 12:00p

Afternoon Seminars - 1:00p

DAA Christmas Concert - 3:00p

SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Sabbath, December 18, 1:00pm



A FORMULA TO END THE WORLD: JESUS' METHOD FOR COMPLETING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Elder Mark Piotrowski / VP of Administration & Educ. Superintendent



CHURCH HEALTH CHECKUP

Elder Mark Weir / President



PEOPLE WITH WILLS LIVE LONGER

Elder Charles O'Hare / Trust Director



TELLING OUR STORY: THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADVENT MOMENT IN TODAY'S WORLD

Elder Mark Piotrowski / VP of Administration & Educ. Superintendent



WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Paulette Bullinger / Women's Ministry Director



YOU LOST ME: WHY YOUNG ADULTS AREN'T INTERESTED IN CHURCH

Elder Mark Weir / President

DAA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sabbath, December 18, 3:00pm

His Wind-some Ways

Benjamin Franklin famously said, "In this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes." I'd like to add to that axiom from a Dakota perspective, "I'm certain that it will be windy outside." During my time in the Dakotas, I've noticed that the wind has two modes: breezy or gale force. Either you're holding on to your papers to keep them local or you're leaning into the wind to keep yourself local.

In scripture, one of the ways that the Holy Spirit is described is as a wind. After all, the Hebrew word for Spirit is also the word for Wind. This is an accurate picture of how the Spirit interacts with people. In scripture we see the Spirit rushing upon people, empowering them, changing the landscape, and getting people's attention by rustling their expectations of what they think is possible. The Spirit is at work creating (Genesis 1:2), empowering (Judges 3:10), anointing (1 Samuel 16:13), prophesying (Ezekiel 2:2), reviving (Ezekiel 37), guiding (Acts 8:29), and interceding (Romans 8:26-27). Jesus also described the Spirit's work as: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going" (John 3:8). The work of the Spirit may be unseen, but it is not unknown.

I personally dislike the wind. It's annoying, it's frustrating, and it makes an otherwise perfect day suddenly dreadful; cutting through any layers I might have on, chilling me to the bone. I sometimes feel this way about the

Spirit too. The Spirit whips up around habits I'd rather leave alone, grudges I'd rather hold on to, and leads me in directions I'd rather not go. But I don't get to dictate where the Spirit moves, much like I can't direct the wind to stop blowing when it inconveniences me. There's a song by Hillsong called "So Will I". One line in the bridge says, "If the wind goes where You send it, so will I." Maybe that is what God is trying to tell us by sending so much wind our way. Are we trying to ignore the wind, to get indoors where we no longer have to listen to it howl? Or are we willing to let the Spirit rustle us up, to highlight the areas that need change, and to go wherever it may send us?

Worship Thoughts by Pr. David Werner, pastor of the Bison / Bowman / Dickinson church district.

A TASTE OF HEAVEN

DAA/SRA/PVA All School Reunion

OCTOBER 7 & 8 2022

If you are a former student, faculty member, or just a friend, make plans now to attend a special Alumni Weekend honoring ALL classes. Look forward to events like the Alumni vs. Student volleyball & basketball games, return of the Golf Scramble, and more!



DAA Music Recital

After many months of practice, six Dakota Adventist Academy students finally performed their solo performances. Two students presented beautiful piano solos, while two others sang vocal solos - including one in Japanese. A drum solo and a strings duet were among the evenings highlights. The students presented an outstanding performance and received great praise from the audience. The concert took place on Saturday, November 20 at 7:30pm at DAA.



Article by Elissa Millirans, sophomore at DAA. Photos by Zak Adams, assistant boys' dean and art teacher, and David Ballesteros, music director.

Respect

I have recently recalled the importance of respect and how it is earned in the classroom. This is my first-year teaching in a small school, with a group of five students who do not know me. At the beginning of the year, I struggled to earn respect. I came from a sizeable Adventist school where for the past five years I taught twenty-eight fifth and sixth grade students. I had created a reputation for myself with my hands-on, project-based teaching methods that often took us out of the classroom. This resulted in accomplishments in student learning and great messes around campus, all of which were seen by the other classes. Because of this, my students behaved and treated me with respect from day one. Even if they were new to the school, their peers' behavior often helped to dictate the behavior and attitude towards me. At the beginning of this year, I had unfortunately forgotten all of this. So, I started the year as I have all other years... expecting a certain behavior from my students. Well wouldn't you know, my expectations were not met, and I racked my brain for weeks trying to understand what I was doing wrong. My daily lessons were not connecting with the students, my actions were not gaining the responses I was accustomed to, and my replies seemed to frustrate the students and me.

It wasn't until I slowed down and asked my wife's thoughts about the situation that helped point me to a solution.

I had gone straight into the year trying to enjoy an established relationship with my students without building the required trust and respect. As a teacher, I go so far into my lessons trying to create new and creative ways for my students to learn that I forgot the foundation of any classroom, the relationship with the students. It is so much like our relationship with God. If we go into Christianity with the idea that we will follow the rules and get into heaven, we miss the point and miss out on the joy. Being a Christian means having a relationship with Jesus. It is about knowing and learning to love Him; and through that love, we follow Him. Not because we do not have a choice, but because we have a desire to. However, if we do not create this relationship and build respect, it turns into trying to make a pile of water or trying to herd cats, a highly frustrating endeavor that is likely to fail.

For those of you who work with children, take the time to get to know them, play with them, let them teach you, and I guarantee many of your struggles will disappear. Excellent and engaging lesson plans are great, but without respect, they are nothing but noise without the music.



Article and photos submitted by TJ Roberts, head teacher of the Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary School in South Dakota.



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Fargo Church Learns How to Love Neighbors

The Fargo Church hosted a public discussion for the Christian Community regarding how to love the many refugees who live in the Fargo area and those who are coming. Many of these families are of the Muslim religion. Most believers in Christ don't know a lot about Muslim beliefs, and we don't know how to befriend them in a culturally appropriate manner or how to share Jesus with them.

On Friday, October 22, there was a North Dakota State University event followed by a Sabbath event the next day. Sabbath was a full day of worship, instruction, and discussion with many church families in attendance as well as people from the community.

Gabriela DePhillips shared how the language of love and respect, as with any group of people, will open the hearts to the message and person of Jesus. Gabby heads the North American Division outreach to Muslims in this part of the world.

Abraham Millewa, assistant Pastor in Fargo, ordained in Sudan and commissioned to be missionary to the Muslims of Egypt speaks fluent Arabic and has extensively studied the *Koran*. He shared how to use verses from the *Koran* to show the value and prominence of Jesus as Lord.

Wherever you live, even in the Dakotas, the mission field is coming to you. May God help each of us to be that encounter with Jesus that all people need.

FARGO CHURCH



Our generous nation has opened itself to helping many refugees from various regions of the globe.

Here in Fargo we are blessed with a large number ourselves.



Many of these dear people are of the Muslim faith. Since they also believe in Jesus, please come and learn how to love them in the name of Jesus.

Article and photos by Pr. Darrel Lindensmith, pastor of the Fargo / Red River / Wahpeton church district in North Dakota.

Kid's Corner

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" is a free, downloadable 25-day activity devotional for the entire family created by [Children's Ministries NAD](http://www.childrensministriesnad.org). This devotional, available in English and Spanish, guides readers through the first 25 days of December, celebrating and remembering Jesus, the real reason for the season. Learn more at <https://www.childmin.org/happybirthdayjesus>

Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference children's ministries coordinator.

It's here,

a 25-day Christmas activity
devotional for the little ones!

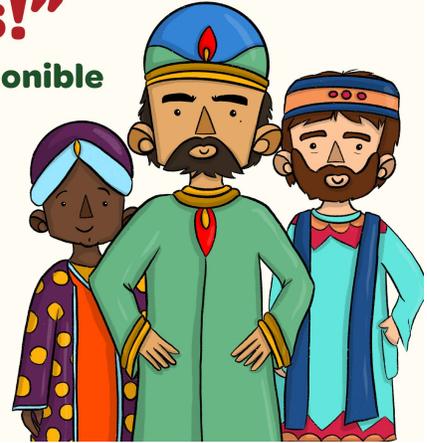
Visit childmin.org



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Swerthday Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

"¡Feliz cumpleaños, Jesús!"

¡Ahora disponible
en español!



Visite childmin.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Swerthday Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

ABC Located at Dakota Conference in Bismarck

Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm (If you happen to be in town during other hours, please stop by. We will try to accommodate.)

Friday: ABC & office closed

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

December -

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdon Country Church, ND
- 9: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 11: North American Division - Adventist Community Services
- 11: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot Church, ND
- 12: Dakota Executive Committee at Conference Office (10am)
- 13: Deadline for Church Nominating Committee Reports
- 16: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 18: Celebration of Praise & Bismarck Regional at DAA - Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 23: Conference Office Closed - Christmas Observed
- 25: Dakota Challenge

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

Blessed & Kept

May you find comfort.

May the peace of Christ be poured out over you.

May your soul be baptized in the spirit of Jesus bidding you to be at peace.

May this peace give you comfort.

May it remove your anxiety.

May it ease your suffering.

May it increase your patience.

May the deep breath you now take be to you a reminder of God's presence.

May the exhale remind you that because God is within you, there is no longer any space for worry, hatred, or rage.

May all of the day's frustrations be minimized by the overwhelming presence of God.

May you view them as insignificant because at the end of the day, you will be with God so everything will be okay.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

December 2 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Paulette Bullinger in Burleigh County, North Dakota.

If anyone has local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles and pictures to: j.dossenko@gmail.com

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 j.dossenko@gmail.com. Bison [Copyright](#)

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