



## Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church's History, Part 1

The first Seventh-day Adventist in the Keene, North Dakota area came from Richardton, ND to work for Cal Dodge. His name was Esley Henderson. His mother's dying request, in 1915, was that meetings be held in her son's community and Elder A. V. Roads promised. So, in 1917, Elder Roads held meeting in the Veeder school house. Tony, Josie and Rose Steiner came, as well as Esley Henderson. Melchoir Steiner forbade his daughter Rose to go, so she crawled out the window to get past him. Tony, Josie, Rose and Esley decided to become Adventists. That fall Rose married Esley and they held Sabbath School in their home. A neighbor, Mrs. Fred Wheeler, attended and joined also. Later, her husband Fred and their seven children became members as well.

In the fall of 1917, Elder T. R. Nash held meetings in Unity Hall. Alfred and Marie Hagen and her son, Leslie Van Allen and Mrs. Clyde (Anna) Mercer joined the Sabbath School.

In 1918, church members met at the Gregnew Clear Creek School. Rose Henderson was ordained there by Elder Nash, as deaconess, the office she has held ever since.\*<sup>1</sup>

Later, Viola Foreman and her family came from Idaho. Increased membership required a larger meeting place so Unity Hall was used for Sabbath Services. Sabbath School was organized by Elder Clarence Rentfro. The hall served for the group for about ten years. Then the company moved to Pleasant Valley school house, which was more centrally located.

There was no regular district minister. In severe winter weather the families met in member's homes. Some of the ministers who visited in those early years were Elder Jackson, Elder Carscallen, Elder Piper and Elder Krietzky. Once the Home Missionary Secretary, Elder J. J. Jutzy, came to Sanish\*<sup>2</sup> by train. He did not realize there was no mail delivery and so no one met him at the depot. He started walking the thirty-five long hilly miles to the Henderson home.

In 1939, Sabbath School moved to the Sandstone School, near the Lovaas home. In the early 1930s Clarence and Bertha Lovaas, Walter Mercer and Mathilda Peterson were baptized, through the labors of Ted and Martha Wick.

In 1944, James and Lola Pogue had just graduated from Union College. They came with Francis and Mary Sue Wernick to Keene and held meetings at Unity Hall. Clinton Loomer brought his wife to the meeting one mile in the rain on his tractor because it was too muddy for the car. Esley Henderson had two new granaries and the Wernicks and Pogues set up housekeeping in them at the Henderson ranch where there was a well. The Hendersons had a lot of fun with the young enthusiastic couples, who were there from July until September when they went to Williston. At Christmas the Pogues and the Wernicks visited the Henderson ranch and Esley said, "The kids all came home for the holidays."

The members met in the Sandstone School until 1952, when they bought a building from the Roman Catholic congregation, located near Croff's and moved it eighteen miles with tractors to about two miles south of Keene, and remodeled it into their "present" church.

This little company was formally organized into a church by Elder A. E. Milner, president of the North Dakota Conference in the fall of 1954. There were 22 charter members: Rose Henderson; Alfred and Marie Haugen; Clarence and Bertha Lovass; Charles Mercer; his mother, Anna Pittsley; Lyle and (Texie) Haziel Henderson; Paul and Hazel Henderson; Pearl Sivertson; Elisha and Ruby Hiestand, Joyce Lovaas; Leo Lovaas; Robert Lovaas; Swan Belquist; Sally Foreman; Alice Sivertson (now Boyko); LaVonne Sivertson (now Fandrich) and Ernestine Marshall.

The church was dedicated October 1, 1960 by K. D. Johnson, president of the North Dakota Conference. The sermon was given by R. H. Nightingale, Northern Union President and the benediction by S. E. White, secretary of the North Dakota Conference. Gary Schwarz, the pastor, sang "Bless this House." Clarence Lovaas played the violin and the piano was played by Elaine Olson and Joyce Lovaas.

\*1 - Author unknown; date unknown. Possibly written circa late 1970s for the book *Nothing to Fear* by Bob Dupuy, published in 1983.

\*2 - <https://www.ghostowns.com/states/nd/sanish.html>, The Sanish that exists today is the newer Sanish. They had to relocate the original Sanish when the Garrison Diversion Project brought Lake Sakakawea to central North Dakota. Stories exist of the original foundations of the buildings being exposed when Lake Sakakawea was really low during the droughts of the 1970s. "It was relocated to a place a few miles west of New Town, ND." Submitted by: Matt Rothchild.

*Author unknown; date unknown*



Photo by Cliff Freese

## Graduation Memories at DAA

Thinking of the 2020 school year at Dakota Adventist Academy brought to mind a book written in the late 1990s titled [Who Moved My Cheese?](#) The premise of the book is how to deal with change in a positive and sometimes humorous way. I'm not sure if our present generation of teachers and students have ever read the book, but change came this year, ready or not.

Plans for a senior trip and public graduation went out the proverbial window. Some of the senior class finished school at home while others stayed at DAA and attended classes like many of the underclass members. What a year! But through all the ups and downs of the pandemic, our teaching staff deserves to be commended for adapting, moving forward and finishing the year. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our North Dakota governor who believed that a residence school could stay open in the midst of all the commotion. In fact, it appears that DAA was the only academy open on campus in the United States.

As we thank God for his protection during this time of the Coronavirus, we once again ask for continued prayers for Adventist education in the Dakota Conference. Many academies across America are wondering if students will come back this fall. Will their schools be able to operate? What does the future hold for the Adventist dream of training young people to carry the gospel forward? Your prayers have made a huge difference in the past and we covet those prayers moving forward.

View DAA's graduation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeGYRcL0nCo&feature=youtu.be>

*Article by Pastor Neil Biloff*

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## Microgreen Video by DAA Students

Have fun growing microgreens at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W4sH3kX8xc&feature=youtu.be>

## Dakota Youth Announcement

Dear Dakota Youth,



It's been 20 days since we first announced that in-person summer camp was canceled. It was devastating news not just for us, but also for all of you that were really looking forward to camp. Camp has always been a safe haven for the majority of campers that attend, and the thought of not having it for the first time in a long time was hurtful and saddening.

In these past 20 days, however, a lot has happened in both of our states. Both state governments, as well as local governments, have decided that the trajectory of the virus in our locations is drastically slowing, allowing for the re-opening of businesses, parks, and even summer camps. We have prayed a lot about this decision, have sought advice from both North and South Dakota Departments of Health, the CDC, surveys, local governments, and our local conference. It is with that in mind that we are beyond excited to announce that summer camp at both Northern Lights Camp and Flag Mountain Camp is back on. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this global time of crisis. With God's help and grace, we will move forward together to have the best summer possible for all of our campers — full of fun, safety, and most of all, God's Spirit.

For all of the details as to how, why, and when this is happening, please go to our website at [dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps](http://dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps) where you will find all of the information you need to move forward in making your decision to come to camp. For those that are uncomfortable sending your child to camp, we are offering a live streaming option so that any child can still be a part of our summer program. We will be running camp at 60-65% capacity, meaning that registration will be limited. Registration will open **May 27, 2020, at 9am CT** via the youth department website, [dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps](http://dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps). Please note that **ALL** registrations will be taken through this avenue alone. Any child who comes to camp without having pre-registered will be turned away due to safety and exposure issues.

We are excited to once again offer this opportunity, knowing that it will come with its challenges, but also knowing that we will be working hard with Christ to make it a huge success. We can't wait to see you.

Grace & Peace,  
Your Dakota Conference Summer Camp Team

*Article by Pastors Ricky and Brooke Melendez*

## Dakotans Creating a Blue Zone

KX News reported that a husband and wife, Rudy and Helen Ryyth, of Rolla, ND celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year birthdays in March and May, respectively. What a milestone. The family is distraught, because of COVID, there can be no celebration and requested that people send Happy Birthday cards. They are hoping for 200 cards. We, at the Dakota Conference, signed and sent a card.

After hearing this, I wondered how many Dakota Adventist members are 100 years old. The statistics surprised me:

- There are two who are 100
- There are another three who will be 100 by August
- There are two who will celebrate their 101<sup>st</sup> birthdays by the end of the year
- One is 102 years old, and
- One will be 104 in September.

That makes a total of seven centenarians. What a wealth of information they have learned, a history of momentous changes they have seen and adventures they have experienced.

It seems Dakotas Adventists are creating their own Blue Zone, i.e. regions of the world where people live longer.

Congratulations to all of Dakota's centenarians.



*Article by Jacquie Biloff; Photo by Adi Goldstein from Unsplash*

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## Providing Assistance Blesses

Two weeks ago, the Fargo Adventist church was privileged to receive a \$3000.00 grant to bring help to those who have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic.

The church utilizes a "Good Samaritan" fund for this type of assistance. This fund was depleted weeks before when Pastor Bob Forbes informed the Dakota pastors of the possible availability of these new funds.

We received the funds and went back to work buying food for those who had their hours cut or lost work completely. In one week, the church delivered \$1027.00 of food and a small amount of housing assistance to six families in real need. One of these families of eight individuals lives in a three bedroom apartment but feel blessed to be in a country with such freedom.



(Pictures of helpers, feeling blessed, Muslim couple and Verzella.)

The Red Cross on behalf of NDSU called me to ask for help for a young Muslim couple from Bangladesh. They were displaced during this crisis and being graduate students, could not earn money. We assisted them with housing and food. It was a wonderful witness for the love of Jesus to help them.

Verzella Gray, one of our very faithful Native American members is taking food to the many children to which she ministers.

May God bless each of us as we try to help those in need during this very unstable time and by simple acts of kindness share the Good News of God's grace and love.

"That they may, by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." I Peter 2:12

*Article and photos by Pastor Darrel Lindensmith*

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## Dakotans Pray via Zoom

# DAKOTANS PRAY

First Thursdays 7-8:30 PM CDT 6-7:30 PM MDT

Email [redriversda@gmail.com](mailto:redriversda@gmail.com) to be added to DP email list

Zoom ID: 895 8855 6393 PW 885424 By Phone: 312-626-6799



Photo by Tyler Nix on Unsplash

People may call in from a phone, but long distance rates may apply. You may download Zoom to either your smartphone, tablet or computer. For information and to receive the link / number for the meeting please email [redriversda@gmail.com](mailto:redriversda@gmail.com) with *Dakotans Pray* in the subject line. Personal, or public prayer requests may also be sent for either Prayer Team prayer or shared during the prayer times.

*Article by Pastor Barry St. Clair, photo supplied by Tyler Nix on Unsplash.*

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# Will or Estate Planning?



Contact Trust Services

at Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

701-751-6177 or [trust@dakotaadventist.org](mailto:trust@dakotaadventist.org)

## Why Do We Pray in Jesus' Name?



The question has been asked, why do we pray in Jesus' name? There are a couple of reasons.

First, Jesus is described by John in Revelation 3:7 as having the key of David.

When I served in the military, we had an awesome supply chain. Nearly everything the US government possessed was available to me on two conditions - authorization and the gatekeeper at the supply depot.

It was no different in ancient times. Isaiah 22:22 speaks of King Hezekiah giving the key of David to the steward of the treasury. This key granted access not only to the storehouses, but to the palace to be able to make timely delivery of necessities to the kings' court.

Jesus holds the keys to the treasure trove of heaven. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing..."

The second reason we pray in Jesus' name is because He is our mediator between us and God the Father. He is the only Way to the Father and the resources we need.

Dr. Luke cites Jesus in chapter 11:13, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" So, what we need most is the Holy Spirit. Our communication with heaven is dependent upon God, His son, His word and His Spirit.

Notice what Paul wrote to the Romans in chapter 8:26-27, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

We pray in Jesus' name because God has blessed us with everything in Him, because He holds the keys to heaven's resources, and because everything is subject to His will. He is King of kings, and Lord of lords.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God,"  
Philippians 4:6.

*Thoughts from Pastor Barry St. Clair, Red River Seventh-day Adventist Church; Photo by Shane Avery on Unsplash*

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## NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Visit [dakotaadventist.org](http://dakotaadventist.org) to view presenters and read their biographies.  
This information is under the Community tab, then Campmeeting, then choose Presenters.







**CAMPMEETING**  
HAS BEEN  
RESCHEDULED FOR  
JULY 30 - AUGUST 1.

**All 2020 reservations on file will be transferred to the new dates unless a refund is requested. Please contact Jodi with any questions: 701.751.6177**

Reservations may be made online at:  
[www.dakotaadventist.org](http://www.dakotaadventist.org)

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**The King's Heralds Will Be At Campmeeting Sabbath - August 1, 2020**



**THE  
KING'S HERALDS**  
*Celebrating 92 years of ministry.*

A photograph of four men in dark suits and light blue shirts, smiling and standing together against a dark background. The man in the center has his hands clasped.

# Dakota Conference Calendar

- May 30 Prairie Voyager 8th Grade Graduation  
May 30 Camp Development (NLC/FMC) Offering
- June 03-07 Camp Staff Training in Bismarck, ND  
June 06 Worthy Student Offerings  
June 10-13 Campmeeting - changed to July 30 - Aug 1  
June 13 Local Church Budget  
June 14 Dirt Kicker Charity Run - changed to Aug 2  
June 14 Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom at 10 am  
June 17-21 Cub Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 8-10)  
June 20 Local Church Budget  
June 21-28 Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)  
June 25 General Conference Session - postponed until May 2021  
June 27 Dakota Challenge  
June 28-05 Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)
- Aug 16 Registration day at DAA for 2020/2021 school year

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## June 2020

The Local ABC is open during conference office hours.

**Please call ahead and Lynette will have the food/books waiting outside for your pickup.**

Thank you.

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
7200 N Washington Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
Mon - Thrs 7:30 - 5:30  
701.751.6177

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## May 28 Dispatch Photo





Photo by Janna Wright, Dickinson, ND

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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 Jacquie Biloff at [jbiloff@icloud.com](mailto:jbiloff@icloud.com). © 2020 Copyright

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