

Final Hello

Neil Biloff, President

So, it has arrived, my last Messenger article before retirement. Someone once said that retirement is like a long vacation. The goal is to enjoy it to the fullest, but not so fully that you run out of money. The thought is somewhat humorous but filled with a lot of truth. With America headed down a very perplexing road the future will have its challenges, not only for Jacquie and I, but for all of you reading this article. The day, which Ellen G. White wrote about, seems to be at hand when our country shall “repudiate every principle of its constitution as a Protestant and Republican government...” Testimonies for the Church Vol 5, Page 451. Strong words, but the last few months have been eye opening concerning the advancements made by those who are determined to help her prediction come true.



The powder keg opened this summer with the extremely sad death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. His life does matter and always will. But his death does not give me or anyone else permission to loot, burn, murder and destroy the lives of others. Lives that God loves just as much as he loves George's. As someone once said, two wrongs do not make anything right. All people of every race and gender are important to the One who brought them into existence by the touch of His hand and the breath from His mouth. The destruction of life and property must be painful for God to watch. His great creation destroyed by the very ones He created. The adversary has been busy. Life is sacred and should be loved and protected.

As Jacquie and I leave this great conference our plans are to live in a little community of about 700 people on the edge of the Blue Mountains in Oregon. It is the place where our eldest daughter is buried, and it seems only fitting to go back to where we started as a young married couple so many years ago. Our hearts will be with all of you as we look for our Lord and Savior's return and our plan is to see each of you in His soon coming Kingdom.

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Dakota Messenger

Jacquie Biloff Photo



Treasurer's Remarks

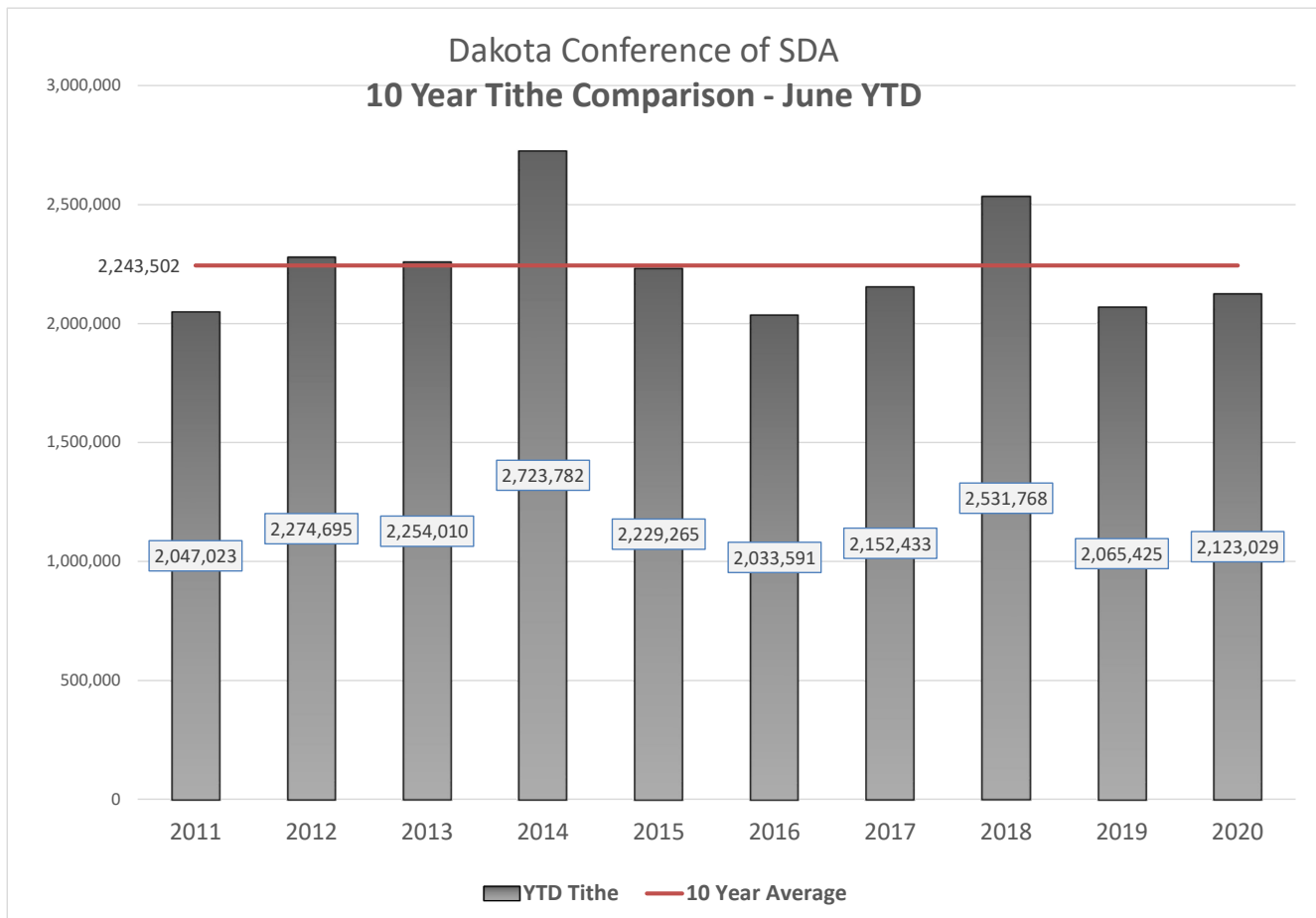
Mark Seibold, VP of Finance



I think most people agree that, with the passage of time, each year seems to go by a bit more quickly. 2020 is no different in that respect, despite the various unprecedented events the year has brought to our world. Regardless of these unusual challenges, we know God has a plan for our lives and churches. Recognizing this should provide comfort whatever the circumstances.

The Dakota Conference 2020 tithe year is slightly better than last, though still below the current ten-year average through June. Given the effect of COVID-19 on our economy, this might be considered a small miracle despite the 2019 downturn. It should be noted that the annual halfway point total is not always an accurate "bellwether" for the tithe year, as many members send tithes and donations in December.

We appreciate your generosity allowing the mission of spreading the gospel in the Dakotas to continue!



Full Assist

Dr. Mark Weir, VP of Administration, Education Superintendent



Some of you may wonder, “What do those Conference Office people do?”

Now I realize I am new to the Dakotas, but I am becoming more aware that people of Dakotas want to know what is happening and why it is happening. There is a “down-to-earth” reality here that I appreciate. The pragmatic approach to life is truly beneficial.

With that being said, I want to share some things we do that serve one simple purpose – help the local church. Let me give you an example.

Recently I had the opportunity to spend an evening with a church family as part of their business meeting. I was able to play the role of parliamentarian, help to clarify some procedural questions, and be a resource to assist the pastor and church leaders as they were processing through some difficult discussions. And I say with all truthfulness, I enjoyed the time spent!

Full assist. That is how I understand our role, or at least mine. When I come to a church or school, it is not to TELL what needs to be done, but rather offer suggestions (hopefully helpful ones) that allow the people in either the churches or the schools to find solutions that work for them. And that really is what is most important – what works for them!

As I think back on my recent meeting with the church family, I am grateful what I was able to do - take the microphone around so people could clearly be heard; count all the secret ballot votes; clarify procedures for motions and even the amendment process to alter motions. I acted in the role of parliamentarian and helped to maintain order. But the most significant part was simply to be there for the pastor and the church family to attempt to keep things moving forward in a constructive and helpful fashion.

Constructive and helpful. Wouldn't it be wonderful if that was the description of all we did as a church family? Yes, and that is where we at the Conference can help. When it comes to the local church, issues and challenges in the local church, our role is simple and significant. Full assist. That is one of the key reasons why we are here.

Peace in the Middle of the Storm

Tracy Peterson, DAA Recruiter

We are days away from the start of another school year. Teachers are busy preparing classrooms and curriculum, administration is making certain all policies are in compliance with state and CDC regulations, deans are sanitizing and preparing dorm rooms. All this is to make certain that as we start the 2020/2021 school year, it is a normal, comfortable, face to face education experience.



How are the high school age youth doing in your area? Are they looking at a normal school experience? Is their high school going to be able to teach face to face, virtual or a combination of both?



Dakota Adventist Academy might be the change they need to be able to find a new normal in their high school career. Both village students and boarding students may attend DAA. If you have friends with concerns about how high school is going to look for their child, share DAA as an option. If they want to commute daily, spend the week in the dorm and go

home on weekends, or be a full boarding student, those accommodations can be made! They don't have to be Adventist youth to attend DAA, but they will experience an Adventist Christian education. God will bless efforts to take care of His children.

Pastors/Teachers/CO Staff on the Move

Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams has accepted the position of English teacher at Dakota Adventist Academy. She, and her husband **Zak**, are Union College graduates and have five children. She grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. (1)

It was voted to temporarily suspend operations at the Red River School. Teacher **Nick Gennick** has decided to look outside of the conference for employment next year. We are grateful for his years of service in the Dakotas.

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Tyler Bower (Amy), pastor of the Bismarck Church, has moved back to Texas where his wife has a successful real estate business.

Donavon Kack (Jayna), Dakota evangelist, has moved to Montana to be near family. He is currently an evangelist for It Is Written.

James Kack (Lisa), pastor of the Spearfish Church, has also moved to Montana to be near family. Lisa has written several children’s books that are now available in the ABC.

Nicolas Osborn (Christina) was called into the military as a chaplain, which was the educational track he pursued during his masters studies. They are currently in Texas.

Victor Villareal is the new teacher at Hillcrest school in Jamestown, ND. He graduated from the University of the Philippines having been raised in CA and lived in WA and OH. (2)

Marveen Gentillon, a Union College graduate, has been hired as an associate pastor in the Rapid City/Spearfish and Hermosa churches and will be working with Pastor Darren Purdy. (3)

Justin Walker, of Oregon, recently graduated from Andrews University School of Theology, and will be an associate to Pastor Peter Simpson in the Jamestown/Cleveland/New Home and Edgeley district. (4)

Christine Taylor (Malaya) has accepted the position of dean of girls at Dakota Adventist Academy. She is a graduate of DAA. (5)

Madison Hudema is the assistant girls’ dean at DAA. She is from Abbotsville, BC and enjoying a gap year or two from Walla Walla University. (6)

Pastor Neil and Jacquie Biloff have served in the Dakota Conference for the past fifteen years and will be retiring to Oregon at the end of September to be near family.



Welcome to the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists - where great people live.

Alumni Weekend

October 2 - 3, 2020
Dakota Adventist Academy

PVA



1902 - 1965
Plainview Adventist Academy

SRA



1903 - 1977
Sheyenne River Adventist Academy

DAA



1977 - Current
Dakota Adventist Academy

There will be many changes made to align the event to the guidelines provided by the state and CDC; however, we hope those Alumni in attendance will still enjoy the programming. Please consider the following:

- Specific announcement regarding plans for the Alumni gather in October may be found on the Alumni website at www.mydaa.org/alumni/alumni-weekend.
- Please be aware that many states have travel restrictions in place for residents who travel out of state, which may include self-isolation/quarantine upon return from North Dakota.
- Online attendance options are under development for those who decide to remain at home.

Let not the uncertainty of today's times dim the reflections of the past. Take a few moments to give and ensure the gifts we received in our lives continue to be available to a new generation of students today. Give online: <https://www.mydaa.org/donatetoAnnualFund5>

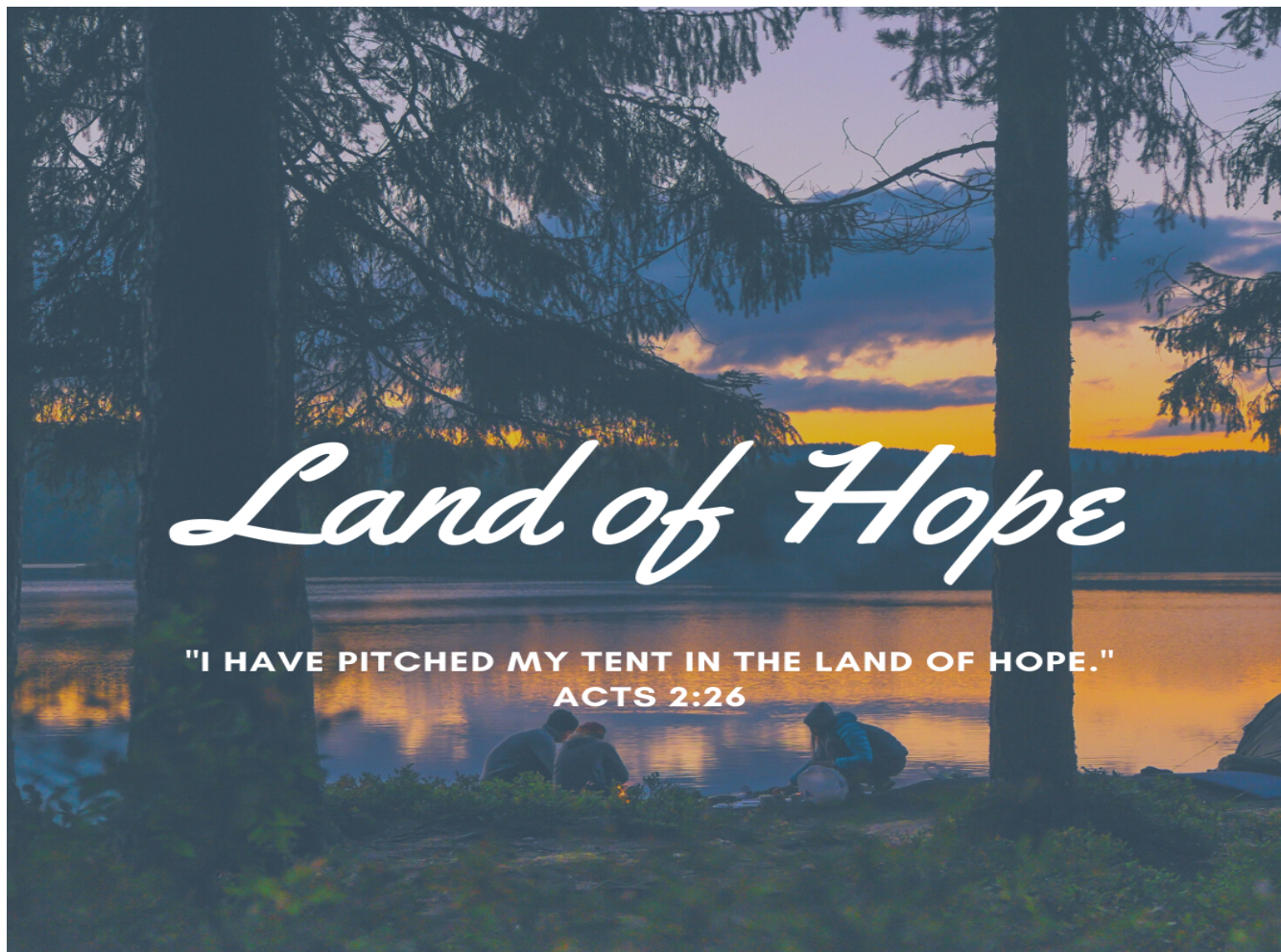
Brown Stone Bricks for Sale

There are several thousand new Brown Stone 4-hole and 3-hole bricks for sale at Dakota Adventist Academy. These are left over from the construction of the academy and are on pallets. The sale and removal of these bricks would be beneficial in several ways.

Contact Principal Anthony Oucharek or Vice-principal David Chapman for more information at 701.258.9000.



32nd Annual Dakota Conference Women's Retreat



Speaker: Sue Carlson

Register online at the conference website:
www.dakotaadventist.org

Date: October 9 - 11, 2020

Or call the conference at 701.751.6177

Location: Abbey of the Hills
46561 147th Street
Marvin, SD 57251

ACS Federation Meetings

September 13	Southeast ACS Federation Meeting	Watertown, SD	10 am
September 14	Northeast ACS Federation Meeting	Jamestown, ND	10 am
September 15	Northwest ACS Federation Meeting	Grassy Butte, ND	10 am
September 20	Southwest ACS Federation Meeting	Rapid City, SD	10 am

Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

7200 N Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
www.dakotaadventist.org



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<p>Aug</p> <p>16 DAA Registration</p> <p>17 First Day Elementary School</p> <p>19 - 23 DAA Camp Week</p> <p>24 Spiritual Feast Weekend - FMC</p> <p>30 K-12 Board Meeting - CO 10 am</p> <p>Sep</p> <p>07 Labor Day/Office Closed</p> <p>10 - 13 MAUC Academy Leadership Conf - FMC</p> <p>13 Executive Committee - CO 9 am</p>	<p>C A L E N D A R</p>	<p>14 - 20 ACS Federation Meetings</p> <p>17 - 21 DAA Homeleave</p> <p>27 Executive Committee - CO 10 am</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>02 - 03 DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend - DAA</p> <p>08 - 14 GC Fall Council - MD</p> <p>09 - 11 Women's Retreat - Abby of the Hills, SD</p> <p>11 - 13 New in Ministry Training - DAA</p> <p>17 SC Regional - Aberdeen, SD</p> <p>21 DAA Homeleave</p> <p>25 K-12 Board Meeting - CO 10 am</p>
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