



## Nothing to Fear

This is the twelfth 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 5: The Work is Onward - Part 2

The next year found White riding on the Northern Pacific as he traveled south to the church at Hamlin for a quarterly meeting, established a Sabbath School at nearby Stiles (Richland County), and instituted a weekly prayer meeting at Forman (Sargent County) where, apparently, a group had been conducting Sabbath services for some time.

From Forman, White made his way back to the Northern Pacific mainline and headed west to Richardton (Stark County) where two families of isolated believers and their neighbors listened to two sermons by White in the waiting room of the railway station.

Just twelve miles east of Dickinson, White visited a group at Gladstone (Stark County) where several people had accepted the Adventist faith through reading material given them by a church member who had settled in the area. Having never heard preaching by an Adventist minister, the group listened intently as White instructed them for a week and a half. A Sabbath School of ten members was organized and White expressed hope of organizing a church in the near future. If such an organization took place, we have no conclusive record of it.<sup>14</sup>

Swinging through Emmons County, White organized the Gayton church and finally arrived back in Fargo where the church had rented a hall on Broadway for its weekly services and was gearing up for evangelistic work.<sup>15</sup>

Having visited the churches and scattered members, White, with C.M. Chaffee, pitched the tent in Lisbon (Ransom, County) on July 9, 1887. D.W. Reed was with them, canvassing for *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*. As a result of this meeting eleven "signed the covenant", apparently signifying acceptance of Adventist teachings, and a Sabbath School of seventeen members was organized.<sup>16</sup> By the end of the year the Lisbon church was organized with eight members. The church rented the Good Templar's Society Hall for \$5.00 a month, complete with organ.<sup>17</sup>

Between evangelistic meetings, White found time to do personal work in the area of his home church of Fargo. Thirty years after his service there ended, White told of a stormy night in the late 1880's, when he left his home,

Bible and prophetic chart in his pocket, saying to his wife, "I do not know where I am going this evening, but surely the Lord will direct me to the proper place."

Stopping at a little cottage, White knocked and was greeted warmly by the couple inside. Soon his chart was hanging on the wall, and he was giving a Bible study. During the study, the couple's young son came into the room and listened attentively to the rest of the presentation. "This lad," commented S.E. Jackson in relating the story, "is now president of a conference in one of the Eastern States and is doing good evangelistic work in one of our large cities."<sup>18</sup>

"Local option" on alcoholic beverages was a big issue in the Dakota Territory at that time, and an Adventist named John McMillan, who lived in Richland County and evidently was the local elder of the Hamlin church, took advantage of the interest. He invited H.F. Phelps to lecture on health and temperance in the courthouse in Wahpeton in October of 1887. Phelps then went to Fargo for two days of meetings with that church.<sup>19</sup>

In 1888, W.B. White, having been elected President of the Dakota Conference (South Dakota), left the Northern Dakota Mission in the hands of the faithful M.M. Olsen, who worked chiefly with the existing churches to strengthen them.<sup>20</sup>

Also, during this year, literature evangelism took on more organized form when F.A. Lashier was appointed State Agent (publishing department director) for Minnesota and North Dakota.<sup>21</sup>

By the time Byron Tripp assumed the leadership of the mission in late 1888-early 1889, the calls for help were so many and so scattered that they could not all be answered.<sup>22</sup> Tripp and C.W. Flaiz held a tent effort in Lakota (Nelson County) in July and August, and organized a "company" which had 11 members and 25 Sabbath School members by the end of the winter. Perhaps some of these people were a remnant of the Michigan City church.

Although specific documentation is lacking, it seems very possible that Lakota was either organized as a church at this time or at least eventually became a fully organized church prior to 1902.<sup>23</sup>

On November 2, 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39 and 40th states in the Union.

During the 1890's a new ethnic group was fast becoming a dominant force in the Dakotas and in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. People of German descent, often called Russians in the early records because they immigrated to the Dakotas from German settlements in southern Russia, were arriving in large numbers to continue wheat farming in which they had specialized in Russia.

The first German-speaking church in North Dakota (Chapter 6 of this book traces the origins of the German work in South Dakota.) of which we have record, was organized in 1890 in Logan County with a membership of 30 and a Sabbath School of 43. Elder Henry Schultz, who was instrumental in the organization of other German churches in North Dakota reported the event in the *Review and Herald* of March 25, 1890.<sup>24</sup> Several bits of evidence help us identify this first German church. A history of the Joseph Rott family indicates that Rott arrived from Russia in 1889, stopping over in Eureka, South Dakota (McPherson County) before homesteading the next year in Richville (also known as Belden) near present Napoleon. The history states that Rott became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1890, corresponding to the organization date of this early church.<sup>25</sup>

In addition, a letter from Mrs. Allen Berndt of Hankinson, places her great grandmother, Mrs. Isaac Heinrichs, a Seventh-day Adventist, in Richville in 1890.<sup>26</sup>

The Richville church appears early and often in the records from the time the Conference was organized (1902)



till Richville's name was changed to Streeter in 1912.<sup>27</sup> Apparently, a good number of its members moved to the New Home-Carrington area about the turn of the century, but the church appears to have remained in operation continuously from 1890 to the present.<sup>28</sup>

In the next decade through the efforts of Schultz, Valentine Leer, Conrad Reiswig, Edward Loeppke, and others, German churches were established in Wells County at Fessenden (renamed Manfred in 1910) and Bowdon; in Stutsman County south of Sykeston (later and more commonly known as New Home); in Sheridan County at Lincoln Valley; in Mclean County at Wilton (probably German); and probably at Cathay, Harvey, and Sheyenne in Wells County.<sup>29</sup> They will be revisited in greater detail in the next chapter.

14. *Ibid.*, June 27, 1887.

15. *Ibid.*

16. *Ibid.*, July 26, 1887, 474; September 13, 1887, 587.

17. *Ibid.*; January 10, 1888, 27.

18. *Ibid.*, February 7, 1918.

19. *Ibid.*, November 8, 1887, 700.

20. *Ibid.*, January 10, 1888, 27; May 29, 1888, 347.

21. *Ibid.*, January 3, 1888, 14.

22. *Ibid.*, 'April 2, 1889, 218.

23. *Ibid.*, September 24, 1889, 603; May 27, 1890, 330; see also chapter 7 this book; May 27, 1890 article speaks of "our organization last summer" but does not specify the kind of organization.

24. *Ibid.*, March 25, 1890, 188.

25. *Streeter, North Dakota Golden Jubilee*, (Book containing histories of area families prepared by local residents for fiftieth anniversary of Streeter, North Dakota, 1955) 72, 73.

26. Letter from Mrs. Allen Berndt, of Hankinson, North Dakota to Wahpeton pastor Lee Larson, seeking information regarding burial place of ancestors at Richville, May 17, 1976.

27. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, I, op. cit., 160.

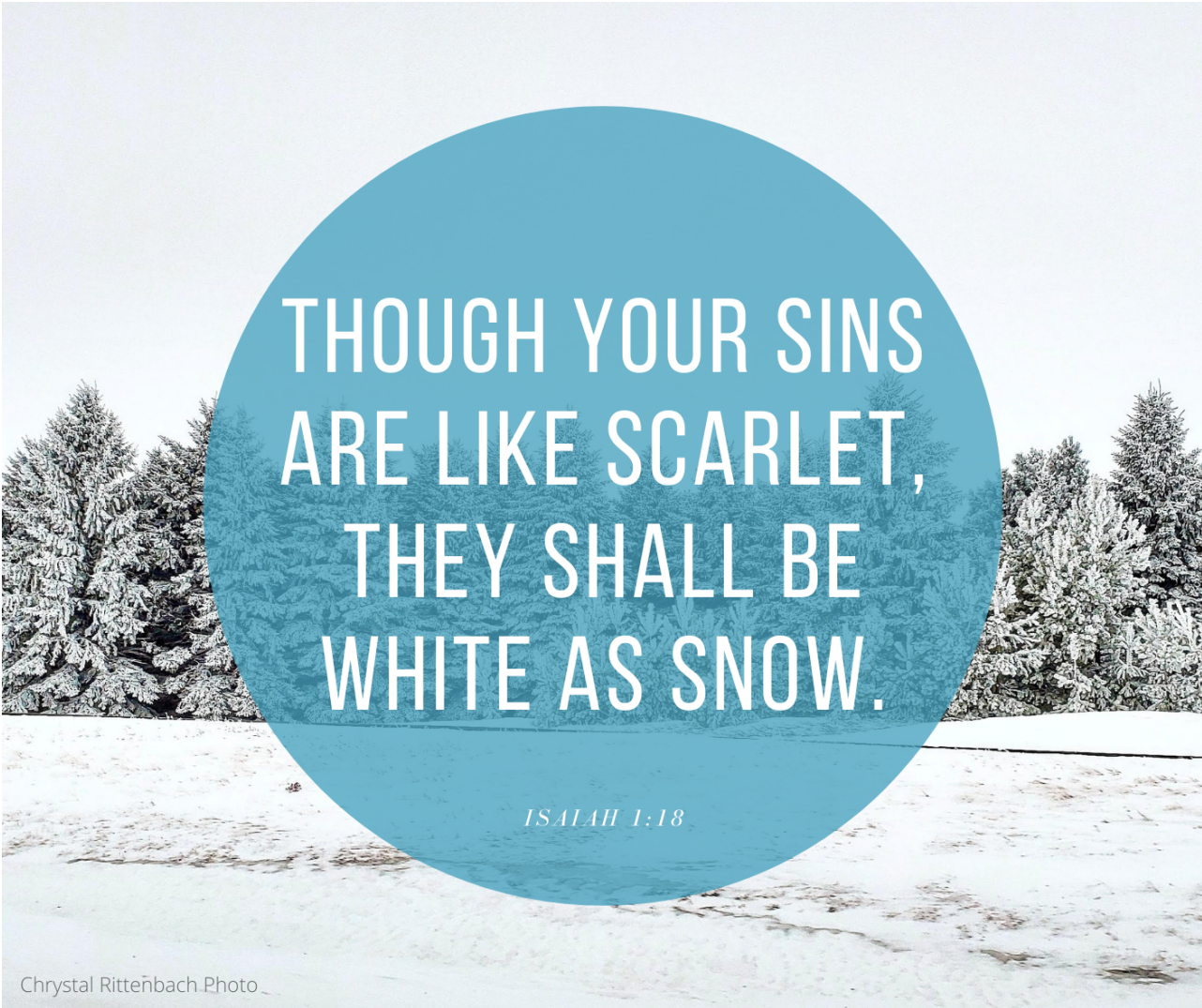
28. There is no break, or hint of a break in the continuity of the church to be found in the early records.

29. See Chapter six for a discussion of the organization of these churches.

**Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:**

**Chapter 5, "The Work is Onward" - Part 3 by Robert K. DuPuy**

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THOUGH YOUR SINS  
ARE LIKE SCARLET,  
THEY SHALL BE  
WHITE AS SNOW.

ISALAH 1:18

Chrystal Rittebach Photo

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## Adventist Education in Jamestown, North Dakota

"... to restore in man the lost image of his creator... to promote the development of body, mind and soul..." (Ellen G. White, *Education*).

Hillcrest School strives to create a positive and Christ-like atmosphere for its students. This year is a very unique for the school and for me; not only is it my first year teaching for Hillcrest, but it's the first time in a long time that Hillcrest has a male teacher. In addition, the 5-8th grades classroom consists of all boys.

At Hillcrest our upper grade class creed comes from Titus 2:6-8 "... teach young men to be self-controlled, model of good works, show integrity, dignity and sound of speech that can't be condemned..." From the first day of school we have kept the following theme as a constant reminder, that even as a student: We reflect the image of God in all we do, we could be the first and only time someone may get to meet Jesus, and the image of Christ we reflect is based on our relationship with Him.

During the course of the year I have frequently been asked, "What's it like teaching all those boys?" My answer is that it's been a very fun but at times a very loud experience. As it is with most boys, we like to learn by discussion, high energetic movement and making sure what we're learning is relevant. COVID-19 and the events that coincided proved the importance of life skills and behavior is just as important, if not more so, than our academic subject matter.



This year our boys learned about personal finance reading through *The Total Money Makeover* by Dave Ramsey; thus, being able to explain terms like: Budget, Retirement Fund, 401k/403B; IRA/Roth IRA, and the basic ideas of insurance and debit vs. credit. They also learned how to balance a budget while differentiating necessities vs. luxuries and bills vs. spending.

While haystacks are a staple of all Adventist culinary culture, the human body requires more nutrients and variety. The students had the privilege this year to practice culinary skills at the North Dakota State University Extension Office in a kid's cooking program. They have learned how to make burritos, chili, pizza, and many more fun, healthy culinary treats and snacks.

Despite the fun life skill experiences and academic studies, the most relevant aspect of our Adventist education is the education of Jesus as our personal Friend and Savior. This year it's been such an amazing experience to see all of the upper grade class in baptismal class, learning more about who Jesus is and preparing their hearts and minds in choosing to serve the Lord.

It has been such a blessing and privilege to be a teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School. I have been blessed to work with supportive parents, a helpful dedicated school board and administration. It is my hope and prayer that not only will we continue to preserve this ministry, but grow it in size and number; fulfilling the Great Commission long ago, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20).



## UPPER GRADERS AT HILLCREST



## Dakota Men's Retreat Boasts Highest Attendance on Record

The spirit rested heavy in Medora upon the Rough Rider Inn where men assembled for the 27th annual Dakota Conference Men's Retreat. This year boasted the highest attendance on record with just over 90 attendees. While the food, hospitality, and accommodations were excellent, it was the palpable presence of the Almighty that made the time a spiritual feast.

It was a musical feast as well with a band composed of Pastors Mike Temple, Darren Purdy, Terry Pflugrad, and Harold Chin with help from Brian Tebelius and Kolter Karges on upright bases. Pastor Mike and the Sabbath morning speaker presented a humorous reminder that we all have a place at the table.

The theme "Sons of the Father" was brought to us by the greatly beloved former Dakota Conference Ministerial Director & VP of Administration Larry Priest. He gently reminded those present of our true identity - our place in the Kingdom as Sons of the Heavenly Father. If this be so, how then shall we live? Not as servants, or hired hands, but as sons. He explored having the image of the Father seen in His sons. Sabbath morning it was noted that while we may be sons, we are still broken. We sometimes need a nonjudgmental band of brothers to get down in the mud and muck of our lives to walk with us as we journey to drier and higher ground.

A Jordanian born pastor present brought keen insights from a middle eastern perspective. Through that lens we understood the significance of knowing that our names are inscribed in the palm of God's hand.

Dakota Conference president, the humble and approachable Mark Weir, challenged all with the observation, "The apple does not fall far from the tree." As we fall, we are often bruised but it is time to be agents of healing. What kind of tree do we choose to be?

Ed Dickerson shared statistics that being fatherless is a plague in our country. Part of Elijah's last day message was to restore the hearts of the fathers back to their children. Do our lives reflect that message?

Those in attendance were richly blessed. They were also rich in their blessing - funds, of the goodly sort, were raised to defray the costs for those who would like to come to men's retreat yet lack the resources to do so. Because of the generous men, help is available to those who would like to come next year.

Mark your calendars for next year's retreat - March 11-13, 2022. Medora is the place you want to be!





**Dakota Conference  
26th Annual Men's Retreat**



*Article by Brooks Payne - pilot, mechanic, and aviation enthusiast. Brooks is from Berrien Springs, Michigan, and travels every year to attend Dakota Men's Retreat. Photos by Randy Rubbert, Dakota Conference Men's Ministry Coordinator.*

**Join Marantha and Union College for Renovate Rees Hall 2021.** Union will be renovating another 27 rooms in the women's residence June 6-18, 2021, and Marantha is seeking volunteers to stain and install cabinets as well as paint and put in new flooring, lighting and more. There is something for everyone to do! Learn more and

sign up at: [ucollege.edu/learningandliving](https://ucollege.edu/learningandliving)

## *Renovate more Rees Hall rooms*

Maranatha is returning to Union College **June 6-18, 2021**, to renovate another 27 women's residence rooms.

We need volunteers for all types of jobs—everyone is welcome.

Learn more and register:  
[ucollege.edu/maranatha](https://ucollege.edu/maranatha)



### **Join us in Fargo at the Regional April 17**

**Schedule:**

Sabbath School - 10:00am

Worship Service - 11:00am

Potluck Lunch - following the service

Afternoon Seminars - 1:45pm

Soup Supper - 5:00pm



# FARGO REGIONAL 2021



APRIL 17 – 10:00am

Fargo Seventh-day Adventist Church  
5718 36th Street South, Fargo ND

## ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING THE MEMBERS OF THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE

A fellowship meal will follow the worship service prior to the afternoon seminars. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

## SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Sabbath, April 17, 1:45pm



### ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT eADVENTIST

Julie Brude / Conference Clerk



### CHURCH HEALTH CHECKUP

Elder Mark Weir / President



### DOLLARS & SENSE

Mark Seibold / VP of Finance



### EFFECTIVE DOOR-TO-DOOR WITNESSING

Elder Mark Piotrowski / VP of Administration & Educ. Superintendent



### HORSES HIGHLIGHTING HIS WORD: FOR AGES 5-12

Participants need to wear warm clothes and closed-toed shoes.



### PEOPLE WITH WILLS LIVE LONGER

Elder Charles O'Hare / Associate Trust Director



### PRAYER MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Elder Barry St. Clair / Conference Prayer Ministries Coordinator



### THE DYNAMIC DUO: PASTORS & ELDERS IN MINISTRY

Elder Mark Weir / President



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Paulette Bullinger / Women's Ministry Director



### YOU LOST ME: WHY YOUNG ADULTS AREN'T INTERESTED IN CHURCH

Elder Mark Weir / President



### YOUTH HANGOUT: FOR AGES 13-17

Prs. Ricky & Brooke Melendez / Youth & Young Adult Directors

## Ray Accepts Role of Pathfinders Ministries Field Director

Dakota Conference youth directors Ricky and Brooke Melendez recently interviewed Richard Ray, member of the Cleveland Seventh-day Adventist Church in North Dakota. They would like to welcome Richard as Dakota Conference's new Pathfinder Ministries' Field Director.

Hey Richard! We are so excited to have you as our Executive Pathfinder Field Director here in the Dakotas. Are you excited to take on this position?

I am honored that you thought of me for this position. I am really excited about taking on this role and look forward to working with you as we try to develop this ministry for our young people around the Conference.

Tell us the three most important things we absolutely have to know about you!

First and foremost I am a husband and a father. I have been married for almost 21 years and I have 3 wonderful children. When our children were born I decided that I wanted to be more involved with the Pathfinders when they became old enough to participate. I vowed that if we were in a location that needed a leader that I would volunteer to do so, so that the children of the church would have a Christ centered activity that they could participate in.

Second, I am an animal lover. I love animals of all kinds. If I had the time and the space my wife and I would love to have an animal rescue.

Third, I love to travel. I was raised around the military because my father was in the Army. Then shortly after I got

married, I joined the Army also. I have lived all over the world and visited many different countries. I have a passion for seeing and experiencing new things. I love to learn about different cultures and given the opportunity I would love to travel to some of those locations for a visit.

#### You're the new Executive Pathfinder Field Director. What does that mean?

I believe that this will be an ever evolving position and the meaning will evolve along with it as time goes on. But for now it means that I am the conduit between the churches and Dakota Youth and Young Adults Department. Anything Pathfinder related can be brought to me, and if I can help, I will. If I don't have the answer then I will get the answer for you. It also means that I will be the example for Pathfinder Leadership and so I will strive to be the best example that I possibly can.

#### What makes you so passionate about Pathfinder ministry?

I have loved working with children since I was in academy. All through academy and part of college I worked in a daycare helping with the children, I loved every minute of it. Growing up I was always interested in Boy Scouts but never pursued it because of the Sabbath. Pathfinders was never really an option either because we were never in a place where it was offered. My mother took on the Pathfinder Leadership role in our church when I was growing up for a few years, and while she did I enjoyed participating in it. Now that I have children of my own I want them to have that same enjoyment that I did as well as have an activity that is healthy and wholesome for them. I took on the role of the Pathfinder Director at our local church and have been the director now for about three years - prior to that I assisted for three additional years.

#### What is your dream for Pathfinders in the Dakotas?

My dream for the Pathfinders in the Dakotas is to have a Conference-wide Club that is available for any youth and young adult that wishes to be a part of Pathfinders. I know that we have a lot of youth/young people out there that may not have the opportunity to be a part of Pathfinders due to either the current pandemic, location, distance, etc., but they have a desire to participate. I want a program that is all inclusive that they can be a part of even if they don't have a local program to be involved with. I want to see the program developed so that we are offering more Conference level activities so that these Pathfinders, as well as the local church clubs, can come together to fellowship and learn. I want everyone to have the opportunity to join that wants it.

#### Where can people contact you if they want to connect with you?

There are two ways to contact me:  
Email: [DakotaPathfinders@gmail.com](mailto:DakotaPathfinders@gmail.com)  
Phone: 410.596.6471



If you email me, I will try to respond back to you within 24 hours or less with at least an acknowledgement so that you know I received your email and I am working on it. If you call please leave a message with a contact number.

#### Any final thoughts you want to tell our conference constituents?

My wife, Betsy, and I are fairly new to the Dakota Conference (6.5 years), but we feel we have finally found a place where we belong. We look forward to being here for many more years to come. I am excited about this new adventure and look forward to working with everyone to help provide some quality, Christ centered, activities

for our young people.

*Photo submitted by Richard Ray.*

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## **ABC Located at Dakota Conference in Bismarck**

**Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm** (If you happen to be in town during other hours, please stop by. We will try to accommodate.)

**Friday: ABC & office closed**

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# Dakota Adventist Academy

WWW.MYDAA.ORG

PREVIEW  
DAYS

APRIL 22ND  
through  
APRIL 25TH

Come join us for a weekend exploring Academy life.

- Find out about class options.
- Make new friends!
- Let God form you.

*Theme:*

*"God, the master potter."*

*Isaiah 64:8*

Register today

online - [www.mydaa.org](http://www.mydaa.org)

call - Tracy Jo - 605.228.9896 cell or 701.258.9000



**Dakota Conference Calendar**

Offering schedule is in purple.

## April -

- 9-10: NAD World Prayer Convention (see our Facebook page for more information)
- 10: Education Sabbath
- 10: [Hope Channel International](#)
- 17: Fargo Regional at Fargo (south) Church
- 17: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 23-25: Academy Days at DAA
- 24: [Dakota Challenge](#)

## May -

- 1: Prayer Conference at DAA
- 1: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 2: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10am)
- 3-7: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 6: Dakotans Pray (7pm)
- 8: [Disaster/Famine Relief](#)

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: [www.dakotaadventist.org/events](http://www.dakotaadventist.org/events)

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## Blessed & Kept

May you find purpose.

May this be a day in which you do exactly what you were born to do.

Even though it is the same thing you did yesterday, may you approach your work with a renewed sense of the deep pull that brought you to your current position.

May this third of the six days of work be a delight because you are doing what you were meant to do.

May the struggles of the day serve only to remind you that you were made for this.

May you lean fully on the God who made you and ordained you to do it.

May you find within you a drive to do your work and to do it well.

May you laugh at the resistance which tempts you to laziness.

May you push through the urge to take shortcuts.

May you relish in the difficulties because the hard is what makes it great.

May the success of the day give you gratitude for the job you have done.

May you have gratitude for the sustenance God provided you throughout the day.

May you have gratitude for the purpose God has given you.

May you sleep tonight with anticipation that you get to do it all again tomorrow.

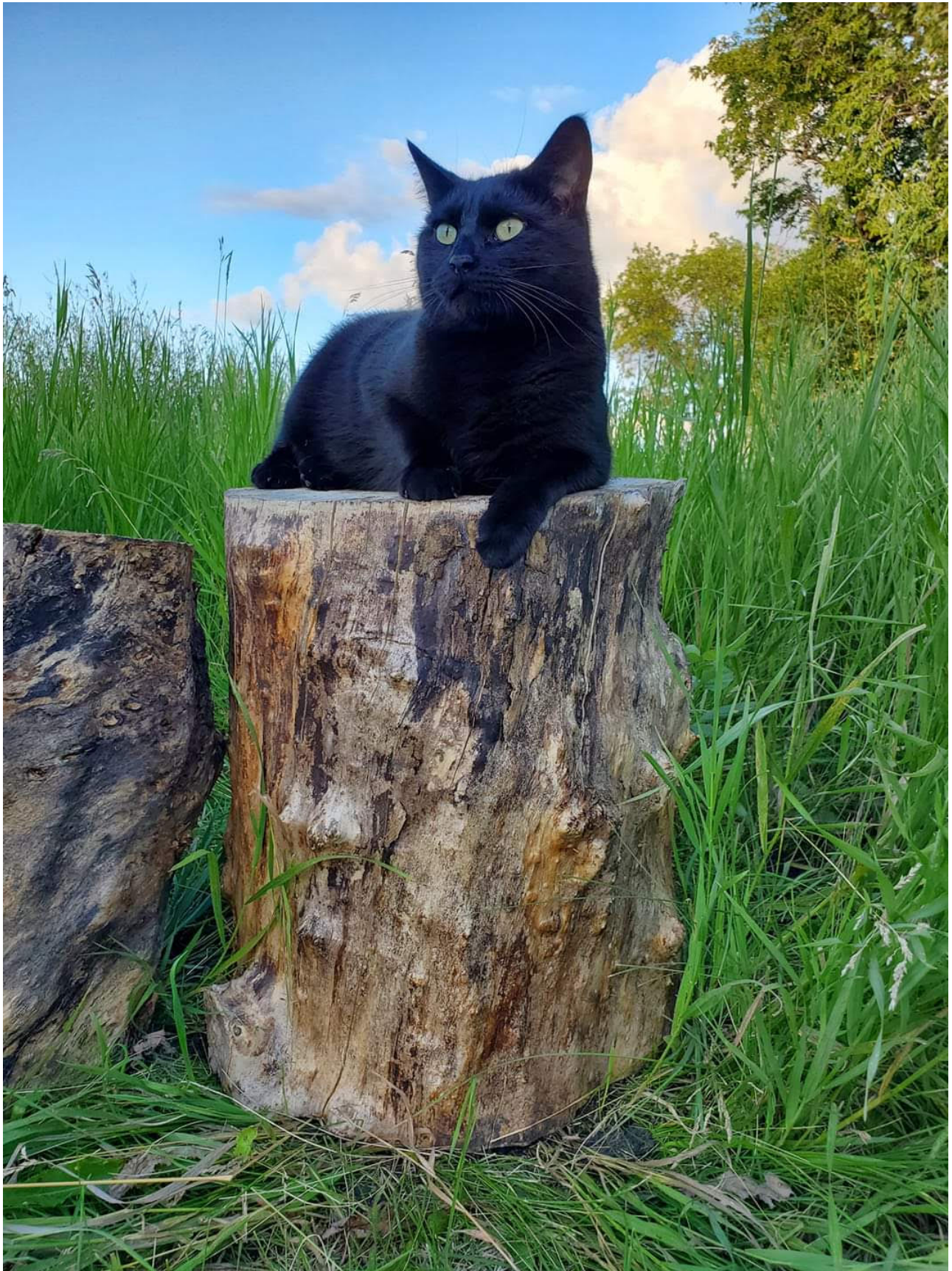
*Written by Casey Bartlett.*

To follow Casey's Podcast *Blessed & Kept* click [here](#).

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## April 8 Dispatch Photo



*Photo taken by Troy Erickson near Grand Forks, North Dakota.*



If anyone has local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles and pictures to: [j.dossenko@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com)

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](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com). Bison [Copyright](#)

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- [!\[\]\(13db7587f50867332e5bedc6a161739d\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(7be5ea91065783fbb69e41ba5d9680f7\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
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- [!\[\]\(9e6cd34ccb2e621bcc854e8b124ba455\_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)
- [!\[\]\(bb119fe28602f6188164a7a98762f831\_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)

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