

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-first 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 7: To the Lord be all the Praise - Part 1

The sounds of sledgehammer blows mingled with the echoes of the camp meeting messages of James and Ellen White still resounding in the mind of the new conference president as he repitched the recently acquired tent at its former location in Sioux Falls.

Seymour Bangs Whitney's mind wandered back to his twin decisions, made nearly a quarter-century earlier, to embrace and to preach Adventism; to the tent he helped pitch for J.N. Loughborough's evangelistic crusades in New York State; to his training at Battle Creek College, where he had lived for a time in the home of James and Ellen White; to the beginnings of his work in Dakota just six months earlier; to the just-ended camp meeting, where the Dakota Conference had been organized with him as its first president.¹

But now it was time to move the tent back from its camp meeting location on a wooded island in the Sioux River to the mainland, and for Whitney to continue the evangelistic crusade he had begun during the last week of June, 1879.²

According to James White's description of Whitney's preaching, "His sermons are systematic and logical. His voice is deep, distinct and agreeable. He never speaks more than one word at a time." Whitney's deep, distinct, agreeable evangelistic voice would be heard for a total of fifteen years in South Dakota, helping firmly establish the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the eastern half of the state.³

The first decade of the Dakota Conference coincided with a period of prolific expansion in South Dakota. The "gold rush" of the early-to-mid 1870's, which spawned such notable-and notorious-historical figures as George A. Custer, Wild Bill Hickok, and Calamity Jane, and sparked the Indian uprisings of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, gave way to an even greater "land rush" that swelled the population to nearly 350,000, claiming more than 24 million acres of public lands by the time South Dakota achieved statehood.

Railroad building also boomed during this period. By 1880, two railroads crossed eastern South Dakota to the Missouri River. The rails reached Rapid City by 1886.⁴

One of the settlements established by the early land speculators was Sioux Falls, where the Dakota Conference was organized in 1879. After camp meeting, Seymour Whitney continued his evangelistic crusade in Sioux Falls until mid-August, then pitched his tent in Canton (Lincoln County), leaving behind "a dozen new Sabbath-keepers" and a total Sabbath School attendance of "twenty adults... besides two large classes of children." The Sioux Falls church was organized on February 23, 1880.⁵

The interest in Canton was limited, and cool autumn weather decreased attendance at the tent. Ill health forced Whitney to close down the series, leaving Martin Olsen in charge of the follow-up.⁶

Early in 1880, layman D.T. Biggs conducted services in Allentown, resulting in the organization of a Sabbath School by the middle of May. Whitney worked at Flandreau, where he organized a "family Sabbath School" among Adventist settlers in the area; at Madison, where a good-sized church was organized among a group of Sabbath-keepers from Vermont; and at Parker, where a church with a charter membership of ten was organized.

This church at Parker was of special interest to Whitney, he explained, "as it is the first one I raised up after coming to this territory." Whitney's comment tends to identify the Parker church with Finlay, the first location at which Whitney labored after visiting the established churches upon his arrival in Dakota.⁷

Next Whitney ministered at Nation (Bridgewater) where, apparently some form of organization already existed, at Madison and Flandreau, and at Valley Springs where another layman, W.T. Henton, had preached in the spring of 1879. Upon his return to Sioux Falls, Whitney reported to the *Review* that "The number of our churches has been doubled", the new additions being Sioux Falls, Madison, Parker and possibly Flandreau.⁸

At Tyndall in July, Whitney encountered some opposition from the local Methodist minister, and even more damaging difficulty from the elements, as windstorms blew down his tent twice in a twenty-four hour period, and on two occasions forced the evangelist to dismiss his congregation in order to save the tent by letting it down until the storms abated. Before Whitney left Tyndall for nearby Springfield in early August, he organized a Sabbath School of about fifteen adults, including a few German-Russians (probably from Immanuel Creek) plus children. By mid-September, a Sabbath School was also organized at Springfield. Tyndall and Springfield were admitted as organized churches to the Dakota Conference later in 1880 and the unorganized company at Valley Springs was taken under the conference's "watchcare."⁹

Whitney left South Dakota in late September, planning to return in the spring but on his return trip he encountered problems that well illustrate the uncertainty of the transportation system of the day:

"Instead of being able to reach my appointment in March, I was detained in Iowa three weeks or more waiting for the raising of the snow blockade... April 4, having learned by telegram that the road was open from Sioux City, we started, but the next day, at that place, we met the terrible Missouri flood. We immediately took the Illinois Central train for Le Mars, and the next day reached Worthington on the St. Paul road. There we found the road still blocked. The next morning, Bro. H. (W. T. Henton) and myself went to shoveling snow, and worked two days. On Sabbath the shoveling brigade left us, so we hired our passage by team to Valley Springs, where we waited

two weeks more for the opening of the road. But before this was accomplished, the flood on the Sioux River and its tributaries came, sweeping away bridges, tearing up the track, and doing damage amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars. We then finished our journey to this place (Sioux Falls) on foot, walking twenty miles or more."¹⁰

During 1881, D.T. Biggs nurtured the Allentown group and Whitney worked with the established groups at Sioux Falls and Madison, before laboring in Bridgewater, where a church was organized late in August.

In the meantime, W.T. Henton and Eldon H. Pullen conducted evangelistic meetings at the new railroad town of Mitchell (Davison County) with limited success, and at Alexandria (Hanson County) where the evangelists received the sad news of the death of James White. Memorial services were conducted at Sioux Falls and, by a bereaved S.B. Whitney, at Bridgewater.¹¹

1. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, September 30, 1920, 22; January 2, 1879, 5; July 31, 1879, 47.

2. *Ibid.*, July 31, 1879, 46.

3. *Ibid.*, July 24, 1879, 36; September 30, 1920, 22.

4. "South Dakota," *World Book Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 540 f, g.

5. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, August 28, 1879, 78; History of Sioux Falls church, Appendix C, this book.

6. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, September 11, 1879, 94; September 25, 1879, 110.

7. *Ibid.*, March 18, 1880, 189; June 3, 1880, 364; May 13, 1880, 316; March 20, 1879, 95. The Finlay group was significant enough to be taken under the "watch care" of the new conference in 1879, it was indeed Whitney's first stop, evangelistically speaking, in Dakota and Whitney's very consistent reports to the *Review* leave little latitude for other groups to be the subject of his comments.

8. *Ibid.*, May 13, 1880, 316; May 27, 1880, 349; April 8, 1880, 236.

9. *Ibid.*, July 22, 1880, 77; August 19, 1880, 141; October 28, 1882, 284.

10. *Ibid.*, May 24, 1881, 331.

11. *Ibid.*, June 14, 1881, 378; August 4, 1881, 107; August 30, 1881, 155.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 7, "To the Lord be all the Praise" - Part 2 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.

Fear of Flying

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

For as long as I can remember, I have had a fear of flying in small airplanes. The fear is not based on any bad incident, and I have no problem flying on a large passenger plane. When I was a child, my father used to take us to the Bismarck airport on his day off and we would watch the small planes come and go. There was even a time when he wanted to treat us to a plane ride, but I wouldn't go! Over the years I have had offers to fly in friends' small planes but still was not ready to face that fear.

This past year I was asked to do some aerial photos for a book I co-authored about a famous North Dakota pilot.

I thought I could simply ask a pilot friend in the area to do the photos, but no, he said I had to go up in the plane! The other author I am working with also said he wanted my photos, so I made arrangements with Logan and Randy Rubbert to take me flying. I had some major anxiety and prayed for God to find some other way, but finally I set the date and went to meet Logan. He pushed a small plane out of the hangar and somehow I climbed into the seat next to him with two cameras. It didn't help that my cousin, who was traveling with me to meet Logan, gave me a hug as she told me how she loved me - like a final farewell! Logan taxied down a gravel driveway and then a gravel road and turned into a field. Before take off, we said a prayer. We were blessed with nice air, and I felt my nervousness leaving once we made a few rounds and was able to focus on the task at hand. The ride was wonderful, the scenery beautiful, and the pilot was very accomplished. Logan made sure I got all the photos I needed by circling over the small community of Hatton.

A lesson about faith emerged from this experience: Put your trust in the One who will not leave you nor forsake you. When you are called to make disciples of men and women, face your fear and lead that study; accept that church office you were asked to fill. You may find you love it! Don't let fear hold you back from flying high with the Lord!

A special thank you to Logan for his talents as a pilot and friend.



Article by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministries director. Photos by Karen Berg, Paulette's cousin.

Go See Jesus

"As soon as the seven years of abundance throughout the land of Egypt ended, the seven years of famine started, just as Joseph had predicted. It was an international famine, but there was food everywhere throughout the land of Egypt. Eventually, the land of Egypt began to feel the effects of the famine, so the people cried out to Pharaoh for food. 'Go see Joseph,' Pharaoh announced to all the Egyptians, 'and do whatever he tells you to do.'" - Genesis 41:53-55

This part of Joseph's story reminds me of Jesus when He attended a wedding in Cana. The wine had run out and Mary, Jesus' mother, said to Jesus, "They have no wine." Then she told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

What are we in short supply of today? Money, food, health, wisdom, water? Joseph had collected so much grain during the abundant years that he stopped keeping record. It was too much to count! Whatever we are in short supply of, Jesus has it in such abundance that it cannot be measured.

Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. So put me to the test in this right now," says the LORD of the heavenly armies, "and see if I won't throw open the windows of heaven for you and pour out on you blessing without measure."

God instructed Joseph to collect a fifth of all production in order to save Egypt and the world - and God blessed Egypt with such abundance that it was impossible to measure (Genesis 41:49). Today God instructs us to submit a tithe or a tenth to Him and He will bless us with so much that it cannot be measured.

During the time of famine people were instructed: Go see Joseph. During our time of need today, let us go see Jesus with a willingness to do whatever He tells us to do.

Worship thoughts by Harold Chin, senior pastor of the Goodrich / Mandan / McClusky / Turtle Lake church district in North Dakota.

Dakota Conference Hosts Teacher In-services

Seventh-day Adventist education employees from across the Dakotas met together at the Conference Office in Bismarck for a two-day In-service this week. Ten elementary teachers and fifteen teacher/staff members of Dakota Adventist Academy attended the event.

Jeni Schmidt, English teacher at Columbia Adventist Academy and Oregon Conference teacher's coach, presented separate sessions to elementary and secondary educators on standards-based learning. Presenting via Zoom meetings, directors from 3-Angels for Kids introduced classroom options for supplemental curriculum in all grade levels. Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, executive director from the Education Standards and Practice Board (ESPB) in North Dakota, shared information on teacher licensing. Office staff gave department informational presentations, and all teachers renewed their CPR certifications thanks to dynamic instructors from the North Dakota Safety Counsel. Lunch was provided each day by the talented Ella Simpson and June Kohler, members in the Jamestown church district.

After lunch on the second day, secondary teachers and staff went back to the Academy to prepare for their students' soon arrival this Sunday, while elementary teachers stayed to discuss Outdoor School and set up their gradebooks. Teachers expressed that they enjoyed their time together and some hope for future In-services to have an extra meeting day.

Please keep all Dakota educators in your prayers as they prepare for a new school year. Many of our Adventist schools will start instruction next week.



Article by Jodi Dossenko, Dakota Conference communication director. Photos by Jodi Dossenko and Mark Piotrowski, Conference education superintendent.

Teen Camp at Northern Lights

This year I had the opportunity to attend Teen Camp at Northern Lights as camp pastor. While I am no longer a teen, the blessings and the fun that came from the week were much needed. Northern Lights Camp is set on Lake Metigoshe near Bottineau, North Dakota, and provides a beautiful environment that is always a remarkable experience for me. But more than this, there is something far greater that takes place at camp - the souls won for Jesus. It never ceases to amaze me how the Spirit of God pours out upon our leaders and youth. This is the most important aspect of our camps - young people meeting Jesus. Our children are coming to camp and leaving knowing Jesus, and some are even giving their lives to Him. The youth are important in the Dakota Conference and one of the best things we can do for them is provide more experiences like Teen Camp, where they experience enormous amounts of fun while also getting to know Jesus Christ in an intimate way.

Camp was a success as kids entered into and renewed relationships with Jesus. The reason for that success falls to our talented camp directors Prs. Ricky and Brooke Melendez, their incredible staff, and of course the Holy Spirit. All worked together for a wonderful, spirit-filled week that I was grateful to be a part of.

Invest in and support Dakota camps so more youth can have this experience.



Article by Pr. Jason Woll, associate pastor of the Goodrich / Mandan / McClusky / Turtle Lake church district in North Dakota. Photos by Miguel Manzo, 2021 camp photographer.

33rd Annual Dakota Conference Women's Retreat

When: September 24-26, 2021

Where: Mandan, North Dakota

Speaker: Suzie Sendros

For more
information and
to register use
the QR code:



Registration is open for the 2021 Dakota Conference Women's Retreat. Visit our website for more information:
<https://www.dakotaadventist.org/.../womens.../womens-retreat>

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

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

August -

- 13-14: Spiritual Feast at Flag Mountain
- 14: NAD Christian Record
- 14: Outdoor Church in Washburn, ND at Falgren Park
- 15: DAA Registration
- 21: Local Church Budget
- 28: Dakota Challenge
- 29: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10am)

September -

- 2: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm CT)

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 6: Office Closed - Labor Day
- 11: World Budget
- 12: SE Adventist Community Services (ACS) Federation Meeting in Huron, SD (10am)
- 12: Mid-America Union Constituency Meeting in Lincoln, NE (3pm)
- 13: NE ACS Federation Meeting in Jamestown, ND (10am)
- 13-16: Dakota Conference Outdoor School
- 14: NW ACS Federation Meeting in Bowman, ND (10am)
- 18: Local Church Budget

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

Blessed & Kept

May you believe that God's love is for everyone.

May you grow in your passion for inclusion.

May you embrace the difficulties of being passionately inclusive.

Namely, may you embrace the difficulty of passionately including difficult people.

May the belief that God's love is for everyone play itself out in your life.

May your love be for everyone.

May your love not be a false love that ignores the problems and the wrongdoings and mean spiritedness of others.

Rather, may your love put those things in context of that person's story.

May you seek to better understand why someone behaves the way they do.

May your understanding allow you to offer grace for those people.

May your love be uplifting and edifying.

May your love see beyond people's mistakes, annoyances, and brokenness to what's underneath.

May you not leave the loving of difficult people to God

May you embrace your role as a reflector of God's love to the world.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

August 12 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by MiKayla Torres in Stutsman County, 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

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](#)

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 - [!\[\]\(4f49380f3d6bce047bc47b2072cc076f_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
 - [!\[\]\(73944fd4f6fb83e4c64013731d1820cc_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

[!\[\]\(cead67df4d82d6c83effe4f8699a7d8f_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

[!\[\]\(1d3a1175dd4902218e694b9c098adb83_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

[!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)

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