

### Nothing to Fear

This is the 67th 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 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - Part 1

The Year is 1916.

Europe is convulsed by the precedent-shattering struggle we call World War I. In America, military preparations are in full swing, and despite President Woodrow Wilson's campaign slogan, "He kept us out of war", the nation is but a few months away from entering the conflict.

The bitter-sweet taste of "the war to make the world safe for democracy" will soon sour even more when the Bolsheviks, who will overthrow Czarist tyranny in Russia and establish their provisional government in 1917, begin to show their true color - red - shortly thereafter.<sup>1</sup>

In the United States, a troubled national conscience and a need to conserve grain will eventually lead to national prohibition and then to the ugly spectre of organized crime when practice fails to keep pace with principle.<sup>2</sup>

For the first time in its history, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is without a living prophet whose revelations from God can be counted upon for guidance; Ellen G. White died in 1915.<sup>3</sup>

In North Dakota, a crop failure ushers in a period of extreme economic hardship and the future begins to look more and more uncertain.<sup>4</sup>

Anxious for new converts, some Adventist evangelists are not stressing Biblical ideals of health reform in their work among North Dakota's embattled farmers and ranchers.<sup>5</sup>

Religious liberty issues are much on the minds of church members as bill after bill seems to threaten their precious freedom of unique Sabbath worship. Also of concern to many of Dakota's German Adventists is the pending resumption, for the first time since the Civil War, of military conscription, from which they and their ancestors have for reasons of conscience, twice fled.<sup>6</sup>

During these uneasy months of 1916 prior to the declaration of war against Germany, Adventist evangelists are beginning to preach sermons on the "war question", misinterpreting certain Bible prophecies and preaching that the war in Europe is a prelude to Armageddon and the end of the world.<sup>7</sup>

Evangelism is prospering outside the Adventist Church as well, manifesting itself in, among other incarnations, the spectacular, charismatic ministry of female evangelist, Aimee Semple McPherson, founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, whose public emphasis on spiritual gifts and the Second Coming of Christ blends incongruously with consistent rumors of private scandal.<sup>8</sup>

In the meantime, the war has precipitated a crisis in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Germany. At the outbreak of hostilities, in 1914, as Adventist men were drafted for military service, the president of the East German Union Conference, H.F. Schuberth, pressed for a statement of the church's position, broke with the historic stand of non-combatancy maintained by the church since the American Civil War, and informed the German War Ministry, in writing, on August 4, 1914, that drafted Seventhday Adventists would bear arms as combatants and would even do so on the Sabbath in defense of "the Fatherland."<sup>9</sup>

The reasons for this unfortunate statement are no doubt complex. A partial explanation may be found in the simple truth that not even church leaders are immune to the surging nationalistic feelings of a nation on the brink of war.<sup>10</sup>

2. Ibid., 746-790-793.

3. "Ellen Gould White," Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, op. cit., 1413.

4. Northern Union Reaper, August 29, 1916, 5.

5. Based on the recollections of people baptized during this period, who consistently state that they were not instructed in the details of health reform beyond those points considered to be tests of church fellowship. While this situation was obviously not universal, it seems to have been prevelant.

6. Northern Union Reaper, February 6, 1917, 5; February 13, 1917, 2; February 27, 1917, 7, 8; Kenneth M. Dobeare,

<sup>1.</sup> Thomas A. Bailey, op.cit., 706-726.

"Draft, Military," *The World Book Encyclopedia, op. cit.*, V, 264, 265; See Appendix A of this book.

7. Howard B. Weeks, *Adventist Evangelism in the Twentieth Century* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1969), 77-81, 92.

8. Earle E. Cairns, Aimee Semple McPherson, The World Book Encyclopedia, op. cit., XIII; 278.

9. "Reformation Study Course, (Denver, Colorado: International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement, American Union, 1972) Lesson 12.

10. See also Weeks' thoughtful analysis of the shift in the attitudes of the church in America after this nation entered World War I in Weeks, *op. cit.*, 99-105.

#### Next time from *Nothing to Fear:* Chapter 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - 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.



### Jesus, Our Redeemer

You may have heard the story of a young boy who had gotten a sailboat kit. He painstakingly assembled and painted it and could hardly wait for the day to take it out for its maiden voyage. The day was a bit blustery, but he had a strong line on the boat. He sent it out and was having the time of his life. The waves were getting higher, and then the unimaginable happened. The line broke, and he lost his most treasured possession. He searched everywhere for it, but to no avail. He just could not find it.

One day he was walking down the street, and there he saw it in the pawn shop window! His heart almost jumped out of his chest. He went inside, and the owner told him he had to pay to get it back. The boy worked odd jobs for quite some time before he could redeem that little boat, but the day finally came, and as he clutched it in his hands, you could just hear him say, "You are twice mine. I made you and now I bought you back."

That story reminds me of one from the Old Testament. Due to a severe drought, Naomi and Elimelech took their two sons and, after selling their land, moved to Moab to start over. One thing led to another, and Elimelech died. Both of their sons also died, leaving their young wives as widows. Now Naomi was worse off than before she and her family moved to Moab. So, Naomi decided to go back home to Israel, and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, chose to accompany her. The second daughter-in-law returned to her people, but Ruth told Naomi, "Your God will be my God, and your people will be my people." Naomi must have made quite an impression on Ruth for her to decide to leave everything behind.

Once they got home to Israel, Naomi wanted to buy back her husband's land. But she needed a close kinsman to redeem it. The closest relative decided against it because he didn't want the responsibility, and neither did he want to marry the young widow, Ruth—a Moabite woman. Boaz, the next nearest kinsman, readily agreed to purchase the land and marry Ruth. This gave Naomi, a widow, hope for survival. What's interesting is that Jesus is in the direct line of Ruth's descendants. (Take twenty minutes and read the whole story in the book of Ruth. It's a fascinating story.)

It also reminds me of what Jesus, our near kinsman, has done for us. Thanks to Adam and Eve, we were torn away from our connection with Jesus, our Creator, and He was faced with a terrible decision to either let us drift away or to give everything, including His life, to redeem us. I, for one, will be ever grateful that He chose option two. How could He make any other choice? God is love (1 John 4:8). Love doesn't give up or quit. Over the past few weeks, we have looked at Jesus, our Creator, and have been assured that He is our Sustainer. We've also seen that He is our most trusted Friend. We never have to worry about Him betraying us. Finally, we see Him as our near kinsman/Redeemer.

I realize there are people who don't believe that Jesus is God, or they may think that He is on the same level as the angels. I only ask that you consider this series of articles and give Him a chance. Read the Old Testament prophecies concerning Him. Read the gospels, and I believe that you will fall in love with Him just as millions of others have. Acts 4:12 says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name in heaven, given among men, by which we must be saved." That's about as straightforward as anyone can say it. "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served, which were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

May God guide and bless you as you make this life-or-death decision.

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



### **Women's Retreat**

Time is running out to register for the upcoming 35th Annual Dakota Conference 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, <u>click here</u>. Scholarships are available to those who need them.

# Community, Worship, and Fellowship at Mandan Church

This year, the Mandan Seventh-day Adventist Church in North Dakota has been filled with connection, growth, and giving back.

One of the new initiatives launched was a "service" Sabbath school last fall—once a month, members eagerly volunteered at Heaven's Helpers, a local soup kitchen in Bismarck. Eager to share the spirit of service again, they anticipate more service opportunities this next year.

As the snow began to melt away, the trails came alive with the church hiking group. Not only did the members enjoy the beauty of nature, but they also strengthened their relationships and built a closer community, one step at a time. As spring graced the area, Linda Soules shared the art of meaningful intercessory prayer—enriching spiritual connections.

One particular highlight was an Agape vespers in the spring that provided an intimate setting for worship, reflection, and fellowship. The church leaders organized and put together a beautiful evening for the church community to enjoy.

Creativity found its way into more church activities as Leslie Soules, an incredible local baker, ran a delightful cupcake-decorating class, sweetening bonds with the community.

The Mandan church was buzzing with excitement as Hannah Miller and Kaya Buta made the decision to be baptized. Their baptisms were profound reminders of the transformative power of Adventist Education, which each of them attest was instrumental in deepening their relationship with Jesus.

Mandan Adventist Church also launched the "\$10 Plan." More than a fundraiser, it's the community's commitment to keep Dakota Adventist Academy thriving. Partnering with the Dakota Conference's "Circle of Faith," church members endeavor to ensure the Academy remains a beacon of faith and learning. Each donation, no matter how small, bolsters our Academy's mission to foster spiritual growth and academic excellence. Every penny invested into Adventist Education is an investment in the future of the church and the Kingdom of God.

August 12 was a special day, as members congregated under the open skies at Fahlgren Park in Washburn, North Dakota. Music by Joe van Inwagen, Elissa Millirans, as well as Josh and Lily Metz set the tone for meaningful worship, while attendees reveled in the camaraderie, especially with friends from the Turtle Lake and Minot Adventist churches.

Currently, there is palpable excitement about the upcoming Mandan Kids Church this October. Aiming at pre-K to eighth-grade kids, this initiative promises a weekly dose of an engaging VBS-style service, starting every Sabbath morning at 10:00a. As the year draws near its end, members are also preparing for a heartwarming community Thanksgiving meal, another beautiful opportunity to bond with neighbors.

With the start of the final quarter of 2023, Mandan church members pause to reflect on their journey so far and are grateful for their growing community and the endless opportunities to serve.



Article by Pr. Kris de Bruin, pastor of the Mandan Adventist Church. Photos by Lily Metz and Leslie Soules, members at Mandan Adventist Church, and pastors Kris & Kisa de Bruin.

# IN CONCERT JAIME JORGE thirty-six years of incredible musici



Saturday October 14, 2023

Rapid City Adventist Church

6:00 p.m.

# **Dakota Constituency Town Halls**



#### The purpose of the Town Hall meetings is to:

- Provide orientation regarding procedures, processes, and session rules of order
- Discuss any issues pertaining to the session
- · Gain input and advice from the representatives of local churches
- · Raise issues that may be added to the session agenda
- Elect representatives to serve on the nominating committee for the constituency session.

Town Hall meetings will be held at the local Adventist Church; see graphic for locations and times. These meetings are geared primarily towards delegates, but all members are encouraged to attend and support your conference. Please plan to arrive and register approximately 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each church supports its own delegates; consider carpooling to save expenses.

#### **Regional Church Breakdown:**

- Sioux Falls: Hurley, Huron, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Yankton
- Bismarck: Bismarck, DAA, Goodrich, Mandan, McClusky
- Minot: Bottineau, Bowdon Country, Harvey, Manfred, Minot, Turtle Lake
- Jamestown: Cleveland, Edgeley, Jamestown, New Home
- **Dickinson:** Beulah, Bison, Bowman, Grassy Butte, Invitation Hill, Richardton, Watford City, Williston
- Aberdeen: Aberdeen, Bowdle, Ellendale, Kulm, Lehr, Pierre, Watertown
- Fargo: Fargo, Grand Forks, Wahpeton
- Rapid City: Custer, Hermosa, Hot Springs, Rapid City, Spearfish

## **Adventist Community Services**

You are invited to attend the annual ACS Federation meetings held across the Dakotas. These gatherings provide an opportunity for church members to gather and share what their church has done throughout the previous year in the area of community outreach. Christ sent out the disciples to different locations to do His work—when they returned, He had them relate what they had accomplished. All meetings will be held at the local Adventist Church and begin at 10:00a. Come, rejoice, exhort, share, and learn. Attend by yourself or send a church representative who can take a report back to their home church. Lunch is provided.

#### ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES FEDERATION MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at the local Adventist Church and begin at 10:00a local time. Come, rejoice, exhort, share, and learn. Attend by yourself or send a church representative who can take a report back to their home church. Lunch is provided.

September 10: Aberdeen, SD September 11: Jamestown, ND September 17: Rapid City, SD September 18: Bowman, ND

#### Message from Pastor Bob Forbes, Dakota Conference ACS Director:

Adventist Community Services (ACS) is not the same as the international ministry, Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA). ACS supports and occasionally interacts with ADRA, but they are not the same organization. ADRA works in places outside North America—ACS is only in North America.

ACS is the premier outreach ministry in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD) to reach people where they are, with whatever need they may have—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. We, as Christians, are tasked with reaching our neighbors with the love of Christ by utilizing the works of Christ. In numerous places, Ellen White states that in doing the work of personal outreach (ACS), we have the opportunity to present the Crucified Christ.

There are four regional ACS Federations in the Dakota Conference. Each year, we gather in those regions to hear what the churches are doing in outreach, to inspire each other to more and greater ministry, and to train and plan.

Please be sure someone, or two, from your church attends. We need members from every church to contribute to the discussion on the future of ACS in the Dakotas. Thank you.

It is time for the annual ACS Federation meeting in the Dakotas:

- Southwest (western SD) Sept. 17 at 10:00a, MT, in Rapid City, SD
- Northwest (western ND) Sept.18 at 10:00a, MT, in Bowman, ND

### Lehr Vacation Bible School

The Lehr Seventh-day Adventist Church held its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) on July 24-27. This summer event is always a highlight for the church! It is an exciting time when members get to work together, interact with the community, and share Jesus with many community children.

This year, 24 children from surrounding towns and communities attended VBS. The theme was "Christ's Character" and focused on having Jesus' fruits of character inside each individual. Time was spent sharing object lessons, talking about good character traits, singing, playing games, making crafts, eating snacks, and more. For the craft, children built and painted flower planters that doubled as birdhouses. Each child had the opportunity to build a wooden craft and decorate it.

The whole week was a blessing to church members and the community. Everyone enjoyed joining hands together across towns, religions, and generations as each person learned more about Christ and His character.



Article and photos by Mindy Schumacher, member of the Lehr Adventist Church in North Dakota.

# DAA / PVA / SRA Alumni Weekend

Make plans to attend this year's DAA/PVA/SRA Alumni Weekend, October 6 & 7 at Dakota Adventist Academy. Come early for the Golf Scramble at Tom O'Leary Golf Course, and stay to visit with your friends and attend the car show—the first of hopefully many! To show your car, register it at the alumni website: <u>dakota-alumni.org</u>.

Although the weekend is targeted for graduating classes ending in four and nine, everyone is invited. We hope to see you there!



### BUT WE'D LOVE TO SEE IT AT THE ALUMNI WEEKEND CAR SHOW!

Friday, October 6, 2023 at 3:00-6:00p at Dakota Adventist Academy

# **Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis**

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

Theme: Harvest - Making Disciples & Storing the Harvest

**Pastoral Staff:** Kris de Bruin, Vernon Herholdt, Jacob Pittenger

**Education Staff:** Debra Eszler, Ron Reese, Kisa de Bruin, Aida Woodruff, Ernest Woodruff

**Office Staff:** Marlin Miller, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Bismarck Church, Brentwood Adventist Christian School, Dakota Adventist Academy



**South Central, North Dakota:** Bismarck, Mandan, Lehr, Kulm, Fort Yates, Cheyenne River Reservation

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

# **Dakota Youth & Young Adults**

There is something special about International Pathfinder Camporees. When a large group of Pathfinders is gathered together, something amazing happens. This week Lynnette and I went to the new home of the International Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming, to meet with other directors from all over the country. Lynnette and I were first on the International Camporee staff 20 years ago in Oshkosh, and every five years we look forward to another awesome experience.

As you probably already know, the last four International Camporees have been held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. However, the switch in location to Gillette, Wyoming, is great news for us in the Dakotas! We are closer, we know the climate, and it is in our own union.

At our meetings in Gillette, we heard how the Gillette community has been so welcoming and accommodating to ensure the upcoming camporee will run smoothly. Camporee leadership has been working closely with local and state leaders, and it is inspiring to talk with leaders and hear how others are catching the vision and mission of the camporee. Even one of the local museums has a display about Pathfinders.



The new Gillette location has a huge advantage—one that anyone who has attended an International Camporee before will appreciate: lots of showers and lots of flushing toilets! Although it may be a bit sad to think that the younger generation may not get to experience the challenges of the past, I think we will all get over it. It isn't just good plumbing that Gillette has to offer; we will also have more activities and honors inside air-conditioned locations nearly three times the area before. This is another great upgrade from the stifling hot hangers at Oshkosh!

Because the community has joined in helping with the camporee, we will have access to a gigantic community center, which has a pool, lazy river, full-sized indoor track, rock climbing wall, and a host of other amenities. Gillette College is making its gym available for us to host honors and hold a three-on-three basketball tournament.

After visiting the different areas and activities with all of the directors, our MAUC directors explored our own campsite area. We are really lucky that our camping area is near the daytime activities. We also have great vehicle access if we need to go offsite. One of the special things we did was pray over our campsite and ask God to bless our space and the young people who will be inhabiting it in less than 11 months.

Of all the things we saw and all of the places that we visited while in Gillette, my favorite place was the nighttime program area. Although currently it is just a field of grass, this is where the life of Moses will come alive. This is the place where 55,000+ Pathfinders will lift up their voices and sing to Jesus. I just can't wait! There is a lot of work that goes into making the nighttime programs happen, but what makes everything worth it is seeing and hearing all of the Pathfinders praising God together. It reminds me of the apostle John in Revelation where he tells us of the "great multitude of the saved" standing on the Sea of Glass praising our Redeemer. I hope that I will get to experience both of these experiences with our Dakota Pathfinders!



Article by Pr. Ted Struntz, Conference youth director. Photos by Ted and Lynnette Struntz, Conference associate youth 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 <u>OneTeamPlaybook.org</u>.

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, <u>Dakota SDA</u> <u>Kids</u>, 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.

#### September -

- 13-17: DAA Home Leave
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 16: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Aberdeen, SD
- 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
- 29-1: Women's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 30: Camp Development
- 30: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Hot Springs, SD
- 30: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Grand Forks, ND

#### **October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

- 6-7: DAA/PVA/SRA Alumni Weekend
- 7: Secondary Endowment

- 7: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Ellendale, ND
- 8-10: New in Ministry Meetings Conference Office
- 14: Dakota Challenge
- 14: Rapid City Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 14: Jaime Jorge Concert Rapid City Church/School (6p)
- 14: Hillcrest Fall Festival Jamestown, ND (7-10p)
- 14: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown, SD
- 18-22: DAA Home Leave
- 19-21: Society of Adventist Communicators Springfield, MA

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

## **Blessed & Kept**

May you cry out to God from the depths.

May you trust that the God of mercy and steadfast love hears your cry.

May you embrace the full forgiveness that is already yours.

May you wait patiently for your heart to catch up to what your mind already knows.

May you place all your hope in the day of our coming redemption.

For with God, redemption is an infinite resource.

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

### **September 14 Dispatch Photo**



Photo taken near Bottineau, North Dakota, by Andrew Eszler, member of the New Home Adventist Church.

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 <u>communication@dakotasda.org</u>. Bison <u>Copyright</u>. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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