



## Nothing to Fear

**This is the first installment of a multi-part series taken from the late Pastor Bob DuPuy's book, *Nothing to Fear: The Story of Seventh-day Adventism in the Dakotas*, published in 1983.**

### **FOREWORD: "LEST WE FORGET"**

Experience cannot be inherited. The foolish bridesmaids of Matthew 25 learned this too late.

Furthermore, God has no grandchildren. That is, no one becomes a Christian except through commitment arising out of personal experience. No second-hand faith or borrowed religious experience for Christians.

But the Adventist experience is even more distinctive. Without it, the Seventh-day Adventist Church cannot be understood today. In 1896, Ellen White wrote about a "Brother T," who taught a mixture of truth and error. She had words of counsel: "If he had passed through the experience of God's people as He led them for the past forty years, he would be better prepared to make the correct application of Scripture. The great waymarks of truth, showing us our bearings in prophetic history, are to be carefully guarded, lest they be torn down, and replaced with theories that would bring confusion rather than genuine light." Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 101.

To help us remember the Adventist experience, especially as it was lived in the Dakotas, is the purpose of this book. What the author has done for Dakota should be done for all our conferences. What stories of valor and courage we would share!

The early hardships for Adventist in the Dakotas did not all arise out of bleak winters, parched fields, or hailstones in harvest. Changing a German's day of rest, or a Scandinavian's, is a formidable challenge. Especially was this true at the turn of the century. But the effort was worth it. God was gathering a people to meet the Lord.

And Dakota Adventists took this gospel assignment seriously.

They understood the importance of the events that transpired in the 1844 Movement. That experience guided their lives as light on a dark path. When companies of believers were separated by hundreds of miles and visiting preachers were few, those early Dakota Adventists knew that more than a human hand had brought them together. The Adventist experience gave them a sense of mission, compelling them to invite their neighbors to share the future with them.

For a Dakota Adventist today to understand fully the purpose and genius of the Adventist Church, he must relive in thought and spirit the story of his spiritual ancestors. And that will not happen without a knowledge of the history of his church.

Throughout the Bible, God repeatedly urges His people to “remember.” “remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.” Deut.32:7. Remember what?. The mistakes and successes of previous generations. The evidences of God’s hand in leading His people. The consciousness of being a special people with a special mission for a special time.

Never in our history has a knowledge of the Adventist past been more needed than today. Our spiritual fathers and mothers were not biblical nitwits. Hardly! The Adventist theological root system will still bear the test of scrutiny; it has never been more relevant.

But the devil will be at war with the church, as he sees the end approaching. Temptations to compromise, to believe his deceptions, will become increasingly severe.

This monumental volume will help all of us to profit by these words: “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” -- Life Sketches, p.196.

Herbert E Douglass  
Editor-in-Chief, English Publications  
Pacific Press Publishing Association

**Next time from *Nothing to Fear*: "PREFACE" by Robert K. DuPuy**

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## **Mentor Pastors Meet at Conference Office**

A pastor intern program has recently been implemented to provide training and help to pastoral graduates hired in the Dakotas. At a meeting presented by President

Mark Weir at the Conference Office this week, mentors were provided an *Intern Development Handbook* containing a number of talking points to help new pastors become more proficient. Each mentor took home a copy to share with the intern they are working with.



*Article and photo by Jodi Dossenko.*

## Youth and Young Adult Retreat at the Lodge

For the fifth time in the last six years, the Dakota Conference has hosted a young adult retreat called "Family Worship at the Lodge", where young people from around the conference, as well from all over the North American Division, come to seek Jesus together. This has been one of the most beautiful ministries that has happened over the past years, to the point where young adults from all over the division know what happens every year in little ole Havana, North Dakota!

The Lodge is truly a heaven-on-earth experience. It's easy to see what Jesus truly desired of His church when He left it behind to carry His Kingdom into the world through this retreat. Acts 2 has been the model for worship and gathering every time the group meets; they eat, drink, laugh, pray, sing, worship, cry, and celebrate together while celebrating the goodness of our Father. This year due



to COVID, the retreat looked quite a bit different. The usual 60 attendees was dwindled down to 25, but God's presence was felt in such an intimate way this year. The group became a family, a church in a Lodge that quickly turned into a sanctuary. Through His people, the Spirit of God ministered to broken souls.

No words could ever describe what God did for all in attendance that weekend, but we are grateful for it. Please keep our youth and young adult ministries in prayer as God continues to bring about a spiritual transformation to our children and our conference.



*Article by Pr. Ricky Melendez; Photos by Caleb Haakenson.*

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## **Sisters Create Online Sabbath School in Rapid City**

Church service online, easy, right? Just post a couple of videos and done. What about adult lessons? Easy, you have a study guide to read. What about children's Sabbath School?

Since school has closed, teachers have turned to Google classroom, a virtual classroom that they can post and create assignments. My sister and I have used it for school, so why not use it now?

Before Covid-19 my sister and I had created silent church activities for kids. Each week we would prepare eight packets containing Bible activities. We worked hard looking up verses, making puzzles, and creating ideas to engage kids to learn about

God. Now we can't go to church and there is no Sabbath School. So we created an online Sabbath School class using Google classroom creating a lesson each week that they can do from home.

My sister and I try to make the lessons as fun as possible and use the church curriculum for lessons. We link the lesson video, find a music video with fun praise music for the children to singalong and questions for them to think more about the topic. Throughout the week we then post fun activities for them to do. We have just recently started using Google Meet to see each other and talk about the lesson.

Even though we don't have many kids in our church, they all enjoy coming to Sabbath School and church. We created this in these changing times to help them still enjoy Sabbath School and further their relationship with God.



Back row, L to R: Gillian and Elspeth Rittberger

Front row, L to R: Jacob Hartshorn, Ryan Omari, Priscilah Omari, Lena Hartshorn

*Article by 14-year old, Elspeth Rittberger, photo by Barb Chancellor.*

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## **Grand Forks Church Performs Community Service**

A group from the Grand Forks congregation met together on Sunday, October 18, and raked leaves for a number of community families who were unable to take care of the task for themselves. The weather cooperated and they were able to be “the hands of Jesus” for community members who needed the work done. Lunch was served at the church fellowship hall, after the event.



*Photos and news blurb by Pr. Michael Temple.*

## **Women's Retreat at the Abbey in Marvin, SD**



The 2020 Dakota Conference Women's Retreat was held October 9-11 at the Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center. The theme was "camping" and used the verse, "I have pitched my tent in the land of hope." Acts 2:26.

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, the retreat was well attended. Extra precautions were taken by the Abbey staff and Retreat Committee to make sure everyone remained healthy. Attendees enjoyed a weekend of friendship, fellowship and spiritual renewal.

This year's early bird sessions featured Kathy Tebelius' popular painting class and a no-charge tour and information class about the venue led by Brenna Rausch from the Abbey.

Sue Carlson, keynote speaker, shared her experiences with camping and many wonderful spiritual insights. Sue serves the Kansas-Nebraska Conference director of Women's Ministries, Children and Family Ministries director, as well as ministerial spouse sponsor.



Mini-sessions were held on Sabbath afternoon. Chelsea Christensen presented basic strategies to grieve, cope, and help process losses of family and friends. Later, Paulette Bullinger displayed a slideshow about the days of creation and showed some of God's amazing designs. On Sabbath evening, the ladies gathered around a campfire near the Abbey's lake and enjoyed music, fellowship, and s'mores.

The Abbey's setting is one of beauty and peace. God blessed the weekend with beautiful weather and the ladies enjoyed the groomed walking trails around campus. Acoustics in the main sanctuary are especially beautiful and one could hear singing much of the time.

Plans are already underway for Women's Retreat 2021 to be held on September 24-26 at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Mandan, ND. Speaker Suzanne (Suzie) Sendros is looking forward to her first Dakota visit and recently discovered a family connection in the state. Suzie is a member of the Champion Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church (CO) where she leads praise and worship music; she also volunteers for the Rocky Mountain Conference. She and her husband, Isaac, homeschool their two young boys. Suzie also worked in marketing for ten years at Advent Health in Orlando, FL, and led out in children's and women's ministries at her local church.



*Article & photos by Paulette Bullinger*

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## **ABC Located at Dakota Conference in Bismarck**

**Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm** (If you happen to be in town during other hours, please stop by, we will try to accommodate.)

**Friday: ABC & office closed**

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## **Dakota Conference Calendar**

Offering schedule is in purple.

### **October -**

- 21-25: DAA Home Leave
- 24: **Dakota Challenge**
- 25: K-12 Board Meeting - Conference Office (10 am)
- 31: Endowment Sabbath
- 31: **Secondary Endowment**

### **November -**

- 7: Southwest Regional - Rapid City **\*\*CANCELLED**
- 7: Fall Festival - DAA **\*\*CANCELLED**
- 14: Southeast Regional - Sioux Falls **\*\*CANCELLED**
- 14: **Annual Sacrifice**
- 16-19: MAUC Year-end Meetings - Virtual



- 21: Local Church Budget
- 23-29: DAA Home Leave
- 25-26: Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 28: Dakota Challenge

## December -

- 5: Local Church Budget
- 6: Executive Committee - Conference Office (9am)
- 12: North American Division - Adventist Community Services (NAD ACS)
- 18: Celebration of Praise - DAA **\*\*TBD**
- 19: Central North Dakota Regional - DAA **\*\*TBD**
- 19: Local Church Budget



## Blessed & Kept

May you be fully present today.

Moses could have missed the burning bush.

Jacob after a vivid dream in which he saw the face of God declared,  
Surely, God was in this place, and I was not aware of it.

So many things yank at our attention all day.

May you reject the distractions that take you out of the moment.

May you find success in your search for burning bushes.

May your presence in all moments make you open and aware to the gentle guiding  
of the Holy Spirit.

May you follow that guidance

And with a contented sigh at the end of the day may you declare  
Surely, God was in this place, and I was not aware of it.

*Written by Pr. Casey Bartlett.*

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

## October 22 Dispatch Photo



*Photo by Chrystal Rittenbach in Stutsman County, North Dakota.*

If anyone has local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles and pictures to: [j.dossenko@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com)

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 [j.dossenko@gmail.com](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com). Bison [Copyright](#)

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[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

[!\[\]\(c50c8b7b2cc2cf9ff925edec0ee94c0d\_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

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