

Nothing to Fear

This is the 58th 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 3

At about the same time, a routine, otherwise insignificant agri-business transaction took place, which would have profound effects on the growth and number of the German churches of North Dakota for many years to come. In the fall of 1907, John H. Seibel of Bowdon sold his farm machinery and livestock and began to devote full-time to the Adventist ministry.²¹

John Seibel, the indefatigable German evangelist who literally devoted his life to the work of the Adventist church in North Dakota, was certainly also one of its most colorful figures. "Seibel stories" are as common among current members of the churches in which he ministered as are warm regards and appreciation for his ministry.

On one occasion during what Seibel called his "early days", a member of the congregation to which he was speaking kept interrupting and distracting the evangelist. Seibel handled it tactfully during the meeting, but afterward confronted the man and reproved him. Then, putting down his books, coat, and hat, Seibel explained that he was "putting all my religion over there" in order to give the heckler what he had coming, as he squared off and punched the startled, errant spectator.

But Seibel himself was known to become impatient when a service ran too long. During one camp meeting, when an Elder Schuster was still preaching long after the dinner hour had arrived, Seibel muttered audibly that even farm mules quit work at

noon to go to the barn. "Even a mule knows his time ... Elder Schuster does not," commented Seibel wryly.

Seibel's militance and wit did come in handy, under control, in the frequent pastime of the early Adventist evangelists - debating. During a series of debates between Seibel and the Church of God minister in Gackel, Seibel's opponent sought to gain points by ridiculing the Adventist church, explaining that the church reminded him of a big bull, standing on the railroad tracks, pawing and snorting, until a great locomotive comes along and sweeps him away. Not to be outdone, Seibel picked up on the illustration, noting that while the bull at least had "a brain and some sense", the locomotive had neither.

Seibel's meetings, though criticized by some of his contemporaries as being too highly charged with emotion, seemed to fit well in the context of the revivalist and evangelistic surge that swept the North Dakota Conference during the closing years of its first decade.²²

21. Ibid., November 19, 1907, 6.

22. "Seibel Stories" abound in the memories of church members throughout North Dakota, These have been gleaned over a period of years, and no individual attribution can accurately be made.

Next time from Nothing to Fear:

Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 4 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.

DAKOTA CAMPMEETING May 31 - June 3, 2023 Revive Us AGAIN					
Day / Time	Wednesday - 31st	Thursday - 1st	Friday - 2nd	Sabbath - 3rd	
7:45 - 8:15		Breakfast served in Cafeteria			
8:30 - 9:45		Elder Craig Carr	Elder Tim Roosenberg	9:15 - 10:45	
9:45 - 10:00		15-Minu	te Break	Sabbath School Elder Mark Weir	
10:00 - 11:15		Pastor Esther Knott	Elder Craig Carr	10:50 - 12:20	
11:15 - 11:30		15-Minut	Church Service Elder		
11:30 - 12:40		Elder Tim Roosenberg	Pastor Esther Knott	Bradford Newton	
12:45 - 1:30	Check-in Begins	Lunch serve	ed in Cafeteria	Sabbath served: 12:30 - 1:30	
2:00 - 3:15		Elder Craig Carr	Elder Tim Roosenberg	3:00 - 5:00 Round Table	
3:15 - 3:30		15-Minut	Elder Craig Carr Pastor Esther Knott		
3:30 - 4:45		Pastor Esther Knott	Elder Mark Piotrowski	Elder Bradford Newton Elder Mark Piotrowski Elder Tim Roosenberg	
4:45 - 5:30		15-Minute Break		Facilitator: Elder Mark Weir	
5:30 - 6:15	Supper served in Cafeteria			Sabbath served: 5:30 - 6:30	
6:45 - 8:30	Elder Bradford Newton	Elder Bradford Newton	Elder Bradford Newton	7:00 - 9:30 Hall of Remembrance	
8:30 - 9:30		Fellowship		Closing Remarks Elder Mark Weir	
Sabbath schedule differs; sundown is 9:30p				Music Concert Hugo Yin	
Kindergarten, 0-5 years Primary, 6-9 years Pr. Roy Morris Pr. Darrel Lindensmith Youth, 13-17 years Pr. Ted Struntz Young Adults, 18-40 years** Pr. Kris de Bruin **runs Friday evening - Sabbath			Conforce Con		

For more information and to register,

visit: dakotaadventist.org/ministries/campmeeting

Sonnets of Creation Part 3 of 7

The water began to tumble and roil.

It splashed and heaved great waves in the air.

Out of its depths came a rock and some soil.

On its hard surface was a vacant tear.

From here came the grass, and lilies, and trees, The color of green, the towering fur, And all the best things to carry a breeze. For once on this pale earth, life was astir.

It shot from the dirt and pushed up the ground, Appeared in the veins and venules of leaves. Then came the flowers stretched upright and proud Never was Solomon arrayed like these.

And so, as before, but for the third time, God made a thing that surpassed the sublime.

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

Fargo Regional: April 29

You are invited to attend the Fargo Regional on April 29, 2023. The day will start with Sabbath School at 10:00a and will conclude with a light supper. It will be held at the Fargo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fargo, North Dakota.



Sabbath Afternoon Seminars



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adult Director

Our church has a rich history of youth ministry, but the world has distracted us. It is time to reclaim our youth ministry programs and reclaim our youth Discover how even the smallest church with an aging population can meet the needs of a vibrant youth ministry.

Room A, 2:00-2:50p



THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES

Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration
The apparent delay in Christ's return has resulted in many of our members feeling under pressure in their spiritual experience. In this workshop you will be reminded of the special place that our church fulfills in contemporary society and discover a simple formula that the Lord Jesus Himself provided for how the church can complete its mission and thereby hasten Christ's coming. Sanctuary, 2:00-2:50p



DOLLARS & SENSE

Mark Seibold: VP of Finance

Tithe & Stewardship: We know the biblical basis for tithe, but how is your tithe actually distributed by the church? In this seminar we will take a look at tithe, the various types of donations the church receives, and trends in giving in faith-based organizations.

Room A, 3:00-3:50p

I GROW



I GROW

Mark Weir. President

I believe that each Christian yearns to be more like the Master, but how does that happen? Devotionals, quiet time, etc., are often discussed, but are there other practical ways to make your time with Jesus even more beneficial? If your desire is to grow daily to become more like Christ, plan to attend this special seminar.

Sanctuary, 3:00-3:50p



PRAYER MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Barry St. Clair. Prayer Ministries Director
In this seminar, we will discuss various aspects of prayer ministry and
learn how to start, grow, and broaden this ministry in the local
congregation. We will seek to answer the questions of how and why
to be a part of prayer ministries. Room A, 4:00-4:50p



Mark Weir: President

In this seminar, we'll explore a special passage in Matthew 28 that can help you better understand what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Perhaps more importantly, you will learn to teach others how to become His disciples. Sanctuary, 4:00-4:50p

Auction Brings in Needed Funds

On the evening of March 4, 2023, Prairie Voyager Elementary School held an auction to raise funds for the operation of the school.

Pastor Mike Temple spent several weeks before the event approaching local businesses asking for contributions towards the auction. Three local businesses, Wall Works Trucking, TruNorth Equipment, and Happy Joe's Pizza, graciously donated items. Church members also generously contributed items towards the sale.

With a variety of items to sell, ranging from jam, baked goods, hats, purses, crockpots, hand saws, and garden hoses, Pastor Mike Temple auctioned off the items to prospective buyers. Prairie Voyager's current students, and some future students as well, modeled clothing and displayed the items for sale to the crowd.

Along with the auction, attendees could purchase a taco-in-a-bag, lemonade, and a variety of homemade treats. The combination of the auction and meal brought in a little over \$3,300.

Prairie Voyager School would like to thank those that supported the school through their donations and purchases.



Article and photos by Leanne Erickson, head teacher at Prairie Voyager Elementary School in Grand Forks, ND.



Thank You, Church Family!

Recently, Pathfinders from across the Mid-America Union met together in Lincoln, Nebraska, and competed in the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). The Hermosa Battle Creek Warriors were excited to take part in this event. Before the club began the afternoon experience, the Warriors gathered together with Dakota Conference youth directors, Pastor Ted and Lynnette Struntz, and prayed. They thanked God for each Pathfinder and the effort they made to hide God's Word in their hearts.

The Battle Creek Warriors started their club in November of last year, shortly before beginning to study and learn the Gospel of John for the upcoming Bible Experience. After placing first in the Dakota Conference round, they moved on to participate at the Union level and earned a second-place finish. Though the club had hoped to get a first-place finish, Pathfinder Secretary Becky McCurdy puts it into perspective, "If we look at second place as a failure, we were doing PBE for the wrong motives, and it is an opportunity to rethink and get our heads in the right frame of mind for next time! We had the privilege of hiding God's word in our hearts, and that should be our greatest motivation for doing PBE."

Clubs will soon begin to study Joshua and Judges for next year's PBE, and many of

them are looking forward to the challenge.

After coming home, Franchesca Plein wrote and compiled the following:

Franchesca ~ "For me, the event was a great learning experience and lots of fun, to say the least! I had lots of fun driving through states I had never been to, and the college church was beautiful, and it was so much fun meeting other Pathfinders!"

Nasaya ~ "My favorite part of the Union PBE was hanging out with the Cleveland club. Another thing I liked was working together as a team to try to get as many questions right as possible for PBE."

Josiah ~ "PBE was ok. We sat in the sanctuary on the pews and metal/plastic chairs. We ate lunch at the church and went to the house we were staying at for dinner. Not super eventful, and we got second."

Kayleah ~ "PBE was an awesome experience, not only because we got to test our memorization skills, but also because we were able to study the Bible and learn more about God. (Plus, the added bonus of traveling to both ND and NE.) I'm proud of how far we made it this year and am determined to do even better next year."

Shannon ~ "Pathfinder Bible Experience was a great experience. Not only were we learning the book of John to see if we could get to the next level, but we studied it and have a better understanding of the book. It was fun getting to meet some other Pathfinder clubs and interact with them. Thank you so much for all your support."



Article written and compiled by Franchesca Plein, member of the Hermosa Battle Creek Warriors Pathfinder Club in South Dakota. Photos submitted by Becky McCurdy, Pathfinder secretary.

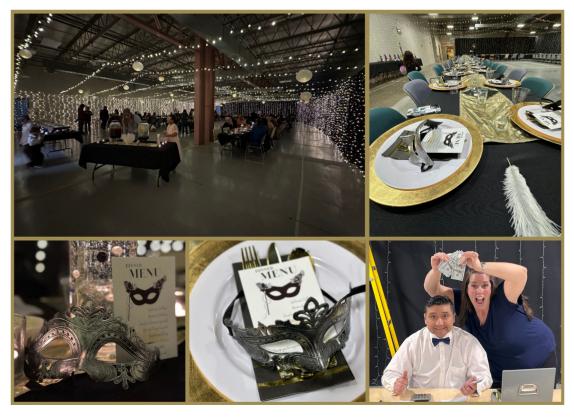
Rapid City School Hosts Fifth Annual Gala

The lights were low. Strands of twinkling small white lights hung overhead and along the walls to create a soft glow to the school's usual gym. Soft ballads of *Vitamin String* quartet played in the background as masked guests arrived in their finest dress for a masquerade evening of flavorful food, delightful entertainment, and meaningful fellowship.

It was in this setting that the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School hosted its fifth annual gala. Dinner was an assortment of oatmeal patties and mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy, roasted veggies, and whole wheat dinner rolls with either herbed or honey butter. In the center of the room, stood a chocolate fountain with a mix of dipping items. Along the wall was a table laden with luxury desserts made by each guest. There were also adorable art items created by Rapid City students.

After dinner, a talented and patient auctioneer began accepting bids for each art item and dessert. Items sold for varying prices—from \$25 for a box of cookies up to \$170 for a jar of local honey. Over the next two hours of laughter and nail-biting bidding, all the items were sold, and a successful total of \$4,085 was raised to help the school with its upcoming projects. This brings in \$1,100 more than last year!

After hours of preparation and teams of hard-working souls, the evening came to a successful close. Guests left with full stomachs and hearts, anxious to know the theme for next year.



Article and photos by Crista Few, member of the Rapid City Adventist Church.

DAA's Second Annual Work Bee

On Sunday, April 16, 2023, Dakota Adventist Academy hosted a successful school work bee. Students, teachers, parents, and volunteers from across the Dakotas came together to improve the school building.

The tasks for the day were divided up based on the skills and preferences of the participants; work groups were organized by Eric Garrett, DAA's plant services director. Some volunteers focused on replacing ceiling tiles in the administrative offices, while others reorganized a storage room in the basement. A group of people also headed to the cafeteria to give the serving line and other kitchen areas a deep clean. The largest group effort was centralized in the middle hall of the Boys' Dorm where workers ripped out carpets, scraped carpet glue off of floors, took out sinks, and prepared rooms for an overhaul.

Throughout the day, there was a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among all those involved. Everyone was working towards a common goal and positive energy filled the air. The event also provided a great opportunity for volunteers and students to get to know each other better, strengthening the school community.

Overall, the school work bee was a huge success. It allowed the volunteers to work collaboratively towards a common goal, and the results were truly impressive. The event serves as a great example of the power of community and the importance of working together to achieve common objectives.



Article by Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director. Photos by Zak Adams, DAA recruiter & art teacher; Mark Piotrowski, conference vp of administration; and Jodi Dossenko.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for the month of May:

Theme: Mothers, Students & Teachers - Preparing Workers for the Harvest

Pastoral Staff: Mike Temple

Education Staff: Leanne Erickson, Eric Garrett, Peter Hutauruk

Office Staff: Jodi Dossenko, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Field Staff: Bob Forbes, Kelli Wasemiller

Adventist Entities: Grand Forks Church, Prairie Voyager Elementary

Northeast, North Dakota: Rolla, Pembina, Langdon, Grafton, Cando, Devil's Lake,

Grand Forks, East Grand Forks (MN), Spirit Lake Reservation

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





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

This week my wife and I were outside watching the incredible northern lights at Dakota Adventist Academy, and by the many posts I saw, many of you were watching from your homes, too.

The first time that we saw the lights together was last September while at Northern Lights Camp during a work bee weekend. We stood on the boat dock watching in awe as they danced across the sky. This year we have been fortunate to see the northern lights several times at DAA, and no matter how many times we see them, they still bring a new sense of wonder and beauty. One night while watching the lights, Lynnette stayed out so long taking pictures that she completely drained her battery and filled up her camera memory with thousands of pictures showing the majesty of the heavens. Each swirl and flash appeared unique and worthy of being captured through the lens.

As I think about the northern lights, I am reminded of the Psalms. The writers of Psalms frequently tell us to look at the sky and witness the wonder of God's creative power. We are encouraged to look and acknowledge that this God who knows and orchestrates the movements of the heavens, and who created the stars in the sky, created and cares for us. Through nature, He reminds us over and over again that He is a God of love.

As spectacular as the northern lights are, however, they pale in comparison to what

the Bible tells us it will be like when Jesus returns to take us home to heaven. From Jesus coming in the clouds to the redeemed standing before the throne of God, what we see now is nothing. Can you believe it? I can't wait to see what He has to show us throughout eternity with Him.

When kids from around the Dakota Conference step on the grounds of Flag Mountain Camp or Northern Lights Camp in the next several months, one of our top goals is to show them the God of creation. We want them to know that this God, who created all things, wants to have a special relationship with each of them. We hope they will learn to see how every element of nature speaks of God's love and care. We are blessed to have camps where we can spend the summer learning about and praising our Creator God.

We invite you to partner with us in praying for a successful 2023 summer camp ministry season. Please pray for our summer camp staff as they prepare to minister in the Dakotas and share God's love with our kids. Pray that our kids' eyes will be open to see God and to desire a lasting relationship with Him.

Thank you for supporting Dakota Adventist Camps!



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



Kids' Corner

The Rapid City Adventist Church in South Dakota recently completed a pilot of the new *Alive in Jesus Sabbath School Curriculum*. "The Alive in Jesus Bible curriculum seeks to equip and empower parents, caregivers, Sabbath School teachers, Sabbath School leaders, and others to model and foster a thriving relationship with Jesus and the children and youth in their spheres of influence" (2023).

This curriculum covers the entire lower division Sabbath School classes, from Beginner to Youth, and will be released in 2025. As part of the curriculum pilot, Rapid City represented not only the Dakota Conference, but the entire Mid-America Union, as 80 churches encompassing 20 different languages participated in this global pilot.

The Sabbath School teachers attended training through the North American Division (NAD) and eagerly decorated their classrooms with the provided backdrops and posters. Families were provided preliminary surveys and kids waited excitedly knowing something new was coming to Sabbath School. The church held a special prayer of dedication lifting up the teachers, families, and children while asking the Spirit to make us all alive in Jesus.

Throughout the quarter-long pilot, teachers made notes such as, "Kids loved this activity," "This craft was too complex for my age group," or "I wasn't able to adequately cover this lesson because a lot of kids arrived late." Families completed secondary surveys where they shared feedback such as, "Student quarterlies were excellent with beautiful illustrations and creative ideas. It was a little tricky to cover all of the lessons when you have kids in both Kindergarten and Primary."

Ask any of the kids what they were learning about in Sabbath School and prepare to be blown away by the depth of their retention and comprehension. Teachers commented on how engaged the kids were with the lesson activities and illustrations. Families noted that their kids would often bring up questions or comments from the Sabbath School lesson at home, and this led to further study and discussion during their family worship time.

There was a shared sentiment of sadness as the pilot came to a close, but overall they expressed appreciation for the experience. Near the end of the pilot, Gerry Lopez, associate director of children's ministry for the NAD, flew out with a videographer to film the kids participating in Sabbath School, conduct interviews, and collect feedback. He loved seeing how excited the kids were and shared that at every pilot church that he visited, he truly saw this next generation alive in Jesus.



Learn more about the Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum at: sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/aliveinjesus

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

Article by Kelli Wasemiller, Dakota Conference education superintendent & children's ministries coordinator.

Photos by Crista Few, member of the Rapid City Adventist Church.



Dakota Adventist Academy is also adding to the education team!

Scan the QR code on the left for more information or <u>click</u> here.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

April -

- 29: Dakota Challenge
- 29: Fargo Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 29: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in New Home Church, ND
- 29: Marriage Seminar at Jamestown Adventist Church, ND (1:30p)
- 30: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

May -

- 5-7: Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Ellendale, ND
- · 6: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Huron, SD
- 7: Women's Mini-Retreat in Bismarck, ND (12-4p)
- 8-12: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 13: Disaster Relief
- 13: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Hermosa, SD
- 13: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown, SD
- 13: DAA Spring Music Concert
- 13: Ladies' Luncheon in McClusky, ND (12:30p)
- 18: Brentwood Eighth Grade Graduation Bismarck Church (7p)

- 19-21: DAA Graduation Weekend
- 20: Local Church Budget
- 20: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Turtle Lake,
 ND
- 20: Pierre Church Women's Retreat (1:30p)
- 24: Hillcrest Eighth Grade Graduation Jamestown Church (TBD)
- 25: Rapid City Eighth Grade Graduation Rapid City Church (6p)
- 27: Dakota Challenge
- 27: Prairie Voyager Eighth Grade Graduation Grand Forks Church (11a)
- 27: Sioux Falls Eighth Grade Graduation Sioux Falls Church (11a)
- 27: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Spearfish, SD
- · 27: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Custer, SD
- 31-3: Dakota Campmeeting

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



Blessed & Kept

May you experience a change in identity.

Even before God fulfills the promise to make him the father of nations, God changes Abram's name to Abraham.

His new identity matched something that had not yet been fully realized in his life. Yet was solidified in his soul. May the identity you will be known by when God's work in you has more fully settled into your psyche become your identity today.

May you reclaim the name destined for you from before your birth.

May you begin to live out of this reclaimed identity even though it may not be fully realized yet.

May you discover a new piece of your identity.

May this identity give you a better sense of your purpose

May you know better what you are to do in the little things of the day.

May those little things lead you to better know who you are to be in the world.

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

April 27 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministries director and member of the Mandan Adventist Church in 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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