

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 7

About the same time, a church at Lansford (Bottineau County) was organized, which lasted only about a year, being disbanded at the Conference Session of 1906.⁴⁴

In the northwestern part of the state, the Stanley church had grown to nearly fifty, counting members and their families, and was the site of a regional camp meeting in 1906 and a Sabbath School convention the following year.⁴⁵

Still further west, the Wheelock Scandinavian church (Williams County) was organized on July 15, 1906, with fifteen members.⁴⁶

Other Scandinavian work was done in the same time period at Clifford (Trail County) by Martin Olsen with but little success.⁴⁷

In August, 1906, a church of eight members was organized at Dale, near the Missouri River in the extreme southern part of Emmons County. As early as 1898, Lars Nielson had worked in the vicinity for a short time, leaving a quantity of literature and getting subscriptions for church papers from the settlers.

On his return in 1906 he found eleven Sabbath-keepers from whom the Dale church was formed. Apparently, this church soon changed its name to Glanavon, the Scottish name of a nearby post office settlement.⁴⁸

By far, the greatest amount of work done in the early years of the North Dakota Conference, however, was done among the Germans.

The Carrington camp meeting in 1903 was attended by a group of German homesteaders from the Medina area (Stutsman County) who had become interested in Adventist teachings through church members who lived near them and through Bible, studies given by John Aipperspach, a layman from the Jamestown church. Sabbath meetings had begun as early as 1900 in various homes and later in a schoolhouse.

After camp meeting, Elder Leer (probably Valentine) baptized at least eight of these new believers and organized the Medina church with a membership of about twenty-four on July 6, 1903.⁴⁹

In addition to Medina, a church was established at McClusky (Sheridan County) in 1906, consisting of members of the Lincoln Valley church who lived in that area.⁵⁰

In 1906, German evangelistic meetings were conducted at Turtle Lake (McLean County) by George Wagner and a "Brother and Sister (J.F.?) Richert." A company was apparently organized. In the Richville-Streeter area Christian Sulzle, Charles Leer, J. J. Reiswig, and Henry Berg held meetings and added at least twelve members to the church. The same team then went to Kulm (La Moure County - actual location of group may have been Dickey County), where they were joined for a short time by G. F. Haffner. At Kulm they met a group of about a dozen families of German Sabbath keepers who did not accept certain other Adventist teachings. Work was begun among these people, and others in the area. ⁵¹

The New Home church, which had a membership of about eighty in early 1906, sponsored a church school of 41 students.⁵²

Because farm work took precedence over book learning, school terms were short and spasmodic. It was difficult to find an educational secretary who could speak both German and English in order to coordinate a multilingual school program, so elementary education in North Dakota did not flourish in this period. Qualified German teachers were hard to find, and the English-speaking people were so scattered and so mobile that few schools existed among them.⁵³ The only English-speaking church school of which we have record in this time was in 1906 at Hankinson, where Mabel Wing had 28 students, including three from Catholic homes.⁵⁴

The Germans were a missionary-minded group, anxious for other Germans to know the truth they

had found. In this period the North Dakota Conference paid \$14 per week toward, and later the full salary of, Henry Meyer as he held evangelistic meetings among the Germans in Philadelphia, and agreed to release one of its German ministers to work full time among this nationality in Saskatchewan. Also, in the summer of 1906, the conference assigned D.D. Kurtz, at its expense, to work with C.J. Kunkel in a Winnipeg evangelistic meeting to help with the work there and for Kurtz to gain evangelistic experience. Upon returning, Kurtz labored in Lucca (Barnes County) and at Alice (Cass County).⁵⁵

The minutes of the conference's fifth annual session, held at Sheyenne River Academy in December 1906, sound two notes, one ominous and one joyous, that would greatly influence the work of the church as it entered the second half of its first decade.

The ominous note is a comparative financial report that showed substantial increases in tithe and foreign mission giving from 1903-1906, and a steady decrease in giving for "homework" within the conference from nearly \$5,000 in 1903 to less than \$1,400 in 1906.⁵⁶

The joyous note is the record of the admission of a new church, organized earlier that year, opening another colorful chapter in the history of Adventism in the Dakotas. Organized south of Balfour (McHenry County), this church of twenty-eight members was the first Russian speaking Seventh-day Adventist church in North America.⁵⁷

- 44. North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, I, 41, 70, 71. It is not impossible that the demise of the Lansford church could have been caused by the Holbenslabon apostasy. Since its disbanding is mentioned in connection with that of Antelope see earlier discussion in this chapter.
- 45. Ibid., July 10, 1906, 1, 2; September 10, 1907, 2, 3.
- 46. Ibid., July 24, 1906, 8; August 7, 1906, 8.
- 47. Ibid., May 1, 1906, 4; July 10, 1906, 2.
- 48. *Ibid.*, May 8, 1906, 4; August 21, 1906, 2, 3. We assume that Dale became Glanavon because of geographical proximity and because Dale is never mentioned again after its organization, but the name Glanavon appears and is accepted into the sisterhood of churches at the next conference session, with W.B. Payne as elder the same individual elected elder of the Dale church. (*North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, op. cit.*, I, 69, 70.)
- 49. Based on written recollections of Christ Lang (deceased) of Medina and Sam Hieb of Jamestown, both of whom give 1902 as the date of organization. Internal evidence in both accounts, however indicates that several of each man's dates are one year off. Lang, for example, dates the first camp meeting held in Harvey to 1903; it was actually 1904 (compare *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 19, 1903, 22 and July 14, 1904, 17.) Hieb places the organization of the North Dakota Conference one year early in 1901. Moreover, the acceptance of the Medina church into the conference at the 1904 session, (*North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, op. cit.*, I, 36) points toward an organization date later than June 7, 1903 the end of that year's camp meeting session.
- 50. North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, op. cit., I, 70.
- 51. Northern Union Reaper, July 17, 1906, 8; August 7, 1908, 8; February 12, 1907, 2, 3; October 15, 1907, 6.
- 52. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, January 25, 1906, 18.

- 53. Northern Union Reaper, January 14, 1908, 3.
- 54. Ibid., December 18, 1906, 8, 9.
- 55. North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, op. cit., I 53, 67, 68, 71, 72; Northern Union Reaper, April 20, 1907, 4; March 19, 1907, 3, 4.
- 56. North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, op. cit., I, 67. A recommendation that 20% of all "special funds" raised in the conference for use outside the state, be retained as a reserve fund for "building and maintaining the interests of the home field" was narrowly passed, then rescinded by a unanimous vote. (*Ibid.*, 73)

57. Ibid., 70.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear:*Chapter 9, "Hastening the Coming of the Lord" - Part 1 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.



For a list of tasks and to register click here.

A Fertile Place to Grow

Gordon MacDonald said that he visited a small group of men and women affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous because he has friends who are recovering alcoholics and wanted to see for himself what they were talking about. Here's what he found:

One morning Kathy - I guessed her age at 35 - joined us for the first time. One look at her face caused me to conclude that she must have been Hollywood-beautiful at 21. Now her face was swollen, her eyes red, her teeth rotting. Her hair looked unwashed, uncombed for who knows how

long.

"I've been in five states in the past month," she said. "I've slept under bridges on several nights. Been arrested. Raped. Robbed (now weeping). I don't know what to do. I... don't... want... to... be... homeless... any more. But (sob) I can't stop drinking (sob). I can't stop (sob). I can't... "

Next to Kathy was a rather large woman, Marilyn, sober for more than a dozen years. She reached with both arms toward Kathy and pulled her close, so close that Kathy's face was pressed to Marilyn's ample breast. I was close enough to hear Marilyn speak quietly into Kathy's ear, "Honey, you're going to be OK. You're with us now. We can deal with this together. All you have to do is keep coming. Hear me? Keep on coming." And then Marilyn kissed the top of Kathy's head.

I was awestruck. The simple words, the affection, the tenderness. How Jesus-like.

I couldn't avoid a troubling question that morning. Could this have happened in the places where I have worshiped? Would there have been a space in the program for Kathy to tell her story? Would there have been a Marilyn to respond in this way?

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

I have always found it interesting (and admittedly, a bit perplexing at the same time), that many Christians put considerably more stock into what they believe than in the way they love one another. Discovering doctrinal truth is a wonderful thing, but if it does not spring from a heart that really loves other people, can it have found a fertile spot to grow?

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Michael Temple, pastor of the Grand Forks church in North Dakota. If you would like to receive the "Open Word" e-Devotionals daily like this one, subscribe for FREE at www.openwordjourney.com

Area Pastors Meet Together and Share a Meal



Pastors pictured left to right: Pr. Kris de Bruin (Aberdeen / Ellendale / Lehr / Watertown), Pr. Peter Simpson (Cleveland / Edgeley / Jamestown / New Home), Pr. Barry St. Clair (Fargo / Red River / Wahpeton), Pr. Justin Walker (Cleveland / Edgeley / Jamestown / New Home), Pr. George Shaver (Aberdeen / Ellendale / Lehr / Watertown), Pr. Darrel Lindensmith (Fargo / Red River / Wahpeton), Pr. Mike Temple (Grand Forks), and Elder Mark Weir (conference president).



ENROLLING NEW STUDENTS

The Dakota Conference Office of Education values bringing in new students and new families by offering year-round enrollment. Now is the time to enroll your new student. Money is often a barrier, but Dakota Adventist Academy is proactive about offering needsbased solutions for any family seeking a Christian education

Remember, as you intentionally share DAA with others our enrollment will grow each year. DAA feels honored to teach more kids about Jesus. Thank you in advance for your support!

Are you ready? If so, it starts with you. Please contact Anthony Oucharek at: anthony.oucharek@mydaa.org 701.258.9000

North Uganda Mission Trip Report

The second joint Ugandan / American student missionary trip taken on December 19 - January 5, 2021-22 is now history, finishing with fantastic success. Students from universities in Uganda and America come together for ministry every other year to serve Jesus in the refugee camps in North Uganda.

Just Jesus. Youth Ministries International, through articles of incorporation, now has non-governmental organizations (NGO) status which will help with future fundraising. We are grateful for this as well as for this opportunity to thank the very generous churches and individuals in the Dakota Conference for their amazing support making these cross-cultural experiences for our students a reality and these mission projects possible. Thank you! This report is dedicated to you!

During this trip, the goal was to begin construction of the mission house for our permanent base of operation for the *Just Jesus. Campus Ministries*. The foundation and walls of the medical building were completed, and work continues on the mission clinic. Most of the participants are students, and minister to mostly Sudanese refugees who have enormous medical needs in the camps. Alongside medical, our goal is Gospel outreach and evangelism: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" Rev. 22:17, JKJV).

The water of life - spiritually and physically. Thanks to the generous donation from the Bowman church, a well was drilled for water on the mission compound. We and the local villagers living nearby will be extremely grateful for this since there is no clean water available in this area, but now there is!

On this trip, our group consisted of: Jadyn Anderson of Watertown, a Union College PA student, and Sarah Labuhn of Ellendale, also at Union College. Gabby Gomes and Bea Gomes from North Dakota State University (NDSU) served as the receptionists and triage screeners. Jacob Meidinger, an architectural student at NDSU, and Jay Dietz, both led the American side of the building efforts. Doctor Karen Andres, head of surgery in Hettinger, ND, Hospital, and Doctor Elizabeth Eliot of London University were the leading physicians for all things medical. During this mission Dr. Karen accepted the role of Medical Director for *Just Jesus. Campus Ministries*. Emily Lindensmith, a registered ER nurse, and her brother John Lindensmith, along with many others worked side by side with 15-17 Ugandan students and others to offer HIV and Malaria treatment as well as numerous other medical testing and treatment including free medication. The team served 1,024 refugees and their families in the 5 days of the clinic's operation.

The Adjumani camp in North Uganda, located on the Sudanese border, is one the largest refugee camps in the world. With 850,000 displaced people spread out in an area, the compound compares to the distance from Minot to Grand Forks in North Dakota. These dear people live in unbelievably difficult circumstances, yet the children appear to be happier and more content than most American children.

There are several Adventist churches organized within the camp. We worshiped with the Adjumani group the first Sabbath there; the second Sabbath we had our worship together on the Nile River. The third Sabbath was spent worshiping with the Adventist Youth group at Makerere University in Kampala, the capital city. We were not actually scheduled for this third week and third Sabbath, but due to Omicron COVID variant, only half of our team could leave on time. This last, unplanned week was God's surprise blessing - two in fact.

One of our largest challenges is ongoing transportation. At the time of our great need, a benevolent donor graced us with \$15,000 for a mission bus that we needed desperately. Because of our week holdover we had time to finalize this acquisition. We also had an extra week to finish Bible studies with a Young Muslim man - our wonderful bus driver. Shafiq was baptized into Christ in beautiful Lake Victoria on the last day of our COVID delay. "God is at work in all things for good to those called wording to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

We are now desperately raising money to put a roof on the medical building. Donations for can be made to: <u>fargoadventist.org</u> > choose "Online Giving" > Mission Trip. Thank you for praying for this mission!



Article and photos submitted by Pr. Darrel Lindensmith, senior pastor of the Fargo / Red River / Wahpeton church district in North Dakota.

It is not too late to register for Men's Retreat held in beautiful Medora, North Dakota. Online payments are now accepted. Register and pay at: <u>dakotaadventist.org/ministries/mens-ministries</u>



Social Studies at DAA

While many experts debate the most effective ways that learning can occur from teaching, one method that has been demonstrated to be continually successful is when students themselves teach to others what they have learned. A 2013 study by Logan Fiorella and Richard Mayer found a group of students who studied material and then explained their learning to others for educational purposes significantly outperformed the control group, who studied lessons but were not expected to later teach the material, and the preparation group, who had prepared to teach but did not do so. Even after a one-week delay in testing, the teaching group's performance remained virtually unchanged, while the scores of the other groups dropped markedly.

Students in Social Studies classes at Dakota Adventist Academy are expected to periodically research topics, create a digital presentation based on their findings, and then teach this material to their classmates. These topics include North American indigenous peoples, cultural practices of the Ancient Near East, individuals who contributed to United States industry and frontier development, achievements of the Renaissance and Reformation, and the development of a business organization.

Psalms 119:99 states, "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation." The following are statements that DAA students have utilized during their presentations to enlighten each other and, in many cases, their teacher.

"The Blackfoot tribe was one of the first to migrate west. They eventually roamed the Northern Plains from Saskatchewan to the Rocky Mountains." - Noah Lee, junior

"The Pueblo contain parts of three different southwest cultures, the Mogollon, Hohokam, and ancestral Pueblo." - Orrin Waldner, junior

"The Lord is my dean; I will not be lacking anything. He makes me sleep in my dorm. He leads me to the water fountain. He restores my mood." - Ana Weber, sophomore (a Bible psalm put into today's needs and language)

"Lady Jane Grey reigned as queen for only nine days, the shortest reign of any English monarch, before or since." - Celeste Gareau, sophomore

"While on a pilgrimage to Mecca, Mansa Musa gave away so much gold that gold prices dropped throughout Egypt." - Daniel Bracamonte, sophomore

"Annie Oakley offered to raise a regiment of sharpshooting women to fight in the Spanish-American War." - Kiera VanWart, junior

"Madam C.J. Walker actively spoke against lynching and also paid the tuitions of many African-American students attending college." - Tasian Subigca, junior

"William Harley started by putting gasoline engines on regular bikes. By 1907, he made and patented the first two-cylinder engine." - Michael Saine, junior

"Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft, deriving the name by combining elements of the words microcomputer and software." - Caleb Tachenko, senior



Article by Jared Gibson, DAA social studies teacher. Photos by Zak Adams, DAA assistant boys' dean and art teacher.

2022 Camp Registration is Open!



Register today at: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

DAA Host Preview Days

2022 Dakota Adventist Academy Preview Days started out with a HUGE disappointment as

subzero temperatures caused the Ski & Recreation Day to be postponed. However, that did not freeze the spirits of the thirteen potential students that joined the current thirty-eight to make up the 2022 DAA Preview Days crew.

Welcoming thirteen new people into the student body started with a general assembly followed by "Speed Friending". Having nothing but thirty seconds to tell someone who you are makes quick work of breaking the "I don't know you, so I have nothing to say" silence! Twelve DAA students were commissioned to be group leaders for different activities throughout the weekend, starting with a school tour.

Friday, all current and potential students toured required classes that they would likely be taking next year. English, social studies, math, Bible, and science teachers showed the kids some highlights of what next school year will hold for them. After lunch, students chose which elective classes they wanted to preview. This is where they checked out autos, pottery, graphic art, Spanish, music, and construction.

Sabbath was filled with stories of miracles and Christ's love for us. Both Pastor Rob Carlson and Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams held the attention of the students focusing the day's activities on Jesus. Mr. Way (retired English teacher) resurrected his writing skills and crafted a suitcase race based off the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt.

DAA's Amazing Race kept students and staff running for the evening. If you've ever wanted to be a part of an Amazing Race, this was one for the books! Detours, Challenges, and Roadblocks kept participants on their toes! The craziness that is involved in an Amazing Race ended in the gym for popcorn and sodas. The students needed a bit of refreshment after a busy evening.

In spite of the busy schedule preview students, as well as current students, still had time to visit with each other. There was talk of who would like to be suitemates next year and helpful hints of what to bring for their dorm rooms were shared.

With each possible student, the excitement of what can and what will be pulses through the school. The staff are excited to watch this new batch of students make their mark on DAA.



Article by Tracy Peterson, DAA recruiter and barn manager. Photos by Halie Garrett, year book editor and senior at DAA, and Zak Adams, DAA assistant boys' dean and art teacher.



Make plans to attend the Dakota Conference Prayer Retreat to be held in Bismarck, North Dakota, on March 18-20. <u>Click here</u> for more information and to register.

Kid's Corner

We have begun a new Yellow Chair Devotional series exploring the life of Jesus. Once it is finished, we will transition into a special Easter study following the book *The Wonder of Easter* by Ed Drew.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT8TBICrTY6frYn_5zrtsmk_gcbEaUr_t

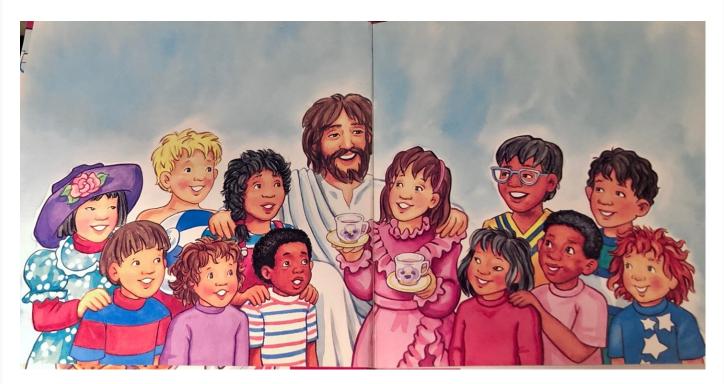
March's craft corner video focuses on butterflies and the amazing spiritual metamorphosis that happens when we have Jesus in our hearts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfpYIOYEp2A

Storytime with Zeus has been journeying through the *Child's Steps to Jesus* book series by Linda Porter Carlyle. Each book shares a simple approach to biblical truths such as salvation, conversion, helping others, or making choices. Check out the read-aloud videos below or if you want your own book set, they are available to purchase through the ABC.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT8TBICrTY6f8qhthC3hZVyhLQxaSyw1i

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel "Dakota SDA Kids" and explore the many videos available for children.



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

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

March -

- 5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Williston Church, ND
- 5: Elder Mark Weir preaching at New Home Church, ND
- 5: Local Church Budget
- 6: Executive Committee at Dakota Conference Office (10am)
- 11-13: Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 11-20: DAA Spring Break
- 12: Adventist World Radio
- 18-20: Dakota Prayer Retreat in Bismarck, ND
- 19: Local Church Budget
- 21: K-12 Committee via Zoom (7pm)
- 26: Dickinson Regional Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 26: Dakota Challenge

April -

- 2: Jamestown Regional Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 2: Local Church Budget
- 3: DAA Work Bee (8am-3pm)
- 9: Education Sabbath
- 9: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Lehr Church, ND
- 9: Elder Mark Weir preaching at Watertown Church, SD Reaching Youth & Young Adults Seminar

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

Blessed & Kept

May your joy build.

May your anticipation for Sabbath make you fully present now.

May your yearning for a future day give you a greater appreciation for the day you have ahead of you.

Because you know that the future Sabbath day will be a good one, may you strive to live a Sabbath life today.

On properly celebrated Sabbaths, we say no to many things, but we say no specifically because we have already said yes to something else.

May today be filled with the right kind of 'no's'

Because it is occupied by the right kind of 'yes's'

May you say yes to kindness- especially when kindness is not the natural response.

May you say yes to patience- especially when you would get a pass for losing your cool.

May you say yes to joy- especially when the moment seems devoid of it.

May you say yes to the gentle tug of the Holy Spirit guiding you towards those who most need her love and care.

May you live as if today already were the Sabbath you long for.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

To follow Casey's Podcast Blessed & Kept click here.

March 3 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Jodi Dossenko in Burleigh 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 <u>j.dossenko@gmail.com</u>. Bison <u>Copyright</u>

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