



Nothing to Fear

This is the 64th 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 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 9

Jorgensen spent more than three years at Grand Forks, and, aided by visiting evangelist Lars Neilsen and, later, C.C. Jensen and by Bible workers K.O. and Tillie Shawhem, slowly built the congregation back to moderate size and strength as new members joined with Adventists moving into the area to form a new Grand Forks Church.⁴⁹

Rhoads made Minot his home for an even longer period of time, working house-to-house when he was not away on an itinerary in another part of the conference. By 1910, a small group was meeting on Sabbath which apparently became an organized company by 1912, and in 1915, following evangelistic meetings conducted by M. Ruskjer, E.L. Stewart, and Bible Worker Emma Krebs, the Minot church was formally organized with seventeen members.⁵⁰

In Minot, the actual organization of the church was the work of a second resident "pastor", Ruskjer, who had spent the previous two years headquartered in Minot. C.C. Jensen, the new Scandinavian evangelist made Grand Forks his home base in 1918, conducting an evangelistic crusade the following year, leading to the reorganization of the Grand Forks church early in 1921. A second church was

apparently organized at about the same time at Bowsmont, some sixty miles north of Grand Forks. The close link that obviously existed between the two separate groups in one that still exists at the present time, with Bowsmont members comprising an important segment of the modern Grand Forks church.⁵¹

To help assure their survival and stability, the Minot and Grand Forks congregations immediately entered into building programs to provide permanent worship facilities in these two major population centers. Minot's combined church and school building was soon also the home of a thriving educational program that even provided boarding facilities for elementary students living too far away to commute daily.⁵²

The Scandinavian preachers also did their share of itinerating. Jorgensen spent a period of time in 1913 at Rugby (Pierce County) with limited success; Ronning held an evangelistic crusade at Oakes (Dickey County) in which a single person was baptized; and C.C. Jensen visited with a "little company" at Lignite (Burke County) in 1917. In addition, there was a Scandinavian church at Baldwin, near Bismarck, and Scandinavian groups (possibly churches) at Goodrich and McClusky, during the same time period, requiring at least occasional visits from a Scandinavian minister.⁵³

But amidst this flurry of important activity by the Scandinavians, the death knell for this branch of ethnic evangelism could also be heard sounding. Even as preparations for the organization of the Minot church were being made, the evangelists were lamenting that their work so far in the city had been done, of necessity, in English, and expressed hope of conducting a Scandinavian evangelistic series in the city in the near future and, early in 1921, C.C. Jensen was assigned the care of the English-speaking churches of the area west of the Missouri.⁵⁴

44. *Ibid.*, August 15, 1911, 4,5; December 30, 1913, 3; February 16, 1915, 3,4; July 24, 1917, 1; April 9, 1918, 4; August 6, 1918, 2; August 20, 1918, 7; February 18, 1919 4; May 20, 1919, 2,3.

45. *Ibid.*, October 6, 1908, 5; September 7, 1909, 4,5.

46. *Ibid.*, August 25, 1908, 3; December 29, 1908, 4; October 27, 1908, 7; May 4, 1909, 5; November 9, 1909, 5; September 13, 1910, 5; September 12, 1911, 5; April 9, 1912, 6; March 28, 1916, 5; November 5, 1918, 2.

47. *Ibid.*, September 15, 1908, 3; July 6, 1909, 5; October 5, 1909, 3; January 20, 1914, 2.

48. *Ibid.*, January 17, 1911, 6; November 8, 1910, 5,6.

49. *Ibid.*, November 8, 1910, 5,6; January 20, 1920, 2; January 25, 1921, 4,5.

50. *Ibid.*, January 17, 1911, 6; December 7, 1915, 4,5; Minot church history, prepared by church members lists 1912 as the organization date, probably of the company.

51. *Ibid.*, December 7, 1915, 4,5; January 25, 1921, 4,5; May 25, 1920, 3,4.

52. *Ibid.*, May 25, 1915, 5; August 8, 1916, 2; April 19, 1921, 7.

53. *Ibid.*, August 19, 1913, 3; September 16, 1913, 5; June 5, 1917, 4.

54. *Ibid.*, August 31, 1915, 8; January 4, 1921, 3.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 10 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.

Women's Retreat



Make plans now to attend the upcoming Dakota Conference 35th Annual Women's Retreat, held at the historical Rough Riders Hotel in Medora, North Dakota. Due to the hotel availability, no registrations are guaranteed after August 29.

For more information and to register, [click here](#). Scholarships are available to those that need them.

Jesus, Our Sustainer

Have you ever had a discussion with someone who agreed that there had to be a “Higher Power,” or “Creator” who got things started, maybe even God, and just left it

all to run by itself? I want to give you a Biblical viewpoint. Genesis 1:29 is a good place to start. We are told what to eat for optimal health and vigor, not only for us but also for the animal kingdom, as well. A lot of that changed in Genesis 3 with that horrific disappointment. Sometimes it seems when things go wrong they go down like a spiral and you can't seem to pull out of it. That is the picture we get until God finally says that He was sorry that He made man (Genesis 6:5-7). Thankfully, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah and his family built an ark to preserve mankind and also the animal kingdom. God has always made a way out for us because is He not only our creator, but our sustainer, as well.

You probably have all read the story of Jonah, the runaway prophet who didn't want to do God's bidding. After running in the opposite direction, getting caught in a storm at sea, and being flung overboard, God "prepared" a great fish to swallow him and keep him safe for three days and nights. This fish was also to transport him back to Nineveh. I'm not so sure I would have been very excited about that ride, but I guess it's better than dying! And to top it all off, God didn't just do it for Jonah. He did it for a heathen city. He loves and sustains everyone—Even a huge city full of every wickedness that you can imagine. That's why Jonah was running in the opposite direction. He knew they did not take kindly to prophets and correction. What Jonah did not understand was that given a chance, every last person in that city would repent and be spared. Jesus is concerned about the welfare of everyone. "...He sends rain on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45)."

Looking at a very familiar Psalm 23, we find our Shepherd. A good shepherd doesn't just lamb out his sheep and walk away, saying to himself, "Well, I did my job, now it's up to them." Heavens no! Now is when the real responsibilities hit. To sustain life is a lot more responsibility than to create it—That is if you are God. Psalm 23:1-3 says, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness, for His name's sake. "

Jesus is our creator but even more so, He sustains each one of us every day of our lives. Thank God for Jesus, our sustainer.

Worship Thoughts by Gary Messer, member of the Richardton Adventist Church in North Dakota.

You are Invited



SPIRITUAL FEAST WEEKEND AT NORTHERN LIGHTS CAMP

August 4-6, 2023

Speaker: Elder Ted Struntz

What: Spiritual Feast Weekend

Where: Northern Lights Camp

Speaker: Elder Ted Struntz, Conference Youth & Young Adult Director

When: August 4-6, 2023

Friday evening Vespers begins at 8:00p.

Sabbath School starts at 10:00a with the church service to follow.

Sabbath lunch and supper will be potlucks (supper will be around the campfire), and all other meals will be on your own. For lodging, contact Scott Timothy at: 701.839.5118. Bring your own bedding and personal items.

New Members at Hermosa Church

The Hermosa Adventist Church members are so thankful for Danielle's decision to testify of her love for Jesus by being baptized into God's family! Her sister and family, her parents, and many friends rejoiced with her on this special day! Surely "...There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents (Luke 15:10)."



Photo by Becky McCurdy, member and pastor's wife at Hermosa.

I have been a Christian my entire life but never really understood the personal relationship I could have with Christ. I began searching for that deeper relationship with Christ after my first daughter, Eden, was born. A few years later after COVID began, I started to believe we were closer to an end-time scenario than I had ever previously thought. I began to really search for the truth about what was going on in the world and God lead me and my family away from Portland, Oregon, to South Dakota.

Knowing no one in South Dakota before the move, shortly after we arrived, God brought us and the Dealy Family together. They showed us some biblical truths I was skeptical about, but I decided I had to start looking into them for myself. It would take another five to six months of nudges from God and study on my own to realize the truth about the Sabbath, the state of the dead, and many other foundational truths of the Bible.



Over the next couple of years, I would dive into the Word to find as much truth as I could, and I have loved every minute of it. Christ had been telling me to join the church as an official member, so in May I decided to make my public Profession of Faith. The Hermosa Church has been such a blessing and I cherish the relationships I have built and the truth I have found, and I will try to spread that truth as best I can. I thank God every day for bringing our family here and for leaving the 99 to chase after the one...Me.

Article by Max Eckelman, member of the Hermosa Adventist Church in South Dakota. Photo by Becky McCurdy, member and pastor's wife at Hermosa.

Jamie Howell Commissioned to Ministry of Teaching

On July 8, 2023, surrounded by family and friends, Jamie Howell was recognized for her dedication to Adventist Education during a teacher commissioning service held at the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Adventist church awards ministry of teaching credentials to educators with a life-long commitment to and significant experience in Seventh-day Adventist education, usually not fewer than six years, with demonstrated proficiency in assigned responsibilities. Educators who exhibit Christian responsibility for nurturing and leading students to Christ, consistently upholding Christ as the focal point of curriculum and instruction and demonstrating positive interpersonal relationships, thus providing an environment of social, spiritual, and emotional stability.

Jamie Howell was born and raised in Niles, Michigan. She attended and graduated from Southern Adventist University. She spent a year as a student missionary in Bolivia working at Familia Feliz, an orphanage and boarding school for students from struggling families. While there, Jamie was a house mom to girls ranging from ages 5-15. She also taught different subjects to grades Kindergarten to eighth grade. After college, she worked for a year at Dakota Adventist Academy (DAA) before accepting a job at Payabya Adventist Mission School on the Pine Ridge reservation. When the school was closed for safety reasons, Jamie accepted a job as a teacher at Rapid City Adventist School teaching grades K-4. She has been enjoying her teaching there and will start her eighth year in the fall.

"Growing up I went to an Adventist school with multi-grade classrooms. I experienced firsthand what Adventist multi-grade education is like and I enjoyed learning about God and His love for me. When I graduated from college I decided I wanted to teach in an Adventist multi-grade classroom. I wanted to create a loving, caring atmosphere as I had experienced. I interviewed for many Adventist teaching positions and I didn't get any of them. I started to think that maybe God wanted me to be in the public school system instead. One day I got a call from a friend who worked at DAA. She told me that there was a job opening in the office and cafeteria. It had nothing to do with teaching, the opposite of what I thought God called me to

do. The call came at a time when I was very unsure of my future and I had been praying and trying to figure out what to do. I believe that God led me to work at DAA that year where I could get to know the conference and the superintendent so that the next year, when a position opened at the Payabya Mission, they knew me and I got the job when I applied. During that hard year at Payabya, I learned to lean on and trust more in God than in myself. I feel like God again showed me where I was supposed to be when the Payabya school was closed and the very next day I was offered a job in Rapid City."



Article by Kelli Wasemiller, Dakota Conference elementary superintendent. Photos by Stephen Wasemiller, member and communication director at Rapid City Adventist Church in South Dakota.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Media & Communication

Pastoral Staff: Brian Mungandi, James McCurdy, Marveen Gentillon, Nathan James

Education Staff: Annabelle Harper, Jamie Howell, Ryan Peterson

Office Staff: Lynette Miller, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Black Hills Health & Education Center, Custer Church, Hermosa Church, Hot Springs Church, Rapid City Church, Rapid City School, Spearfish Church

Southwest, South Dakota: Spearfish, Sturgis, Rapid City, Hot Springs, Custer, Wall, Pine Ridge Reservation



**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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDImc2NoZz09>



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

Dakota Youth & Young Adults

Summer camp is filled with really cool and sometimes weird experiences that seem to almost daily demonstrate how God is looking out for us. This past summer camp season, there were numerous times God performed miracles and did some amazing things for Dakota Adventist Camps. This summer, Flag Mountain Camp experienced significant rainfall. The average rainfall in the area is about 20 inches and locals in the area estimated that nearly 10 inches fell in two days! Because of this, our beautiful winding creek that flows through camp turned into a river, and we were suddenly in danger of our road washing out. Thankfully, Pastor Ted used our tractor to dump tons of dirt and rock onto the road, so that it didn't wash away. We thought our road problems were over, but at the end of teen week, right as we were getting ready for the campers to leave on Sunday, we got the news that another part of the road had issues.

Near the end of the road, there was a huge mud pit that even high-clearance vehicles couldn't get through. Pastor Ted had to take the tractor down the road and literally drag vehicles out of the mud. Well, there was no way we wanted to drag everyone's parents in and out of the camp, so we loaded up campers and their belongings into the back of a pickup truck, drove them down to the mud pit, unloaded them and all of their stuff, and made them walk on a plank across the worst parts of the mud. The next day, we were supposed to leave to go up to

Northern Lights Camp, and a lot of us had low-clearance vehicles that wouldn't make it through the mud. Pastor Ted told us that if we had low-clearance vehicles we would need to wait until 11 in the morning, so it would be easier for us to cross.

We woke up the next morning, and we hadn't heard anything from the people who had left earlier. We sent someone down to check out the mud, and they came running back up half an hour later saying that the camp van and everyone else, who had left for hours previously, were still stuck in the mud! Now it was just Pastor Ted and our camp ranger down there pulling out cars, and it just wasn't working. Then, all of a sudden, some local church members showed up; within 45 seconds of them attaching to the camp van, it was out! They quickly got the rest of the group out, and they immediately started working on the road. By three in the afternoon, the group that had low-clearance vehicles was able to drive out of Flag Mountain Camp without even having to slow down for the mud!

God provided for our camps all summer, and this is just one instance where we saw Him work. There is nothing God can't do, and He puts just the right people in just the right places to help us get through problems and trials in our life. It was awesome to see how God provided a solution to every challenge we encountered this summer. Thank you for all the support and prayers for our camp ministries. We are so excited to see what God will do for our camps next summer!



Article by Liz Struntz, Dakota camp worker and senior at DAA. Photos by Lynnette Struntz, Dakota associate camp director.

Kids' Corner

Are you passionate about Sabbath School? The North American Division (NAD) invites you to their virtual *Do It Together Refresh Sabbath School Conference*, held September 14-16, 2023, online.

Whether you're a Sabbath School director, superintendent, teacher, assistant, pastor, member, or volunteer - this conference is for everyone passionate about the ministry of Sabbath School. No matter your level of experience, this virtual event is here to inspire, educate, and empower you. Discover innovative teaching techniques, gain practical insights, and connect with like-minded individuals who share your enthusiasm for Sabbath School. The best part? The registration fee is completely waived, making it accessible to all. Can't make it on the event dates? Not a problem! Register now and receive a link to watch the seminar recordings at [OneTeamPlaybook.org](https://www.oneteamplaybook.org).

Gather your Sabbath School community, schedule a watch party, and embark on this incredible learning journey together. Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity - register today!



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 & children's ministries coordinator.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

August -

- 1-3: Pastors' Retreat at Northern Lights
- 4-6: Spiritual Feast at Northern Lights with [Elder Ted Struntz preaching](#)
- [5: Local Church Budget](#)
- [5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Richardton, ND](#)
- [5: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Custer, SD](#)
- 7-10: North American Division Teachers' Conference in Phoenix, AZ
- 9-13: Dakota Conference Pathfinder Camporee at Flag Mountain Camp
- [12: North American Division Christian Record](#)
- 12: Outdoor Church in Washburn, ND -- Mandan / Minot / Turtle Lake led
- 13: DAA Registration
- 14: Dakota Constitution and Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- [19: Local Church Budget](#)
- [19: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD \(Revitalization Pt. 1\)](#)
- [19: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Turtle Lake, ND](#)
- 19: Outdoor Church in Medora -- Bowman / Grassy Butte / Richardton district led (10:30a)
- [26: Dakota Challenge](#)
- [26: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD \(Revitalization Pt. 2\)](#)
- 27: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

September -

- [2: Local Church Budget](#)
- [2: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot, ND \(Evangelism Rally\)](#)
- [2: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in New Home, ND](#)
- 4: Conference Office Closed - Labor Day
- 8-10: Prayer Retreat at Northern Lights Camp
- [9: General Conference \(GC\): Radio Ministries](#)
- [9: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Hurley, SD](#)
- 10: Dakota Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 10: SE ACS Federation Meeting in Huron, SD (10a)
- 10: Dakota Constitution and Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 11: NE ACS Federation Meeting in Jamestown, ND (10a)
- 15-17: Dakota Pathfinder Leadership Conference in Bismarck, ND
- [16: Local Church Budget](#)

- [16: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Hot Springs, SD](#)
- 17: SW ACS Federation Meeting in Rapid City, SD (10a)
- 18: NW ACS Federation Meeting in Bowman, ND (10a)
- 18-21: Outdoor School at Flag Mountain Camp
- 22-24: Black Hills Convocation at Flag Mountain Camp
- [23: Dakota Challenge](#)
- [23: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Grassy Butte, ND](#)

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

Blessed & Kept

May you find peace because you have sought peace.

May you step into a new practice today, seeking peace.

May you pause to pray throughout the day.

May you pray as you are working, and may you actually stop your work for just a moment to pray.

May you pray before engaging the difficult person with whom you work.

May you pray before beginning a task that is important yet dreadful.

May you pray after a draining meeting or conversation.

May these moments in your day bring you peace because you have finally put yourself into a position to receive it.

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

August 3 Dispatch Photo



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

The Dakota Conference Communication Department is always looking for beautiful photos to use in the *Dakota Dispatch*, *Dakota Messenger*, the website, and more. If you are willing to share, please send them to communication@dakotasda.org with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

If you have local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles, and pictures to: communication@dakotasda.org

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

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 - [!\[\]\(18570b67a4686b081406cd3de636c1c3_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
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