

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-ninth 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 8: To Effect An Organization - Part 5

The third church organized during that first year of the new conference, I am speculating, was the Antelope church, truly a mystery church in many ways. The first time the Antelope church turns up in contemporary records is at the 1906 conference session, where it was officially disbanded.³³

Even the location of the Antelope church is uncertain. The only North Dakota town of Antelope is the one on the railroad right-of-way in Stark County. If this was the location, Antelope may well have been a charter church, the only one west of the Missouri River, the probable result of earlier work at Gladstone and Richardton.³⁴

Records dating to the mid-to-late 1920's indicate, however, that there was an Antelope Township in Wells County in the area of Bowdon.³⁵ The scanty evidence we have regarding the disbanding of the Antelope church lends some credence to the latter site.

The minutes of the 1906 Conference Session that disbanded the Antelope church speak of the "remaining members in good standing" and begin to explain the reason for the disbanding, an explanation which is crossed out and never completed in that record book.³⁶

If there was an Antelope church near Bowdon at the turn of the century, and if we are correct in reading between the lines that the church was disbanded due to internal problems rather than the departure of its members for greener fields, we may have in the case of the Antelope church, the only remaining trace of the activities of the Holbenslabon apostasy in North Dakota.

Holbenslabon, apparently a very persuasive individual with definite charismatic leanings, appears to have gained a substantial following among the German Adventist churches of North and South Dakota about the turn of the century.

His influence can be documented in the Bowdon area, where his highly emotional preaching and charismatic phenomena, with emphasis on the gift of healing, got some of the members so worked up, according to one account, that they had to be carried from the meeting, their bodies "stiff as boards."

If there was an Antelope church in this area, perhaps it could have been so influenced by Holbenslabon that an internal split led to its demise by 1906.

Beyond his emotional, charismatic emphasis, little can be discerned about Holbenslabon and his activities. One account indicates that he was a Sunday-keeper, which, if accurate, makes doubly remarkable his influence on the staunchly Adventist, German churches. Apparently one main thrust of his teachings was that people should withdraw their support from the church, both morally and financially, and give it to him.

The fruitage of Holbenslabon's work was most frequently fanaticism, especially in South Dakota where two of his followers proclaimed themselves the God of Jacob and the God of David and became the leaders of bitterly rival factions. One account indicates that Holbenslabon's followers around Eureka, South Dakota formed the core of the strong pocket of Church of God (Seventh-day) influence that exists in that area today.

After some activity in Montana and Canada, the movement died out in obscurity; Holbenslabon himself committed suicide.³⁷

Although the Wells County site seems most likely to be the location of the Antelope church, a 1910 report by J.J. Reiswig from Glen Ullin in Morton County, not very distant from the Stark County Antelope, mentions a group of people (apparently Germans) who had not been "fully in harmony with the message since the Holbenslabon movement."³⁸ This could indicate that there was a charter church named Antelope west of the Missouri after all.

33. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 70, 71.

34. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, June 21, 1887, 395.

35. *Northern Union Reaper*, August 17, 1926, 2.

36. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*

37. Letter from Jacob A. Brenneise, Mountain View California, March 17, 1969; Telephone interview with R.R. Sietz, La Crescenta, California, March 1978.

38. *Northern Union Reaper*, February 8, 1910, 4, 5. Interestingly, a later report by Reiswig (October 11, 1910, 5), speaks of going to Antelope to visit the company formed during the earlier visit when the Holbenslabon problem was mentioned, although the company, according to Reiswig was actually organized at Willa (Hettinger County), about 20 miles distant, or, perhaps, somewhere in between.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 8, "To Effect an Organization" - Part 6 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.

MAD ABOUT MARRIAGE

with **Mike Tucker**
Host of *Lifestyle Magazine*



Principles To Improve Your Marriage

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Free Child Care Provided
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INSPIRING

Take your marriage from “just plain mad” to “madly in love”. *Lifestyle Magazine’s* half-hour television show features Mad About Marriage episodes. These episodes offer viewers practical advice from relationship experts while addressing some of the issues that are wreaking havoc in American homes today.

RESTORING

MAD ABOUT MARRIAGE LIVE SEMINARS are restoring marriages across the country and around the world. Mike Tucker brings a unique perspective and his expert advice in a practical seminar. Couples (and singles) have the opportunity to learn and experience new ways to restore, build and grow their relationships.

No Burpees Required

The countdown to the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics is only a day away. Oh, how I love the Olympics! I was captivated with them as a kid and would create “figure skating” routines twirling and jumping across our living room, entirely caught up in what announcers have titled “the Olympic spirit.” It’s as if for two weeks the whole world hits pause and a renewed joy radiates worldwide. Newspaper headlines showcase stories of individuals who overcome adversity, represent their country and families, and who demonstrate the athletic abilities they have trained and dedicated themselves to for years.

I still get chills thinking about last summer’s games when the Fiji men’s rugby team sang a hymn together after winning the gold or the moment that the high jumpers from Italy and Qatar decided to share the gold medal and collapsed into each other’s arms in ecstatic celebration. And just a few weeks ago, speed skater Erin Jackson slipped during qualifiers, so teammate Brittany Bowe gave up her spot in the 500m race so Erin could go to the Olympics. What beautiful moments to give us a glimpse of the gospel and remind us that this world is filled with love. Moments where the Olympic spirit is moved by the Holy Spirit!

Maybe that’s one reason Paul used so many sports analogies in his apostolic letters? They resonate differently. I like how *The Message* version paraphrases 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; it says, “You’ve all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You’re after one that’s gold eternally. I don’t know about you, but I’m running hard for the finish line. I’m giving it everything I’ve got. No lazy living for me! I’m staying alert and in top condition. I’m not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.”

That last sentence caught my attention. How often do we spend our days telling others about Jesus, training our children for the spiritual race, but then neglect our own endurance training? Gordon MacDonald said, "We often enter the chamber to meet with God while we are still emotionally out of breath." Yikes! But isn't it amazing that we "train" by resting at the feet of Jesus? No burpees required! This week my prayer for you is one for renewed strength, refreshed souls, and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a spirit of Olympic proportions. As you run with endurance the race that this week has set before you, may you press on towards the prize and finish the race with enough juice left to give it a victory lap.

Worship Thoughts by Kelli Wasemiller, Dakota Conference education superintendent and children's ministry coordinator.

Brentwood Elementary School Upcoming Events

Students and staff at Brentwood Adventist Christian School in Bismarck, North Dakota, would like to invite you to their talent show on February 5 at 6:00 pm in the basement of Brentwood School.

The students are very talented and need all of our support to encourage them to keep going.

Brentwood students will be doing the church service at Mandan Seventh-day Adventist Church on February 12.

A constituency meeting will be held at Brentwood School on March 5 at 7:00 pm with a game night to follow.

Talent SHOW

FEBRUARY 5th
6:00 PM

Brentwood
Adventist
Christian School
Students would
like to share their
talents with you
and maybe
entertain you as
well.



Brentwood Adventist Christian School
9111 Wentworth Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58503
ph: 701-258-1579
mybrentwood.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

McClusky Church Offers Storage Space for Local Ministry

The McClusky Seventh-day Adventist Church may be small in numbers but they actively look for ways to make an impact in their community. Marilyn Schneider, a member, recently heard of a need and responded to the call.

Several community members from McClusky recently started a backpack food program that distributes food supplies to school children in need. The group did not have a place to store the donated food supplies or pack

the backpacks every week. When Marilyn found out about the situation, she offered to let them use a room in the basement of the Adventist church and is there every week to open the church for the group. The church basement has plenty of extra storage and the community organizers feel this is an ideal set up and expressed their appreciation for the use of the space.

McClusky church members are happy that they can provide a space in a time of need. Even with small numbers they are committed to contributing to their community when an opportunity arises.



Pictured left to right: Sheila Majors & Welburn Majors (the couple that started the program), Linda Bowers, and Marilyn Schneider.

Article and photos by Lisa Heitzmann, member of the McClusky Church in North Dakota.

Dakota Adventist Academy students gather together for an evening joint worship around the Circle.



Job Opportunity

The Dakota Conference is pleased to introduce Pastor Ted Struntz as the new youth director! Pastor Ted and his family are transitioning to our Conference from Oregon where he has pastored for the past four years. He is excited to get to know the kids and staff at summer camp and looks forward to ministering to the youth across the Dakotas.

If there are any young adults (18 and older) who are interested in working at camp, please visit the camp website and fill out an application: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org.



**Camp
Workers
Needed**

**Contact Pastor Ted
for more
information:**



dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com

Dakota Pastors' Meetings

This year's Pastors' Meetings were held in the Bismarck Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 24-27. The event started on Monday evening and ended Thursday after lunch. Meals were prepared by Ella Simpson and June Kohler, both members of the Jamestown Church. Pastors Mike Temple, Darren Purdy, Justin Walker, and Harold Chin lead out in music each morning.

On Tuesday, Larry Witzel, founder of SermonView, spoke to the group on the importance of connecting to their local community through a holistic evangelist cycle.

Prior to the meetings, pastors and conference leaders completed a test to identify their leadership style. On Wednesday, Pastor Fredrick Russell with TrueNorth Leadership Group went over the results of the test and helped attendees understand their leadership styles and how to work with their skill sets.

Pastoral ministry has many rewards and challenges. Over the last several years, pastors have been leaving the ministry for various reasons. At this meeting, Dakota pastors were encouraged to talk and support each other through the highs and lows. A few pastors went to the front and spoke about this need. "If you are feeling overwhelmed, don't resign without talking to me. I am here to support you, call me," stated one pastor. Around the room the phrase was echoed, "Call me." "Call me!" Pastors left the meetings with prayer partners and a better system of support to get through the tough times.

The next time the pastors will be together will be at Dakota Campmeeting in June. Please lift up your pastor(s) in prayer and support them as they work to make an impact in their district.



Article and photos by Jodi Dossenko, Dakota Conference communication director.



Dakota Conference Prayer Retreat
Live by the Spirit

March 18-20, 2022
Bismarck, North Dakota

Speaker: Elder Paulet Howard Jr.

Come to the Prayer Retreat to experience new prayer styles, learn practical applications, and revitalize the role of prayer in your life.

Make plans to attend the Dakota Conference Prayer Retreat in Bismarck. [Click here](#) to registration and for more information.

Kid's Corner

Fundamental February: There are 28 days in February and 28 Fundamental Beliefs, a match made in heaven! Every day in February, a new kids devotional video will be posted on the Dakota SDA Kids YouTube channel. Dakota pastors and ministerial team have been hard at work preparing these materials and are excited to share them with our conference children. Visit www.youtube.com and search "Dakota SDA Kids."

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel "Dakota SDA Kids" and explore the many videos available for children. This month's craft corner is a heart: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMP-KZ0kTVI>



Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent and children's ministries coordinator.



DAA'S 2022 PREVIEW DAYS

FEBRUARY 24TH - 27TH, 2022

CALLING ALL 8TH - 11TH GRADE STUDENTS

LOCATION

15905 SHEYENNE CIRCLE - BISMARCK

**register online
www.mydaa.org**



Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

February -

- 2-5: Union College Music Festival
- 5: Local Church Budget
- 5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Ellendale Church, ND
- 11-12: Mad About Marriage with Mike Tucker in West Fargo, ND
- 12: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Dickinson Church, ND
- 12: NAD Adventist Evangelism
- 16-20: DAA Homeleave & UC Basketball Tournament
- 19: Elder Charlie O'Hare preaching at Ellendale Church, ND - afternoon trust seminar to follow
- 19: Local Church Budget
- 21: Office Closed - Presidents' Day

- 24: DAA Ski & Rec Day at Huff Hills, ND
- 25-27: DAA Academy Preview Days
- 26: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Red River Church, ND
- 26: Dakota Challenge

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

Blessed & Kept

May you embrace the sameness of the new.

May all the things that do not change from one year to the next remind of the unchanging God who sustains you.

May the monotony of your life make you reflect on the monotony of God's love for you.

May this monotony become a source of joy.

We are told to be wary when things don't change, may you instead be comforted by God's unchanging nature.

May the love that will never end and never change give you freedom to break the monotony of your life when that monotony is keeping you from joy.

May you embrace and reclaim monotony as the life-giving, liberating way of life that it is.

May you celebrate monotony, for it is the monotony of God's love for you that gives you your worth and your identity.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

February 3 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Charlie O'Hare west of Turtle Lake in McLean 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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- [!\[\]\(4320279ad715106747262028f44bd102_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(25e9c4c673069177325c65bf4771169e_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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