

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the thirteenth 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 5: The Work is Onward - Part 3

By the end of 1891 Andrew Mead had taken charge of the North Dakota Mission. After getting settled, Mead embarked on a visitation program among the churches and isolated groups of believers. He mentions visiting believers at Hankinson (Richland County), Stiles, Forman, Milnor (Sargent County), and Lisbon (30). With the exception of Lisbon, it is doubtful that these were organized churches; more likely, they were small groups of church members not yet ready for organization (31).

At a general meeting in Fargo, July 8-11, 1892, according to Minnesota Conference President A.J. Breed, "Steps were taken to build a house of worship" in Fargo (32).

Through the years a friendly controversy has raged over who built the first Seventh-day Adventist church in North Dakota, Fargo or Manfred (Fessenden).

Since Elder Breed's comment probably antedates the beginning of the Manfred church, the documentary evidence would seem to be on the side of Fargo. Recollections of Fargo church members corroborate the 1892 starting date, and the fact that Elder Meade, on his travels among the churches and scattered believers solicited funds for the building of the headquarters church.

But in the May 12, 1896, *Review*, J.F. Gravelle reported that on April 26 in Fargo, "a liberal donation was made to finish the church." How long after this the Fargo church on Fourth Avenue North, between 11th and 12th Streets, was completed or if it was occupied for some time while being completed, as was often the case, we do not know.

A report in the *Northern Union Reaper* of September 2, 1919, telling of plans for a new Fargo church says that the old building served the congregation "for twenty-five years." Although this could be used as a round figure, it

could date the occupancy of the Fargo church to as early as 1894.

The date of the occupancy of the first church at Manfred is similarly difficult to ascertain precisely. The oldest surviving member of the Manfred church (at the time of this writing), Mrs. Alex Miller, remembers being told that the church began to be built in the year of her birth, 1894.

A much later retelling of the history of Manfred, in 1953, gives the year as 1895. If the rest of the information given in this account is accurate, it and other correlating evidence would seem to point to 1895 as the earliest possible date.

The account states that H.F. Graf was sent to the “newly formed community” of Fessenden (or perhaps Manfred) to instruct the settlers in Adventist beliefs.

Both Manfred and Fessenden townsites were platted in 1893, the year the Soo Line railroad reached the area. Fessenden’s post office was established November 23, 1893 and Manfred’s May 3, 1894.

The first fruits of Graf’s labor were “twenty adults and their families.” These in turn witnessed to others until the group had grown so large that there was not a home big enough in which to meet for services. At this point, a site five miles south of Manfred was donated by charter member John Schmidt, and the mud-brick church was constructed.

If Graf came early in 1893 and all the following events transpired rapidly, it is theoretically possible that the church construction could have begun in the spring of 1894 (Mrs. Alex Miller’s recollection), but it hardly seems likely. With Graf arriving in 1893, a church organization of 1894 and a construction date of 1895 seems more plausible and is supported by a still later history of the church prepared for rededicatory services in 1958.

A family Bible in the possession of Willie Patzer of Harvey whose family record page was based on the recollection of his mother, Marie Schmidt Patzer, indicates that her wedding, on May 18, 1897, to Michael Patzer was the first wedding in the mud-brick church at Manfred which, according to Mrs. Patzer, was built in 1895.

Since the documentary evidence is divided and inconclusive, it appears that in this instance, the historian must defer to the diplomat and observe that it is too close to call, that the first Seventh-day Adventist churches built in North Dakota were at Fargo and Manfred (33).

We do have, however, a most thorough description of that first Manfred church based on the reminiscences of Mrs. Alex Miller:

“It was built of mud bricks. To make these bricks they used gumbo (clay) soil mixed with straw and hay to hold it together, poured into ten-inch by six-inch forms, about six inches high. (The bricks) were left standing in these forms to harden enough to handle and to hold their shape, then turned over and taken out, laid side by side in the sun and wind to dry.

“To build, these blocks were used like brick blocks, but instead of putting cement in between, they would mix... soil until smooth to hold these bricks together.

“The roof and gables were of lumber and the roof was shingled.

“The outside was whitewashed, bluing was added to give it a... fancy look. After a heavy rain it would wash off, so another coat was applied. The same was done to the inside. The floor was of six-inch-wide boards painted (with) orange floor paint. The pews and pulpit were painted the same. Kerosene lamps were hung on the walls to provide light for the worshippers. Philip Kunz did most of the carpentering. He was very good considering.”

30. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, June 14, 1982, 382.

31. The early records are notorious for speaking of “a little company”, which could be a group of isolated believers, an organized company, or even a fully organized church, but later records give no support to the notion that these were organized churches with the possible exception of Hankinson (See Chapter 7).

32. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald August 23, 1892, 540.

33. Ibid., May 12, 1896, 299; Northern Union Reaper, September 2, 1919, 2; Northern Union Outlook, April 14, 1953, 7; Histories of the Manfred and Fargo churches, prepared from church records and recollections of older members; Mary Ann Barnes Williams, *Origins of North Dakota Place Names* (Washburn, North Dakota: By the Author, 1966), 341, 342.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 5, "The Work is Onward" - Part 4 by Robert K. DuPuy

Called to Wonder

We have fallen for the lie that everything in this world can be explained. Thus, our ability to wonder after the mystery of God is all but gone from our modernized minds.

We have to realize that the world learns for knowledge, but Christians are called to learn to revere; to wonder. Yet, there is no education on how to wonder after God. We teach children how to add, subtract, divide and multiply but we have failed to teach our children how to revere, to sense the awe and wonder of God. To look unto Christ through His glory and splendor.

Our joy in the Lord and in life lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living. That life without wonder is a life void of excitement and thrill. The biblical man expands on this idea.

Biblical characters consistently face “the great things and unsearchable, the wondrous things without number” (Job 5:9). It is no different for us in the here and now. The God of the universe is constantly reaching out through space and time, through nature and history; through the mundane and through the uncommon.

God wants to evoke a sense of radical amazement in us that fills us with overwhelming awe and wonder.

For followers of Christ, wonder begins and ends with Jesus. His life, death, and resurrection are the sum total of not just the biblical narrative, but human existence. Nothing inspires awe like He does. Our Jesus walked on water. He healed the sick. He opened the eyes of the blind in spirit and in flesh. He loved radically. He defeated sin and death. He rose from the clutch of the grave. He reconciled the world to Himself. He restores our souls. He saved us.

So like the biblical man, “I will give thanks unto thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wondrous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth exceedingly” (Psalms 139:14).

“Who is like thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, majestic in holiness, sublime in glorious deeds, doing wonders” (Exodus 15:11).

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Ricky Melendez, Dakota Conference youth & young adult co-director. Worship thought concept was taken from the book "God in Search of Man" by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Dakota Campmeeting

A photograph of a single yellow flower with green leaves growing from a crack in a concrete or asphalt surface. The background is a blurred, light-colored ground.

HOPE

JUNE 9-12, 2021

FEATURED SPEAKERS:
RICHIE & TIMI BROWER
RON CARLSON
ED DICKERSON
CHRIS HOLLAND

WITH MUSIC GROUP:
THE EMMANUEL QUARTET

Register online at: www.dakotaadventist.org

Biographies and photos of the 2021 Campmeeting speakers are in the process of being posted to our website.

Women's Friendship Tea in Grand Forks

Sabbath afternoon, February 27, the ladies of the Grand Forks Seventh-day Adventist church enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship. The event was sponsored by the Women's Ministries committee and was a collaborative event. One lady brought tea pots and doilies from her collection, and vintage reading books from the school were added to the table. Fresh baked cookies and fruit were served as light refreshments.

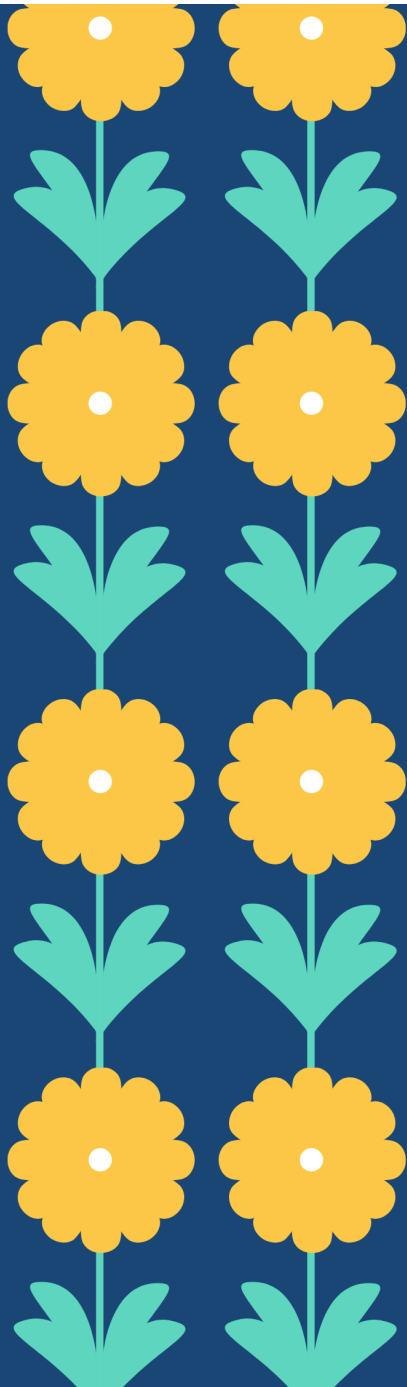
The event started with a few praise songs, then a devotional of Proverbs 16:24, and then each lady shared something. Little known facts, stories about their childhood, tales of meeting a spouse, stories about faith, and more was shared around the table.

After so much time spent apart or without fun social events, the ladies were happy to have this time of fellowship,

in fact, so many came in attendance that extra tables were added to accommodate all. The final count was 23 ladies and girls at the tea party. Future Sabbath afternoon events are already being planned for the spring and summer.



Article and photos submitted by Jen Erickson, member of the Grand Forks Seventh-day Adventist Church in North Dakota.



TO ALL THE TEACHERS IN
THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE TO YOUR STUDENTS,
AND FOR SHOWING THEM A
PICTURE OF CHRIST.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK:
MAY 3-7, 2021

Radio 74 Broadcasts Local Pastor

Bismarck's local Radio 74 stations' board has recently discovered an opportunity to air local productions (i.e., music, sermons, devotionals) at no extra cost. Pastor Harold Chin, senior pastor of the Mandan / McClusky / Goodrich / Turtle Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church district was asked to produce a weekly audio devotional, called "Where Two are Gathered", based on his blog of the same name. He has already aired three inspirational messages, since the first week of April.

This program airs every Thursday on Bismarck's 95.3 FM and 106.7 FM at 12 NOON and 6:44 PM, typically lasting 10-15 minutes.

For those outside of Bismarck, Pastor Chin has also made his messages available as a podcast of the same name. It is available on Spotify and Google Podcasts. This is a great way to share with your family and friends!

You will always be treated to refreshing spiritual perspectives and uplifting music by Pastor Chin and other local musicians. Stay tuned for added air dates as plans are being made to air on Sabbaths as well. The time is yet to be determined.



Join our host Pastor Harold Chin for a new radio devotional where we search the Bible and find that God was always there.

LISTEN ON LOCAL RADIO 106.7 FM & 95.3 FM, Thursdays at 12 NOON and 6:44 PM

NOW AVAILABLE AS A PODCAST

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

LISTEN ON Spotify

Listen on Google Podcasts

Submitted by Charles Metz, member of the Mandan Adventist Church in North Dakota.

Youth & Young Adults

Hello Dakota Family!

Camp is right around the corner and we can't wait to see all of your kiddos present and accounted for! Summer camp is one of, if not, the best ministry our denomination has for youth. We want every child in the Dakota Conference to have the opportunity to attend such a life-changing event. Please let us know if you need help registering or help to afford camp by emailing us at: dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com .

Here are some important dates and nuggets of information you need to know as the summer draws near:

1. Registration is still open! Please continue to register your children for camp!
2. Registration deadline is June 9, 2021, at 11:59 pm for ALL camps. Please make sure your campers are registered by then!
3. We are expecting to have a waitlist for camp this year. The sooner you register, the better the odds your child will attend camp this year.
4. Flag Mountain Camp and Northern Lights Camp dates and prices are posted on the graphic below.

DAKOTA ADVENTIST CAMPS

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

WONDER
2021

DAKOTAYOUTHANDYOUNGADULTS.ORG



Message from Ricky & Brooke Melendez, Dakota Conference camp directors.

Revelation of Love

Seventeen days, twenty-one meetings, and Revelation of Love has come to an end... or is it just the beginning? The Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church began the Revelation of Love seminar with David Machado on March 27 and concluded on April 17. Numbers were small and somewhat discouraging the first night but someone said, "Remember, God's math is different than ours."

The numbers continued to climb. The last meetings were the largest with 65 in attendance on Sabbath morning and 73 in the afternoon. The Lord really blessed the church and people with revival in the congregation. Three people committed to baptisms with further Bible studies, with one or two more desiring more study in the Word. One individual was re-baptized on the last Sabbath, and many others recommitted their lives. Small group ministry is planned in the immediate future along with Bible studies and plans are in process for the next evangelistic meetings.

Christ said, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men into me" (John 12:32).



Article by Pr. Sam Thomas, pastor of the Custer / Hot Springs church district in South Dakota. Photo by David Machado.

NEXT LEVEL HEALTH is coming April 23-29, at 7:00pm CST nightly on LifeTalk Radio. Medical experts help you to boost your immune system, increase energy, reach peak mental performance, improve relationships, and more. Learn practical ways to achieve optimal physical, mental and spiritual health. The series is hosted by Pastor John Bradshaw of It Is Written. Listen on the free LifeTalk Radio mobile app, on smart home speakers, Roku, or online at www.LifeTalk.net and tap on Listen Live.

Get more out of life TODAY!



APRIL 23-29

NIGHTLY
8 PM EASTERN

A NEW
HEALTH SEMINAR

HOSTED BY **JOHN BRADSHAW**

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.

April -

- 23-25: Academy Days at DAA
- 24: **Dakota Challenge**

May -

- 1: Prayer Conference at DAA
- 1: **Local Church Budget**
- 2: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10am)
- 2-4: New in Ministry Meetings for pastors at Conference Office
- 3-7: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 6: Dakotans Pray (7pm)
- 8: **Disaster/Famine Relief**
- 15: **Local Church Budget**
- 20: Brentwood 8th Grade Graduation (Bismarck Church - 6:30pm)
- 21-23: Graduation Weekend at DAA

- [22: Dakota Challenge](#)
- 22: Prairie Voyager 8th Grade Graduation (11am)
- 26: Invitation Hill 8th Grade Graduation (6:30pm)
- 26: Hillcrest 8th Grade Graduation (7pm)
- 27: Rapid City 8th Grade Graduation (6pm)
- [29: Camp Development](#)
- 29: Sioux Falls 8th Grade Graduation (11am)

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

Blessed & Kept

May you experience provision.

How many times have you been given something and even though you were completely unaware of it before, it was exactly what you needed?

May the goodness of God provide for you today exactly what you need.

May your eyes be open to see the hand of God that provides it for you.

May your hands be open to receive it.

It can be so easy for the trifles of the day to occupy our attention, to fill our hands with occupation so that they can not grab hold of anything else.

May the trifles of the day be held loosely.

May you hold them with open hands on outstretched arms ready to be lifted away by one who would carry your burdens with you.

May the day be filled with investigation for the daily bread God is offering you.

May you find it and be satisfied.

For though you were not aware of it, this bread is exactly what you need.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

April 22 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Charlie O'Hare of Bear Butte north of Sturgis, South 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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- [!\[\]\(78688513da7a924039ac16e546d7bf8b_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(508a1136d49b79584e89f03b586dfa9e_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(857a1917d2813fe7f9df1c2d3a9286e1_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
- [!\[\]\(6c12030baa33d7760a5e4c7c9e008d93_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

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