



Nothing to Fear

This is the 54th 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 11: The Good Work - Part 6

Horse-and-buggy seems to have been the preferred mode of transportation among colporteurs of the day, with the more hardy or less prosperous canvassers relying on shoe leather. Some true pioneering types loaded their covered wagons with books (forerunner of the bookmobile?) and took their families along, made camp at convenient spots, and while the families carried on the usual activities of life, walked or rode horseback around the countryside, selling books and periodicals.⁴¹

F.J. Sullivan reported to the *Reaper*, that when he and his family left New Rockford (Eddy County) for Minot in their "little shanty on wheels", they had "\$2.80 in cash, a sack of flour, some potatoes, and a little oil stove. The morning before arriving in Minot we spent the last dime we had for oats" (for the horse). The Sullivans found lodging in Minot and with husband, wife, and seven-year-old son out canvassing, soon overcame their cash-flow problems.⁴²

Bicycles were also a popular mode of transportation for literature evangelists in the early 1900's. One successful L.E. in North Dakota's Badlands obtained \$2,100 worth of orders, traveling on his bicycle till the tires gave out. He continued on foot till winter came, then made a makeshift sleigh" out of some planks and two Pacific Press book boxes for a body."⁴³

Another full-time worker, George Smith, who sold his farm and personal goods - giving a large part of the proceeds for foreign missions - in order to devote full time

to the "good work", made his rounds on a motorcycle.⁴⁴

Consistent leadership, training, motivation, and promotion paid off in a banner year for literature evangelism during 1909. Through the efforts of 35 canvassers (20 German and 15 English and Scandinavian) who were active in 16 North Dakota counties, sales increased eighty percent to over \$9,000.⁴⁵ (A later statistic of 20 total workers probably reflects the likelihood that not all of the people who stated their intentions to canvass actually did so or worked long enough or successfully enough to be considered in the final total.) Although sales and numbers of workers dropped somewhat the next year and dropped dramatically in 1911, due to poor crops and depressed economic conditions, both indicators rallied significantly in 1912, and surged to all-time highs in 1913, with 32 canvassers selling 2,900 books for total sales of \$11,576⁴⁶, demonstrating the basic soundness and growing stability of the "good work".

W.B. Payne never doubted it. "God has blessed our work abundantly," he wrote, "but we are expecting greater things. The testimony of Jesus is that 'The canvassing work is to be carried forward with increasing success,' so we know that our hopes are to be realized."⁴⁷

Near the close of 1914, Payne resigned his position to become the literature evangelist leader of the South Dakota Conference, leaving the "good work" in North Dakota to the direction of his young protege Jacob J. Jutzy. "We bespeak success for Brother Jutzy ... ," lauded Conference President S.E. Jackson, "he has had a good experience in the field work, has a good education, has command of two languages and is a Christian and a hustler."⁴⁸

Several encouraging trends welcomed Jutzy to his new responsibility. An increasing number of mature adults were taking up the book work as a career. A 1915 report by Jutzy mentions the labors of George Smith, and of Frank Christy and C.E. Langberg who, like Smith, had given up their farm operations to become literature evangelists, and speaks of another "permanent" worker in the Badlands area. Testimonials from the 1915 Harvey Institute include a statement by A.F. Wienke who had "been a salesman for many years with a commercial line," before entering the literature ministry.⁴⁹

Doubtlessly closely related to this tendency toward a more career oriented colporteur team is a trend, during this period, toward a year-round ministry. In the fall of 1915, Andrew Roedel reported to the *Reaper* that, "nearly all of our colporteurs who were able to do so, have clung to the work through the harvest season," citing the \$887 total sales of ten workers for one week in August and sharing the success stories of six harvest time L.E.'s.⁵⁰

41. *Northern Union Reaper*, August 6, 1907, 4; "South Dakota Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1223.
42. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 12, 1910, 4.
43. *Ibid.*, June 30, 1908, 4; December 7, 1915, 5.
44. *Ibid.*, June 29, 1915, 5.
45. *Ibid.*, October 26, 1909, 6; July 29, 1913, 3.
46. *Ibid.*, July 29, 1913, 3; July 28, 1914, 4.
47. *Ibid.*, July 29, 1913, 3.
48. *Ibid.*, January 12, 1915, 5; February 16, 1915, 3.
49. *Ibid.*, June 29, 1915, 5; May 25, 1915, 5.
50. *Ibid.*, August 31, 1915, 7.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 11: The Good Work - 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.

Last Chance to Register

Dakota Conference
28th Annual Men's Retreat

THE CHRISTIAN & THE NATION

March 10-12, 2023
Speaker: Dr. Cedric Vine

ROUGH RIDER HOTEL
301 3rd Avenue
Medora, North Dakota

You are invited to attend the Dakota Conference 2023 Men's Retreat. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. Scholarships are available to those needing funds - just visit the website and fill out a scholarship application to request yours. Registration closes soon!

Up On a Shelf

I'm baking chia-quinoa bread today.

Why, you say, would anyone in their right mind throw those two ingredients together?

I'm glad you asked.

You see, a dozen glass jars with various dry beans and seeds grace the tops of my kitchen cupboards. They look so pretty up there with their various shades of nature's hues.



A recent reach for the popcorn seed jar reminded me that several of these beauties have been sitting in jars untouched for over a year—possibly even two or three years or more.

Oops.

So I dug into recipes on the internet and found a bread recipe that uses not one, but two of the ingredients from my jars. I also found a crockpot split pea soup recipe for a good hearty supper.

I call that a win!

1 Kings 17 tells the story of a widow woman who used the last bit of the flour and oil in her house to feed a stranger from another country, and God blessed her kindness by miraculously replenishing her flour and oil for the next two years during a period of regional drought.

She, her son, and the stranger (prophet Elijah) had their basic needs met for two very difficult years because she used what she had and shared it. On that first day and every day after, she didn't leave the flour in her jar to look pretty. She used it, God blessed it, and it continued to be replenished each day.

When we use our God-given gifts to help others, our strength is renewed, and the gift is still there to be used again and again without running out.

What a blessing!

"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped" (Proverbs 11:25, *Message*).

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](#).

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 16, 2023, 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

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Calling all Dakotans!

Calling ALL handymen, handywomen, and those with the following skills: wiring, plumbing, carpenters, sheet rockers, sweepers, cleaners, or if you can hold, carry, or just help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our **2nd annual Work Bee to be held at Dakota Adventist Academy on Sunday, April 16, from 8:00a to 3:00p.** [Click here](#) to fill out the form online, so that we can place you in a suitable area of work.

Thank you, in advance, for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!

Hillcrest Happenings

Thanks to the musical leadership of Mrs. Deanne Reinke, Hillcrest Adventist Elementary students were able to sing on December 16 as part of the Jamestown church service. They did a terrific job and were a blessing to all who were able to get out after the blizzard conditions earlier that week.

We came back after Christmas break, and grades K-4 finished making their Christmas gifts to take home due to the blizzard weather earlier in December. They cut out iron-on appliques and applied them to dishtowels and finished them off by tracing around them with fabric markers. We also made honey butter out of the honey we were given last fall when we went on a field trip to Miller Honey Farm. Yum-Yum!

While we did have a small post-Christmas party, our main focus was on doing something for others. I arranged a time to take the new mittens/gloves we had brought from home to the local Salvation Army. They were glad to receive our

donation that helped replenish their supply which was running very low.

The upper-grade students have had the privilege of taking a few art classes from Mrs. Kathy Tebelius, one of our grandparents. The students were so excited when they heard Kathy was scheduled to begin the art class; it seemed to them that the day would never arrive. Then, to make the wait even more frustrating, the weather interfered with a school closure! Finally the next week, Kathy arrived with blocks of clay and some simple instructions. She taught them how to make "Pinch-Pots" out of pottery clay using their hands, and after firing in a kiln and painting them, the creations came to life in living color.

All students in K-4 are encouraged to memorize the weekly scripture text and say it to the class on Friday with the explanation being given: "When scripture is stored in the mind, no one can take it from you!" Most recently a 4th grader, Clara Rittenbach, memorized the 23rd Psalm and bravely recited it for her church family.

It is hard to believe we're already a couple of months into the second semester of learning, but we are! The upper grades practiced diligently for the Music Festival at Dakota Adventist Academy in February, and hearing their harmony made me long for heaven, where we all will be able to praise God face to face in perfect harmony. Oh, what a day that will be; one I'm certainly looking forward to and trust that you, the reader, are also.



Article by Carlene Lang, lower grades teacher at Hillcrest in Jamestown, ND. Photos by Carlene Lang and Trudy Smith, upper grades teacher.

Winter Wear for Those in Need

We did it again. The Junior Class was able to perform a community service thanks to you. You supplied the items, and we supplied the legwork. Thank you so much for partnering with us.

As you know, Rapid City has become known as the City of Presidents. Statues are located on corners of Main Street and St Joseph Street from 4th Street up to 9th Street. Some statues have dogs and two have a child with the president. From November 15th through March 15th, citizens can hang scarves, hats, gloves, and winter headbands on the statues. Anyone in need of these winter items can take whatever will help protect them through the cold weather.

We asked for your help and boy did you step up. We had a large basket in the entry hallway, and you filled it to overflowing. We had hats, gloves, scarves, headbands, more hats and more scarves. We divided into three groups. Jenny Pulis took one group

and covered the statues on both sides of Main Street. Aaron Mraz took his group and covered the two presidents, Kennedy and Obama, that had a child. Wouldn't you know, these two statues were on opposite ends of the covered area. Barb's group covered both sides of St Joseph Street. With one president, we wanted to put gloves on the statue but none of us could reach the raised hand. So we asked a passerby to do it for us and he helped. A passerby thanked Jenny's group for what they were doing. The kids put hats on presidents, dogs and kids. We had so many items, some got both scarves, hats and gloves.

One thing we all noticed as we worked our way back, we would see where some of the items put out were already gone. After church, one family drove down through town to see what the kids had done, and they also noticed that a number of items were gone.

Now it is time for us to think of another project. As soon as we figure out what we want to do next, we will let you know because we know you love being involved as much as we love performing a service.

The Junior Class



Article and photos reprinted with permission from Stephen Wasemiller, Rapid City Adventist Church

communication director.

Adventurers' Induction in Bismarck

Jessica Eberhardt noticed that, along with her own children, there seemed to be a lot of kids going up to the front of the church each week for the children's story. In fact, there were sometimes more than 20 up there listening to the story. This gave her the idea that something needed to be done for them and her own children. Being only recently baptized, she wasn't sure what to do, but she did know whom to ask. After talking with other parents and those members who had participated in this club previously, she had a plan.

The redesigned Adventurers Club of Bismarck started in September 2022. Jessica is a co-leader with Chelsea Christensen. Chelsea also has a little one in the club and has had experience with Adventurers and Pathfinders. They decided to meet every other Sabbath of the month after potluck. But first they needed supplies and plans. There once was an Adventurer club in Bismarck, so much of the material needed was discovered in cabinets and storage closets. They obtained the books, uniforms, plans, patches, and other miscellany, plus recruited over 20 children and the staff.

Every two weeks, the members of the Bismarck Seventh-day Adventist Church noticed some adults and a whole passel of kids in the distinctive uniforms of the Adventurers. This sparked interest in what those maroon scarves draped over dark blue and sky-blue outfits really meant. By the time the induction service came on February 4, 2023, there were 23 children putting their names on the altar. They sang, recited pledges and the Adventurer Law, and promised themselves to work for Jesus.

Club Ministries (clubministries.org/adventurers/) of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists explains Adventurers thus: “The Adventurer program was created to assist parents in their important responsibilities as a child’s primary teachers and evangelizers. The program aims to strengthen the parent/child relationship and to further the child’s development in spiritual, physical, mental, and social areas. Through the Adventurer Program, the church, home, and school can work together with the parent to develop a mature, happy child. The Adventurer Club was created to give children an opportunity to belong to an organized peer group. To join, children are invited to participate in various activities which will improve their social skills. The Adventurer Club involves children in grades 1-4 and their parents.”

The plan is for Adventurers to eventually “graduate” into the Pathfinder club. Already there are a handful of kids old enough to participate in Pathfinders, so the Bismarck church is investigating the possibility of restarting that program, too. This church wants our children to have a close and delightful walk with Jesus, so they may beat the statistics of dropping out of church once they finish high school. If your church doesn’t have an Adventurer club, please consider starting one.



Article and photos by Reese Saxon, communication director for the Bismarck Adventist Church in North Dakota.

Word. I told them a story about my great-grandfather who would memorize Scripture in German, French, and English. Then he would take pages of Scripture around his town and ask them to check if he had memorized it correctly. By doing this, he got others to read the Bible, and he was able to share Bible Truths with others as they checked his memorization. Not only was he hiding God's Word in his heart, but he was also sharing it with others. I told the Pathfinders the quote my great-grandfather, Theodore, would often say to our family: "The measure of a man is not how tall you are. It is your hold on God and His Word."

What we learn from God's Word is that it is great to memorize it, but we need to share it as well. I pray that each of you takes time to learn and share God's precious Words of hope and life.



Article & photos by Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director, and Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director.

The Making of David series is finally here! This new docuseries includes six action-packed episodes to take you behind the scenes at the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee and experience the incredible story—behind the story. Watch each episode at: youtube.com/c/CenterforYouthEvangelism



Kid's Corner

[Click here](#) to watch this month's Yarn Craft Corner.

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, [Dakota SDA Kids](#), and explore the many videos available for children.



Sabbath, March 18, is Global Children's Day! This year's theme is "Love is a Verb," and there are resources available to plan a special church service. Find out more at:

www.faithfinders.com/global-childrens-day



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

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

March -

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot, ND (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 4: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in New Home, ND
- 5: Dakota K-12 Committee Meeting at Conference Office (11a - Subcommittees start at 8a)
- 10-12: Dakota Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 11: Adventist World Radio
- 19: Dakota Executive Committee Meeting at Conference Office (10a)
- 24-25: [Mike Tucker's Mad About Marriage](#) at Watertown Church, SD (click link for more info)
- 25: Dakota Challenge
- 25: Jamestown Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 26-28: *New in Ministry* Meetings at Conference Office

April -

- 1: Local Church Budget
- 1: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching Hermosa, SD
- 3-4: Elementary Teacher Spring In-service at Conference Office
- 8: Hope Channel International
- 8: Education Sabbath

- 10: Office Closed - Easter Monday
- 15: Local Church Budget
- 15: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Aberdeen, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 15: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 16: DAA Community Work Bee (8a-3p)
- 20: Mid-America Union Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE (9a)
- 22: Local Church Budget
- 22: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Aberdeen, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)

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

Job Opportunity

Description: The Dakota Conference is seeking a passionate educator to join the teaching team at Hillcrest School in Jamestown, North Dakota. Hillcrest has an opening for a full-time teacher covering grades K-4 for the 2023-2024 school year. Hillcrest has a supportive board, church, and community and is a great opportunity for any teacher looking to join our Dakota family. Hillcrest is a two-teacher school with assistance for extracurricular classes. They will have the privilege of leading a growing school that is described as having a family atmosphere where everyone works together throughout the education process. Work with an experienced educator, in a school with a low student-teacher ratio, that is dedicated to sharing Jesus every day. If that's your vision, please reach out to us!

Experience: Candidates must be committed Seventh-day Adventists with a passion for sharing Jesus with their students. The ideal candidate has experience teaching in a multi-grade school, and experience in the lower elementary grades and Kindergarten is beneficial. A qualified applicant has a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in elementary education along with a current NAD Elementary certification. Salary and benefits are based on the denominational wage scale and policy. Candidates must have the legal right to work and reside in the United States and be able to provide evidence of that right if employed. If interested in being considered, please send your resume, including at least three references with phone numbers and e-mail addresses to Kelli Wasemiller (superintendent.dakota@gmail.com). Interviews may be conducted, and the position filled, before the closing date for resumes if a qualified candidate has applied.



Blessed & Kept

May you embrace doubt.

Whether from disappointment, disillusionment, hard times, or lack of clarity

May you embrace doubt as the friend who might help you see things from a new perspective.

May you doubt the story you tell yourself long enough to see its flaws.

May the flaws you see allow you to offer grace to the people you dislike and disagree with.

May you doubt the story you tell yourself about how the world works.

May you release yourself from the perceived need to continue to see the world in this way.

May your newfound freedom lead you to see things in a new way.

May you surprise yourself with your ability to understand others.

May the doubt you place on the stories you tell yourself give you a richer, fuller picture of God.

May the lines of exclusion you have drawn expand because of the doubt you have embraced.

May those whom you love be multiplied

For if your story led you to exclude fellow children of God, it was not God's story of redemption for a broken world.

May you live God's story.

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

March 2 Dispatch Photo



Trolley Bridge photos taken by Paulette Bullinger in Mandan, North Dakota.

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

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. Bison [Copyright](#). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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