



Nothing to Fear

This is the second 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.

PREFACE:

The historian, if he allows his work to leap from the musty-smelling documents he examines and become part of the fabric of his life, has the rare power to do what generations of science fiction writers have only dreamed of - the power to travel in time.

It may happen any time, any place. Speeding down a superhighway he may notice the steel ribbon of rail that parallels his journey. Suddenly the time machine is reversed three-quarters of a century and he is aboard a coal-burning Northern Pacific train. Across the aisle two pioneer ministers are talking excitedly about the church they are going to organize.

Or, it may be a gravel road in mid-Dakota, and a lone haystack in a rolling field. But the time machine again transports him back seventy-five years and he sees a horse and buggy stop at that haystack. The passengers step down, kneel beside the mound of alfalfa and pray for the evangelistic meeting they are to conduct that evening.

These people the historian sees have changed between the time he first read their story and when it was read for the twelfth, fifteenth, or twentieth time. No longer are they the lifeless names of dead people, mere ink on paper. They live again in the imagination of the historian; they are his friends. He laughs, he cries with them, and being human as they were, he understands not only that they made mistakes, but

why they made them.

Sentimentalism? Loss of objectivity? Perhaps. Certainly so in the minds of many historians who would have us rip the stalwarts of the past out of the pages of history, rate them by modern yardsticks, and in the process end up emphasizing their failings more than their achievements.

This account of the development of Seventh-day Adventism in the Dakotas is, I freely admit, a sympathetic history. Its title, taken from the oft-quoted comment of Ellen G. White: "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", indicates my conviction that its pages reveal the ruling, or at least overruling, providence of God. This notion, which has grown and not diminished during the years of research and preparation of this work, has obviously colored the approach and tone of the book as well as the selection and interpretation of the facts and events portrayed.

This fact, however, should not be construed to deny the basic objectivity of the historical methods employed in the preparation of this account. While "probably the recording angel is the only example of an historian who is both impartial and objective" (as F.D. Nichol observed in his introduction to *The Midnight Cry*), I do not feel that my predilection to see the hand of God in the pages of history has blinded me to sound practices of historical scholarship.

This work is offered as a serious contribution to the growing body of historical literature of the Seventh-day Adventist church, an account of what must be one of its most colorful chapters.

It will probably be most vulnerable to criticism on the notion that it minimizes negative factors in the history of the church and portrays its people and leaders in their most favorable light; neglecting to rattle the skeletons in their closets.

While seriously questioning the accuracy of such an assertion, I would offer the following factors for consideration before such a conclusion is hastily drawn: 1) the documentary evidence, particularly in the first half of the time period considered; is virtually exclusively of sympathetic origin; detracting factors were simply not reported; 2) since it is impossible to be exhaustive (even while trying to be thorough) in this type of historical work, negative aberrations (for such they truly are in most cases, viewed against the broad sweep of events) are not only beyond the scope of the book, but, if reported with equal emphasis as the positive factors, would be distorted out of proper perspective, and would actually confuse the total picture rather than clarify it; 3) I feel that relevant negative factors, that is, ones which played a role in altering the directions of the church's progress, and ones which are

illustrative of attitudes that should be avoided if the church is to continue to advance, have been dealt with in full, but tasteful candor; and 4) I confess just a touch of hero-worship for the men and women who braved hardships almost incomprehensible to my generation; who sacrificed security, means, health and often life itself to see the cause they believed in become established on Dakota's barren prairies. By contrast to this dedication, their failures seem to me to be infinitely insignificant.

Throughout the book I have tried to integrate significant contemporary events from the histories of the Dakotas, the United States and the Adventist Church in general to place the account in proper historical perspective, and enable the reader to view it in the context of the influences that molded and shaped it.

This is done in pursuit of the belief that it is better and more honest to try to understand the events of 1875, 1900, and 1925 from those points, looking forward to our times, rather than merely looking backwards. Assuming of course that honesty and understanding are the goals of historical research.

The picture I hope and pray that this book forms in the minds of the readers, I that of a church, a century removed from its fledgling beginning, looking back at the richest of heritages, and looking forward with the fullest of hopes.

That is how I see it, but then, I have traveled in time.

Robert K. DuPuy
Des Moines, Iowa
January 1983

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*: Chapter 1, "Opening the Sixth Seal" by Robert K. DuPuy

Ministry on the Move

In a world where churches are closing and districts are getting larger, one often thinks "How do we even perform ministry effectively anymore?".

Over the last few weeks our family has been part of a district reshuffle. This meant an additional church about two hours away from where we live. It left us asking some serious questions. What is ministry? How do we do it effectively? How does God want us to do this? Is it beneficial to involve the entire family or should the pastor handle that church on his own? If involving the whole family, then how would

we do it? Traveling with a one-year-old at 6:00am didn't seem like a feasible option.

A couple of weeks of brainstorming and prayer led us to do some major reshuffling in our lives. To us, ministry is a family affair. It is important for us to minister together as effectively as possible. The Lord slowly led us to this conclusion: Sell our small current camper and our second vehicle,



then use what we had in savings to purchase a 31-foot motorhome. God made it clear to us that filling the pulpit twice a month was not workable, so we needed to plan accordingly. Our family will drive the motorhome to Bowdle for a three-day weekend twice a month. This means more time for visitations and church projects versus four hours of driving each trip.

We just recently spent a week there, meeting members in their homes and getting acquainted with them and it is becoming clear why God has moved us in the direction that He has. So what did we find in Bowdle, SD? A warm faithful group of believers, young and old, who love the Lord. And to our amazement this small church has eight couples our age (late 20s to 30s), most with young children! They have all returned to the area in the last six months and are on fire for the Lord! This church is making some big plans and undergoing big changes. What an absolute blessing and breath of fresh air. And we get to be a part of it! God is so good!

We praise the Lord moving in our lives and pray He continues to do mighty things in this district! Our hearts are filled with excitement and we are revived with passion to DO as He wills.



Nicholas and Charné Eaton pastor the Bowdle/Mobridge/Pierre/Tolstoy District.

Article and photos by Charné Eaton, written in August 2020.

Fight the Good Fight

I love sports and have always followed the professional leagues. Pro sports came to a halt in the past few months, something I have never experienced before. Now that sports have resumed within the past month I couldn't be happier to cheer on my favorite teams!

With the restart of basketball, and with football and baseball starting up, it has reminded me of the sports analogy Paul gives us, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." (2 Timothy 4:7 NLT) Paul is talking about the Christian walk with Jesus, but let's look at it within the context of the situation today. You have all been through a great deal this year. I think it would be inconsiderate of me to just tell you, "Finish the race, stay the course!" when everything has been difficult and some have been put in strenuous situations. I think this verse gives us hope. In these tough times, there is a light at the end of the tunnel only through Jesus. There is still hope, and that hope is Jesus. Nothing else provides that hope and peace, only Jesus.

May you feel the presence of Jesus as you draw nearer to Him.



Worship Thoughts by Pr. Jason Woll.

Brentwood School Shares Jesus

Brentwood Adventist Christian School is a small school located just north of Bismarck in a setting that gives one a feeling of being in the country. This school year we are fortunate to have fifteen students with all eight grades represented. The students are happy we were able to open the school year meeting face-to-face, and they pray we will continue to do so. They enjoy being with friends and also being in person to do their work. The teacher appreciates being able to personally help students every day.

Despite the continuing challenges this year, Brentwood students have continued to find ways to reach out to the community. In the final weeks of October 2020, the cold blustery days did not deter the children from collecting canned goods for a local shelter in Bismarck. Students, wearing coats and armed with bags, visited every

home in their school neighborhood. A few days later they returned to the same homes to collect the bags filled with nonperishable food items that neighbors left on their front porch. Each school family brought in food items to add to the supply. This is only one of the traditions the Brentwood students participate in each year. One of the fourth graders said, "It makes me feel good knowing it goes to help others." That is the consensus of all the students. Because of COVID, they miss going to the soup kitchen this year but are looking for other ways to brighten the lives of others. They have started writing to shut-ins and hope to make new friends and relieve the loneliness of others.

Students also just finished student-led academic conferences where each child led out in the first 9 weeks conference with their parents. They took ownership of grades and did a great job explaining their report card and goals. Our classroom goal this year is to strive for growth. We learn from our mistakes and keep trying because challenges are what make us stronger and better. This theme has become really important to us this year as we all grow through these tough times.

One of our prayer requests for this year is for COVID to end. In the meantime, we will continue to pray, trust, and to share Jesus.



Article by teacher, Debra Eszler; photos by Laura Shaffer & Debra Eszler.

Ministry in a Bowl

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Recently the local news ran a story of a Bismarck man who was a barber for many years. Long since retired, Oscar Rueb grows beautiful roses in his garden and spreads cheer by sharing them with others. Whenever a local ministry makes a food distribution, he is there to share his rose bowls.

Shortly after seeing the article, I happened to visit Ruth Chase on a day her daughter, Karlene Miller, was visiting and shared the story of Oscar with them. The ladies told me they were looking for a new home for a number of small glass rose bowls sitting in Ruth's closet. The result was that I took two large boxes of rose bowls to Oscar's home. He was delighted! He found a large glass bowl for Ruth and a smaller vase for me and filled them with roses.

When I delivered Ruth's rose bowl, she was surprised and pleased. We both felt the Lord had her store the precious rose bowls for just the right purpose and time.

This was an object lesson for me on how the love of Jesus can be shared through the simplest of gestures. Both Oscar and Ruth displayed true Christian spirit. To see their eyes light up in this simple exchange of gifts was pure joy for me.

They may not realize it, but I was given more than roses that day!



Article and photos by Paulette Bullinger.

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

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

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 forgive.

May you take one step towards liberating yourself of holding back forgiveness from someone who has wronged you.

May the heavy burden of the grudge you hold be lightened just a little.

May you welcome the ongoing process of forgiveness.

May you release the stranglehold you have over your own heart so that it may be free to give its attention to life-giving pursuits.

May you take one step towards forgiveness, not because God said so, but because God wants you to be free of the need to hold others accountable.

Even though it seems like you're letting them off the hook, may you trust that releasing them from your grasp will only lead to your growth and your joy.

May you rid yourself of your need to be right so that you may accept that you are already righteous.

Written by Pr. Casey Bartlett.

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

November 5 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger in Huff, 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

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. Bison [Copyright](#)

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