

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-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 7: To the Lord be all the Praise - Part 4

New churches organized, or at least initially reported in 1886 include: Brookings, Spring Lake, Clark, Lake Byron - where a church of thirteen was organized following tent meetings on the shore of the lake, Ellsworth (Clark County), Lakeside (maybe another name for the Lake Byron church), and Hartford (Minnehaha County).³³

W.B. White also reported from Webster (Day County), where brethren Chaffee and Newcombe are holding a tent meeting ,”that he anticipated the organization of a church at that place also.”³⁴

In addition, evangelistic work was done at DeSmet (Kingsbury County) by G.H. Smith, M.M. Ruiter, A.H. Smith, S.E. Andrews, and N. Gilbert; at Roslyn (Day County), where a group of Sabbath-keepers already existed; by Marcus Stremann and J.C. Mikkelsen; at Taopi (Minnehaha County) by George Smith and C.P. Frederickson, and at Arlington (Kingsbury County) where George Smith and M.M. Ruiter found excellent interest during their brief evangelistic series. “Twelve, all heads of families,” reported Smith, “have signed the covenant... and last night seven or eight more signified their intention to obey God.”³⁵

Near the end of 1886, the city mission was moved from Huron to Mitchell in preparation for the following year's camp meeting.³⁶

By March of 1887, A.D. Olsen reported that “six have begun to keep the Sabbath, and others are on the point of decision” as a result of the efforts of the city mission workers at Mitchell. Continuing follow-up at Huron, noted Olsen, had resulted in a similar number of converts. The Huron church with a charter membership of ten was organized later that same month.³⁷

Evangelist George H. Smith had a productive year in 1887, organizing churches at Watertown, where tent

meetings more than a year earlier had resulted in the formation of a small Sabbath School, and at Cresbard (Faulk County), near Northville, where several people had become Sabbath-keepers as a result of literature and visits from lay members of "T and M" Societies.³⁸

Smith also worked at Helmick (Hand County) breathing new life into a discouraged company that had discontinued regular meetings, continued his earlier work at Arlington, finding several new converts and organizing a tract society of nine members, followed up interest generated by literature evangelists at Aberdeen (Brown County) where four persons "began to observe the Sabbath", and visited scattered believers at Bushnell (Brookings County).³⁹

Camp meeting at Mitchell was attended by about 450 Dakota Adventists, some of whom traveled up to 200 miles by horse and wagon in order to catch trains to Mitchell hundreds of miles further.⁴⁰

At the conference session held in connection with camp meeting, the church at Rapid City (Pennington County) in the Black Hills was admitted to the conference and a resolution was passed to "send a minister with his family to the Black Hills, to build up and strengthen the work already begun there, and, if possible, send one or two Bible Workers with him."⁴¹

The minister chosen for this assignment was the successful evangelist George Smith who arrived at Rapid City on July 19, visited places where B.J. Cady had worked in the spring (possibly resulting in the organization of the Rapid City church), and pitched his tent at Spearfish (Lawrence County). "The people here are very worldly, being ranchers, miners, etc.," reported Smith. "The various churches have nearly failed thus far to sustain weekly meetings... Our congregations more than double the Methodists' when held at the same hour. Most of the people acknowledge we have the truth, but the cross is too heavy. Sunday here is about as busy a day as any. Stores are open most all day. The decrees of the Council of Laodicea of A.D. 364 (legislating the observance of Sunday) are not enforced here." A Sabbath School of ten members was organized at Spearfish and a "T and M" Society was formed for the Black Hills District.⁴²

Late in 1887, Smith reported working at Rockerville, Spring Creek and Minche's school house (probably all Pennington County) in the vicinity of Rapid City, but poor health forced him to return to Sioux Falls at the end of January, 1888, for medical treatment.⁴³

Sickness could not stop the determined evangelist however; Smith held services at the Cresbard church even though he had to do some of his preaching while seated, due to weakness. During March Smith preached a series of sermons at St. Lawrence (Hand County), possibly in the Helmick area where he had revived a discouraged congregation a year earlier. A church of seventeen members was organized.⁴⁴

In the fall Smith teamed up with C.P. Frederickson to conduct tent meetings at Taopi. Near the end of September Smith and Frederickson reported that "there are now about 26 here keeping the commandments of God", with 35 attending Sabbath School. By early 1889 this number had grown to 46 and the group had erected a church building. Although specific documentation is lacking, it seems likely that Taopi subsequently became an organized church.⁴⁵

Two other evangelistic teams were also active in 1888. L.H. Ells worked at Grand Meadow (Minnehaha County) in April, succeeding in organizing of Sabbath School of nineteen members (report by George Smith from Taopi in

August mentions a visit to his meetings by members of the Grand Meadow “church”), and at Revillo (Grant County) in August, apparently raising up a group of about twelve new believers. In both of these locations, reported ELLs, prior work by literature evangelists had helped generate interest for his evangelistic endeavors.⁴⁶

In the meantime, C.M. Chaffee and J.W. Newcombe preached to crowds numbering up to 250 of the 800 inhabitants of the town of Webster where the two evangelists had conducted a similar tent effort two years earlier.⁴⁷

Of the 632 Adventists in South Dakota in 1888, 568 attended camp meeting in late June at Sioux Falls where, apparently, the city mission had been relocated. Attendance from the city and surrounding countryside was also excellent; about 3,000 people crowded the tent on Sunday.⁴⁸

33. *Ibid.*, August 19, 1886, 523; August 24, 1886, 540.

34. *Ibid.*, August 24, 1886, 540.

35. *Ibid.*, August 3, 1886, 492; September 7, 1886, 571; October 26, 1886, 667.

36. *Ibid.*, October 26, 1886, 669.

37. *Ibid.*, March 15, 1887, 172; May 3, 1887, 284.

38. *Ibid.*, June 7, 1887, 363; April 5, 1887, 219.

39. *Ibid.*, January 18, 1887, 44; April 5, 1887, 219.

40. *Ibid.*, July 12, 1887, 444.

41. *Ibid.*, August 2, 1887, 491.

42. *Ibid.*, August 30, 1887, 555, 556; September 27, 1887, 619.

43. *Ibid.*, January 3, 1888, 12.

44. *Ibid.*, April 10, 1888, 235.

45. *Ibid.*, September 4, 1888, 571; October 9, 1888, 635; December 18, 1888, 796; January 29, 1889, 75; May 14, 1889, 316.

46. *Ibid.*, April 17, 1888, 252; August 28, 1888, 555; September 4, 1888, 571.

47. *Ibid.*, July 17, 1888, 458; July 31, 1888, 491.


48. *Ibid.*, July 17, 1888, 460; May 14, 1889, 316.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 7, "To the Lord be all the Praise" - Part 5 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.



KTWJ RADIO (90.9) IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

RADIO PROGRAMMER:

Individual to program content, music, and announcements using the Simean programming system.

FUNDRAISER(S):

Individual must be willing to raise money and market the station.

IF INTERESTED CALL THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE AT:
701.751.6177
AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR
STATION MANAGER KENT WELL

Simple Answers

When I was a young, trying to learn how to be a father, my son Michael did something worthy of a strong talking to. He was three to five years old. I was not the type of father that scolded him unless it was a big deal. I went into a several-minute talk on why he shouldn't have done what he did and finished with, "Michael, do you understand?" Without missing a beat he said, "No Daddy, too many words."

It's not easy to come back from that! So many times we use too many words with people who want to know more about Jesus. They ask a simple question about who Jesus is and we explain the 2300 year prophecy. Years ago my mother shared a phrase with me that I have never forgot, "Preach the gospel always - if necessary, use words."

Usually the shortest answer or reply is the best. Why do bad things happen to good people? Sin! Why did God create the devil? He didn't - He created Lucifer, a beautiful Angel. Simple questions, simple answers. Why did the Creator of the universe come to this world to die for us? Love! Our God can simply be described in one word... love!

Surrender every day to Christ and you will live a life filled with love, where words won't be as necessary and if they are? They will be few.



Worship Thoughts by Pr. Sam Thomas, pastor of the Custer / Hot Springs church district, in South Dakota.

ABERDEEN REGIONAL 2021



ALL IN.

OCTOBER 9 - 10:00am CT

Holgate Middle School
2200 N Dakota St, Aberdeen, SD

**ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING
THE MEMBERS OF THE DAKOTA CONFERENCE**

Please take special note that there will NOT be a potluck at this Regional meeting, plan to bring a sack lunch for your family. Afternoon seminars will begin at 2pm and will be held at the Aberdeen Adventist Church: 825 12th Ave SE.

Passion and Faith - One Teacher's Journey to the Dakotas

I learned through my teaching career that a career given to God takes you on more adventures than a life controlled by oneself. From my very first job out of college, I learned God has both a plan and a sense of humor. I swore from the get-go that I would never work in the Seventh-day Adventist system, never teach in elementary school, and never work in California.

Well, wouldn't you know it, my first job out of college took me to California where I taught at Armona Union Academy and had the best year of my life. I grew closer to God and began a relationship that would lead me to my wife. From there I taught at several other schools, but always in large school settings teaching fifth and sixth grades with 20-32 students in a class. To be honest it became a bit routine, as routine as teaching can feel. I started asking God where he wanted me to teach.

My wife and I were sure that God was pointing us to Texas with its warm beaches and hot summers - which sounded amazing to my wife, who is from Mexico. At the last minute I saw a job listing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a city my sister had moved to a few years prior. This was not a place we had ever considered moving to, and most certainly not the year-round warmth of Texas my wife was seeking. Oddly enough it was her who encouraged me to pursue the position.

Long story short, God once again took control and guided us to Sioux Falls, where I have the honor of teaching a group of five students between kindergarten and eighth grade. The transition from teaching only two grades to teaching all nine has opened my eyes like never before. I can now appreciate my fellow educators for the unique challenges each grade level presents. But more than that, being able to spend so much one-on-one time with my students has rekindled the joy of teaching that I had missed while teaching larger groups. Most surprising is the joy I get from teaching kindergarten. It daily catches me off guard because I always thought I would teach high school history, yet it is those young students that remind me why I teach. They LOVE to learn and are always so excited to ask questions and try new things.

I think all good teachers love to learn and it is this passion they wish to share with others. However, after the past couple years of crazy stuff going on in the country and communities, I think we all have felt overloaded. God knew this passion needed to be relit in me and knew exactly how to do it. If I had chased what I thought I needed I would never have had the honor to teach these students and be reminded daily about the passion for learning and how it needs to be passed on.



Article by TJ Roberts, teacher at Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary in South Dakota. Photos by Osiris Roberts.

Adventist Community Services Federation Meetings

September once again brought the annual Adventist Community Services Federation Meetings across the Dakota Conference.

Beginning in Huron, SD, on September 12, the meetings then moved to Jamestown, ND, on the 13th and Bowman, ND on the 14th. The meetings concluded in Rapid City, SD on September 19.

These meetings happen for a couple of reasons. First, to bring reports from the area churches on what they are doing to reach out in their communities. These reports serve to raise our awareness of what is happening across the Conference. The reports also provide opportunities for other churches to learn about ministries they might be able to do in their own churches.

Second, these meetings are also training grounds. This year Pastor Bob Forbes presented a seminar on one aspect of ACS - Older Adult Ministry. A wealth of information was shared on how to make our seniors comfortable when attending church services, as well as how to utilize their wisdom and experience in the various church ministries. Information was given on how to reach out to seniors in the community and meet their needs.

Attendance was once again impacted by the virus, but those in attendance appreciated the fellowship, reports, training, inspiration, and the lunch too. Many thanks to the regional officers for planning the meetings and providing a location and a meal.

2022 Adventist Community Services Federation meetings will start at 10:00am local time and are scheduled for:

- Southeastern Federation: September 11 - Pierre, South Dakota
- Northeastern Federation: September 12 - Jamestown, North Dakota
- Northwestern Federation: September 13 - Grassy Butte, North Dakota
- Southwestern Federation: September 18 - Rapid City, South Dakota

Plan now to attend next year and share what your church is doing for God's Kingdom!



**2021 ACS
FEDERATION
MEETINGS**

Ann & Robert Hanel
present to attendees
in Rapid City, SD

Pr. Peter Simpson,
ACS vice-president &
secretary, leads out
in Bowman, ND

Article and photos by Pr. Bob Forbes, Dakota Conference Adventist Community Services Director.

Kid's Corner

The Dakota SDA Kids YouTube channel has launched! Please share the following sites with your children, grandchildren, church family, next door neighbor, or whomever the Spirit might reveal to you. Provide us feedback and suggestions at: dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com or 605.340.0180.

Click the links below to go to each playlist:

- [Yellow Chair Devotionals](#) provide a daily devotional video currently covering Old Testament characters and their stories.
- [Storytime with Zeus](#) presents a weekly read-aloud book.
- [Craft Corner](#) is a monthly video featuring several easy crafts related to a read-aloud story.
- [Sing-Along Songs](#) invite participation and worship through music.

Dakota SDA Kids



Yellow Chair Devotionals

Old Testament Series



Craft Corner



Storytime with Zeus



SING-ALONG SONGS



Kelli Wasemiller is Dakota Conference Children's Ministries Coordinator.

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.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 9: Camp Development
- 9: Aberdeen Regional - Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 16: Elder Mark Weir visiting Invitation Hill - Dickinson, ND

- 20-24: DAA Homeleave
- 23: Dakota Challenge
- 23: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowman, ND
- 30: Secondary Endowment
- 30: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hermosa, SD

November -

- 4: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Custer, SD
- 6: DAA National Honor Society Vespers & Fall Festival
- 7: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10am)
- 13: World Budget
- 13: Sioux Falls Regional - Elder Mark Weir preaching

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

Blessed & Kept

May you experience unexpected love.

There are always difficult people. Just the phrase difficult people likely brings a single person to your mind. Let's call her Frill.

May curiosity guide you to investigate Frill.

May it guide you to investigate your feelings towards Frill.

May you discover that not only does God carry a deep affection for Frill, but that God loves Frill because Frill, even in some small insignificant way, is pretty great.

As you ponder all the things God loves about Frill, may you begin to enjoy those things about her.

May you climb into your car at the end of the day and with delightful surprise realize,

Huh, I love Frill.

She's still annoying.

She still steals people's lunch.

She still is socially inappropriate.

And yet, I love Frill.

May you find unexpected love for one of God's beloved children.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

October 7 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Mark Seibold of Lake Sakakawea near Riverdale, 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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 - [!\[\]\(5013555a72072875cb154b597e002a46_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(bf2038c114ec21ea58ad011774351c98_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
 - [!\[\]\(1ad0c3425edfa4762c2f20e33e3e5bbf_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)
 - [!\[\]\(74d2fc5645add84f8511beb934060048_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)
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