



## Nothing to Fear

**This is the ninth 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 4: A New and Important Field - Part 1**

On August 23, 1883, the exhausted eastbound and westbound rail crews of the Northern Pacific Railway met in Hell Gate Canyon, 55 miles west of Helena, Montana, after fourteen years of intermittent construction and continuous difficulty.

Henry Villard was jubilant.

The German-born journalist, financier, and railroad magnate had taken over the troubled Northern Pacific in 1882, boldly predicting that the remaining 900 miles of mainline, across the mountains of Montana, would be complete within two years.

Now, Villard, a brilliant promoter with a flair for the spectacular, planned a final-spike-driving ceremony to end all final-spike-driving ceremonies. Villard ordered the last thousand feet of the railroad to be left unfinished and had a huge "Last Spike Pavilion" erected at the spot where the rails would eventually meet.

The ceremony was scheduled for September 7, and invitations to attend, at Northern Pacific expense, were sent to titled nobility and V.I.P.'s from Europe, as well as congressmen, senators, ex-presidents, bankers, generals and newspapermen from the United States.

Four "Gold Spike Special" trains, equipped with the most plush cars the Northern Pacific owned, carried the visiting dignitaries across Minnesota, Dakota and Montana, greeted along the way by enthusiastic crowds of well-wishers in towns gaily decked with bunting and flags.

Delayed by a derailment at Bozeman Pass and, in Greenhorn Gulch just beyond Helena, a broken coupling that rammed a section of the first train backwards into-the closely following second one, the four trains arrived a day late on September 8.

A thousand people gathered in the special pavilion and as the Fifth Infantry Regiment band played, the remaining rails were run out on the ties, and the spikes were swiftly hammered into place, until just one remained

to be driven.

Instead of a gold spike, Villard chose the first spike ever driven in the Northern Pacific Railroad, fourteen years earlier at Thomson's Junction, Minnesota. With the driving of the spike, the transcontinental Northern Pacific Railroad was complete from Lake Superior to Puget Sound.<sup>1</sup>

To overestimate the importance of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the populating of North Dakota and in the establishing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the state is scarcely possible.

Cutting lengthwise across the midsection of North Dakota, the Northern Pacific suddenly provided western-bound settlers and freedom bound immigrants with a 350 mile thoroughfare to a new life. Settlers could homestead in the newly opened territory, or, if possessed of some means, could purchase at low prices choice right-of-way lands from the railroad which had received a total of 47,000,000 acres of land grants from the Federal Government.

In addition, a strong military presence including forts, infantry, cavalry and, until Little Big Horn, General George A. Custer, was sent to North Dakota to protect survey and construction crews from the often hostile Sioux. Would-be settlers felt more comfortable, somehow, because of this tangible manifestation of Uncle Sam's presence.

In a brilliant public relations move in 1875, Northern Pacific President George Cass and a director of the company, Mr. Cheney of Boston, purchased a large amount of land in the Red River Valley, west of Fargo. They employed Oliver Dalrymple, a successful Minnesota wheat farmer, to manage the Cass-Cheney Farm, the first of North Dakota's "bonanza" farms. This demonstration of the wheat-producing potential of the country resulted in rapid immigration to the Red River Valley, furnished traffic for the financially troubled railroad and led to the establishment of much-needed markets.

Traveling exhibit cars toured the eastern states, emblazoned in bold headlines with the story of the great Northwest; inside, they contained displays of the wealth and products of Northern Pacific lands in an attempt to lure settlers west.<sup>2</sup>

In Europe nearly a thousand paid Northern Pacific agents were busily involved in "induced colonization", distributing hundreds of thousands of leaflets in various languages extolling the praises of the lands served by the railroad.<sup>3</sup>

On a northerly parallel route through North Dakota, James J. Hill completed his Great Northern Railroad in 1893. He ran agricultural demonstration trains throughout the area and eastward, and imported blooded bulls from Europe to distribute to the farmers.<sup>4</sup>

The eyes of a nation were looking toward North Dakota.

By 1883, the eyes of the Seventh-day Adventist Church were looking toward North Dakota also. Adventist believers had settled in several areas of the territory by that year, and requests for ministerial and evangelistic help had begun to come in to the church's headquarters in Battle Creek.

At the General Conference session of 1883, there was considerable discussion about sending a minister to northern Dakota, but the leaders could not find a man they felt to be suitable for the challenge.<sup>5</sup>

By the next year, nearly 50 Adventists were located at scattered points in the state; calls for ministerial laborers

had multiplied.<sup>6</sup> At the Wisconsin campmeeting the General Conference Committee, under the direction of General Conference President George I. Butler, discussed northern Dakota with George Cidus Tenney, a Wisconsin minister who apparently had experience in beginning work in new areas.

While discussions continued at the Minnesota campmeeting, Tenney accepted the challenge and prepared to become the first Seventh-day Adventist minister to work in the present boundaries of North Dakota.<sup>7</sup>

Although the territory north of the 46th parallel was technically part of the Dakota Conference which had been organized in the southern part of the territory (South Dakota), there were no connecting transportation links between the two areas; in addition, the Dakota Conference was financially weak and unable to bear the expenses of work in the new "missionary field."

Minnesota, on the other hand, was closely linked to northern Dakota by the Northern Pacific Railroad. Transportation for workers as well as books and periodicals was convenient and inexpensive. Minnesota was chosen to parent the North Dakota Mission.

Reporting to the *Review*, Elder Butler expressed confidence that, considering the prosperity of some of the North Dakota Adventists and Tenney's ability, a new, self-sustaining conference would soon develop in this "new and important field."<sup>8</sup>

1. Charles R. Wood, *The Northern Pacific* (Seattle, Washington: Superior Publishing Company, 1968), 23-53.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Thomas A. Bailey, *op. cit.*, 575.

4. *Ibid.*, 523.

5. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 15, 1884, 456.

6. *Ibid.*; December 23, 1884; 812.

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.*; "Minutes of the 23rd Annual Session of the General Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, 1885 (Battle Creek: Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, 1885), 30.

**Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:**

**Chapter 4, "A New and Important Field" - Part 2 by Robert K. DuPuy**

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# DAKOTA CAMP MEETING



# HOPE

JUNE 9-12, 2021

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## Give God Your Worries

We live in a world full of stress and worry and no matter what we do, it doesn't seem to go away. Anyone who takes the time to stop and think about it will likely come to the conclusion that this cannot be how God wanted it to be. We are created as beings who have the ability to feel stressed at times, which tells us that an intelligent creator must have had a reason for this. Stress can motivate us to do the things we need to at times, but an overabundance of stress and anxiety can shorten a person's life span not to mention make life more difficult during the process. Different people handle stress differently; some work harder when stressed while others simply shut down and accomplish nothing, driving the stress and anxiety even higher. So what does the Bible teach us about how to deal with the stress of everyday life?

In Matthew chapter 6 Jesus gives His followers some of the most useful advice in all of scripture. It boils down to the principle that we should live every moment as true followers of Christ.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be

anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV)

So what is this principle? Trust God. In all things, at all times. He knows what we need and He wants to give us those things and so much more. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” If we truly trust in God, and allow Him to be in control of our lives, we do not need to worry or stress. Anxiety has no place in the trusting heart. So what do we do with the stress and anxiety we carry? “Cast all your cares on Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Make the decision today to allow God to take care of your worries.

*Worship Thoughts by Pr. Justin Walker, associate pastor of the Cleveland / Edgeley / Jamestown / New Home church district.*



**DAKOTA CONFERENCE**  
**26TH ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT**  
dakotaadventist.org

**A SON OF THE FATHER**  
MARCH 12-14, 2021

**SPEAKERS:**  
Jony Hajaj  
Larry Priest  
Mark Weir

**ROUGH RIDER HOTEL**  
301 3RD AVENUE  
MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA

PHOTO BY CHRYSAL RITTENBACH

To view the online brochure and register for the event, visit:

[dakotaadventist.org](http://dakotaadventist.org) > ministries > men's ministries

Early bird prices end on February 28, 2021.

## Looking Forward to Spring

This time of year both crawls and races by - depending on your perspective! Dakota Adventist Academy students and staff have had so much going on, and yet, it seems like time is passing slowly. It is that time of year, the pre-spring doldrums.

Recently four students competed for DAA in Poetry Out Loud: Caleb Tachenko, Ana McCarthy, Elissa Millerans, and Skylar Longtin. This year school winners will not compete in front of a crowded amphitheater and will instead submit a video. Skylar Longtin won the school competition and has submitted three poems for the State Poetry Out Loud competition.

Biology often has some fun labs for the sophomores to do, this week was the annual DNA extraction lab. A cheek swab, a little saliva, some solution and spinning is all that is needed to gather enough DNA to be placed in a vile for the students to keep. A more comprehensive write up about this is found on Facebook, [click here to go directly to DAA's Facebook page](#).

So, yes, this time of year tends to crawl, but we are certainly trying to keep students active in ways that distract from the pace of life and look forward to all that is coming in the spring.



*Pictured Above:*

*Kylie Krein, Ronite Owusu-Ansah,  
Tasian Subigca, & Michael Saine*

## DNA EXTRACTION IN BIOLOGY CLASS

*Pictured Below:*

*English teacher, Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams &  
DAA in-house winner, Skylar Longtin*

## POETRY OUT LOUD



*Article & Poetry Out Loud photo by Tracy Peterson, recruiter. Biology photo by Pam Fenton, science teacher.*

## Rapid City Church Food Pantry

It was the middle of March 2020 when news arrived that worship services and activities would be cancelled. The school year would have to be finished on Zoom due to COVID-19. We were all unsure about what was happening, and the information given was sketchy at best. The church would have to be closed, what a shock it was that these events were happening so fast. We had to think of creative ways to keep our members informed.

Pastor Darren Purdy and Adventist Community Services (ACS) would be working to find ways to stay connected with our church members and we were forced to learn how to stream worship services to keep everyone edified.

I continued to quietly work in our food pantry and give food to whomever was in need. As the days went on, I noticed that we were seeing more clients all the time and begun to have concerns whether the food in our small closet would hold out. We were a small food pantry and could only help two to three families a month. By the end of March, we averaged around two to three families a week and donations were down because church services were cancelled, and food was not being dropped off.

In April, we received word the North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services (ACS) was offering local conferences a chance to apply for grants to help out church food pantries. Our team got excited until the realization hit that we were competing with larger cities and may not have a chance.

We continued to pray and quietly work with what was on hand. Then Pastor Bob Forbes, Dakota Conference ACS Director, informed us he had summited an application for the grant, and our church was approved. We praised God and gave thanks for His goodness. \$3,000 was received and needed to be spent immediately. That presented a challenge as to how the church was going to source food because we were limited in how much could be bought at one time. The local food bank was not an option because they had their own issues receiving

food to give their clients. Our ACS team needed a place to store the food since we only had a small closet. Again, we went on our knees in prayer. Our Lord always makes a way! We were temporarily able to use another room in the church for the overflow. Praises and thanksgiving were given to God.

The Lord then opened another door for us. We would be moving to our new school/church building in July and Pastor Purdy showed us the room designated for the pantry and ACS office. It was all we could have hoped for and more! The room was much bigger, which allowed us to stock more food and help even more people. I informed Pastor Bob we had spent all the grant money and he said there was even more money he could send - an additional \$3,000! We were so thankful and full of praise for God. I continued to be concerned about how we were going to spend it all in the allotted time, but God opened a way.

Since this pandemic started we have seen all kinds of people: large families, small families, single moms with little ones, individuals laid off from their job, and elderly people. We have ministered to young people who have never been in this situation before. A couple of young girls came to our door in tears asking for food and personal care supplies. They were afraid and did not know if they would be able to pay rent and utilities. One single mom stopped in just needing someone to talk with. Many were afraid and unsure of what would happen next. They were afraid for their children and how to feed them. Our church has been spreading hope and just talking with many of these families. One woman came in who thought she had no hope. She had been laid off from her job where she earned good money. She did not think she could go on like this for much longer, not able to buy food or pay her rent. She kept saying "I just don't know what to do!"

Most of the people who come through our doors are poor to begin with. When the local food bank could not get volunteers due to the virus and had to close, the little churches had to fill in the gaps. Since schools were closed there were no lunches for the students, parents were unsure how they would be able to feed their children. Due to the crowds or inability to get to the grocery store, many retirees came to our food pantry. We also helped many within our church family. I talk about the folks that come to our pantry because there have been many - young, old, poor, and well-off people but they all have the same things in common; they are afraid and looking for someone who understands and will listen to them. They are looking for hope.

Our church has learned a lot about people's needs and found that the love Jesus shows to everyone is the same yesterday, today and forever! We realize we cannot do this without Jesus and the Holy Spirit leading and showing us who needs us - they have brought the people to us. Praise God for His many blessings!



Article and photos by Ann Hanel, Rapid City Church Adventist Community Services' Director.

# WONDER

2021

## FLAG MOUNTAIN

cub camp, ages 8-10 | June 16-20 | \$200  
 junior camp, ages 11-13 | June 20-27 | \$275  
 teen retreat, ages 14-17 | June 27-July 4 | \$275

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

cub camp, ages 8-10 | July 14-18 | \$200  
 junior camp, ages 11-13 | July 18-25 | \$275  
 teen retreat, ages 14-17 | July 25-Aug 1 | \$275  
 family camp | Aug 5-8 | price varies per family

Registration is currently open and will close for the 2021 camp season on June 9.

Make plans now to register your child!

[dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps](http://dakotayouthandyoungadults.org/camps)



# 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**

## 2021 Regional Meetings

**Theme: All In**

### **Northwest Regional in Dickinson: March 27**

Participating Churches: Bison, Bowman, Beulah, Invitation Hill, Richardton, Watford City, & Williston

### **Northeast Regional in Fargo: April 17**

Participating Churches: Fargo, Grand Forks, Red River, & Wahpeton

### **What to look forward to:**

Sabbath School  
Church  
Potluck Lunch  
Afternoon Seminar Sessions on Church Life  
Supper

## Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

### February -

- 27: **Dakota Challenge**
- 27: Mid-America Union Pathfinder Bible Experience

### March -

- 4: Dakotans Pray
- 6: Women's Day of Prayer
- 6: **Local Church Budget**
- 7: K-12 Board of Education at the Conference Office
- 12-14: Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 13: **Adventist World Radio**
- 19-20: Global Youth Get-together Weekend in Fargo, ND
- 21: Executive Committee at the Conference Office
- 17: Deadline to register for MAUC Church Ministries Convention
- 20: **Local Church Budget**
- 25-28: MAUC Church Ministries Convention - Virtual
- 27: Northwest Regional in Dickinson, ND
- 27: **Dakota Challenge**

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference

## Blessed & Kept

May you experience creativity.

Creativity does not have to mean artistry.  
Nor does artistry have to mean painting or music.

May your mind be opened to new possibilities.  
May you think differently about the problems that vexed you yesterday.  
May you discover a longing to bring something new.

Be fruitful and multiply.

You were created to create.  
When your mind concocts fresh ideas, when you put words on a page, when you find novel solutions, when you imagine original melodies, when you craft unfamiliar images, when you travel unknown paths  
You are fulfilling one of the most basic impulses and callings of humanity.

May you be fully human.  
May you tap into the creative energy that made the whole world.  
May the spirit flow through you as your world is re-created to be more just, more beautiful, more good.  
May you take the hand of God as you along with the world around you is reformed and reconstituted to its original essence.

It is very good.

*Written by Casey Bartlett.*

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

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## February 25 Dispatch Photo



*Photo taken 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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- [!\[\]\(0012cbbec5c5a1cf6c111135ad58ebc0\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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