



Nothing to Fear

This is the fourth 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.

CHAPTER 1: OPENING THE SIXTH SEAL - Part 2

As Miller studied he became increasingly fascinated by the Bible's prophecies, particularly those that pointed to the Second Coming of Christ and world conditions just prior to that event. Some of these prophecies contained time elements, including one that spoke of the cleansing of the "sanctuary" after 2300 days.¹¹

Comparing Scripture with Scripture, Miller concluded that the 2300 days were to be interpreted "years" and that the cleansing of the "sanctuary" was to be associated with the Second Coming; an event, which, according to Miller's calculations, was due to happen "about 1843". To phrase it in his own words: "Finding all the signs of the times and the present condition of the world, to compare harmoniously with the prophetic descriptions of the last days, I was compelled to believe that this world had about reached the limits of the period allotted for its continuance... I was thus brought, in 1818, at the close of my two-year study of the Scriptures, to the solemn conclusion that in about twenty-five years from that time all the affairs of our present State would be wound up... I believe that the second coming of Jesus Christ is near, even at the door, on or before 1843."¹²

For the next thirteen years, Miller cautiously and methodically checked and rechecked his conclusions, becoming more and more convinced that he was correct.

Also growing over those years was the conviction that God was calling him to "Go and tell it to the world."

Being a humble man and a farmer, rather than a scholar or preacher, Miller resisted. But the voice seemed to clamor louder and louder, until one summer morning in 1831, Miller promised God that if he got an invitation to speak publicly he would accept it and present his beliefs about Christ's return. Since it had never happened before, Miller felt safe.

Within thirty minutes the invitation came and Miller, at 49, was launched fearfully, falteringly upon his life's work.¹³

It must have seemed to Miller that God was vindicating his ministry when, two years later, the stars fell. Here was the final proof. The last event recorded under the opening of the sixth seal in the prophecy of Revelation was the falling of the stars. The very next verses described the return of Jesus.¹⁴ Miller's faith was confirmed and strengthened. He was ready for the work of the next ten years.

During those years the movement gained momentum until, near its close, several hundred thousand Millerites, plus an undetermined number of sympathizers, in America alone were looking for the return of Jesus.¹⁵

When October 22, 1844, the date finally settled upon for the return of Jesus, came and went, the shattered remnants of the Millerite movement began to assess their great disappointment. One group of them emerged from the rubble believing that although they had been wrong in their interpretation of the prophecy, and in setting the date, that the "time of the end" had indeed been ushered in, and that Jesus would still come for His faithful children. In the meantime, they later concluded, they had a divine commission from their Saviour, "the everlasting gospel to preach to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."¹⁶

Within two years their study of the Bible led them to conclude that the seventh-day Sabbath was a special sign between God and His people that He had both created and redeemed them, so they began to worship on Saturday instead of on Sunday.¹¹

From these two cornerstones, the Sabbath and the Second Coming of Christ, this emerging religious movement, in 1860, took its name, Seventh-day Adventist.¹⁸

In less than two decades, the new faith was knocking at the door of the Dakota Territory.

Looking back from the viewpoint of a century, we are not surprised that the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church found their way into Dakota. But the church's march across the new territory was unusual. The record reveals that, rather than entering like a growing stream quietly spreading across the state, the church, particularly in the northern portion, virtually exploded into existence all over at once, as if the tracks had already been laid, awaiting only the locomotive.

Indeed, the tracks had been laid. In the fields of religion, agriculture, transportation, and politics during the mid-nineteenth century, could be heard the hammer blows, the laying of the tracks - prophetic harbingers of the birth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Dakota Territory.

11. Daniel 8:14.

12. William Miller, *Apology and Defense*, (Boston: Joshua V. Himes, August, 1845), 9, 11, 12, unfinished manuscript of Miller's creed, handwritten in a small notebook, quoted in Francis D. Nichol, *The Midnight Cry*, (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1944) 38, 39.

13. William Miller, *op. cit.*, 17, 18.

14. Revelation 6:12-17.

15. Thomas A. Bailey, *op. cit.*, 330.

16. Revelation 14:6.

17. C. Mervyn Maxwell, *Tell It To The World*, (Mountain View, California: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1976), 74-94.

18. *Ibid.*, 143-146.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear* : Chapter 2, "The Harbingers" - Part 1 by Robert K. DuPuy

Yankton Church Welcomes New Member

We recently had a very happy event in the Yankton Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ryan Pennock, local resident of Yankton, requested baptism and membership in our church as a result of his spiritual journey.

About a year ago, Brother Pennock began researching biblical truth and found some interesting, new ideas he had not been previously exposed to. As he read his Bible and listened to internet sermons, he was increasingly convicted that major changes were about to come into his experience! Ryan's thirst for the truth and determination to draw closer to God more than he had ever been before guided him along a path that eventually led him to attend Yankton Adventist Church.

As Ryan and I became better acquainted over the last few months, I saw marked evidence that the Holy Spirit had really been affecting huge heart and habit changes. I could see that he really loved Jesus. I could see that he loved the Bible. So, I presented the idea of baptism to the church body and they agreed the fruits of Salvation were evident in his life. Everyone was filled with joy to baptize and welcome him into the family of faith! We are anxious to see how God continues to work in Ryan and affect others around him for eternity! Praise God.



Article by Pr. Roy Morris; photos by Rosie Moeller.

Awaken to Wonder

It's become easy to forget the wonder of the advent. God. Came. Here. The God of all creation took on flesh. What? How is that possible, and what does that even mean? Here is a snippet of what it means:

Jesus the Author of Life dove into His-story.

Jesus the Artisan stepped inside the art He molded.

Jesus the Architect stepped into His very own blueprint.

Jesus the Infinite God became a finite human.

Jesus the King became an endangered refugee infant.

Jesus forsook His home in heaven to take up the shadows of the earth.
Jesus laid down His glorious crown to pick up our dreaded and cursed cross.
Jesus descended from eternity to step into the time that He designed.
Jesus relinquished His robes and took on the flesh of those that He created.
Jesus left behind heavenly air to breathe the very air His breath sustains.

Jesus existed within His very own creation.
Jesus walked beneath the heavens His hands fashioned.
Jesus who held the earth was now confined by the earth that held Him.

This Jesus, this God, did all of this to be with you and me. To save you and me.
Because He could not resist staying away from you and me. Psalms 8:4-5 says,
“When I behold thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which
thou hast fashioned- what is man that you should be mindful of him and the son of
man that you should think of him?”

His thoughts for us are like the grains of sand on all the earth.
The God who sees the universe sees me.
The God who knows where the storehouses of heaven are located knows where I’m
standing.
The God who knows the grandeur of the stars, knows the depths of my heart.
The God who set the universe in motion set me apart.

The God who breathed life into existence gave
breath for me to respond with awe and wonder.
So let us awaken to wonder. Let us return to
wonder. Let us marvel at the wonder of the
advent.



Worship Thoughts by Pr. Ricky Melendez; photo by Damian Markutt on Unsplash

Chickens in Class

Science is the class with the most experiments. This fall, Dakota Adventist Academy's biology students took an experimentation process from start to finish. Students went to the chicken coop, gathered eggs, and chose which ones to incubate. At day 10 and 18 they candled the eggs, allowing them to observe inside, and learned that darker colored eggs make it hard to see how the chicks are developing. All the students anxiously awaited day 21!

The dawning of the 21st day was filled with a mix of excitement and worry. How did the eggs do? How many of the six incubated eggs would hatch? Sure enough, when the eggs were checked that Thursday morning there was a hole and pipping, or breaking through, from one egg! The excitement was contagious! All day students visited the science room as three chicks emerged from their shells.

Now known as Cheeps, Sir Stewart, and Nugget, the chicks spent their first five weeks as members of the science department providing students with entertainment, cuddles, and lots of "cheeping" noises! Everyone is anxious for spring when the class will incubate a few duck eggs.



Article and photos by Tracy Peterson, recruiter.

COVID-19 Message

November 24, 2020: The governor of North Dakota recently signed an Executive Order implementing new mandates in response to increased COVID-19 cases. Although South Dakota's governor has not mandated strategies at this time, it is best for all of our churches to be prepared.

It is important that each church establish and follow a clearly defined process on making decisions that affect the congregation. Regardless of church size, no single individual should make decisions for the entire group:

- The pastor and board of elders should assess their church's specific situation in order to establish appropriate recommendations.
- These initial recommendations are then presented, either to the church board or in church business session, for discussion and vote. A church board meeting is typically easier to assemble on short notice simply due to a more manageable size and should allow for social distancing. Consider holding the meeting by phone or Zoom.
- Inform the church family of the board's decision, including the expected timeline for whatever steps are to be implemented. Communication to members may include emails, calling committee, and letters. Please do not rely solely on social media.

In addition, the Dakota Conference recommends local church leadership implement the following steps to help ensure the health and safety of members:

- All individuals age 5 and above wear masks when indoors.
- Provide easily accessible masks and hand sanitizer.
- Avoid hugs and handshakes.
- Maintain 6-foot distances where possible.
- Usher people out by row to help avoid impromptu social gatherings.
- Refrain from group meals and potlucks.
- Use Zoom for committee meetings if possible.

Please keep this situation in your prayers as we navigate through these challenging times together.

Sioux Falls Church Makes Youth Top Priority

Despite the challenges and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020, the Sioux Falls Adventist Church & School continued to focus on making our facility a welcoming and safe place for children and youth.

After the successful renovation of the Gym, which included new adjustable basketball hoops, a new gym floor and repainted walls, followed by the extreme makeover of the Youth Room, our focus became replacing the aging playground. It has been the place where children play in fresh air and many meaningful conversations have been held. But after decades of surviving storms, high winds, and the creative use of children, the time had come for us to say goodbye to the

faithful playground, which had become quite shaky in its old age.

We wish to extend a huge thank to our church members who donated towards the project, to the volunteers who helped with the annual Summer Fruit Sales, to the supportive Church School board who organized the Annual Fall Festival fundraisers, and to the school students who participated in various other fundraisers, including this summer's sale of locally grown sweet corn sale which was greatly appreciated by the local community.

It is because of everyone's combined efforts and contributions over the years that we've been able to make the future of our children and youth our top priority. Through the various improvements both small and large, we have not only created a welcoming and safe place to play and learn, but we also communicate to the community that whether it's the programs we offer or the facilities we use as a church and school, we always strive to become better while pursuing excellence.



Photos and article by Pr. Dragos Profir; all photos with people were taken prior to 2020.

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



		Case Special	Single Special
CANNED:			
LL Diced Chik	12 13 oz	56.70	5.30
LL Fri Chik	12 12.5 oz	56.70	5.30
LL Vege Burger	12 19 oz	66.80	6.25
LL Vegetable Skallops	12 20 oz	66.80	6.25
LL Vegetarian Burger	12 20 oz	66.80	6.25
FROZEN:			
Dinner Roast	6 2 lb	79.99	13.99
W Rolls	4 4 lb	104.79	29.99
(May mix rolls for a case)			

sale dates: December 1-31, 2020
quantities may be limited

2021 devotional books are now available, [click here](#) for details. Prices are good in person at the Dakota Conference ABC or by phone through the Kansas/Nebraska ABC: 402.488.3395.

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

December -

- 5: Local Church Budget
- 6: Executive Committee - Conference Office & Zoom (9am)
- 12: North American Division - Adventist Community Services (NAD ACS)
- 18: Celebration of Praise - DAA ****Cancelled**
- 19: Central North Dakota Regional - DAA ****Cancelled**
- 19: Local Church Budget
- 20-Jan 3: DAA Home Leave
- 23-31: Conference Office Closed
- 26: Dakota Challenge

January -

- 2: Local Church Budget
- 9: Dakota Challenge
- 13-29: School Winter MAPS testing
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 18-21: Pastors' Meetings - Conference Office

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: www.dakotaadventist.org/events

Blessed & Kept

May you be sustained.

Colossians 1:17 says that Jesus is before all things and through Jesus all things hold together.

Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all of creation.

Just as you were blessed to be creative last week,
May you today be blessed with sustenance.

Just as a good breakfast gives you the physical energy to get through the morning,
May these moments give you the spiritual energy to represent the love of God well.

May you approach your work with vitality.

May you enter the workplace with all of the goodness of the creator and sustainer who desperately believes in you.

May the fullness of the spirit dwell within you and give you peace.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

December 3 Dispatch Photo



Photo of Pierre, South Dakota capitol building by Paulette Bullinger.

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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[!\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)

[!\[\]\(125d701e9425b54c764340b5671b38cd_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

[!\[\]\(21199eb166cc97331a0c54c649195dcc_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)

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