



*Chrystal Rittenbach Photo*

## Unity?

*Neil Biloff, President*



It was the late 1850s and the United States was anything but united. The Northern and Southern parts of the states saw things through different lenses. Disagreements developed around social cultures and political beliefs. Heated arguments were aroused over issues such as taxes, tariffs and internal improvements as well as states rights versus federal rights. Then there was the huge elephant in the room, slavery. The North said it was absolutely and spiritually immoral to hold slaves. After all, were we not all created equal by our Creator? Southerners believed slavery was ordained by God. The South taught the Gospel not only permitted slavery — it required it.

Since most of America's population at the time believed in Christianity, it was time for the ministers to weigh-in, but they were divided also. Who was right? The Bible was used as a weapon by both the North and the South to support their own battle cries. Christians across the Confederacy were convinced that they were called not only to perpetuate slavery but also to "perfect" it. And they understood the Bible to provide clear moral guidelines on how to properly practice it. Southern preachers asked who could question the Word of God when it said, "Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling," (Ephesians 6:5), or "Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters and to give satisfaction in every respect," (Titus 2:9). Southerners never tired of pointing out to their Northern foes, the Gospel's failure to record any condemnation of the practice by Jesus Christ.

Northern opponents of slavery elevated Biblical principles of social justice and equality above individual passages that approved exclusion. Texts like Deuteronomy 24:7, "If a man is found stealing one of his brethren, and if he treats him as a slave or sells him, then that thief shall die; so you shall purge the evil from the midst of you." But the South said blacks were not their brothers or equals. Thus, the struggle went from the pulpit to the battle field and thousands of young lives were destroyed. Today the Seventh-day Adventist Church finds itself dealing with its own civil war, women in ministry and submission to church authority.

I am not a prophet but there are a few things I do understand. Divisions among people take generations to heal without direct intervention by the Holy Spirit. I also understand that unity cannot be achieved by a vote or by force but by prayer and humility at all levels of the church. Force is like gasoline poured on a fire. Let us pray for God's will and healing to take place among God's last-day people.

**Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Financial Highlights  
June 30, 2018**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Increase (Decrease)</u>
<b>1. Tithe Income</b>				
Month-to-Date	451,557	436,549	15,008	3.44%
Year-to-Date	2,531,768	2,152,432	379,336	17.62%
<b>2. Dakota Challenge</b>				
Month-to-Date	10,617	11,483	(866)	-7.54%
Year-to-Date	64,460	62,467	1,993	3.19%
<b>3. Unrestricted Evangelism Fund Bal.</b>	(190,073)	0	(190,073)	
<b>Temp Restrict Evangelism Fund Bal.</b>	240,338	598,102	(357,764)	-59.82%
<b>4. Cash Position (Cash + Investments)</b>	1,360,047	1,559,696	(199,649)	-12.80%
MAUC Revolving Fund	200,687	377,117	(176,430)	-46.78%
Total	1,560,734	1,936,813	(376,079)	-19.42%
<b>5. Accounts Receivable</b>				
Elementary Schools	107,254	107,787	(533)	-0.49%
Churches	63,448	47,235	16,213	34.32%
DAA	81,210	67,293	13,917	20.68%
<b>6. Percent of Working Capital (Note #1)</b>	58.03%	68.56%	-10.53%	
<b>7. Current Ratio (Note #2)</b>	3.21:1	5.19:1		
<b>8. Percent of Liquid Assets to Commitments</b>	166.20%	163.00%	3.20%	
<b>9. Total Operations</b>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	3,021,702	3,219,557	(197,855)	2,772,695
Expenses	3,687,282	3,354,354	332,928	3,579,262
Net Gain/(Loss) before Transfers	(665,580)	(134,797)	(530,783)	(806,567)
Net Transfers In/(Out)	12,874	(178,500)	191,374	558
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(652,706)	(313,297)	(339,409)	(806,009)
Net Assets - January 1	3,144,598			3,747,379
Net Assets - End of Period	2,491,892			2,941,370
<b>10. Operations for Selected Departments</b>				
Pastors S-1111	982,249	1,008,975	(26,726)	958,310
Evangelism S-1131	79,125	81,580	(2,455)	59,530
Elementary Schools S-1212	326,939	344,763	(17,824)	292,097
DAA S-1214	846,046	520,511	325,535	790,817
Employee Medical S-342110	241,717	235,200	6,517	192,126
General Administrative S-3999	270,187	317,185	(46,998)	271,554
Residences S-4161	70,202	51,000	19,202	148,006

Note #1 Percent of Working Capital reflects the percentage of reserves the conference has, as compared to policy. Policy recommends that the conference maintain reserves equivalent to 25% of unrestricted income plus 100% of long-term payables, capital functions fund balances, and temporarily restricted fund balances.

Note #2 Current Ratio is the comparison of total current assets to total current liabilities.

## Women's Retreat is Ministry

*Paulette Bullinger, Mandan Church*



Nestled in the prairie and slightly rolling hills of Northeastern South Dakota, women of God gathered for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dakota Conference Women's Retreat at the beautiful Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center, Marvin, SD. The weekend started with an optional early bird session with Fallout Shelter Ministries. **Rich and Beret Ohm** led us through ways to be aware of the dangers that surround us. We were shown how to defend ourselves in case of a personal attack.

**Joy Fehr** was the featured speaker for the event. Fehr is provost at La Sierra University and holds a PhD in English Regional Literature that she earned at the University of Calgary in 2005. Her Master of Arts degree in English focused on Victorian Literature. She led the group through various aspects of grace in her life, inspiring all to look at the same in their own lives. The theme focused on *Amazing Grace*. Beautiful music, Fehr's message and breakout sessions were available to attend on Sabbath. This was followed by a delicious dinner, message and fellowship time. After sundown, the ABC and Abbey gift shop were opened. Others enjoyed table games.

There was personal time Sunday morning to study the life of Abigail, then a final message from Fehr and farewells. An offering was gathered throughout the weekend to assist pastors' wives with funds to attend future retreats. The Holy Spirit touched all, but one woman in particular. She was the

manager on duty who checked ladies in and gave them Abbey-grounds instructions. She was moved to tears with the opening music. When she first greeted everyone at the opening session, she was weeping. I visited her on and off through the weekend and discovered we had a common love, walking in nature, Sunday morning, she asked to walk with me around another path I had asked about earlier. We talked of the Sabbath and after the walk; I was able to give her a short study on the Sabbath, using the Bible. I know others saw her interest and gave her Steps to Christ and invited her to visit their church. This incident made me realize, our actions and love for others at retreats are not merely because we are nice Christian women, but we are there for a purpose and that is to show God's amazing grace to all who live, work, eat and maintain these places.

This was one of two Sabbath studies I gave that weekend. The first was to my daughter-in-law who attended with me. She is a beautiful Christian woman, but just is learning about the Sabbath. One thing I remembered from my introduction to the Sabbath is to use a gentle and understanding approach. If one has not grown up a Sabbath keeper, this is all very foreign to them. Please keep both of these women in your prayers.

Next year's retreat will be October 25-27, 2019 at the Baymont Inn and Suites, Mandan, ND. **Linda Shelton** will be the speaker.

## DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

*Tracy Peterson*

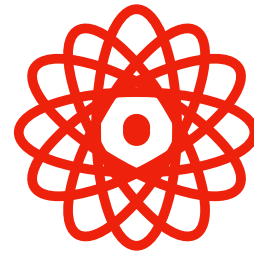
## National Honor Society Inductees

Fall is a beautiful time of year with its brisk mornings and beautiful colors. For Dakota Adventist Academy it is a time to see who the young leaders are in our institution. At a boarding school, students spend a lot of time together, resulting in many opportunities to exercise leadership abilities. National Honor Society, Bismarck Student Chamber, Sabbath School teachers, Praise Team and Student Association are just a few of the choices students have for leadership roles.

This year two new members were inducted into the National Honor Society. **Jessica Winistorfer** and **Wesley Kayser** joined Jadyn Anderson, Jaelyn Pickett, Sierra Schlenker, and Savannah Ulery in NHS.

Students, who don't necessarily think of themselves as leaders, find a role where they are comfortable in taking the lead. For some of them, it may be as simple as heading up a class project with one or two other students. Others find their leadership success in helping a fellow student learn how to change oil in a vehicle. Some find that music is their strength. God has blessed DAA's students with a wide variety of leadership options.

Adventist Education's main mission is to prepare youth for a future of service to God and others. Each leadership role helps them to that end; growing more confident in the abilities God has given them.



## Christmas Memories

Celebration of Praise Weekend  
Dakota Adventist Academy  
December 14 -15, 2018  
701.258.9000

## Welcome to the Dakota Conference

*Jacquie Biloff*

**Pastor LeRoy & Priscilla Morris** - Roy and Priscilla Morris join the Dakota Conference in the Hurley/Yankton district of South Dakota from New York state. They have four sons, three of whom are married, and one granddaughter. "We love our Savior and want to let others know what He has done for us. We can't do anything right without Him. He is our strength and our purpose," says Priscilla.



**Eric & Amanda Garrett** - Eric and Amanda have moved to Dakota from Wisconsin. Eric is the maintenance director at Dakota Adventist Academy. They have two daughters, Halie, who is a freshman at DAA, and Lacie, a fifth grader at Brentwood. "This was all God's doing. We're excited to see what He will do."

## SW ACS Federation Resumes

*Phyllis Alexander, DR Director*

On September 30, 2018, the South Western ACS Federation voted to resume meetings in the Black Hills area churches of the Dakota Conference. Those present were excited to again be involved in Adventist Community Service (ACS) activities.

**Ann and Robert Hanel** of Rapid City were voted president, **Steve Wilkins** of Custer, SD was voted as vice-president and **Pastor Sam Thomas** of Custer, SD was voted as treasurer. The next meeting will be September 17, 2019. The Rapid City Adventist Church will be the host church.

**Pastor Bob Forbes**, president of the Dakota Conference ACS, presented and educated those on attendance of the cleaning buckets that each church should have to distribute to clients if there is a disaster in the area. The churches present took several empty buckets to fill with the necessary items.

For further information on these buckets and how to procure them, please contact Ann or Robert Hanel at 605-389-6225 or Pastor Forbes at 701-378-2400.

Labels Make Cents Program now pays \$.25/label through Atlantic Natural Foods. Eligible UPC/Labels must start with 45561 or 28989. No UPC/Labels from frozen foods may be used. Labels from Loma Linda, Worthington and Caroline's canned foods are accepted. Redemption Forms are available at [labelsmakecents.com](http://labelsmakecents.com). Bring labels to local church, church will send information to ANF or the conference.

# Dakota Campmeeting 2019

June 12 - 15, 2019  
Constituency June 16, 2019

Dr Terry Johnsson  
Adventist Health



Dr John Reeve  
Andrews University



Dr David Thomas  
Walla Walla University



Ms Carol Turk  
Hospital Chaplain



## Annual Pathfinder Camporee Fun

*Sue Nelson, Director*

On September 26, 2018, six Pathfinder Clubs pulled in to Dakota Adventist Academy's camp ground to set up campsites for the Annual Pathfinder Camporee. The weather forecast was cold and rainy but dedicated staff and Pathfinders came in spite of the weather. Pathfinders pitched tents, cooked supper over a fire, and worked on a scavenger nature hunt before gathering for evening vespers. There were a few icebreakers to help the Pathfinders and staff get to know each other. DAA's Praise Team then led out in singing, culminating in the Pathfinder Song. The theme, "Facing the Giants", was presented by **Pastor Loren Nelson**. He brought the story of David and Goliath to life and gave a history of giants in the Bible. Then the Pathfinders were off to the tents and campers to get a good night's sleep.



Saturday morning Pathfinders met for Sabbath school. DAA's Praise Team, led by DAA's music teacher, **Eulalia Kenaston**, got the Pathfinders warmed up with action songs. TLT (Teen in Leadership Training), **Josh Ronalds**, gave a short devotion about the "giants" encountered in life. The Pathfinders then split into clubs and presented a skit about someone in the Bible who overcame challenges. Pathfinders from the Cleveland Prairie Trails Club sang special music,

and then Pastor Nelson challenged the Pathfinders to turn to God when facing the giants in their lives.

# Annual Pathfinder Camporee Fun, Cont. *Sue Nelson, Director*

In the afternoon the Pathfinders worked on three honors. **Debbie Olive**, from Dickinson, brought her tarantulas and taught the spider honor. Pathfinders were thrilled to be able to hold a tarantula. **Pam Castillo**, science teacher at DAA, used her expertise to teach the worm honor and the Pathfinders even got to race worms in dirt. It was a great Sabbath afternoon learning about God through nature. The afternoon activities ended with Pastor Nelson talking about ways to help in the community through Adventist Community Services. Pathfinders packed comfort kits for people who have been displaced. Clubs took the kits to be used in their own communities. The evening ended with vespers and a fun game of glow in the dark Capture the Flag.



Sunday morning's worship thought was presented by **Pastor Jason Woll**. Then Pathfinders split into groups and rotated between three activities. **Brenda Jarski-Weber**, Pathfinder Director in Jamestown, introduced flag semaphore. Pathfinders used this telegraphy system to convey information to a partner across the room with flags. **Tracy Peterson** worked with the Pathfinders on team building, using a variety of fun activities. **Eulalia Kenaston** had the Pathfinders marching, in time, up and down the hall getting ready for the big parade at the International Camporee in Oshkosh.

It was a great weekend. Friendships were made, honors were earned and skills were learned.

## 24th Annual Dakota Men's Retreat



### Men's Retreat Registration - Also Available Online

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred roommate \_\_\_\_\_

#### Before March 1, 2019

- Weekend price - single: \$280.00  
(2 nights/5 meals)
- Weekend price - double: \$180.00  
(2 nights/5 meals)
- Son over 16 years of age: \$110.00
- Retreat only: \$150.00  
(No overnights/5 meals)
- Sabbath only: \$ 90.00  
(No overnights/3 meals)

#### After March 1, 2019

- Weekend price - double: \$200.00  
(2 nights/5 meals)
- Son over 16 years of age: \$120.00
- Retreat only: \$170.00  
(No overnights/5 meals)
- Sabbath only: \$110.00  
(No overnights/3 meals)

#### Deadline is March 5, 2019

Register online @ [dakotaadventist.org](http://dakotaadventist.org) or send check to Dakota Conference  
 7200 N Washington Street, Bismarck, ND 58503

Scholarships are available to those who can not afford to attend. Go to [dakotaadventist.org](http://dakotaadventist.org) and fill out the request form.

# Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DAKOTA MESSENGER  
NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #38  
BISMARCK, ND

<p><b>Nov</b></p> <p>10 Rapid City Regional</p> <p>12-15 MAUC Year End Meetings</p> <p>17 Sioux Falls Regional</p> <p>21 Office Closes at noon</p> <p>22 Thanksgiving - Office Closed</p> <p><b>Dec</b></p> <p>09 K-12 Board Meeting 10 am</p> <p>14-15 DAA Celebration of Praise</p> <p>16 Executive Committee 10 am</p> <p>24- 01 Office Closed</p> <p>25 Christmas - Office Closed</p>	<p>C A L E N D A R</p>	<p><b>Jan</b></p> <p>01 New Year's Day - Office Closed</p> <p>14 Teacher in Service - DAA 9 am</p> <p>19 Pathfdr Bible Experience - DAA 2 pm</p> <p>19 Pathfdr Pinewood Derby - DAA 6 pm</p> <p>20 Pathfdr Honors Fair - DAA 9 am</p> <p>21 - 24 Pastors' Meetings - CO</p> <p><b>Feb</b></p> <p>10 K-12 Board 10 am</p> <p>18 Office Closed</p> <p>24 Executive Committee 10 am</p>
<p><b>President, Evangelism, ASI</b> Neil Biloff</p> <p><b>VP of Admin, Youth Dir &amp; Camps</b> Loren Nelson III</p> <p><b>VP of Finance, Trust Director</b> Mark Seibold</p> <p><b>Ministerial Director</b> Merlin Knowles</p> <p><b>Associate Treasurer</b> Cindy Miller</p> <p><b>Children's Min, Pathfdrs, SS</b> Sue Nelson</p>	<p><b>Education Superintendent</b> Sue Nelson</p> <p><b>Receptionist, Adm Assistant, Clerk</b> Jodi Dossenko</p> <p><b>ABC Manager, Adm Assistant</b> Lynette Miller</p> <p><b>Communication, Treasury Clerk</b> Jacquie Biloff</p> <p><b>Trust Services Associate</b> Charles O'Hare</p> <p><b>Trust Services Adm Assistant</b> Julie Brude</p>	<p><b>Maintenance</b> Marlin Miller</p> <p><b>Adventist Community Services</b> Bob Forbes II</p> <p><b>Disaster Relief</b> Phyllis Alexander</p> <p><b>Prayer Ministries</b> Dragos Profir</p> <p><b>Women's Ministries</b> Brenna Hudson</p> <p><b>Men's Ministries</b> Randy Rubbert</p>