

## Christian Conflict Certain *Neil Biloff, President*

The television was abuzz with the news a terrorist had taken the lives of innocent people in New York City. Some commentators tried to play down the information, but soon it was impossible to ignore. Radical Islam had struck once again. The bodies of people hit with a pickup truck were strewn everywhere. As painful as these graphic pictures have been to watch, it appears that they are not going away



any time soon. Radical Islam is looking for a showdown with Christianity and the West. In light of this continued confrontation, some are looking at Daniel 11 for illumination. Does it speak of major confrontations between Christianity and Islam before Jesus comes? It depends on who you believe is the king of the north and the king of the south. But as time goes along it is hard to ignore the Muslim presence in our end-time world view. Some theologians believe the king of the north is false Christianity. Two great confrontations have taken place in history between Christianity and Islam, and the third will happen just before Jesus comes ushering in a time of trouble. The basic timeline of the three major conflicts are as follows;

- Crusades – AD 1095 to AD 1291 (Daniel 11:25-28)
- Ottoman Empire – AD 1449 to AD 1840 (Daniel 11:29-30)
- Future Conflict – it could begin at any time (Daniel 11:40-45)

Josiah Litch, one of our early church leaders, predicted that the fall of the Ottoman Empire was the second prophecy spoken of in Daniel 11:29-30 in an article written for the *Midnight Cry*, on January 6, of 1843.

So we find it interesting to note that some believe there could be a third woe just ahead of us in which once again a showdown may take place between the Christian world and the Muslim world. The call could be made to align under the banner of Rome for the third time to fight Islam. None of us know for certain how prophecy will play itself out, but the concept is intriguing. We do know that Muslims are projected to be the fastest growing major religious group in the world, growing at a rate twice that of Christianity. As always true Christianity will find itself caught in the middle of the conflict awaiting a miraculous victory and salvation from God.

Daniel 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the south shall attack him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through." Daniel 11 is difficult to understand but as we get closer to the end of time, more will be revealed. It is time to spend time in His Word and pray for the Holy Spirit's leading.



*Jacquie Biloff Photo*

## Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Financial Highlights August 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b>1. Tithe Income</b>				
Month-to-Date	314,212	295,117	19,095	6.47%
Year-to-Date	3,215,171	3,085,934	129,237	4.19%
<b>2. Dakota Challenge</b>				
Month-to-Date	13,129	13,217	(88)	-0.67%
Year-to-Date	87,098	91,588	(4,490)	-4.90%
<b>3. Unrestricted Evangelism Fund Bal.</b>	0	38,960	(38,960)	-100.00%
<b>Temp Restrict Evangelism Fund Bal.</b>	874,727	1,083,619	(208,892)	-19.28%
<b>4. Cash Position (Cash + Investments)</b>	2,108,782	1,612,805	495,977	30.75%
MAUC Revolving Fund	191,392	388,250	(196,858)	-50.70%
Total	2,300,174	2,001,055	299,119	14.95%
<b>5. Accounts Receivable</b>				
Elementary Schools	77,496	121,327	(43,831)	-36.13%
Churches	40,612	22,258	18,354	82.46%
DAA	(72,516)	69,271	(141,787)	-204.68%
<b>6. Percent of Working Capital (Note #1)</b>	69.63%	61.66%	7.97%	
<b>7. Current Ratio (Note #2)</b>	4.76:1	4.55:1		
<b>8. Percent of Liquid Assets to Commitments</b>	156.08%	133.06%	23.02%	
<b>9. Total Operations</b>	<u>2017 Actual YTD</u>	<u>2017 Budget YTD</u>	<u>Over/(Under) Budget</u>	<u>2016 YTD</u>
Income	4,419,804	3,919,643	500,161	4,297,085
Expenses	4,988,958	4,678,011	310,947	4,590,853
Net Gain/(Loss) before Transfers	(569,154)	(758,368)	189,214	(293,768)
Net Transfers In/(Out)	(2,122)	(160,464)	158,342	(8,048)
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(571,276)	(918,832)	347,556	(301,816)
Net Assets - January 1	3,747,379	3,747,379	0	3,318,842
Net Assets - End of Period	3,176,103	2,828,547	347,556	3,017,026
<b>10. Operations for Selected Departments</b>				
Pastors	1,327,875	1,321,711	6,164	1,290,469
Evangelism	91,999	112,113	(20,114)	53,282
Church Schools	407,965	427,812	(19,847)	486,748
DAA	823,403	656,333	167,070	810,255
Employee Medical	302,654	336,000	(33,346)	383,631
General Administrative	375,227	431,281	(56,054)	367,126
Residences	240,694	182,667	58,027	78,358

Note #1 Percent of Working Capital reflects the percentage of reserves the conference has, as compared to policy. Policy requires the conference to maintain reserves equivalent to 25% of unrestricted income plus 100% of long-term payables, capital functions fund balances, and temporary restricted fund balances.

Note #2 Current Ratio is the comparison of total current assets to total current liabilities.

## Dakota Elementary Schools

*Sue Nelson, Education Superintendent*

We have seven elementary schools in the Dakota Conference. The teachers love God and are dedicated to working with young people. The following are snippets of amazing things happening in featured schools.

### Brentwood Adventist Christian School



Pastor Nelson is teaching grades 5-7 an introductory course to Robotics called, "Boost". Students learn to create and program simple robots using touch-based programming and the basics of coding. They are learning to solve problems and work together as a team.



Students at Brentwood are learning to play the chimes. A volunteer, Medgy Chapman, comes in two days a week to work with students, teaching them to read, count, and play music.



*Photos by Sue Nelson*

### Prairie Voyager Adventist School



Students at Prairie Voyager are doing an interesting science experiment. A pumpkin, named Pumpkin Jack, has been placed in a clear container. The students will be watching him decompose, observing molds that grow, and hoping for a new growth of a pumpkin plant at the end of the plant life cycle. Dakota teachers are using **By Design: A Journey to Excellence through Science**, which is the new faith-based inquiry science program for grades 1-8.

*Photo by Leanne Erickson*

### Red River Adventist School

Mr. Gennick is the new teacher of the Red River Elementary School in Fargo. One of the highlights of their year has been to go to Outdoor School at Northern Lights Camp. On their way they stopped at the geographical center of North America, in Rugby, ND.

Another fun event was having the Fargo Fire Department come teach fire prevention. The boys especially liked learning about the fascinating features of the fire truck.



*Photos by Nick Gennick*

### Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary School



*Photo by Elisa Wright*

On the evening of September 23, the Sioux Falls Adventist School students went out into the neighborhoods surrounding the school. They were on a mission to raise money for the Adventist schools damaged or destroyed by the hurricanes earlier this fall. As they went door-to-door selling calendars, each student was able to share a little about their school and why they were fundraising. The hard work paid off, and they were able to sell all of their calendars to help fund the relief efforts for their sister schools.

## DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY



*Sharon Heinrich, Development Director*

How fast time flies – it's hard to believe that first semester is almost over. Forty-one students and staff have been very busy since classes began in August. Following are a few highlights.

**Camp Week** – As is tradition, students and staff spent a few days at Northern Lights Camp after registration. It was a time of spiritual refreshment, making new friends and fun. Worships were held morning and evening with Pastor Kris de Bruin from the Bowdon, McClusky and New Home district. His focus was the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5. Learning new skills and water-front activities were thoroughly enjoyed.



**Special Sabbaths** – The beginning of the school year brought two special Sabbaths. August 26 was Dedication Sabbath on campus. Students broke into small groups and visited the staff in each of their departments to pray for the staff member and their work. September 2 found all students and staff heading out to eight churches to participate in worship services for Endowment Sabbath. Several of the staff presented sermons. Both of these special Sabbaths emphasized DAA's theme for the year, *Fruits of the Spirit*, based on Galatians 5:22-23.



**Community Service** – All our students participate in various community service days in the Bismarck-Mandan area. However, September 4 was a little different. Arriving at Northern Lights Camp the evening before, students, staff, conference staff and other volunteers spent Labor Day tearing down the old boathouse down by the beach and preparing the old cafeteria for demolition.

**Alumni Weekend** – October 6 & 7 brought alumni and others to campus for alumni weekend. Friendships were renewed as the honor classes and others came together, some coming back for the first time since they had graduated. Highlights of the weekend can be found at

[www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) by searching for 2017 DAA Alumni Weekend.

Thank you for being a part of Dakota Adventist Academy's family. Your financial support and prayers mean so much to us.

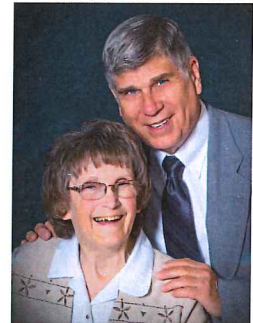
## Pastors on the Move

*Jacquie Biloff, Communication*



**Sue Nelson** has been elected as the Dakota Conference Superintendent of Education, Pathfinder Director and Conference Sabbath School Leader. Nelson started her education by following in the footsteps of her mother who was a nurse. A couple years into the program she realized it was her mother's dream but she loved teaching. She graduated from Andrews with a bachelors of science in Elementary Education, taught several years then left her career to raise her two children. She worked on her Masters in Administration after the children were in bed, which she timely completed as her youngest entered first grade. "Education is so important in the lives of kids; Christian education can point kids to Jesus."

**Elder Joseph & Jimmie Story** retired from the Dakota Conference but were rehired to serve at the Pine Ridge (Payabya) Mission in South Dakota. When the mission closed they were available to serve as interim in the Pierre/Mobridge/Tolstoy district. Jimmie commented, "We will have served three districts twice in the Dakotas over the years: Bowdle, SD; Pine Ridge, SD; and Pierre, SD."



**Elder Robert & Elizabeth Carlson** have accepted a call to the Huron/Watertown district in South Dakota. They are returning to the Dakota Conference after teaching in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Carlsons have two young children, Harper and Alice.

**Elder Richard & Katrina Kurtz** have accepted a call to the Washington Conference from the Pierre/Mobridge/Tolstoy district in South Dakota. The Kurtz were ordained at Campmeeting in June.



**NOTE:** The Dakota Conference has a new website as of November 1, 2017. Church Connect, who is supporting the conference and many church websites in the North American Division, upgraded from a 2.0 to a 3.0 and will not support the 2.0 website after January 1, 2018. Many features will look the same on the new website but some have been upgraded. The URL address remains the same, which is [www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org). Please visit your website (we are still working on the cemetery galleries).

## Evangelism in Mitchell, SD

*Jacquie Biloff, Communication*

Twenty-three guests registered for the first night of *Revelations' Urgent Call* meetings being held in Mitchell, SD with Dakota Evangelist Donavon Kack. Working with him are his family and Jody Schumacher of Kulm, ND. Four hundred sixty-seven Great Controversy books were distributed on a small donation of two to five dollar basis to people at businesses and homes in Mitchell and an Amish community south of town. Some gave ten to twenty dollars, saying give the book to those who can't afford it.

An older gentleman, who appeared to be in charge of the art project at the Corn Palace, declined the book after Hiram Kack had given him the canvass. He said he knew God was working, that he was already close to God, and that he fell asleep every night praying for people he knew. "After visiting for a few minutes, we said goodbye and walked a little ways and watched the other team canvass..." says Kack. "Meanwhile our prayer team, in the van, was praying for the man who declined. A few seconds later he called me back over to where he was sitting and asked, 'How much did you say that book was again?' 'Well, we're just leaving it for a small donation of two to five dollars.' He pulled out a five-dollar bill and said, 'You know what, I need that book.'"

A family with six children asked if kids were welcome and was assured that they were. They said they had other friends with large families and would let them know.

"The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth's history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in The Great Controversy, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books." – Ellen White, *Colporteur Ministry*, 126, 127.



***The Spirit of Christmas***

*Join us for*

***Dakota Adventist Academy's***  
***Celebration of Praise Weekend***

**December 15 & 16, 2017**

Friday evening vespers~ 7:30 pm  
Sabbath School~10:00 am  
Worship Service~ 11:15 am  
Guest Speaker~ Elder Gary Thurber

**Music Concert featuring DAA Students**  
**Saturday, December 16, 2017~ 7:00 pm**  
Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items for the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House.  
Join us for light refreshments in the atrium following the concert.

For more information, please call:  
(701) 258-9000



## Dakota Men's Retreat

**March 9 - 11, 2017**  
**Rough Rider Hotel**  
**Medora, ND**  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)

## Payabya Mission Closes

*Jacquie Biloff, Communication*

In the 1920s Brother and Sister E. L. Marley (parents of E. L. Marley, formerly Northern Union Conference president) began working with the Sioux Indians near Kyle and Porcupine, SD, when they were employed as government schoolteachers. In 1940, the Marleys helped establish a new village, a government school and a Seventh-day Adventist church at Red Shirt Table near the Cheyenne River. A church building was erected on a site leased to the conference by the government. After Marleys moved away in 1941, the Rapid City district pastor cared for the church.

In 1965, Elder and Mrs. Marvin Walters came to Red Shirt Table from working among the Indians of the American Southwest. The conference purchased a ten-acre plot eight miles east of the new Indian Hospital at Pine Ridge, SD on Highway 18. Buildings were moved and remodeled and school began in September of 1968 with Larry Gatewood as teacher of ten pupils. The enrollment continued to climb until the school year of 1978-79 showed 42 students enrolled in eight grades.

Wilbur and Janice Mauk served at the mission from 1985 to 1995 continuing the school program for ten years but were forced to retire due to medical issues. Steven and Darlene Custer were listed as program managers from 1997 until 2002. Afterward, the mission was rented to other Christian non-profits and suffered significant deterioration.

Bill and Marilyn Glassford were hired in 2013 to help restore the mission and a school was again started in 2015. However, vandalism of the mission director's personal property, the school and school property and the teacher's residence and personal property caused the school to close just before the start of the second year.

Several pastors served from 2013 to the closing of the mission. Retired Pastor David and Eunice Brown served at the mission followed by Pastor Joseph and Jimmie Story. Pastor Marion and Elva Miller of the Hot Springs/Custer district served for a couple of years and then Pastor Joseph and Jimmie Story returned. In October of 2017 the decision was made to sell Payabya Mission at #3 Community on the Pine Ridge Reservation to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The Tribe is excited to have the resident houses and buildings to use for tribal meetings. Arrangements were made for those who would like to attend church to continue to use the church building on Sabbath.

Native Ministries Coordinator Debra Claymore-Cuny continues to work among the many reservations in the Dakotas and associated hub cities.



# Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)



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<p><b>Nov</b></p> <p>11 Veterans Day</p> <p>13-16 MAUC Yr End Meetings</p> <p>22 Office Closes at noon</p> <p>23 Thanksgiving</p> <p><b>Dec</b></p> <p>02 Black Hills Regional</p> <p>10 K-12 Board Meeting 10 am</p> <p>15-16 DAA Celebration of Praise</p> <p>17 Executive Committee 10 am</p>	<p>C A L E N D A R</p>	<p><b>Dec Cont</b></p> <p>25 Christmas</p> <p>25-28 Office Closed</p> <p><b>Jan</b></p> <p>01 New Years Day</p> <p>01 Office Closed</p> <p>14 Teacher In-service at DAA 9 am</p> <p>15-18 Pastors' Meetings at Conf Office 5 pm</p> <p>20 Pathfinder Bible Experience</p> <p>21 Pathfinder Honors Fair</p>
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<p><b>President, Evangelism, ASI</b> Neil Biloff</p> <p><b>VP of Admin, Youth Dir &amp; Camps</b> Loren Nelson III</p> <p><b>VP of Finance, Trust Director</b> Arlo Heinrich</p> <p><b>Ministerial Director</b> Bryce Pascoe</p> <p><b>Associate Treasurer</b> Cindy Miller</p> <p><b>Adventist Community Services</b> Bob Forbes</p>	<p><b>Ed Superintendent, SS, Pathfindrs</b> Sue Nelson</p> <p><b>Receptionist, Adm Assistant, Clerk</b> Jodi Dossenko</p> <p><b>ABC Manager, Adm Assistant</b> Lynette Miller</p> <p><b>Communication, Treasury Clerk</b> Jacquie Biloff</p> <p><b>Native Ministries Coordinator</b> Deb Claymore-Cuny</p> <p><b>Trust Services Assoc Director</b> Charles O'Hare</p>	<p><b>Trust Services, Adm Assistant</b> Julie Brude</p> <p><b>Maintenance</b> Marlin Miller</p> <p><b>Disaster Relief Director</b> Phyllis Alexander</p> <p><b>Women's Ministries Director</b> Brenna Kerr</p> <p><b>Men's Ministries Director</b> Randy Rubbert</p> <p><b>Prayer Ministries Coordinator</b> Dragos Profir</p>
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The **Dakota Messenger** is a publication of the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Please send newsletter submissions to Jacquie Biloff ([jbiloff@icloud.com](mailto:jbiloff@icloud.com)) or in care of the Dakota Conference, 7200 N Washington Street, Bismarck, ND 58503.