

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 9: Hastening the Coming of the Lord - Part 1

Heinrich Loebsack, the first Russian citizen ever to be ordained a Seventh-day Adventist minister read the telegram with an amazement bordering on disbelief. General Conference Foreign Mission Secretary W.A. Spicer, took the telegram from Loebsack's extended hand and read, "Over a hundred keeping the Sabbath. Eighty ready for baptism. Send a minister."

The remarkable communication had been sent by Theophil A. Babienco from a place called Herusy, beyond the Caucasus Mountains at the end of the stagecoach route near Mount Ararat, where Babienco had been exiled a few years earlier for teaching the Seventh-day Adventist message to his fellow Russians.¹

It was not the first time that an exile had been transformed into a missionary journey by the irrepressible Babienco.

Almost twenty years earlier his interest in the Bible had been aroused while assisting in the service of the Orthodox Church by reading the Psalms. Obtaining permission to take the Bible home, Babienco gathered his neighbors together and read to them. Through these readings he concluded that many doctrines believed and taught by his church were not scriptural.

When he told the priest about his discoveries, he was warned that he was in danger of deranging his mind through too much reading of the Bible and was asked to return his borrowed copy.

Later at Kiev, he bought a copy of his own. Several others obtained Bibles and began to share Babienco's views.

In 1877 Babienco and a number of followers left the Orthodox Church and organized themselves as "a community of brethren, believers of the Bible" in Tarashcha. The views of the "brethren" soon spread to other towns and villages in the Ukraine.

About 1883 Babienco traveled to Kiev to obtain permission from the governor to build a church for the believers in Tarashcha. Babienco did not return; he was arrested and exiled to Stavropol, in the northern Caucasus.

While in exile he secured a Bible and after two years of study, according to his son's account, began to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and to expect the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, although he as yet had no knowledge of Seventh-day Adventists. Babienco wrote to the "brethren" in Tarashcha, and as a result some of them were led to share his new faith.

While Babienco was at Stavropol, his German Baptist employer was visited by Conrad Laubham, a German from Lehigh, Kansas, who had returned in the spring of 1886 to Tscherbakovka, on the Volga, to bring the Seventh-day Adventist message to his relatives and friends.

From Laubham, Babienco learned of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Five of his local followers were baptized in 1887 and eight more in 1888. The first Russian Seventh-day Adventist group in the Soviet Union was established in Stavropol (and organized in 1890 with Babienco as elder). Soon there were also groups in Michailovka and Palageyevka, both some distance away.

Back in Babienco's Ukranian homeland, a Jew named Koblanov had some years previously become convinced from reading the Scriptures that the Messiah had already come, and that Jesus was the Messiah.

Desiring to be an evangelical Christian, he traveled in the dead of winter to a Lutheran church in Kharkov, some 330 miles away; here he was told that since he could not speak German he could not be legally accepted into membership.

Obtaining a German New Testament, Koblanov learned German from the school children and was taken into the Lutheran church in Kharkov in 1858. However, he felt uneasy about Sunday observance.

In 1873, he and his wife, convinced that the Bible taught baptism by immersion, were baptized by

the Baptists. Koblanov became active in lay missionary work. Later, one of his converts emigrated to America, became a Seventh-day Adventist, and began to send Adventist publications back to Koblanov.

Reading them, he and his wife became convinced that they should take one more step. Soon they met other Baptist families who had begun keeping the seventh-day Sabbath - each group thinking that they were the only ones doing so in the vicinity.

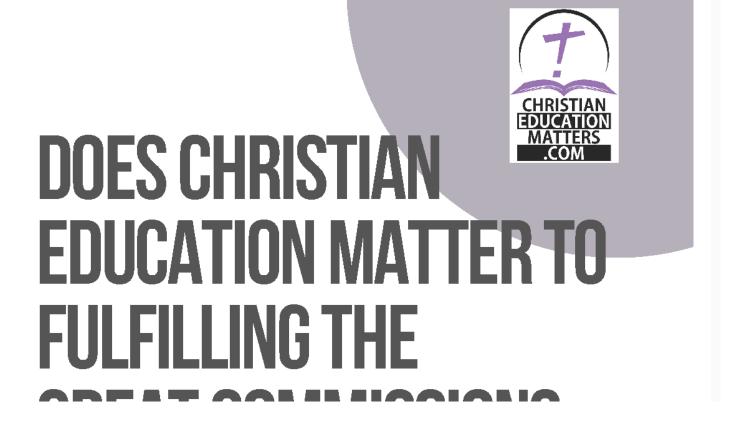
In 1887, Laubham visited these converts and organized the first church of which we have record in the Ukraine, consisting of seventeen members. By 1890 there were 30 Seventh-day Adventists in that area with Koblanov serving as elder.²

- 1. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, July 30, 1942, 10.
- 2. The nationality of these church members is not known, but it seems likely that both Germans and native Ukrainians were represented.

Next time from Nothing to Fear:

Chapter 9, "Hastening the Coming of the Lord" - 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.



GKEAI CUMMISSIUN?

MARKETING AS MINISTRY WORKSHOP

APRIL 24, 2022



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

School Board Members.
Principals. Teachers. Volunteers.
Pastors. Sabbath School Leaders.
Pathfinder Leaders. Lay Leaders.
Men's/Women's Ministry Leaders.
Christian Entrepreneurs.

Dakota Adventist Academy 15905 Sheyenne Circle Bismarck, ND 58503 RSVP: 701.258.9000

This workshop will be worth your time!

Have you been seeking how YOU can be a missionary fulfilling the Great Commission, right here in your own community? You have a mission field, right here at Dakota Adventist Academy in Bismarck, ND!

If you are someone who wants to make an impact but do not know how to make a difference, then this workshop is for YOU. If you are someone who has a burning desire to build up the next generation of leaders for our church or an advocate for Christian education, then this workshop is for YOU. If you are a business person or an entrepreneur who seeks to grow your company in a Godly way, then this workshop is for YOU. If you are just a little bit curious, then this workshop is for YOU.

About the speaker:

Teresa Kelchner is a champion, advocate, and coach whose indefatigable passion encompasses more than 30 years of experience working in clinical practice, medical research, patient education, sales, marketing, web-publishing, venture capital, fundraising, communications, teaching, and volunteering in both for-profit and non-profit organizations, serving on boards; a myriad of professional experiences which she applies to growing Christian schools.



Since 2012, she has worked to build capacity with 200+ Christian schools, both large (>1300 students) and small (<30 students). Nine NEW Christian schools have been started. Clients include Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Seventh-day Adventist schools. Teresa was a member of the NAD's Educational Taskforce to study the state of Adventist education and a guest lecturer at the Andrews University Theological Seminary. Her first book, 52+ Ways To Promote Your School At Church, has become MinistrySpotlight.com which scripts weekly messages ministering to church members on the value of Christian education.

Teresa thrives to grow "anything". She is a master gardener, and she's been known to grow people, ministries, programs, and dollars. Working with churches, developing volunteers and problem solving are her strengths. Teresa was a National Merit Scholar recipient and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Maryland.

www.ChristianEducationMatters.com teresakelchner@comcast.net 301.788.9522

Dakota Adventist Academy

Work-Bee

Looking for a way to give back? We are searching for volunteers of all skill levels to donate their time on Sunday, April 3, 2022, from 8:00a-3:00p. Join us at the Academy as we work to revitalize our school while reengaging with our community. Lunch will be provided.

Please register online and let us know what skills you can share.

To register, please visit: dakotaconferenceeducation.org/daa-work-bee

For a list of tasks and to register <u>click here</u>.

A Beautiful Car

True story. I recently listened to a man tell of an experience he had many years ago when he was young. He was needing a car and through a chain of conversations he learned about a beautiful car that was for sale in a town some distance away. The car's make, model, and year sounded great to him and though it was a little above his price range, he decided to find a ride to the town where the car was located and check it out. So, off he went.

When he arrived and saw the car, he was taken with how good it looked. The outside of the car looked really good - no dents or scratches! The interior of the car looked really good - like new! He looked under the hood at the motor, and it looked really good too! After he spent the time giving that beautiful car a thorough-once-over and a little more time talking with the car's owner, he said to the owner, "The car looks great, but I really don't know a lot about cars. Would it be okay with you if I drive it to a shop and ask them to do a pre-sale inspection of it so I will have a better understanding of what it is that I am thinking of buying?" The owner agreed to his request, and so off he went to a car shop. As he drove he was feeling how the car handled on the road and was thinking, "This car drives really nice!"

The mechanic drove the car into the shop and parked it above the car maintenance pit. He then got out of the car, went down into the pit, and began looking at the underside of the car. It didn't take long, and the mechanic began talking about what he was seeing. He exclaimed, "You have half of two different cars! This car has been cut in half, and the front half of one car has been welded to the back half of a different car." The mechanic was not that impressed with the quality of the welding that had been done in putting the two "half cars" back together and was concerned about its longevity and trustworthiness.

When I heard the story of the "beautiful car" I was reminded of the Bible story telling of Samuel's experience when he went out to anoint the second king of Israel. "So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:6-8).

As I think of the car story, I'm reminded of how we tend to look at people, seeing first the outside, the physical appearance — which may or may not be pleasing. Then we see the interior — the personality, how they talk, their temperament, how they treat others, trustworthiness, etc. — you know, the seeable characteristics of a person. Though these are indicators of the inner person, they don't fully reveal the heart.

The Bible speaks of how God looks at people - yes, us, you and me. Not one of us is exempt, we

are all under His gaze. 1 Chronicles 28:9 says, "...for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. ..." He sees the hidden things. The deep-rooted things like pride, selfishness, greed, resentment, deceitfulness, desire for power and control, covetousness, and hatred - just to name a few.

The good news is that unlike the car in the story, which our friend walked away from, God isn't concerned that each of us have a "salvage title" because He is the One who is doing the rebuild of each person who is willing for Him to have Lordship of their life. His concern is that you and I respond to the working of the Holy Spirit's promptings in our minds and hearts. The promptings to give our will and all that is not the fruit of His Spirit to Him so He can then replace them with the fruit of His Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Now, instead of saying, "What a beautiful car that is!" we can say, "What a beautiful child of God we are!"

Thank you Jesus for not walking away from us!

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Terry Pflugrad, pastor of the Beulah / Grassy Butte / Richardton church district in North Dakota.



CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERSHIP

Did you know that Moses, Esther, Daniel, and Paul were some of the most well-educated people in the Bible?

Our students at Dakota Adventist Academy, no matter how young, are guided to develop strong leadership qualities just like Daniel, David and Esther from Bible times. Students learn through field trips, community service, technology, daily devotional time, and straight from the Bible's written recordings of history and events.

If you know someone who is seeking a quality education, please contact Anthony Oucharek at: anthony.oucharek@mydaa.org / 701.258.9000

DAA Knights Earn "Christmanship" Award

For the last 25 or so years, men's and women's basketball teams have converged at Union College from Adventist academies each spring semester. Some schools only come when they have strong teams and a chance to win. Others come every year for the fun of it. The Dakotans

have never been contenders for the top spot. In fact, we're fairly sure the DAA men's basketball team has only won two games in all those years, and the women have fared only slightly better.

One of those two wins for the DAA men happened just last Saturday evening. Coached by Union alumnus Jason Woll, the DAA Knights beat the Campion Academy Cougars 27-21 - an unfathomable event, especially for long-time fans. After years of asking "What time is it?" It was finally "Knight time."

But it wasn't in the exhilaration of winning a game that we felt most proud of our old school. No, that was on Thursday evening. The Knights were ridiculously outmatched by the Andrews Academy Cardinals and losing (the final score would be 66-9). When one of the Andrews guys sunk a free throw with nothing but net, it was the DAA players, rather than his own team, who congratulated him (pictured above). After a Cardinal made an impressive layup, it was the Knights cheering him on and patting him on the back. It was heartfelt, and the players weren't going to let a score or the color of their jerseys get in the way of their camaraderie and admiration.

This isn't an isolated incident. Year after year photographing and live streaming from the sidelines, we have watched DAA students lose with grace, cheerfulness and a generosity of spirit ... sometimes even handing the ball to the opposing team at the end of a game just to appreciate one more magnificent dunk. It's why DAA has been chosen so many times by the other coaches receive the "Christmanship" Award (previously known as the Spirit Award). Far from a consolation prize, it's recognition of the positivity, joy and Christian spirit they bring with them to the court. Though these traits are by no means unique to the Dakota students, perhaps it is because of their



losing record they have lost their fear of failure. Losing freed them to appreciate the game and the other teams in a different way.

What does it mean to follow the command of Ecclesiastes 9:10 to "do it with all your might" when you know you're outmatched and can't win? You lose better. Or you redefine success.

We've seen study after study demonstrating the academic benefits of sports and athletics, as well as their role in developing the "soft skills" employers look for in new hires. That's why <u>Union is investing in the Fit for the Future Campaign</u> to expand our wellness and athletic facilities.

We've also found participation, rather than winning, is sufficient to enjoy the educational rewards of sports. The benefits of teamwork and exercise are built in regardless of the score. Learning to win

graciously is a powerful life lesson, but so is losing well. For our mission of education, winning isn't nearly as powerful a success indicator as increasing participation.

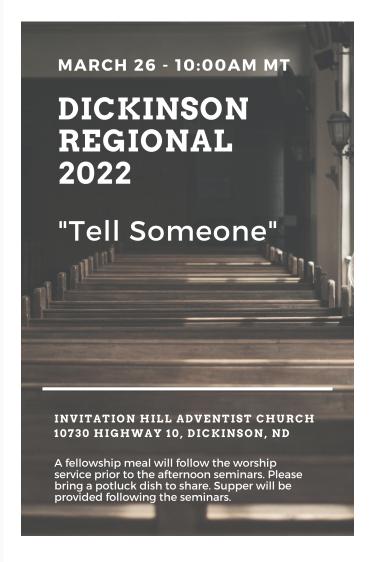
That's why we love cheering for DAA ... win or (mostly) lose. They manage to create an atmosphere in which just being there feels victorious.

See more photos from last week's tournament on Flickr.

Article and photos by Scott Cushman. Reprinted with permission from Union College.

Full disclosure: the editorial team for this publication is biased. Of the staff in Union's Integrated Marketing Communication office (the people who produce this newsletter as well as Union's website, uTV, *CORDmagazine* and other publications), half are Dakota Adventist Academy graduates. And we are never prouder of our high school connection than during Union's annual basketball tournament.

You Are Invited



SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS

2:00PM



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EADVENTIST

Julie Brude: Membership Clerk



WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
Paulette Bullinger: Women's Ministries Director



DOES MY CHURCH COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY?
Jodi Dossenko: Communication Director



PEOPLE WITH WILLS LIVE LONGER Elder Charlie O'Hare: Trust Director



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT: JESUS STYLEElder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR



WANTED: AN INVITING BODY OF CHRIST Elder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR



RECLAIMElder Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adults Director



GENERATION WHY: CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Kelli Wasemiller: Education Supt. / Children's Ministries



EVANGELISM BOOTCAMP
Elder Mark Weir: President

Upcoming 2022 Regional Meetings

Theme: Tell Someone

What to look forward to:
Sabbath School - 10:00am
Church - 11:00am
Potluck Lunch
Seminar Sessions on Church Life - 2:00pm
Supper

Dickinson Regional: March 26

Participating Churches: Bison, Bowman, Beulah, Grassy Butte, Invitation Hill, Richardton, Watford City, & Williston

Jamestown Regional: April 2

Participating Churches: Bowdon Country, Cleveland, Edgeley, Harvey, Jamestown, Manfred, & New Home

It Takes a Family

In my years at Hillcrest I have witnessed the lifeblood of this support system carry our school through times of need, help us flourish in the good times, and aid in ways that are impossible to quantify on a daily basis. I've seen retired teachers step back into the classroom when needed, volunteers mow the school grounds in the summer, and others clear snow in the winter. Parents step in to carry the responsibility of massive fundraisers, drive and assist on field trips, and pick up hours as school janitors. I've also seen church members step into roles of substitute teachers and maintenance crews, while other volunteers and school board members brilliantly tackle bulletin boards, help with grading, organize hot lunches, and maintain the school library.

I could go on to list many, many more ways that our church community and volunteers bless our school family. I could also detail how monetary donations and church budget allocations make it possible to operate, but for now I will just say thank you. Thank you to the entire group of people we call the Hillcrest Family, and thank you to our brothers and sisters who support and bless all the other church schools across our conference. We could not do it without you!

In closing I would also like to encourage you, wherever you are, to reach out to a school or children's ministry near you, especially if you have never had the privilege of volunteering your time or skills to their cause. The past two years, the pandemic has taken an extra toll on an already burn-out prone career group; your help and support might be just the life-line they need to continue impacting lives for Jesus. We are God's family and it takes the whole family, working together in Christ-like love, to raise our precious children for Him.



Article by Tabitha Coto, lower grades teacher at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, North Dakota. Photos from Mrs. Coto, parents, and Facebook.

2022 Camp Registration is Open!



Register today at: <u>dakotayouthandyoungadults.org</u>

Dakota Pathfinders Compete in Union Bible Experience

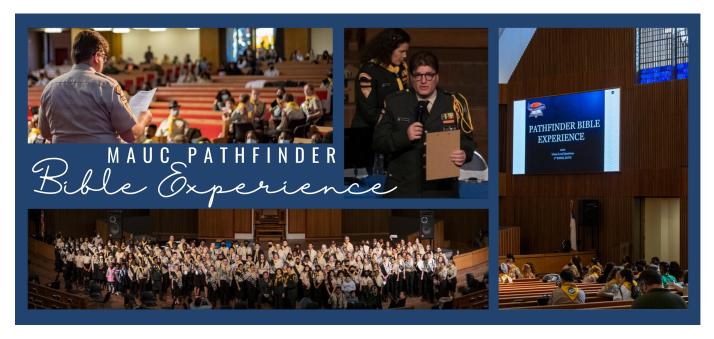
In January, three of our Pathfinder Clubs from the Dakota Conference advanced to the Union Level of the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) by participating in the Conference Level and achieving first place finishes.

On February 19, 2022, the Black Hills Lightbearers from Hot Springs, SD, the Rushmore Mountaineers from Rapid City, SD, and the Cleveland Prairie Trails from Cleveland, ND, all participated in the Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience. For the past year, the Pathfinders have been studying the books of Ruth and 1st Kings so that they could participate in this event. Over about a three-hour time period they answered 90 questions ranging in point values of one to nine points for a total combined point value of 150. At the end of the three hours, the points were tallied and the teams that scored in the top ten percentile were eligible to move on to the next round which is the Division Level. The competition at this level is very tough and challenging. In order to move on to the next level, many teams have to be near perfect and have the books memorized in order to be in the top level.

Our clubs did their absolute best competing for the first time in the Pathfinder Bible Experience. They did an incredible job, especially considering many of them really did not know what to expect. In addition to this being their first time, our clubs competed virtually due to the travel restrictions still in place due to COVID. We would like to thank Lonny Nelson and the rest of the Mid-American Union leadership for putting together an outstanding program that allowed both virtual and live participation so that those who could not travel could still participate. This was a blessing for many,

I know.

As for our clubs in the Dakota Conference, none of them will be advancing to the Division Level. They all placed 3rd at the Union Level and we are very proud of them for how well they did. The book of 1st Kings was not an easy study and the kids did an excellent job learning and memorizing many of the facts. I know that many of the Pathfinders are already excited to get started studying for next years PBE, which will be covering the book of John. If there is anyone in the conference who would like to help our Pathfinders study, they can do this by creating study questions from the book of John. Please send questions to dakotapathfinders@gmail.com and I would be happy to pass them along to the club directors so that they can use them to help prepare their Pathfinders for next year's PBE. Thank you!



Article by Richard Ray, Dakota Conference interim Pathfinder coordinator and member of the Cleveland Adventist Church in North Dakota. Photos by Tim Floyd, Kansas/Nebraska Conference youth and young adults director.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for the month of March:

Theme: Blessing the Seed - Planting for Harvest

Pastoral Staff: Harold Chin, Casper du Plessis

Education Staff: Rob Carlson,

Stephen Staff

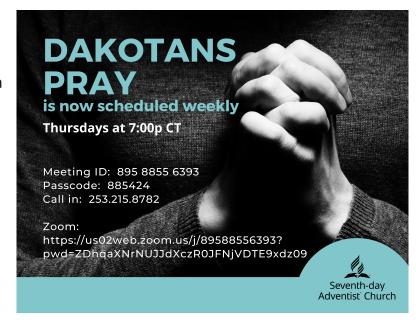
Office Staff: Charlie O'Hare

Adventist Entities: Bottineau Church, Bowdon Country Church, Goodrich Church, Harvey Church, Manfred Church, McClusky Church Minot Church

North Central, North Dakota:

Bottineau, Minot & Minot AFB, Rugby, Garrison, Goodrich, McClusky, Turtle Lake, Butte, Harvey, Manfred, Bowdon, Turtle Mountain Reservation

<u>Click here</u> to visit the Prayer Ministries' webpage.



Kid's Corner

We have just started a new Yellow Chair Devotional series following the book *The Wonder of Easter* by Ed Drew. We will explore the final moments in the life of Jesus as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pB-gSRwUbA&list=PLT8TBICrTY6eI1SnbUGieuH83t9Az48XT&index=1

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 -

- 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
- 9: Hope Channel International

- 16: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at DAA Church, ND
- 16: Elder Mark Weir preaching at Cleveland Church, ND
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 18: Conference Office Closed Easter Weekend
- 20-24: DAA Homeleave

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

Blessed & Kept

May you shout for joy in the LORD For God is victorious

May you give thanks to God with the music of your soul May you sing a new song to the Lord of hosts.

For the word of God is upright, God's work is done in faithfulness, righteousness, and justice. May you become conscious that the earth is full of the steadfast love of God.

May God's presence fill you with awe.

May you stand firm in the knowledge that God brings the counsel of nations to nothing and frustrates the plans of the peoples.

May this give you hope because the counsel of God stands forever.

May the roots of your salvation that have been planted in armies and strength be uprooted. For military might is a false hope for salvation, despite its great strength it cannot rescue.

May the roots of your salvation be replanted in the steadfast love of God whose eyes are endlessly upon those who hope in that love.

May your heart be glad in Jesus because you trust in his holy name.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

March 17 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Leanne Erickson in Grand Forks 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

Dakota 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>. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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- Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps

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