

# DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



## Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-first 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 7: To the Lord be all the Praise - Part 2

Late in 1881, the foreign nationalities in South Dakota received attention as Martin Olsen met with the Swan Lake church and conducted evangelistic services among the Scandinavians at Turkey Creek (Yankton County), and L.R. Conradi arrived at Parker in November to begin work among the German-Russians.<sup>12</sup>

Besides the organization of the first two German churches, the year 1882 saw several new territories entered by Adventist ministers and laymen. D.T. Biggs preached in Cameron (McCook County) in January, apparently succeeding in establishing a small group of Sabbath-keepers, and Martin Olsen found three families willing "to obey the truth" among the Scandinavians at Brookings.

Conference President Whitney and his successor O.A. Olsen (who took office later in the year) spent much of their time working with the existing churches.<sup>13</sup>

During the next seven years, Adventist evangelism in South Dakota experienced a heyday that has never, in the history of Adventism in the state, been surpassed.

In addition to successfully organizing the Immanuel Creek church in 1883, L.R. Conradi worked among the Germans near Tyndall, bringing four families of Sabbath-keepers "in full harmony with us". A tract society was formed and Conradi expressed hope of returning soon to organize a church. Apparently this did not take place.<sup>14</sup>

From Childstown (Turner County) the same year, Conradi reported some success, even though "some of the peace-loving Mennonites were bitter enough to cut my buggy top from one end to the other." In 1886 A.D. Olsen organized a church of fifteen members at Childstown. S.B. Whitney conducted evangelistic crusades during 1883 at Milbank, where a Sabbath School of more than twenty members was organized, and, with Martin Olsen, at Dell Rapids (Minnehaha County).<sup>16</sup>

After visiting the Dell Rapids tent meeting and a similar effort by his brother A.D. Olsen at Howard City (Miner County), O.A. Olsen spent a few days in August with the church at Madison. While at Madison, Olsen conducted a Sunday meeting at the nearby Kellogg school house, where he met a company of Sabbath-keepers from Lake Badus, who had begun holding weekly services as early as 1873. By the time of the fifth annual conference session in 1884, the Badus church had been organized from among this group.<sup>17</sup>

The reports of 1883 also sound a note of profound sadness for the young conference; lay evangelist D.T. Biggs, one of the first South Dakotans to become a Seventh-day Adventist, died early in the year.<sup>18</sup>

In addition to Badus, the Dakota Conference, at its 1884 session, admitted to its roster of churches the newly organized group at Belford, where Marcus Stremann, O.A. Frederickson, James Houseman, and Martin Olsen employed a combination of colporteur work, preaching, personal visitation and nurture, and a series of debates with the local Lutheran minister to generate interest in the new faith.<sup>19</sup>

Also, during the conference session held in connection with camp meeting at Madison in July, A.D. Olsen replaced his brother O.A. as president. S.B. Whitney was chosen as secretary and N.P. Nelson was elected treasurer of the conference. The delegates also voted to erect a depository for the tract society, a site for which was later chosen at Vilas.<sup>20</sup>

During his first year in office the new conference president, taking time whenever the growing administrative duties of the expanding conference would permit, visited the existing churches and scattered groups of believers, and actively involved himself in evangelism at Spring Lake (Lake County), where a church was organized by 1886, at Brookings where a tract society was formed and at Vilas where Olsen organized a church of seventeen members in early October. Olsen also mentioned visiting the "church" at Iroquois, of whose beginnings we have no other record.<sup>21</sup>

S.B. Whitney, M.M. Ruitter and Marcus Stremann spent six weeks during the summer and fall of 1884 at Huron (Beadle County), a community, according to Whitney, "equally divided between fashionable church members and skeptics" but were able to find "six or seven" people who "decided to keep the Sabbath."<sup>22</sup>

12. *Ibid.*, December 13, 1881, 378.

13. *Ibid.*, January 31, 1882, 74; February 14, 1882, 107; January 2, 1883, 13; May 30, 1882, 347; January 10, 1882, 27; April 18, 1882, 251; October 24, 1882, 666; November 28, 1882, 747.

14. *Ibid.*, April 17, 1883, 250; February 13, 1883, 107; March 20, 1883, 188.

15. *Ibid.*, April 10, 1883, 236; May 25, 1886, 312.

16. *Ibid.*, January 2, 1883, 13; March 20, 1883, 188; September 4, 1883, 572.

17. *Ibid.*, September 4, 1883, 572; July 29, 1884, 493.

18. *Ibid.*, February 13, 1883, 108.

19. *Ibid.*, July 29, 1884, 493; January 1, 1884, 8; June 10, 1884, 380.

20. *Ibid.*, July 29, 1884, 493; September 9, 1884, 589.

21. *Ibid.*, September 9, 1884, 589; October 28, 1884, 685; August 10, 1886, 509.

22. *Ibid.*, August 12, 1884, 524; September 23, 1884, 621.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 7, "To the Lord be all the Praise" - Part 3 by Robert K. DuPuy

If you are a new subscriber or have missed the earlier installments, you can find all issues of the Dakota Dispatch on our website: <https://www.dakotaadventist.org/communiques/dakota-dispatch>

The first installment of *Nothing to Fear* starts in the October 22, 2020 issue.

# 33rd Annual Dakota Conference Women's Retreat

**When:** September 24-26, 2021

**Where:** Mandan, North Dakota

**Speaker:** Suzie Sendros

For more information and to register use the QR code:



Registration is open for the 2021 Dakota Conference Women's Retreat. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.dakotaadventist.org/.../womens.../womens-retreat>

## Give It to God

A beach near Perranporth, Cornwall (in Great Britain) is unlike any other stretch of coast in the world. Not for its breakers or sand, but for what washes up in the surf: Tens of thousands of toy Lego bricks.

Back in 1997, a shipping container filled with millions of Lego pieces went under the waves off the coast. As a result, 62 containers onboard the ship went overboard, and one of those containers had nearly 4.8 million pieces of Lego bound for New York.

No-one knows exactly what happened next, or even what was in the other 61 containers, but Lego pieces started washing up in both the north and south coasts of Cornwall.

In a quirky twist, many of the Lego items were nautical-themed, so locals and tourists alike have found miniature cutlasses, flippers, spear guns, seagrass, and scuba gear as well as dragons.

A U.S. oceanographer named Curtis Ebbesmeyer, who studies ocean currents and has been studying the story

of the Lego pieces on the coast of Cornwall, offered a simple lesson. He said,

The most profound lesson I've learned from the Lego story, is that things that go to the bottom of the sea don't always stay there... They can be carried around the world, seemingly randomly, but subject to the planet's currents and tides. The incident is a perfect example of how even when inside a steel container, sunken items don't stay sunken.

Many of us have attempted to bury our past sins and mistakes with pretending that they never happened, not talking about them, or just merely hoping that they never surface.

The very best way to deal with it, is to let God have it once and for all... and to reconcile the fact that there are some things that you cannot "un-do" no matter how much you would wish to.

God is faithful to deal with those past hurts in a way that brings healing and closure through His grace and mercy.

Have you given God your past mistakes, and allowed Him to be in control of everything? It's the only sure way of dealing with it permanently.

To subscribe to The Open Word, a daily e-devotional by Pastor Mike, click [here](#).

*Worship Thoughts by Pr. Mike Temple, pastor of the Grand Forks church in North Dakota. Reprinted with permission.*

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BRENTWOOD  
ADVENTIST  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

FIRST  
DAY OF  
SCHOOL



97° HEAT  
DOESN'T STOP  
TOUGH  
DAKOTA  
STUDENTS  
FROM HAVING  
OUTDOOR  
RECESS.

*Photos submitted by Ron Reese, teacher at Brentwood. Photo of students with teachers taken by Traci Thingvold.*

## Wonder at Flag Mountain Camp

What do you do when you are invited to summer camp? Obviously, you say yes! I had the wonderful opportunity to spend a few weeks this summer at Flag Mountain camp for Junior camp and Teen Retreat. Having never been to the camp before, my chief concern was getting lost. When I did arrive, I noticed two things: I had no cell reception (which turned into a blessing), and the raw beauty of the camp. Tucked away in the Black Hills near Hill City, SD, Flag Mountain camp is the perfect blend of solitude and serenity. The pine trees, the rocky paths, and the stream running through the camp offer a stark contrast from the prairie landscape known to many of us in the Dakotas. But the landscape was not the only wonderful thing I experienced at camp.

From the moment I arrived I could tell it was going to be a fun week. The directors and staff were excited and helpful when campers arrived and the campers themselves were full of energy and ready to play. The entire week was full of fun activities like rappelling/rock climbing, archery, biking, crafts, baking, and paddle boarding/tubing. My favorite activity was recreation time in the evening playing games like capture the flag, ultimate frisbee, and Mighty-Mighty-Scoop-Noodle-Challenge (keep an eye on the kayak)!

While everyone (including myself) enjoyed the daily activities, the most impactful moments during camp were

during nightly worship. Every night the campers and staff would sing their hearts out. I learned that it's not really worship at Flag Mountain if you still have a voice by the end of the night. The theme of camp this year was Wonder, and each night Pastor Ricky shared a message about rediscovering the wonder of God's love, His forgiveness, and His power to transform us. It was amazing to see the Holy Spirit use the camp staff to reach these young people.

Camp at Flag Mountain was amazing. Personally, I enjoyed my time at that beautiful camp, seeing the wonder of an awesome God moving and working in an incredible group of dedicated camp staff to minister to the wonderful youth of the Dakotas. It reminded me that God is still working in our camps and youth ministries. It reminded me that even us adults can return to wonder.

*Article by Pr. David Werner, pastor of the Bison / Bowman / Dickinson church district in South & North Dakota.*

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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.

### September -

- 11: World Budget
- 12: SE Adventist Community Services (ACS) Federation Meeting in Huron, SD (10am)
- 12: Mid-America Union Constituency Meeting in Lincoln, NE (3pm)
- 13: NE ACS Federation Meeting in Jamestown, ND (10am)
- 13-16: Dakota Conference Outdoor School \*CANCELLED
- 14: NW ACS Federation Meeting in Bowman, ND (10am)
- 15-19: DAA Homeleave
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 19: SW ACS Federation Meeting in Rapid City (10am)
- 23-26: Women's Retreat in Mandan, ND
- 25: Dakota Challenge
- 26: Executive Committee at Conference Office

### October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 1-2: DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend at Dakota Adventist Academy
- 2: Local Church Budget

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: [www.dakotaadventist.org/events](http://www.dakotaadventist.org/events)

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# Blessed & Kept

## A Special Blessing for Returning to School

May your success this school year be more than grades and test scores.

May more than report cards occupy the refrigerator door.

May you strive to acquire more than mere knowledge.

May you strive for new understandings of the Kingdom of God.

May you leap at opportunities for experiences that will shape you.

May you connect more even if it means you study less.

May you focus less on what you do, what you say, what you wear.

May your energy instead center on who you are, and who Jesus declares you to be.

You are a child of God.

*Written by Casey Bartlett.*

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

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## September 9 Dispatch Photo



*Photo taken by Cindy Miller at Theodore National Park - North Unit, 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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- [!\[\]\(632b91ede65784e1fc241c52ebe20c23\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)



[!\[\]\(a3ea015cc5581cad732d1eb81613fe7b\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

[!\[\]\(c8d96c8885d3000a912c2582004aed63\_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)

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