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## Nothing to Fear

This is the 47th 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 10: The School is a Live Question - Part 6

The most unique feature of the academy's curriculum was undoubtedly its three separate “nationality” departments. Although John Walker's observation in late 1907 that the academy “must... very soon add a Scandinavian Department” to the existing multi-lingual curriculum apparently offered three virtually identical parallel curricula in the respective languages from the upper elementary grades through high school. By 1916, the four-year academic curriculum in the English Department consisted of four units of Bible and English, two each in Social Sciences and Mathematics, three classes in the Natural Sciences, two years of Language (Latin or German) and three units of Vocational Education. In the German and Russian Departments, the language requirement was four years of the native tongue in addition to the four required years of English.<sup>41</sup>

A church school (elementary), possibly established as late as 1912 rounded out the educational opportunities available on the Sheyenne River Academy campus, providing for the children of faculty and members of the growing Adventist community in the area as well as, probably, for academy students who arrived with academic deficiencies. Marian Edwards, an academy student, taught the nine elementary students during the 1912-1913 school year and, following her graduation

in 1913 and a summer at Union College, returned to teach full time at the church school.<sup>42</sup>

From the academy's earliest days, music occupied an important curricular and co-curricular role. Individual vocal and instrumental lessons were available to the academy students, group musical organizations such as band and choir were early incorporated into the program of the school, and many of the school's social and religious functions were dominated by one phase or another of the music department's contribution to the academy. Even during the financially troubled 1910-1911 school year, under the principalship of C.V. Bond, when cutbacks eliminated the school's business manager and farm manager, a music teacher remained a part of the academy staff. Pianos and other musical equipment and supplies, according to one account, took precedence over the purchase of new library books. A "two-manual Estey chapel organ valued at \$425" to enhance the music education program of the academy was purchased with funds solicited by music students during the 1917-1918 school year.<sup>43</sup>

The major focus of the co-curricular activities of Sheyenne River Academy was, of course, religious in nature. In addition to chapel periods scheduled periodically throughout the academy schedule, regular "Week of Prayer" activities, and weekend religious services, students were given opportunities for involvement and leadership in the academy's Sabbath School (often conducted simultaneously by the separate language groups) and Missionary Volunteer Society, as well as in various service oriented missionary "bands." This latter group included the Canvassers Band which trained and drilled the students for literature evangelism work; the Home Mission Band which undertook such projects as the distribution of Adventist literature in nearby communities, and, during World War I, the Red Cross Band which prepared and mailed "comfort kit" packages to former academy students now in military service.<sup>44</sup>

By 1911 the growing academy community was large and stable enough to support its own church organization, so the Sheyenne River Academy church was organized with a charter membership of twenty-five on December 16, 1911; Academy Principal AF. Schmidt was elected church elder.<sup>45</sup>

Spiritual outreach activities of SRA students increased during the academy's second decade. Wednesday chapel services in the 1913-1914 school year were devoted to mailing out missionary magazines and other tracts. In 1917 students presented an anti-tobacco program for the public and assisted in a Week of Prayer for the employees of the Harvey Hospital. Students participated in the preparation and

editing of two publications during the 1919-1920 school year, "The Educational Messenger", apparently produced by the school, and a page of "Das Echo", the semi-monthly publication of the Clinton German Seminary. Another student organization, the SRA Seminar, presented a public program the same year entitled "Religious Liberty", discussing a pending bill to enforce Sunday worship.<sup>46</sup>

41. *Ibid.*, January 14, 1908, 3; February 15, 1916, 10; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement, op. cit.*, 37, 40, 44-45.

42. *Northern Union Reaper*, January 7, 1913, 6; July 22, 1913, 2.

43. *Ibid.*, February 25, 1908, 4; June 23, 1908, 5; November 24, 1908, 5; August 12, 1910, 4; January 18, 1916, 5; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement*, 1918-1919, 8.

44. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 13, 1909, 4; June 29, 1909, 4; April 25, 1916, 4; December 12, 1916, 1; December 19, 1916, 5; January 1, 1918, 4.

45. *Ibid.*, December 26, 1911, 3.

46. *Ibid.*, December 23, 1913, 5; January 1, 1918, 4; December 2, 1919, 4; February 17, 1920, 2.

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

**Chapter 10, "The School Is a Live Question" - Part 7 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.

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## You Are Invited

You are invited to attend the upcoming Rapid City Regional on Sabbath, October 15 starting at 10:00am. A fellowship meal will follow the worship service prior to the afternoon seminars at 2:00pm. Children's programming will be presented during Sabbath School and the afternoon seminars. Please bring a fellowship dish to share for lunch and then plan to stay for supper provided by the Rapid City Church.

OCTOBER 15 - 10:00AM

# RAPID CITY REGIONAL 2022

## "Tell Someone"

**RAPID CITY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
1636 CONCOURSE CT, RAPID CITY, SD

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

**SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS\* - 2:00P**



**DOES MY CHURCH COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY?**  
Jodi Dossenko: Communication Director



**RESOLVING CONFLICT BIBLICALLY**  
Elder Vernon Herholdt: Ministerial Director



**HOW TO DEAL WITH DISAPPOINTMENTS & SETBACKS**  
Elder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR Director



**DOLLARS & SENSE**  
Mark Seibold: VP of Finance



**PRAYER MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**  
Elder Barry St. Clair: Prayer Ministries Director



**YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH**  
Elder Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adults Director



**CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY THAT CAN GROW A CHURCH**  
Elder Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adults Director



**GENERATION WHY: CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**  
Kelli Wasemiller: Education Superintendent



**EVANGELISM BOOTCAMP**  
Elder Mark Weir: President

**\*There will be programs for the children and youth provided during this time.**

## Running On Empty

A week ago I was in town running errands and glanced at my fuel gauge. Just under half. Usually, I fill when I drop below half because I live in the middle of nowhere and drive lots of miles in between.

I made a mental list of the errands I still needed to make in town, then calculated the miles from town to home and then to Jamestown that evening. A hundred miles... I can make that. No sense wasting time filling now.

But then I stopped at church on the way home and noticed the lawn needed mowing before tomorrow's church service. That required a trip home to load the mower onto the trailer, haul it to church, then return home to unload before heading to Jamestown.

As I unloaded the mower, I thought, "Maybe I should glug a gallon or so of mower gas into the pickup before I leave. That should give me a little cushion." Do you know when I remembered that thought again? Twenty miles down the road to



Jamestown. Too late!

As my gas gauge dropped, my panic rose. What if I ran out of gas before I got there? I called my older daughter and shared my predicament. We made a plan. My younger daughter was home with a car and gas can, but my older daughter was closer. If I ran out of gas before 8:00pm, she could still get to Menards to buy a gas can, fill it, and rescue me.



It felt a little better to have a plan, but I still didn't like the thought of potentially having to pull off the road with my flashers on and hope I didn't get run into, or be kidnapped by a creep, or any other potential mishap.

How do people survive driving around with low fuel? Living on the edge like that is not the life for me!

I coasted down the hill into Jamestown and babied my pickup the next several blocks to the gas station and was so relieved when I made it!

The experience drained me. My daughter can attest that I was quick to put my pj's on and crawl into bed after all that worrying. It got me thinking about how often I live my life on the brink of exhaustion, calculating how much more activity I can squeeze into each day before falling into bed exhausted.

That's not what God intended when He created me. When God made Adam and Eve, He set an example for them by resting from all His creating. He walked with the new couple through the garden, breathing in nature and spending time with them.

I come from a faith background that takes Sabbath rest seriously, and I'm so thankful for that. I need to remember, though, that God didn't meet his created children in the garden and say, "I created you and here I am. Now run along; I'm tired and going to take a nice long nap." That would be silly, wouldn't it? And yet many weeks that's exactly what I do. I've crammed so much activity into the first six days of the week that by Sabbath I'm exhausted. No time for family. No time for communing with God, other than going through the motions at church. All I can think about is getting to a bed for that snooze!

I'm going to try to remember to build more resting space into the six days so that I have more energy to explore nature and fellowship with family and God in a meaningful way on the seventh day.

"Keep the Sabbath day holy. Don't pursue your own interests on that day, but enjoy the Sabbath and speak of it with delight as the Lord's holy day. Honor the Sabbath in everything you do on that day..." (Isaiah 58:13).

"The Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will give rest for your souls.'" (Matthew 11:28-30).

*Worship Thoughts and photo by Brenda Klein, member of the New Home Adventist Church in North Dakota. Follow Brenda on Facebook for more devotional thoughts at [Farm Girl Faith](#).*

## Rapid City Adventist Elementary School



Lower graders at Rapid City Adventist Elementary in South Dakota discovered how

difficult it would be to do things in darkness if God had not created light.

*Photo by Jamie Howell, head teacher at RCAES.*

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## **34th Annual Women's Retreat**

“Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments”  
Psalm 119:66 (NKJV).

This verse was the theme of the 34th Annual Dakota Conference Women’s Retreat, which revolved around a schoolhouse premise. The retreat was held September 30 - October 2, 2022, in the beautiful and peaceful setting of the Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center in Marvin, South Dakota.

Keynote speaker, Pastor Bonita Joyner Shields, from the North American Division, led the ladies through various educational levels in their Christian walk. Other presenters were Donna Brown, Central States Conference Women’s Ministry Director, and Reese Saxon, Devotional Spice Ministry.

Sabbath worship was in the Abbey’s beautiful sanctuary with its amazing acoustics and beautiful stained-glass windows. A generous offering was taken to support ADRA/Ukraine.

As stars and the moon reminded the ladies of God’s creation, soft singing came from around the campfire by the lake to close out the Sabbath.

Other optional retreat highlights were the early bird painting class, a nature photo walk, and a guided tour of the historic Abbey. Every retreat allows time for attendees to see friends from across the Dakotas and elsewhere, plus create new friendships.

Vintage schoolhouse décor enhanced the theme and brought ladies back to their school days. A “graduation” ceremony, complete with diplomas and a Pomp and Circumstance march, ended the retreat as we said farewell.

Next year’s retreat will be held in Medora, North Dakota, September 29 - October 1.





*Article and photos by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministries director.*

## October is Pastors' Appreciation Month

October is Pastors' Appreciation Month. The Dakota Conference currently has 19 pastors on staff with one attending the seminary program at Andrews University. Throughout the year, our pastors work to expand the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church here in the Dakotas.

This month, please take extra time to show your pastor how much they are appreciated. Remember to lift them up in prayer daily. We are proud of our pastors and so thankful to have them as part of the Dakota Conference team!

*Dakota Conference Pastors,*  
**YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

Thank you for showing God's love!



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## What is in Your Hand?

The students and teachers at Invitation Hill Adventist Elementary were blessed to have Cheryl Erickson from the Cleveland Adventist Church in North Dakota, come to spend time at their school to share her personal testimony and ongoing mission to build churches in India.

On Monday, Mrs. Erickson brought all the ingredients to make six batches of muffins with the students. Each student got to eat one muffin and then was challenged to sell at least three of the rest of them for the sake of missions. On Tuesday morning, every student came back to school having sold their muffins and pooled \$73 for a mission project. Both classrooms met together that afternoon and discussed several mission project proposals.

After voting, there was a tie to divide the money between two projects: 1- sponsor a



child to attend school in southeast Asia through ASAP Ministries (Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted), and 2- send money to build a school that MOVE (Missionary Outreach Volunteer Evangelism) is hoping to start in Belize to help children who are going largely uneducated.

On Tuesday morning, after sharing more stories of answered prayers, Mrs. Erickson provided the materials for students to make little airplanes which they will also sell and add funds to the \$73 for mission projects.

This week, the student body brainstormed ongoing mission projects they can do on their own to continue the practice of supporting missions and serving others. Several ideas were discussed: cleaning houses, babysitting, making cookies, and raking lawns.

Mrs. Erickson challenged the students to see “what is in your hand?” (Exodus 4:2). What talents and interests has God given you that can be turned into dollars or service to others? May this focus become a habit in each of our lives!



Cheryl Erickson visits Invitation Hill Adventist Elementary School

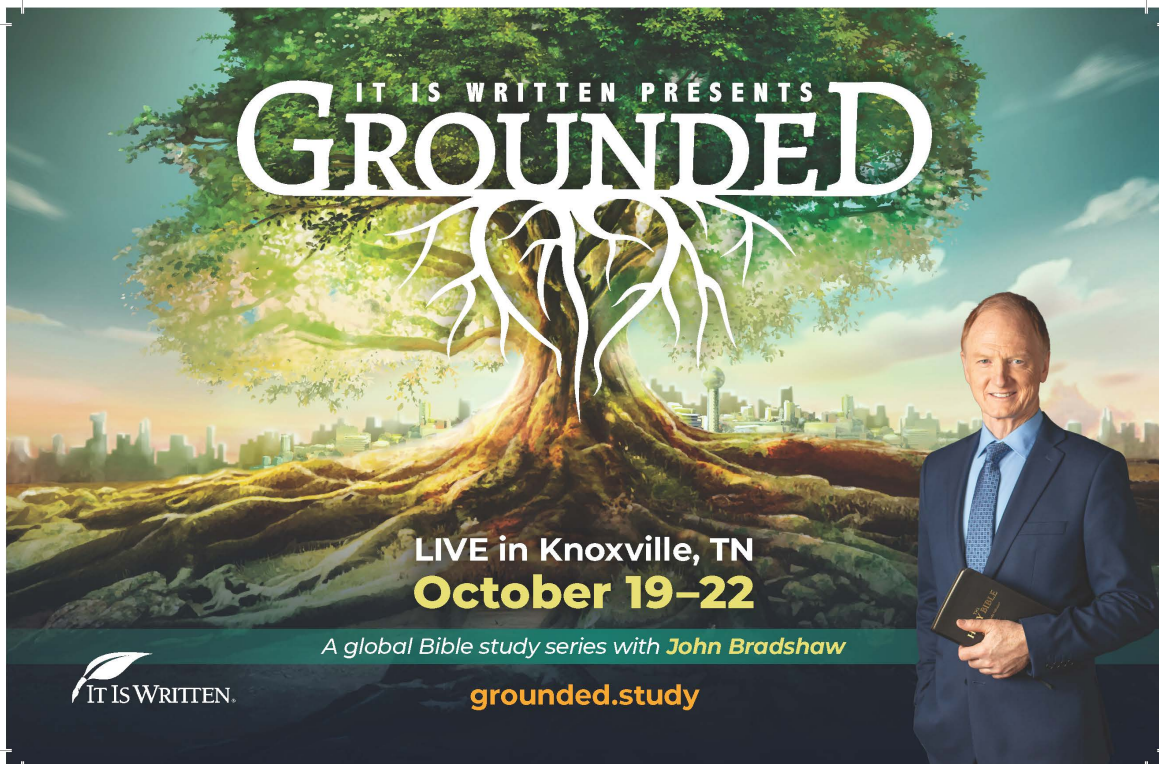


*Article and photos by Janna Wright, head teacher of Invitation Hill Adventist Elementary School in Dickinson, North Dakota.*

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# Grounded - Bible Study

Join It is Written speaker, John Bradshaw, for five nights of Bible study on October 19-22. Visit the website, [grounded.study](http://grounded.study), for more information.



Focusing on five essential components of life, Grounded will lead you into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God. It Is Written invites you to personally be a part of this life-changing Bible study adventure!

 **Knoxville First Adventist Church**  
3611 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37919



844-974-8836  
[grounded.study](http://grounded.study)



## October 19-22

OCTOBER 19 7:00 P.M. EDT

### Grounded in Truth

*In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.*

OCTOBER 20 7:00 P.M. EDT

### Grounded in Assurance

*Absolute confidence in mind, heart, and spirit.*

OCTOBER 21 7:00 P.M. EDT

### Grounded in Hope

*Hope with God is just reality that has not happened...yet.*

OCTOBER 22 11:00 A.M. EDT

### Grounded in Life

*The daily battle is one that is already won.*

OCTOBER 22 7:00 P.M. EDT

### Grounded in Promise

*Every promise is for you and points to one destiny.*



Free children's program  
(Ages 7-12)



Free DVD for in-person attendance any night!

Watch LIVE on:



## Dakota Youth & Young Adults

This past weekend was Alumni Weekend at Dakota Adventist Academy. What a wonderful experience to see reunions all over the campus as people came together and shared their favorite memories as students or faculty; however, it wasn't just a time for DAA alums to get together, it was also a Dakota Camps reunion of sorts. Ten of our summer camp staff were in attendance. It was so good to see them! It was awesome! Besides our staff, I also enjoyed spending time hearing great stories from previous staff and campers and many campers from this past summer who have already begun making plans to attend camp in 2023! I even got to meet future campers who can't wait to spend their summer at Dakota Adventist Camps. It was fun to hear so many memories and excitement about the future. I can't wait for another summer together!

During the weekend, I had the privilege to teach the teen sabbath school class where we discussed the weekend's theme, *A Taste of Heaven*, and what that meant to them. We had some really great responses about what we think heaven will be like and what we can expect when we get there. One young lady shared how she was looking forward to all of the music – when we get to praise God for all he has done. Another teen shared how we would get to play with animals and not have to be afraid. Still another was looking forward to being reunited with friends and loved ones for eternity. There were many more answers, but those three are probably my favorites because they are what I can't wait to experience myself when I get to heaven.

Until the day Jesus does come to take us home, we have incredible opportunities to share a message of hope – especially to the youth and young people of the Dakotas. Research is showing how loneliness and despair are on the rise in our younger demographics. We have a Savior who is the remedy. A life with Jesus can change that reality. Each of us can use our time, talents, and treasure to reach God's kids. It doesn't matter your age, you can help. One person I spoke with recently shared how they felt as if they were too old to do youth ministry. Let me tell you, when I was growing up, my youth leaders were two sisters in their 60s and late 70s. We had a great youth group because they loved us and shared Jesus's love for us, and we knew it. Jesus's love is contagious and He has promised to equip us with what we need to share His love and Truth with others.

~ Pastor Ted





Article by Pr. Ted Struntz, conference youth director. Photos by Pr. Ted and Lynnette Struntz.

## Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for the month of **October**:

**Theme:** Heritage - Faith of our Fathers

**Pastoral Staff:** Jim  
McCurdy, Stephen  
Eastwood, Brian Norton

**Education Staff:** Anthony  
Oucharek, Forrest  
Calhoun, Greg Ratter

**Office Staff:** Julie Brude

**South Central, South  
Dakota:** Murdo, Mission,  
Chamberlain, Winner

**DAKOTANS  
PRAY**  
is now scheduled weekly  
Thursdays at 7:00p CT

Meeting ID: 841 1749 9925  
Passcode: 382190  
Call In: 669.444.9171

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117499925?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDI1mc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

[Click here](#) to visit the  
Prayer Ministries' webpage.

## Kid's Corner

All the beautiful fall colors can't help but inspire us to get crafty! Our new Autumn Craft Corner is now live, [click here to view](#). Share your autumn craft creations with [dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com](mailto:dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com).

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.*

## DAKOTA CONFERENCE TOWN HALLS

*Join us for a DAA centered meeting!*

<p>Bismarck - September 8          Fargo - September 19          Aberdeen - September 22          Jamestown - September 26</p>	<p>Dickinson - September 27          Rapid City - October 13          Sioux Falls - October 20</p>
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*Each meeting will be held at the local church and begin at 6:30p.*



You are invited to attend one of our Conference Town Halls. These meetings will be centered around Dakota Adventist Academy with the goal to share as much information as possible regarding how our Conference is working towards the long-term viability of DAA.

Along with updates, financial information, and trend lines, you will have the opportunity to ask anything about DAA. Please plan to attend one of the seven meetings being held at the local Adventist Church. They will begin at 6:30p, local time, and last no more than 90 minutes.



# JOB OPPORTUNITY

*at the Dakota Conference Office*

The Dakota Conference Office is looking for a front desk receptionist/administrative assistant. The individual who is hired will need to have public relations skills, computer processing proficiency in Office Suite programs, be self-motivated, have the ability to work independently, be highly organized, and exercise confidentiality. Please send your resume to: [j.dossenکو@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenکو@gmail.com)

## Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

### October - Pastors' Appreciation Month

- 13: Rapid City Town Hall Meeting - Rapid City Church (6:30p)
- 15: Rapid City Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 15: Local Church Budget
- 18: Executive Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 19-23: DAA Homeleave and Union College Volleyball/Soccer Tournaments
- 20: Sioux Falls Town Hall Meeting - Sioux Falls Church (6:30p)
- 22: Dakota Challenge
- 29: Endowment Sabbath
- 29: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grand Forks Church, ND
- 29: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Richardton Church, ND
- 29: Secondary Education Endowment

### November -

- 5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Lehr Church, ND
- 5: Local Church Budget
- 5: DAA National Honor Society Vespers & Fall Festival
- 6: K-12 Board & Executive Committee Combined Meeting (10a)
- 12: Aberdeen Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 12: Annual Sacrifice
- 14-17: MAUC Year-end Meetings in Lincoln, NE

- 17: MAUC Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE
- 19: Local Church Budget
- 23-24: Conference Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 23-27: DAA Homeleave
- 26: Dakota Challenge

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 forgive yourself for things you didn't do.

May you forgive yourself for all the things you should have said but didn't.

May you forgive yourself for all the things you should have accomplished yesterday but didn't.

May you forgive yourself for all the things you should have accomplished last year, and in the last five years but didn't.

May you forgive yourself for not calling your loved ones as often as you should.

May you forgive yourself for not lending a helping hand when someone clearly needed it.

May you forgive yourself for desiring harm to others even though you didn't act on it.

May you forgive yourself for all the times you ought to have spoken up but remained silent.

Even if some of these things indeed warrant forgiveness, may you remember that you have already been forgiven for them.

May you stop judging yourself when the only one worthy of judging you says to you, "neither do I condemn, go and leave your life of sin."

May you accept the invitation of Jesus to leave behind the life and title of sinner,

stepping into the title Beloved child of God.

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

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## October 13 Dispatch Photo



*Photo by Susie Kahler, member of the Jamestown Adventist Church, of Lake Metigoshe at Northern Lights Camp in North Dakota.*

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If you have 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)

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 [j.dossenko@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com). Bison [Copyright](#). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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- [!\[\]\(262b158440b847a82f89a14cab8644ec\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(f51929fecf7b0dc947ac13f4c4835e8f\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(dfbf0e54bcca114319aa65c906feb8d0\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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