

Nothing to Fear

This is the 56th 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 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 1

"Without controversy," says the Scripture, "great is the mystery of godliness." E.H. Huntley was out to clear up the mystery.

Many early Adventist evangelists seemed to see in controversy a means of stimulating interest. Huntley, the English-speaking quadrant of Adventist evangelism in North Dakota in the mid 1900's, generated considerable discussion both pro and con.

During 1906 and 1907, Huntley and his wife did extensive evangelistic work in Towner County at Rocklake, Egeland and Cando. At Rocklake in the early spring of 1906, the Huntleys held services and visited local residents, distributing Adventist literature "in every home in town and country for a scope of several miles."

The opposition from local ministers was strong but, concluded Huntley, counter-productive to their cause. The evangelist quoted one of his opponents, the Congregationalist minister as saying, "One thing is certain, these lectures have turned the heads of all the people in town to thinking in your line. When I preach they go home and forget it all, but now every old Bible in the vicinity is brought out to prove that 'Saturday is Sunday' and those who have no Bibles are buying."²

Aided by a camp meeting conducted at the close of his tent effort at Rocklake, Huntley baptized as many as twelve people "into the church", possibly at nearby Saginaw, although a group of some type may have been formed at Rocklake also.³

At Egeland, six were baptized, including a young couple from a nearby colony of

German Baptist Brethren (nicknamed Dunkards because of their belief in baptism by immersion) who soon left to do missionary work, and two young men who immediately left to attend school at Harvey, leaving just two ladies to meet together on Sabbath.⁴

Between evangelistic campaigns, Huntley visited churches, companies, and isolated believers at Minnewauken, Osnabrock, Arvilla, Zion (Towner County), and Minto (Walsh County).⁵ At Minto, where Huntley had come to visit a single Adventist family, he tried to secure the use of the local Methodist Church for a "couple of services." Refused the use of the facility, Huntley conducted his first meeting in the opera house. The next morning, Huntley was invited by members of both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, which were currently without pastors, to continue his services in their respective meeting houses. "There seemed to be some contention between the churches as to where services should be held," reported Huntley, "so we divided our time between the two, the same congregation attending both places." After about twenty-five sermons, Huntley preached about the "Sabbath question", noting that in its presentation, "the Lord gave freedom." Sensing a negative reaction on the part of some of the church members, Huntley transferred his meeting back to the opera house, but was soon invited to return to the churches, the Presbyterians insisting that he accept twenty dollars to cover the expenses he had incurred for advertising and for rental of the opera house. For several months, Huntley served as pastor of both churches, conducting Sunday services as well as Sabbath meetings for a number of converts composed of four families, two ladies, and the son of one of the women.6

High winds destroyed Huntley's tent during his next series at Cando, but he continued his crusade in the opera hall and succeeded in organizing a Sabbath School and establishing regular weekly services for six adults and several children.⁷

In the Cando series Huntley was joined by Sheyenne River Academy students Ruth Strong and Minnie Reiber and by H. W. Reed, a Wisconsin minister who worked for a brief time in North Dakota during 1907. Reed also worked west of the Missouri and around Dickinson (Stark County), Black Butte (Hettinger County), Little Cedar (near the Hettinger-Adams County border on the Cedar River), and further west and south where he organized churches at Beach (Golden Valley County) and in Adams County just across the state line from Lemmon, South Dakota before returning to Wisconsin in early 1908.⁸

Following the Cando effort, the Huntleys left North Dakota due to Mrs. Huntley's health, leaving, after Reed's departure, only a single primarily English-speaking worker in North Dakota, Conference President John Walker, to answer the repeated calls for ministerial help now coming from the newly settled areas west of the Missouri.⁹

^{1. 1} Timothy 3:16.

^{2.} Northern Union Reaper, April 10, 1906, 4.

- 3. Ibid., July 17, 1906, 5.
- 4. Ibid., September 4, 1906, 4; October 2, 1906, 2,
- 5. Ibid., May 22, 1906, 4; October 2, 1906, 8; April 2, 1907, 4; April 9, 1907, 4; May 28, 1907, 5.
- 6. Ibid., May 28, 1907, 5,6.
- 7. Ibid., August 27, 1907, 3; October 1, 1907, 5.
- 8. Ibid., September 17, 1907, 4,5; May 28, 1907, 5; November 19, 1907, 6,7; February 18, 1908, 4; April 14, 1908, 4.
- 9. Ibid., November 19, 1907, 6,7; January 7, 1908, 3.

Next time from Nothing to Fear:

Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 2 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.



Jamestown Regional Recap

On Sabbath, March 25, church members from the Jamestown Region met together to worship at the Jamestown Adventist Church in North Dakota. The day was filled with fellowship, music, and good food.

The event started with Sabbath School. Local church members hosted extra children in the divisions while Elder Ted Struntz met with the youth in the fellowship hall. Adults attended a program that included a special feature from Zak Adams, DAA recruiter, along with students Ana Weber and Jack Tretter. The lesson study was done with Elder Mark Weir and a panel of pastors: Harold Chin (Bowdon, Harvey, Manfred District), Kisa de Bruin (DAA chaplain), Vernon Herholdt (Bismarck, DAA District), and Barry St. Clair (Beulah, Bison, Bottineau, Goodrich, McClusky, Mitchell District).

During the church service, local church deacons recruited some adorable helpers

when picking up the offering. Dakota Adventist Academy provided several musical numbers, and Elder Weir spoke to the theme, "I Follow." After church, everyone carpooled over to Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School for a potluck lunch and then headed back to the church for afternoon seminars from conference workers. Seminars available at this Regional were:

- "Everything You Need to Know About eAdventist" Julie Brude, membership clerk
- "I'm Too Busy!" Paulette Bullinger, women's ministries director
- "Following in the Footsteps of Our Pioneers" Elder Mark Piotrowski, vice president of administration
- "I Grow" Elder Mark Weir, president
- "I Go" Elder Mark Weir, president
- "VBS: The Other Evangelism Series" Kathy Tebelius, church member
- "Youth Ministries" Elder Ted Struntz, youth and young adult director
- "Youth Ministries That Can Grow a Church" Elder Ted Struntz, youth and young adult director
- "Resolving Conflict Biblically" Elder Vernon Herholdt, ministerial director
- "Prayer Ministries in the Local Church" Elder Barry St. Clair, prayer ministries director

The day ended with a haystack supper hosted by the Jamestown church members and a question and answer time with President Mark Weir.

The next Regional will be held at the Fargo Adventist Church on Sabbath, April 29. Anyone is invited and encouraged to bring a friend.



Article and photos by Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director.

Sonnets of CreationPart 1 of 7

There was a deep shroud of nonexistence In the darkness, water lapped at nothing. A stillness that offered no resistance, But somewhere moved the Spirit of a Being.

God. In which lay a vision of glory.

A brilliance, a flickering white spark.

So there was light, the first of this story,

A burst of warmth to chase away the dark.

The warmth and brilliance was called the day, The shroud of nonexistence was the night. One, created so we can dance and play, The other to further enhance our sight. The evening and morning were the first day. If you want to hear the rest, please, do stay.

By Afton Logan, member of the Invitation Hill Adventist Church in Dickinson, ND.

Men's Retreat Rescheduled: May 5-7



Recently, the decision was made to postpone Men's Retreat due to a North Dakota blizzard. Originally the Retreat was rescheduled for April 21-23, but unfortunately, that weekend has become unavailable for the Roughrider Hotel. **Please mark your calendars for May 5-7**, make plans to attend, and invite a friend to come along. You may also want to bring your hiking shoes because the weather should be much more enjoyable that time of year! We apologize for any confusion on the dates and thank each of you for your patience!

<u>Click here</u> for more information and to register. Scholarships are available to those needing funds - just visit the website and fill out a scholarship application to request yours.

Please note: For those of you who had already registered for the retreat before it was rescheduled for May 5-7, please <u>click here</u> to update us on your plans, so we can automatically reregister you or process a refund. Refunds are scheduled to be processed next week.

Sharing Jesus Through Letters

Letter writing began with our mother, Ruby Bruington, an avid reader and faithful writer of letters. If our mother knew you and you were going through troubled times, you would get a letter of hope and encouragement from her.

When Mandan began a church-building project. Sending out a weekly written

update and the latest of God's miracles seemed like a good idea for those of us who were ground-floor workers and for supporters from afar, so we could stay similarly informed. A letter to all was important. Soon our mother's letter of church building updates and the weekly encouragements were combined. It was encouraging to read of God's leading.

Now, most of the 90 letters that go into the mail each month are requests from readers. It's amazing how pleased people are to get a letter in the mail. Monthly copies can be picked up at the Mandan Seventh-day Adventist Church as well. We've tried to concentrate on the most important aspect of Christianity, a relationship with God in and around us. Many of our letter recipients have different theological ideas or none at all. But no one can argue about the need for knowing a higher power. Anyone who wants to know more can ask, and some have!

This past year, Kay received a new heart valve, a repaired broken hip, and a pacemaker. Cynthia is nearly 90 years old. All this is exciting evidence that God supplies whatever we need to follow the path he has planned for us (Jeremiah 29:11). We have found that reaching out can energize our own spiritual batteries. Who can become negative when your job is to encourage others? You can't convince us that God can't use the weak. Thank you to our mom, Ruby Bruington, for her example.



Photo by Paulette Bullinger and article by Cynthia Barstad and Kay Sorenson, all members of the Mandan Adventist Church in ND.

Land Sale Update

On March 28, 2023, Pifer's Auction Service offered two parcels of agricultural land adjacent to Dakota Adventist Academy. In attendance were 39 bidders joined by 23 online bidders. When the bidding ended, the parcel of non-irrigated land sold for \$5,250/acre, while the irrigated parcel sold for \$8,000/acre. The auctioneer noted that, to the best of his knowledge, this was the highest price paid to date for irrigated land in central North Dakota.

The auction brought in over \$2 million, adding to the \$1.5 million purchase price from two other parcels—sold at private sale to previous tenants. This brings the total sale to just over \$3.5 million after auction costs. At a recent meeting, the Dakota Conference Executive Committee voted to place 75% of the proceeds into an interestbearing endowment fund with the balance to be used for operational shortfalls over the next several years.



Dakota Conference administration is grateful that the sale total is within the projected range and is excited to see where God leads in this effort. Please keep the Conference and Dakota Adventist Academy in your prayers as they strive to optimize the use of these funds.



^{*}Please note the date change from April 29 to May 13.

DAA Students Take a Field Trip

A generous grant provided the opportunity for students from Dakota Adventist Academy to travel to Fort Stevenson State Park and experience the process of maple sugaring. Students learned about the history of Fort Stevenson from volunteer Ralph Saylor. Mr. Saylor also entertained the group by playing a concertina and a button box, the second of which dates back 120 years. As the 1800s music played, the students clapped their hands and even sang along to Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land."

After the musical entertainment, the park ranger showed students the difference

between sapwood and heartwood along with the equipment used in the process of maple sugaring the North Dakota way—using Box Elder trees instead of Sugar Maples. The group then took a trip to the tapped Box Elders where they learned that up to five gallons of sap can be collected in one day, but it takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

The finale was held at the visitor center where participants enjoyed ice cream with a drizzle of syrup on top.



Article and photos by Pamela Fenton, DAA science and health teacher.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Breaking Ground - Soil Preparation

Pastoral Staff: Stephen Eastwood

Educational Staff: Forrest Calhoun, Delilah Treft

Field Staff: Randy Rubbert

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, Tol
stoy

Other: Children of Military Service Men & Women

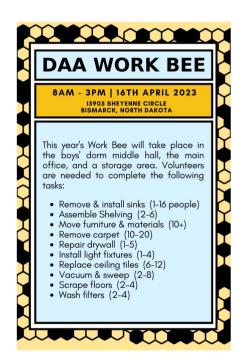
<u>Click here</u> to visit the Prayer Ministries webpage.



We Need Your Help

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 just help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our 2nd annual Work Bee to be held at Dakota Adventist Academy on Sunday, April 16, from 8:00a to 3:00p. Lunch will be provided. Click here to fill out the form online, so that we can place you in a suitable area of work.

Thank you, in advance, for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!



You Are Invited



What: Dakota Conference Women's Mini-Retreat

When: May 7, 2023, from 12:00-4:00p

Where: Lewis Hotel - Buckstop Junction, Bismarck, North Dakota

Musician: Chrysolyte Prieto

Speakers: Pastor Kisa de Bruin and Cheryl Erickson

A freewill offering will be taken to cover the lunch price. There will be an opportunity to shop at some local vendors. **Register by May 1** via text or phone call to Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger at 701.319.0103.

Dakota Youth & Young Adults

Recently Lynnette and I went to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., to recruit for summer camp staff. We had a great time meeting some amazing young people. On Friday, we spent time over at the Adventist Heritage Center in Battle Creek. (If you ever happen to be in the area, I highly recommend it.) It had been 20 years since our last visit, and we wanted to see the additions to the village and allow our daughters to experience the history of the early Adventist Movement.

As we walked through the various buildings listening to our guide share stories, I was struck by how God was faithful in every situation and how our members were faithful in spreading the gospel, often at great personal cost. In each story we heard how God had worked in miraculous ways to guide and inspire people to act. He sent dreams to instruct and guide, gave visions to prove His messenger was His chosen agent, and opened people's eyes and hearts to a sense of duty they couldn't ignore. We learned details about the sacrifices regularly made by our Adventist pioneers, so others learn about Jesus and His return.

It was inspiring to be reminded of how much we can accomplish when we put God first in our life and work with others to serve Him daily. Although challenges and even heartaches often came to our pioneers, so many of them pressed together and pressed on in faith to further the work; they claimed the promise of a heavenly home and continued to serve the Lord.

One of my favorite buildings on the property is the printing house. I was fascinated by the amount of work and time that went into printing the early copies of the Review. Inside the printing house, we were shown the painstaking process of putting together a paper with moveable type. Once an article or material had been handwritten, then each letter had to be put in, one at a time, backward. Those letters would be tightened together, and a test copy would be run to be proofread. If an error was found, the plates would have to be carefully inspected to locate the incorrectly spelled word (remember all the words would be backward) and then the plate would be loosened to pull out the letter or letters and fix the word. Then the plate would have to be retightened and another proof would be run and evaluated before being deemed ready for a mass printing. Our guide shared how the young ladies often proofread the plates because they typically had the best eyesight to read the small letters. I can attest that only one in our group (my daughter Liz) could read the individual letter, in this case, the letter "Y," without magnification. Wow! What tedious and minute work. And yet it was by the faithful fulfilling of this act that others would clearly understand the important message our pioneers were set on sharing with the world.

From the writing of the articles and setting up the plates, to the proofreading and printing, young people were at work to share the Gospel. Many left their families or lost family members during their mission. However, these faithful young men and women clearly saw their purpose—to lead others to Jesus.

Sometimes we forget that the Adventist Church was built up by the faithful work of youth and young adults working alongside the adults. Our early church pioneers were young! Joseph Bates, in his 40s, was considered an old man. God has called each of us, regardless of our age, to faithfully share the Gospel message. Let those of us who are "old" encourage everyone, no matter their age, to join together and work for Jesus.



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

Kids' Corner

Looking for faith-based kids programs? LifeTalk Kids has radio choices for kids of all ages. Kids can enjoy *Discovery Mountain*, *Your Story Hour*, *Adventures in Odyssey*, and many more. Kids programs are playing 24 hours a day, seven days a week at LifeTalkKids.net.

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, <u>Dakota SDA Kids</u>, and explore the many videos available for children.



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

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

April -

- 1: Local Church Budget
- 1: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Williston, ND
- 1: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Jamestown, ND
- 1: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hermosa, SD
- 1: Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in Turtle Lake, ND
- 3-4: Elementary Teacher Spring In-service at Conference Office
- 8: Hope Channel International
- 8: Education Sabbath
- 10: Office Closed Easter Monday
- 15: Local Church Budget
- 15: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Aberdeen, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 15: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Cleveland, ND

- 16: DAA Community Work Bee (8a-3p)
- 20: Mid-America Union Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE (9a)
- 22: Local Church Budget
- 22: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Aberdeen, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 29: Dakota Challenge
- 29: Fargo Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 29: Kelli Wasemiller preaching in New Home Church, ND
- 30: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

May -

- 1-5: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5-7: Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 7: Women's Mini-Retreat in Bismarck, ND (12-4p)
- 13: Disaster Relief
- 13: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Hermosa, SD
- 13: DAA Spring Music Concert
- 13: Ladies' Luncheon in McClusky, ND (12:30p)

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



Blessed & Kept

May you know you are seen and heard.

May you find God where God is most likely to be found. Among the oppressed, broken, and vulnerable.

May you find God in your own brokenness and vulnerability.

After fleeing the oppression and abuse of Sarah and Abraham, Hagar encounters God and is promised that her son will be the father of multitudes. The highest honor possible. She is instructed to name him Ishmael, which means God hears. Hagar names this God the one who sees me.

In your moments of desperation, may you encounter a God who sees you and hears your pain.

May you tangibly sense God's presence in the midst of the turmoil.

May your deepest desire for connection be satisfied in the one who sees you and hears you more intimately than any other.

Written by Casey Bartlett. To follow Casey's Podcast Blessed & Kept click here.

March 30 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger of The Milky Way. Taken in Huff, North Dakota.

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

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 Jodi Dossenko at j.dossenko@gmail.com. Bison Copyright. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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