

Nothing to Fear

This is the 77th 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 14: Hard Times, Good Times - Part 3

At the special session, Northern Union President E. T. Russell was emphatic that it was impossible to operate the academy any longer. The delegates responded by talk of a vigorous student recruiting program to boost enrollment. Russell rejected such a solution, noting that similar efforts in the past had usually failed. The real problem, Russell explained was that North Dakota's "educational spirit" was not enough to fill the academy with students.

The session rejected outright the suggestion of a financial cooperation in the operation of Plainview Academy and was not at all favorable to closing Sheyenne River Academy and just encouraging North Dakota Students to go to Plainview.

The delegates feared that the closing of the school would be disastrous to the work of the church in North Dakota. Russell responded that the work of the world church had actually benefitted greatly by the destruction of its Battle Creek headquarters and the subsequent move to Washington, D.C.

The delegates, unimpressed by the weak analogy and unenthusiastic about losing their academy, yet unwilling to take upon themselves the responsibility of saving it, reached an impasse in the discussion. After an impassioned appeal from Conference President P. G. Stanley who made "touching remarks as to the heavy responsibility the running of the academy would bring upon the one leading out in this conference," the discussion turned to a short range solution of meeting the immediate financial crisis. The constituency session delegates dodged ultimate responsibility for dealing with the crisis, authorizing the

Association officers to borrow \$8,000 (later amended to \$14,000 to include back salaries for ministers) to meet the immediate need and deferring action on closing the school until the coming camp meeting and regular constituency session.⁹

It is possible that the loan was never made; by camp meeting, just four months later, the school was still \$8,000 behind on its current obligations.¹⁰

At the beginning of the camp meeting session discussion of Sheyenne River Academy's problems, President Stanley, telling the delegates what a personal strain the conference and academy finances had been on him during the brief ten months of his term, resigned the presidency of the conference, and was succeeded by Henry J. Meyer.

The delegates approved a recommendation of the plans committee that the \$8,000 indebtedness and \$4,000 additional for the next year's operating expense be raised before November 1, 1922, by a cash and pledge offering of \$10 per church member in the conference, then indicated by a unanimous rising vote their desire to continue Sheyenne River Academy. About \$2,600 was donated at the meeting in cash and pledges.¹¹

The new president acted decisively, boldly assuring constituents that "our school will be operated (the coming year) better arid stronger than ever before", persuading the academy board to reduce tuition to a level lower than other, competing schools in order to attract the volume of students needed for efficient operation; launching a student recruitment program that did slightly improve SRA's enrollment picture the following years and a fundraising program that brought in an additional \$3,400 towards the academy's debts, and negotiating a \$5,000 appropriation from the General Conference (which had recommended to the camp meeting constituency session that the school be continued) to pull the academy out of its would-be grave. ¹²

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    Ibid., September 13, 1921, 3.
    Ibid., March 7, 1922, 9,10.
    Ibid., February 7, 1922, 5.
    Ibid., March 7, 1923, 9, 10; Conference Session Record Book II, 1922, (not paged).
    Ibid., July 11, 1922, 12.
    Ibid.
    Ibid., August 22, 1922, 6; March 11, 1924, 11.
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Next time from Nothing to Fear:

Chapter 14: Hard Times, Good Times - 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:

dakotaadventist.org/resources/communiques/dakota-dispatch

The first installment of *Nothing to Fear* starts in the October 22, 2020, issue.

Jaime Jorge Concert



You are invited to attend a worship event at the Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church on Saturday, April 13 at 6:30p featuring Jaime Jorge (1201 4th St NE, Jamestown, ND).

The proceeds will support Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School.

The Path Laid Before Me

I'm missing my mom more and more as time stretches between her passing and this day. Days became weeks, and now weeks have become months of living without her.

Yesterday, I was brushing my teeth and caught a glimpse of her in my reflection in the mirror.

Last week, I started wearing a pair of shoes that once graced mom's closet. I slipped them on at noon today to pick up the mail and was struck with how the shoes I now wear that were once hers are leaving impressions in the snow wherever I go. The molds in the driveway are from either early this morning or else yesterday morning as I crunched through the three-plus inches of fresh white snow on my daily walk with my dog, Oreo. In the hours since my walk, a breeze has whisked away the rest of the snow, so that only those footprints remain.

This piece of scripture came to mind. It speaks deeply to me of how Mom has left this world, but she left behind a foundation for me to follow, just like those footprints in the snow are guiding my way when everything else is blown away. I still have a path to follow.

She showed me how to connect with Jesus, with Scripture, with prayer, with journaling, and

most definitely with music. I'm so thankful she laid down that path for me.

Now that her shoes are on MY feet, I can point the next generations to the "ancient paths" with the steps I take.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16, KJV).

Worship Thoughts by Brenda Klein, member of the New Home Adventist Church in North Dakota. Follow Brenda on Facebook for more devotional thoughts at <u>Farm Girl Faith</u>.







Newest Member in Hermosa

Lucy Guldaman and Becky McCurdy have been diligently working through a baptismal book

together for several months. Lucy's enthusiasm to be baptized and her profound love for Jesus truly shine through their studies. It fills the adults' hearts gratitude to witness her sincere desire to follow Jesus and become a part of His family.

In addition to their study sessions, Lucy



frequently visits Becky to engage in sewing projects. Given that Becky's own grandchildren reside far away, Lucy's presence brings immense joy to her heart. Together, they've embarked on creating various items, including a quilt and a dolly. Welcome to the Family of God, Lucy!

Third Annual Ladies' Luncheon



Join ladies from across the Dakotas at the McClusky Adventist Church on Saturday, April 27, 2024, 707 Avenue E, McClusky ND 58463.

Bismarck Ladies' Brunch

All were women welcomed—from our youngest mother to our renowned centenarian, Edna Moser, who is 103! Each one was lavishly loved and pampered by our Women's Ministry leader, Melanie Herholdt. The women of Bismarck Adventist Church, and anyone they wanted to include, were invited to a ladies' brunch on February 11, 2024. Melanie is cherished for many things, but one especially is her cooking, and we knew we were in for a treat.

The theme was taken from the adage, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Never had I heard it presented more sweetly than when Melanie gave us her take on the statement. The "lemons" in the Christian life may include many things: a bad day, a hospitalized child, an unknown future, or a dissolved relationship. Each of us have gone through many lemons, simply because we live in a sinful world. Yet, we're still here, and we still survived those sour fruits. We know we probably will encounter more bitter trials ahead, but thankfully, there's that lemonade!

The difference between that biting sharp taste of the lemon and lemonade is sugar. In our scenario, the sugar is Jesus, sweet Jesus! He doesn't always take us out of a hurting situation, but He makes it so much easier to swallow, by sweetening that bitter ol' lemon. He offers sweet peace, sweet joy, and sweet hope and sprinkles our disposition with a pinch of goodness. What a beautiful thought!

After Melanie gave us some spiritual food to chew on, we lined up for the physical food, and what a delight. Pancakes, waffles, yogurts, jams, honey, eggs, grit casserole, and all types of bread with butter and spreads. Then we spent time interacting with other women. We sometimes forget we need to breathe the same air as our sisters. We need them to hear us, and we need to hear them. We gather strength, commiserate together, laugh, and reset our worlds through our companionship with them. We are so appreciative to Melanie for providing this to us.



Article and photos by Reese Saxon, elder and member of the Bismarck Adventist Church in North Dakota.

Dakota Adventist Academy Work Bee





Looking for a way to give back? We are searching for volunteers of all skill levels to donate their time on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Join us at the Academy as we work to revitalize our school while reengaging with our community. Lunch will be provided.

Please register online and let us know what skills you can share.

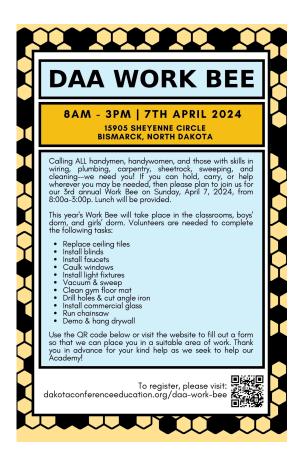
To register, please visit: dakotaconferenceeducation.org/daa-work-bee

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 help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our 3rd annual Work Bee on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Lunch will be provided.

This year's Work Bee will take place in the classrooms, boys' dorm, and girls' dorm. Volunteers are needed to complete the following tasks:

- Replace ceiling tiles
- Install blinds
- Install faucets
- · Caulk windows
- · Install light fixtures
- Vacuum & sweep
- Clean gym floor mat
- · Drill holes & cut angle iron
- Install commercial glass
- Run chainsaw
- Demo & hang drywall

<u>Click here</u> to fill out a form so we can place you in a suitable work area. Thank you in advance for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!



Scholarship Opportunity

Two types of grants are available through the Frank & Lulu Saunders Scholarship to students holding church membership in the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Enrollment must be in a post-secondary educational institution that is listed in the most recent official Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook.

Click <u>here</u> for the Graduate Student Scholarship Grant Application.

Click <u>here</u> for the Undergraduate Student Scholarship Grant Application.

To apply for scholarship consideration, please follow these steps:

- 1. Note eligibility requirements (top of the front page of the application form).
- 2. Print and complete the application. Please print (or type) to ensure legibility.
- 3. Provide a (minimum) one-page essay including information per instructions on the second page of the application form.
- 4. Provide two letters of recommendation/reference: One from a current teacher and one from your current pastor and/or recent employer. Recommendations from relatives do not qualify.
- 5. Scan all documents in the order listed, attach in PDF format, and email to vp.finance@dakotasda.org
- 6. Deadline to receive applications is April 1.

Please note that ineligible applicants and/or incomplete application document sets (per the above list) will be disqualified without notice.

Click here for more information.



Youth & Young Adults

Growing up as a Pathfinder, I always looked forward to two yearly events: Bible bowl and pinewood derby. After months of work we, as Pathfinders, finally had the opportunity to show what we had memorized and race our cars that we hoped would be fast enough. Since then, many years have passed, and Bible bowl has now grown to the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). Each year, Pathfinders from around the division dedicate hours and hours to learning and memorizing Bible texts in preparation for PBE.

This year, five teams from around the Dakotas traveled to Dakota Adventist Academy to participate in the Conference-level PBE. More than 100 Pathfinders, friends, and family members took part in the weekend's fun and worship. The Black Hills Lightbearers Pathfinder Club shared their musical talents by leading out in our song services. We are so blessed to have talented young people who are willing to share for Jesus! Our Sabbath School program was facilitated by DAA senior Liz Struntz, who led out in a thoughtful discussion of Matthew 9.

After lunch, we began the long-awaited PBE event. This year, Pathfinders memorized the books of Joshua and Judges. One new piece to PBE this year was the use of computers. Our teams used the NearPod platform to record their answers. By using this system, judges

were able to see and grade the answers more easily and efficiently. Everything worked smoothly with the new system. When it was all over, three of our five teams (Cleveland Prairie Trails, Black Hills Lightbearers, and Hermosa Battlecreek Warriors) earned a first-place finish and qualified to go to Union College for the Mid-America Union Conference PBE. Our other two teams (Rapid City Rushmore Mountaineers and Bismarck Roughriders) also did very well and earned second-place finishes. Teams that qualify from the MAUC PBE will be eligible to go to Greeley, Colorado, for the North American Division PBE.

Our Sabbath evening concluded with an exciting pinewood derby. The creativity of our Pathfinders with their cars and the all around good sportsmanship was awesome to see. A huge thanks goes to Richard Ray, from the Cleveland Prairie Trails Pathfinder Club, for organizing and facilitating the derby and for all those who helped make this event a success.

On Sunday following worship, clubs headed over to the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum to work on the fossil honor. We are lucky to have such a great resource available to our young people to see and compare what the Bible says versus what scientists teach in regard to natural history as it relates to the fossil record. The Pathfinders had fun seeing fossils up close.

On a final note, we want to personally thank all those who continually invest and support our Pathfinder Clubs. We also thank Elder Weir and the pastors who took the time to be a part of this fun weekend.



Article by Pastor Ted Struntz, Conference youth and young adults director. Photos by Lynnette Struntz, Conference



Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for **March**:

Theme: Blessing the Seed - Planting for Harvest

Pastoral Staff: Harold Chin, Casper

du Plessis

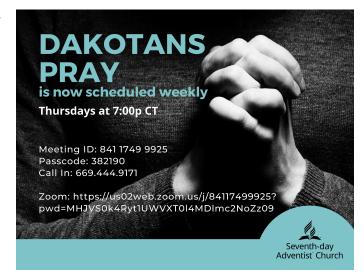
Office Staff: Lynnette Struntz, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Bottineau Church, Bowdon Country Church, Goodrich Church, Harvey Church, Manfred Church, McClusky Church, Minot Church

North Central, North Dakota:

Bottineau,

Minot, Minot Airforce



Base, Rugby, Garrison, Goodrich, McClusky, Turtle Lake, Butte, Harvey, Manfred, Bowdon, Turtle Mountain Reservation

Click here to visit the Prayer Ministries webpage.

Kids' Corner

Easter is coming up on March 31. This season is a special time to focus on Jesus and all that He has done for us through His life, death, and resurrection. Here are some resources for celebrating Easter with your children.

Enjoy a special Easter story, "The Parable of the Lily." youtu.be/HNmwLk2Y9Y4?si=pDKWZZuB4x Rfwec

Easter Craft Corner:

youtu.be/xKG5FFewK1U?si=zSeq4Rsqx73puD9J

Join Kelli in studying the book *The Wonder of Easter* by Ed Drew. Take a few devotional minutes every day to focus on the final days in the life of Jesus.

youtube.com/playlist?

list=PLT8TBICrTY6eI1SnbUGieuH83t9Az48XT&si=iZKxa3qiOOg7CHuc

If you are interested in contributing devotional or craft videos to be shared with our Conference kids, please contact Kelli at dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, Dakota SDA Kids, and explore the many videos available for children.



Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference elementary education superintendent.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching/visitation schedule is in blue.

Conference Regionals and Town Hall schedule is in green.

March -

- 16: Local Church Budget
- 16: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Turtle Lake, ND
- 16: Ministerial Director Elder Vernon Herholdt preaching in Lehr, ND
- 16: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bismarck, ND
- 16: Mid-America Union Pathfinder Bible Experience in Lincoln, NE
- 23: Dakota Challenge
- 23: Dickinson Regional with Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 24: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 29-30: Elizabeth Talbot at DAA
- 30: Local Church Budget
- 30: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Manfred, ND
- 30: Youth & Young Adult Director Elder Ted Struntz preaching in New Home, ND

April -

- 1: Office Closed Easter Monday
- 1-2: Elementary Teacher In-services at Conference Office
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdle, SD
- 6: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in New Home, ND

- 7: Work Bee at DAA
- 13: Dakota Challenge
- 13: Fargo Regional with Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 14: Dakota Conference Nominating Committee at Conference Office (9a)
- 18: MAUC Executive Committee in Lincoln, NE
- 20: Local Church Budget
- 20: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Ellendale, ND
- 21: K-12 Board at Conference Office (10a)
- 23: Executive Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 27: Hope Channel International
- 27: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hurley, SD

May -

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 5: Union College Graduation
- 6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 11: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Jamestown, ND
- 11: ADRA Disaster Relief

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

Blessed & Kept

Psalm 63

May you find reprieve in the desert.

May the deep thirst of your soul be quenched, if for only a moment, as you behold the majesty of God.

May your longing for comfort in the dark winter of your soul find its satisfaction in the one who suffered just as you are suffering.

May your deep seated desire for connection in the loneliness of this season guide you to the shadow of Spirit's wings where you are safe; where you are home.

May your soul cling to the righteous right hand of God that upholds you.

Though the dark winter has not passed, may this glimpse of the coming Spring feed your soul and give you strength for today.

March 14 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken in North Dakota by Terry Tachenko, member of the Grassy Butte Adventist Church.

The Dakota Conference Communication Department is always looking for beautiful photos to use in the *Dakota Dispatch*, the *Dakota Messenger*, the website, and more. If you are willing to share, please send them to communication@dakotasda.org with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

Communication Director / Editor - Jodi Dossenko

E-mail: communication@dakotasda.org

If you have local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles, and pictures to the email listed above.

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 the Communication Department at communication@dakotasda.org. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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