



Bill Edwards Photo

Reformation in Song

Neil Biloff, President



Part of the 500 year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation includes music in the form of hymns dating back to that most difficult time in Christendom's fight for religious freedom. The great hymn writer Issac Watts, born in 1674, emerged as a reformation giant in explaining through music the power in the cross and the faith available in Jesus. According to books I have read, Issac's father, also named Issac Watts, was a nonconformist preacher of the time and had been incarcerated twice for his views on religion and freedom. As a young child, Watts was often taken in his mother's arms and set on a stone outside the prison walls as she talked to his father. Freedom of religion was not a secured right during that time period and the views of young Issac Watt's father were far from those in authority.

Young Issac was not physically strong and struggled with health issues throughout his life, but his mind was far above average. Watts displayed a propensity for rhyme from an early age. He was once asked why he had his eyes open during prayers, to which he responded:

A little mouse for want of stairs
ran up a rope to say its prayers.

For this Issac received a spanking to which he cried:

O father, father, pity take
And I will no more verses make.

Issac Watts survived his childhood and became a religious poet almost without equal. One of his greatest hymns was titled *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. The very first verse pretty well describes the christian walk:

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Although Watts, brilliant as he was in verse with the writing of 750 hymns, like the apostle Paul, counted it all as loss in the light of Christ's gift on the cross:

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far to small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my souls my life, My all.

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Financial Highlights December 31, 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Increase (Decrease)</u>
1. Tithe Income				
Month-to-Date	873,179	951,562	(78,383)	-8.24%
Year-to-Date	4,992,212	5,520,706	(528,494)	-9.57%
2. Dakota Challenge				
Month-to-Date	18,850	15,614	3,236	20.72%
Year-to-Date	136,735	140,892	(4,157)	-2.95%
3. Unrestricted Evangelism Fund Bal.	0	20,642	(20,642)	-100.00%
Temp Restrict Evangelism Fund Bal.	763,474	1,066,306	(302,832)	-28.40%
4. Cash Position (Cash + Investments)	1,854,089	1,435,479	418,610	29.16%
MAUC Revolving Fund	682,080	718,422	(36,342)	-5.06%
Total	2,536,169	2,153,901	382,268	17.75%
5. Accounts Receivable				
Elementary Schools	101,339	160,617	(59,278)	-36.91%
Churches	45,452	6,875	38,577	561.12%
DAA	72,556	23,111	49,445	213.95%
6. Percent of Working Capital (Note #1)	92.01%	76.93%	15.08%	
7. Current Ratio (Note #2)	4.84:1	4.24:1		
8. Percent of Liquid Assets to Commitments	188.10%	149.36%	38.74%	
9. Total Operations	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>2015 YTD</u>
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Income	7,264,814	6,355,359	909,455	6,719,571
Expenses	6,823,580	6,958,324	(134,744)	6,820,912
Net Gain/(Loss) before Transfers	441,234	(602,965)	1,044,199	(101,341)
Net Transfers In/(Out)	(12,698)	33,000	(45,698)	(299,302)
Net Increase/(Decrease)	428,536	(569,965)	998,501	(400,643)
Net Assets - January 1	3,318,842			3,719,485
Net Assets - End of Period	3,747,378			3,318,842
10. Operations for Selected Departments				
Pastors	2,004,435	1,677,076	327,359	1,883,378
Evangelism	67,625	147,560	(79,935)	273,557
Church Schools	722,110	659,803	62,307	727,747
DAA	942,179	1,084,500	(142,321)	1,171,394
Employee Medical	549,831	411,300	138,531	361,677
General Administrative	632,110	574,880	57,230	525,669
Residences	142,502	169,532	(27,030)	242,914

Note #1 Percent of Working Capital reflects the percentage of reserves the conference has, as compared to policy. Policy recommends that the conference 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.

Hillcrest Utilizes Pilot Program

RaeLea Frishman, Head Teacher

"But, Mrs. Frishman, I don't want science class to end!" That is something every teacher wants to hear. Hillcrest teachers were able to hear comments similar to this for two weeks thanks to an incredible program they piloted. Hillcrest Adventist School is a two-teacher school located in Jamestown, North Dakota, which had the opportunity to participate in *Our Creator's Space* through Southern Adventist University.

In order to engage students, Lower Grad Teacher Ms. Gutknecht, the lower grades teacher, and Head Teacher RaeLea Frishman have attempted to utilize the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) approach in their classrooms. Unfortunately, in small schools limited resources make it difficult to provide the latest technology and methods. *Our Creator's Space* was able to fill the void created by a lack of resources.

Our Creator's Space is meant to bring STEAM activities with a maker-space approach to small school classrooms, but with a focus on learning more about who Our Creator is through the lessons, learning experiences and discussions," per Pegi Flynt, developer of *Our Creator's Space*. Hillcrest teachers piloted two lessons, The Circulatory System and Forces of Motion. Both of the classrooms participated in these lessons, but the activities were tailored to be appropriate for each grade level.

Through the program they were able to obtain Google Cardboard Virtual Reality headsets and Ozobots, along with supplies for each of the hands-on activities planned. During the study of The Circulatory System, they utilized multiple methods to engage learning. For example, the students experienced an inside view of the heart, veins, and arteries using Google Cardboard. They were able to follow the path that blood travels through the body. The experience included viewing the effects of plaque on the vessels.

The focus for the second week was Forces of Motion. They continued the use of Google

Cardboard where students viewed a rollercoaster as if they were riding it. This



experience was used to help them design their own rollercoasters for their Ozobot to travel. Ozobots are small robots that make movements based on color codes. Students had to make the correct color combinations on their tracks for their Ozobot to traverse. It would demonstrate the potential and kinetic energy of their rollercoaster. This was just one of many fun projects that allowed the students to view a concept that is sometimes hard to grasp.

The advantage of STEAM versus traditional lecture methods is critical thinking, hands-on experiences, and creativity are at the core. This approach allows the students to connect their learning to an experience and makes concepts more tangible for them. Students who feel they have more ownership of their learning retain information better and are more willing to participate.

Hillcrest was blessed to have the opportunity to take part in this pilot program. These resources are now available for all subjects throughout the year. Google Cardboard headsets have been used to take a virtual field trip to Sutter's Mill in California where the Gold Rush began. Perhaps the Ozobots will be used next to map Paul's missionary journeys. The possibilities are endless. Hillcrest's teachers are excited for the future and how they can involve the resources gained from *Our Creator's Space*!

DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Tracy Peterson, DAARecruiter

The Biggest Blessing is to Be a Blessing

The biggest blessings in life occur when someone is able to be a blessing to others. Six of DAA's lovely young ladies got to do just that by putting on a Week of Prayer for Rapid City



Adventist Elementary School. Their days were filled with worship, hard work and a little adventure.

Monday, the students arrived in time to close out the school day with a worship and song by Tendai Mpezeni. Tuesday was so busy, starting out with worship by Katie Van Inwagen and Karissa Rickard, followed by a huge exodus of excess and unused stuff from the school attic. Elena Goldsberry, who was joined by her grandfather, Pastor Purdy from Rapid City, delivered worship to the students



Wednesday morning. He helped by playing his guitar and singing a special song with her.

Then they began the adventure of a day trip to Payabya Mission. The girls successfully and efficiently insulated and sheet rocked Pastor



Story's garage.

Thursday, back at Rapid Adventist Elementary, Jaelyn Pickett presented worship. After spending the rest of the day helping organize the school library, cutting out laminate verses, grading papers, and touching up the paint

in the school office, they experienced their next adventure - BEAR COUNTRY USA!

On Friday, Faith Peterson closed the Week of Prayer with the game called *Telephone*. God always shares with us the best messages. Satan changes a word here and there and suddenly the message is not right anymore. The remedy is to always go to the source for the correct information. Praying and studying the Bible will bring about a true relationship with God and a clear message of His will.



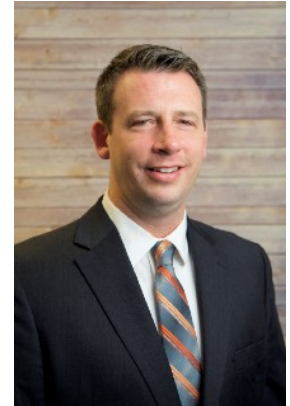
Teachers/Pastors on the Move

Jacquie Biloff, Communication



Ernie Reynolds (left), currently serving as boys' dean and athletic director at Dakota Adventist Academy, has accepted an invitation to be a physical education teacher at Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, KS. He and his wife, Abbey, have two children, Michael and Savanna.

Jonathan Schwarz (right), and his wife Lauren, will be moving to Mount Ellis Academy, his alma mater, to teach History and Bible. He is currently teaching Social Studies at DAA.



Kathy Penno (left) has taught at Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary in Grand Forks for three years. She, and her husband Mark, will be moving to Florida to teach in Panama City.

Susan McPherson (right) has been teaching at the Red River Adventist Elementary in Fargo as an interim teacher for Kimberly Clarke, who has taken medical leave. McPherson will be spending more time with her husband Mike and their family.



Victoria Miller (left), and her husband Forrest, will be moving to Oregon. Miller, who has been at the academy for two years, is currently working in Food Service and as an Office Assistant.

Pastor Brad Gienger (right), currently serving as pastor to DAA and in the conference office as Children's Ministries, Pathfinders, ACS and Sabbath School Director has accepted a call to the Illinois Conference to plant a church. Gienger, his wife Kristen have worked in the Dakota Conference for over six years. They have three children, Peyton, Lincoln and Wren.



Pastor Robert Carlson (left) and his family - wife Elizabeth, son Harper and daughter Alice - are returning to serve in the Dakotas. Carlson is currently teaching at Champion Academy in Loveland, CO.

continued on page 6

Teachers/Pastors on the Move

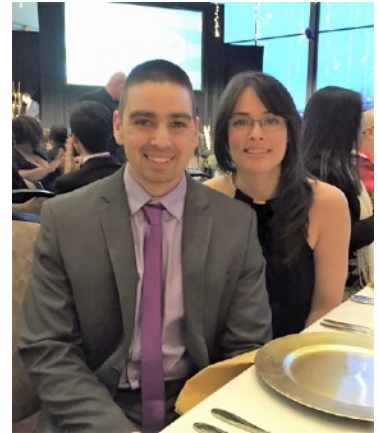
Jacquie Biloff, Communication



Pastor Donavon Kack (left), with his wife Jayna and sons Levi, Hiram, Cyrus, Gideon, Nehemiah and Luther are transitioning from pastoring in the Dakotas to being the conference evangelist.

Pastor Nick Osborn (right) graduated from Andrews University with a Masters of Divinity in May. His wife, Christina, completed her masters as well in Science of Administration. They will be

returning to the Dakota Conference this summer.



Elder Terry Pflugrad (left) and his wife, Marie, have moved from the Bowdon, New Home, McClusky district to serve in the Richardton, Beulah district.

Elder Brad Traxler (right), and his wife Cheryl have chosen to leave the Watertown, Huron district to move back to Alaska to be near their children.

To all those who serve in the great Advent movement, thank you for your service. May God richly bless in whatever capacity and venue He has placed you.



Camping Schedule



FLAG MOUNTAIN	CAMP
June 28 - 25	Junior, 8-12
June 25 - July 2	Teen, 13-17
NORTHERN LIGHTS	CAMP
July 3 - 9	Family
July 9 - 16	Junior, 8-12
July 16 - 23	Teen, 13-17

Dakota Campmeeting 2017

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast Served in Cafeteria			
8:30 - 9:45	Dr Don Hall <i>Top 10 Foods for Health & Longevity</i>	Dr Don Hall <i>Fitness for Life, Exercise is Preventive Medicine</i>	Dr Don Hall <i>A Healthy Brain for Life - Preventing Alzheimer's</i>	9:15 - 12:00 Sabbath School Academy Features Lesson Study Elder Robert Fetrick Worship Elder Dan Jackson How Far Would He Go?
9:45 - 10:30	Fellowship			
10:30 - 11:45	Chaplain Ward <i>Impact of Change & Crisis on the Family</i>	Chaplain Ward <i>The Impact of Stress on the Family</i>	Chaplain Ward <i>Building Resilient Families</i>	
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Served in Cafeteria			
1:30 - 2:45	Elder John Grys <i>What Three Historic Paintings Say about Our Pioneers...</i>	Elder John Grys <i>Generations, Faith and Understanding</i>	Elder John Grys <i>The Rejection of a Church Manual...</i>	Ordination Services Round Table Discussion Elder Fetrick Elder Jackson Dr Don Hall Chaplain Ward Elder John Grys Elder Neil Biloff, Moderator
2:45 - 3:30	Fellowship			
3:30 - 4:05	Campus Ministries	Radio Ministry	Adventist Camps	
4:10 - 4:45	Community Services	Pine Ridge Mission	Prison Ministries	
5:30 - 6:15	Supper Served in Cafeteria			(in Gym)
7:00 - 8:30	Chaplain Ward <i>Families at War</i>	Dr Don Hall <i>The Vegetarian Advantage - Live in the Blue Zone</i>	Elder John Grys <i>A People for End-Time...and All Time</i>	Music Concert The Emmanuel Quartet
Elder John Grys <i>Kill & Eat: Living into the Unknown</i>				
8:30 - 8:40	Fellowship			Hall of Remembrance
8:40 - 9:40				Elder Dan Jackson <i>How Far Will He Go With You?</i>

CR/Kindergarten, 0 - 5 yrs
Primary, 6 - 10 yrs
Juniors, 11 - 13 yrs
Youth, 14+

Brienne Engelhart
Kelli Vigil
Christian Ronalds
Brooke Melendez

ACS/DR will be serving a free Sabbath evening supper in the gymnasium at 5:30 pm.



Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
www.dakotaadventist.org



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<p>May 26 - 28 DAA Graduation 29 Memorial Day/Office Closed</p> <p>June 04 K-12 Board 9 am 09 Executive Committee - DAA 10 am 06 - 10 Dakota Campmeeting 11 Dirt Kicker Charity Run - DAA 12 Office Closed 18 - 25 Junior Camp - FMC</p>	C A L E N D A R	<p>June, cont. 25 - 01 Teen Camp - FMC</p> <p>July 03 - 09 Family Camp - NLC 04 Independence Day/Office Closed 09 - 16 Junior Camp - NLC 14 - 16 Native American Campmeeting - FMC 16 - 23 Teen Camp - NLC 27 - 29 MAUC Pathfinder Camporee - Custer, SD 30 - 02 Pastors' Meetings - Omaha, NE</p>
<p>Conference Staff President, Evangelism, ASI Neil Biloff VP of Admin, Youth Director & Camps Loren Nelson III VP of Finance, Trust Director Arlo Heinrich Ministerial Director Bryce Pascoe Associate Treasurer Cindy Miller</p>	<p>Children's Min, Pathfdrs, SS, ACS Brad Gienger Education Superintendent Gerard Ban Receptionist, Adm Assistant, Clerk Jodi Dossenko ABC Manager, Adm Assistant Lynette Miller Communication, Treasury Clerk Jacquie Biloff Native Ministries Coordinator Deb Claymore-Cuny</p>	<p>Trust Services Director Charles O'Hare Trust Services Adm Assistant Julie Brude Pine Ridge Mission Director Bill Glassford Disaster Relief Director Phyllis Alexander Women's Ministries Director Brenna Kerr Men's Ministries Director Randy Rubbert</p>
<p>The Dakota Messenger is a publication of the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Please send newsletter submissions to Jacquie Biloff (jbiloff@icloud.com) or in care of the Dakota Conference, 7200 N Washington Street, Bismarck, ND 58503.</p>		