

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-fifth 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 5

Valentine Leer, ordained to the ministry at the 1889 camp meeting in South Dakota is a notable representative of a new generation of indigenous German evangelists who would make a significant impact on the growing German work in both Dakotas and elsewhere for the next several decades. Shortly after camp meeting, Leer, with Henry Schultz organized a fourteen-member church at Sutley (Walworth County) where Leer had worked the previous spring. Valentine Leer was a product of the original German church at Milltown, organized seven years earlier by L.R. Conradi.⁴⁹

A church was also organized during 1887 at Plano (Plana?, Brown County) where L.H. Ells had worked and Sabbath Schools were begun at Volney (Hand County) and Copp (Potter County) by L.H. Ells. At Copp opposition from two local ministers was neutralized when they began to disagree with each other over why the Adventists were wrong. W.W. Sharp and C.P. Frederickson found attentive audiences at Wilmot (Roberts County) despite the busy harvest season during which they conducted their tent meetings.⁵⁰

A variety of spiritual and social issues occupied the minds of Dakota Adventists in the later half of 1889. At the Madison camp meeting, justification by faith was “a favorite theme” in the wake of the church's rediscovery of the doctrine at the Minneapolis General Conference session in the fall of the previous year. The conference's need to provide for the secondary level Christian education of its youth again surfaced as business session delegates, noting the heavy expenses of operating a school and current difficulties in finding qualified teachers, recommended the establishment of “a well-equipped and centrally located school” to be operated jointly by all the “Conferences between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.”⁵¹

Another topic of considerable discussion at the Madison camp meeting was the current agitation of the National Reform Association for Constitutional amendments declaring the United States “a Christian nation” and placing “all Christian laws, institutions and usages, on an undeniable legal basis in the fundamental laws of the land”, as

well as the NRA's support of a bill by Senator H.W. Blair of New Hampshire enforcing the observance of Sunday as "a day of worship" in all Federal territories and a proposed religious education amendment to the Constitution.⁵²

With statehood for the Dakotas only months away, Conference President W.B. White, noting the free use of alcoholic beverages by "rich and poor, young and old, men and women" in the territory, called the attention of his constituency to an amendment to the proposed Constitution of South Dakota which would prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages in the state, urging their support for the amendment, declaring that "the people of South Dakota would be committing sin to legalize... (alcohol) traffic, for we have no right to a thing that is morally wrong."⁵³

But perhaps the most devastating issue facing South Dakota Adventists for the next decade was one in which they would have no say. A severe drought which began in 1889 and lasted until 1897 was to largely bring to a close the ever-expanding evangelistic thrust of the previous decade.⁵⁴

W.B. White painted a bleak picture in his 1889 harvest-time message to the church through the columns of the *Review*: "I feel desirous that during the coming year our work shall be extended and new laborers sent into the field. But as I have looked over the conference and have seen the failure in crops and how the great drought in many places has destroyed everything, I have been led to ask, 'Where will the means come from to support the work?' Probably one-third of our churches have lost their entire crop, not raising enough in many instances for their own support. Many, I fear, will be in actual need should the winter be severe."⁵⁵

Due in part, no doubt, to the economic and social effects of the drought and in part to the possible existence by this time of the *South Dakota Worker*, a local conference publication of which I have been unable to locate any surviving copies, the reports from South Dakota in the *Review* are especially scanty for the next several years. Those that do appear often note the detrimental effects of the drought on the existing churches which often seem to be struggling to "hold their own" against a "hard times" exodus of their members. The efforts of the workers seem to be more centered on the existing churches than on entering new areas, probably due as much to the sudden halt in new settlement caused by the drought as to any other factor.⁵⁶

Two areas in which advances were made during these difficult years despite the drought were in the Black Hills and among the German settlers.

Valentine Leer and Conrad Reiswig organized churches among the Germans at Bowdle (Edmunds County) and at Leola (McPherson County) in 1890 and 1891. The Bowdle church consisted partly of members of the Sutley Church near Java. The interest at Leola had been generated about five years earlier by a literature evangelist selling Ellen White's *Great Controversy* in the area.⁵⁷

The other success story during the early years of the drought was in the Black Hills where churches were organized near Custer (Custer County) in 1890 and at Hill City (Pennington County) in 1892. A camp meeting was held at Hot Springs in the Black Hills in the summer of 1892.⁵⁸

Despite the hard times, 1894 seems to have been a particularly good year for the South Dakota Conference. A church of 31 members was organized at Freidensfeld (Freidenhal?, Hutchinson County), a company was organized at Civil Bend (Union County) following the Missouri River baptism of ten persons, tent meetings by

Luther Warren at Alexandria during the summer and fall resulted in the organization of a church by the following year, and successful evangelistic crusades were conducted at Big Springs and Parker.⁵⁹

49. *Ibid.*, July 16, 1889, 461; August 6, 1889, 507.

50. *Ibid.*, May 14, 1889, 316; September 3, 1889, 555; June 4, 1889, 362; September 17, 1889, 587; September 10, 1889, 569.

51. *Ibid.*, July 16, 1889, 461; September 3, 1889, 555.

52. *Ibid.*, "Sunday Laws," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1273.

53. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, September 10, 1889, 572, 573.

54. "South Dakota," *World Book Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.* XVJII, 540g.

55. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 8, 1889, 637.

56. *Ibid.*, August 3, 1905, 20; January 26, 1892, 61; "South Dakota," *World Book Encyclopedia*, *foe. cit.*

57. "South Dakota," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1223; History of Bowdle and Leola Churches, Appendix C, this book.

58. *Ibid.*; *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, August 23, 1892, 540.

59. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 15, 1894, 317; September 4, 1894, 573; "South Dakota," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *lac. cit.*

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 7, "To the Lord be all the Praise" - Part 6 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.



On Sabbath, November 6, Dakota Adventist Academy would like to invite you to join them for vespers by the National Honor Society at 6:00pm. Then stay to attend the school's Fall Festival fundraiser event at 7:30. Classes and clubs at the academy will host games and sell goods to fundraise for their group activities. Please, join in for a fun evening!

Anyone who would like to have a booth in the event itself should contact Jovannah Adams for more details at: jpoorbearadams@mydaa.org

God is Light

"Now this is the gospel message we have heard from him and announce to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him and yet keep on walking in the darkness, we are lying and not practicing the truth. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we do not bear the guilt of sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1st John 1:5-7, NET).

This passage sheds an amazing light on what we're called to be as Christians. "God is Light! In Him, There is no darkness!" The Greek uses a strong negation here to clearly state that there is not a single speck of darkness within God. Have you ever met an influence that would seek to combine the Light of God with the darkness of this world? Many try to combine the truth of Jesus with other forms of mysticism or idol worship but here we're taught that God Is the Light and in Him there can be no darkness! It also teaches us that those who live in spiritual darkness but claim to know God are liars. These types of people can be separated into two categories: The people mentioned before who would seek to combine the truth/light of God with the lie/darkness of the world. And those who claim to know truths that are higher than God.

The final point of this passage is those who walk in the light have fellowship with each other and the blood of Jesus cleanses them from all sin. What does it mean to walk in the light? Walking in the light can't be equated to our behavior or our imitation of Christ because as a result of that mindset we would always be more or less in the light of others and that would mean we are purified of our sins as a result of imitating Christ well and fixing our behavior. 1st Peter 2:9 tells us that we are a chosen people, a people that was called out of darkness and into the Lord's light. Exiting darkness was not a work of our own. It was an acceptance of His work, His sacrifice, His calling. To walk in the light of the Lord is to walk with the Lord. It is to understand and accept the reality of what He has done for all of us. To those who may think they are stuck or enslaved to the darkness read the previous verses and accept that you have been called out of darkness and now have a place in God's glorious light.

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Marveen Gentillon, associate pastor of the Hermosa / Rapid City / Spearfish church district, in South Dakota.

Regionals Create Opportunity for Fellowship

On October 9, Dakota Adventist church members from the Aberdeen region gathered together to enjoy warm fellowship and worship. Due to space and availability, the Aberdeen Regional's morning programs were held at Holgate Middle School. Attendees then migrated to the Adventist church in the afternoon where they enjoyed several breakout sessions focused on church life and ministries. The day ended with a question and answer time hosted by President Mark Weir.

These occasions provide members a positive and inspirational time to get together and reconnect with friends. The next Regional will be held at the Sioux Falls Seventh-day Adventist Church on November 13 - see below for more information.



Article by Dr. Mark Piotrowski, Dakota Conference VP of administration and education superintendent. Photos by Paulette Bullinger, Conference women's ministries director.

You Are Invited

SIoux FALLS REGIONAL 2021



NOVEMBER 13 - 10:00am CT

7100 East 26th Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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

A fellowship meal will be provided following the worship service, please bring dessert, bars or fruit to share. Afternoon seminars will start at 2:00pm. A light supper will be served following the seminars.

Huron Church Welcomes New Member

On Sabbath, September 11, 2021, Ser Shay (pronounced "Sir Say") was baptized and was voted into membership of the Huron Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Normally a shy, fourteen-year-old, young lady, Ser Shay approached church elder Cheri Olson to ask if she could be baptized. Cheri was happy to let her know that she could but that she first needed to study. Ser Shay was faithful in meeting each week with Cheri. During the conversations I had with her prior to her baptism it was evident that she loved the Lord and was especially sensitive to spiritual things. Unfortunately, Cheri could not be present for the baptism. I asked her if she wanted to wait. She simply said, "No." Then it looked like I might not be able to be there because of illness. However, Elder Mark Piotrowski was to be a guest speaker that Sabbath. I asked Ser Shay that if I couldn't be there to baptize her if she would want to wait for another time. Or, would she like Pastor Mark to perform the service. Her reply was, "No, I don't want to wait. I want the man to baptize me." This confirmed what I saw in her from the beginning. Ser Shay's desire to follow her Lord's example in baptism was free of any human influence. She simply wanted to be baptized no matter who was present, or who performed the service. Thankfully I was not absent that Sabbath and was able to be there for Ser Shay and perform the baptism.

Ser Shay is a member of the Karen (pronounced Kă-rin) community of some 80,000 refugees. These refugees belong to a religious minority that have been persecuted in the country of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

She is among the more than 2,000 Karen refugees who have settled in South Dakota. September's Mission Spotlight spoke of this special group of people. Currently several Karen families attend and serve in the Huron Seventh-day Adventist Church to our great pleasure.

Please keep Ser Shay in your prayers as she takes her stand for Jesus, as a young person, in these perilous times.



Article by Pr. Dave Moench, pastor of the Huron / Mitchell church district in South Dakota. Photos by Belinda Hofer, member of the Huron Adventist Church.

A Playground for Prairie Voyager

The Red River Valley is known for flooding in the spring. Located in Grand Forks, ND, Prairie Voyager School's playground was not excluded from this challenge. With only a swing set (gleaned from the former Prairie View Adventist School in Carrington, ND) coupled with the flooding in the spring or after a heavy rain, the playground was not an ideal place for play.

For the last decade the dream for a new playground has been slowly becoming a reality. First, a plan to raise the water table and eliminate the flooding problem needed to be developed. Then, funds needed to be secured to purchase all the materials needed to fix the flooding as well as buy equipment. To raise money involved an annual walk-a-thon with students who received pledges for laps walked, as well as generous donations from local members.

During the spring of 2020, the project to raise the water table began. Dirt was donated from Opp Construction, Ted Juhl, Lyndon Juhl, Kurt Kraulik, and Jerry and Nathan Tretter donate their time and use of equipment to adjust the slope of the land.

Equipment was purchased and installed in the fall of 2021. The church held an official ribbon cutting to open the playground on October 16. Pastor Mike Temple had prayer and asked for the equipment to not only bless our students, but also the children from the surrounding apartments that will use the playground.

The students at Prairie Voyager School are very thankful for their new playground.



FLOODED PLAYGROUND



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Article by Leanne Erickson, head teacher at Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary School in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Photos by Leanne Erickson and Deanna Mattice, Prairie Voyager home and school leader.

Beneficial Conversations

Over the last couple of weeks, Conference administration has sat down with the pastors for a chance to hear from each of them. The goal of these meetings was to find out what is happening in their lives, both personally and in their districts. Administration wants to find ways to support Dakota pastors, who are the front line contact with Dakota people. Looking to the future, our churches are the most important part of this Conference as they are the feeder for schools, ministries, and the future of the Adventist Church. "Hearing from our pastors individually has helped me, and our other administrators, better understand what is going on. We have really appreciated the time spent with them," expressed President Mark Weir.



Pr. Casper du Plessis, pastor of Bottineau / Minot church district in North Dakota, sits down with Conference administration. Article and photo by Jodi Dossenko, Dakota Conference communication director.

33rd Dakota Women's Retreat

The 33rd Annual Dakota Conference Women's Retreat was held September 24-26, 2021, at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Mandan, North Dakota. The theme came from Psalm 63:7, "For You are my help; I will sing for joy in the shadow of Your wings." Sixty-one ladies attended the retreat. Although numbers were lower than normal due to Covid and other reasons, the Holy Spirit was there in a mighty way. Keynote speaker, Suzie Sendros - a direct descendent of Ellen White, shared her personal journey of growing in Christ. She, her mother, and aunt led us on a live virtual tour of Elmshaven, Ellen G White's last home, on Sunday morning.

Early Bird sessions included the popular painting class led by Kathy Tebelius. This year a new session was added, a traditional hymn choir was led by Linda Oswald and Janna Wright. The choir sang at the Sabbath Service.

Breakout speaker, Deborah Hegney, shared her emotional, and almost financial, destructive experience with an online romance scammer. Chelsea Christensen, a licensed social worker, concluded with how this is a common occurrence and how to deal with the aftermath.

Natosha York, a professional photographer, shared the importance of photography and recording special moments. She explained how she sees the Creator's hand in the faces of those she photographs.

Friday evening brought an unexpected surprise. As Pastor Harold Chin and Pastor Jason Woll set up and tested the sound equipment in the afternoon, it was discovered that Suzie Sendros and Pastor Harold harmonized beautifully in a special music song. Pastor Harold was invited to sing that evening, and the duo blessed the ladies with their gift of music. Music leaders, Linda Oswald, Bonnie Sundby, and Jolene Engelhart, accompanied by Janna Wright, shared their musical talents throughout the event.


After sundown on Sabbath, a silent auction of gently used items was held to raise funds for the Dakota Women's Ministry Scholarship Fund. A fun photo booth was available to use, which created much joy!

This year, the chosen charity to donate personal care and food needs was the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center in Dickinson. A large vehicle full of donations was delivered later that week to the center.

Throughout the weekend many new friendships were made, and former friendships renewed. Women were happy to spend time together and look forward to next year's Retreat at the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, South Dakota, on September 30 - October 2.



Article and photo by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministries director.



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

Kid's Corner

Creation Sabbath

As part of the October 23 Creation Sabbath, the NAD has produced a fun activity booklet for kids. Follow the link below to download or print a booklet for your family to enjoy.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V9S3WSYnswCxX4sbonuIdv3CYPplw2Ud/view?usp=sharing>

Dakota Kids Show and Tell

Has your child or student completed any of the crafts or activities introduced on the Dakota SDA Kids YouTube Channel? If so, we'd love to see their handiwork and share it in a special edition show and tell video. Please send pictures or videos to dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com or (605) 340-0180.

Family Friendly Entertainment

Confession time! When I was a kid, I loved winter partly because the sun set earlier, which meant we got to watch the Disney movie that played every Saturday night on channel 5. My sister and I took the world's fastest showers during commercial breaks and whined if Mom used the microwave resulting in static filling the TV. C'mon I know there's a kindred spirit out there somewhere who can relate!

As the sun sets earlier and temperatures cool, finding special Sabbath activities can be difficult. I was excited to discover that all of the International Pathfinder Camporee evening drama programs are available to stream online for free. The first act of each is linked below or you can search for them on YouTube. Remembering past camporees are also a great way for us to get excited and prepare for the 2024 Believe the Promise Camporee, which will focus on Moses and take place in Gillette, Wyoming.

David: <https://vimeo.com/380309127>

Forever Faithful Camporee 2014

Daniel: <https://vimeo.com/400572923>

Courage to Stand Camporee 2009

Esther: <https://vimeo.com/18756070>

Faith on Fire Camporee 2004

Joseph: <https://vimeo.com/19526193>

Reminder

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.

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

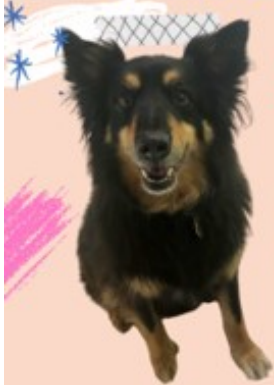
Old Testament Series



Craft Corner



Storytime with Zeus



SING-ALONG SONGS



Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference children's ministries coordinator.

Join the Fargo Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, October 23, at 11:00am for an Intercultural Workshop and free meal following.

**Our generous nation has opened itself
to helping many refugees
from various regions of the globe.**

**Here in Fargo we are blessed
with a large number ourselves.**



Many of these dear people are of the Muslim faith. Since they also believe in Jesus, please come and learn how to love them in the name of Jesus.

Saturday October 23 is an intercultural workshop 11:00am to 12:30 with a free meal afterward then from 1:00pm to 3:30pm a very informative Q and A with much discussion. *Come and Learn!*

**Adventist Church
5718 36th St S Fargo
For more information**

**Pastor Darrel
701-391-9131**



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

- 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 feel safe.

May the deep waters in which you find yourself be of no consequence to your trusting soul.
May the darkness surrounding all of our lives serve to strengthen your resolve to trust the prince of light.

May you feel safe even as you put your body at risk.
May you trust that everything is ok, even when it isn't.

May this trust give you a patience far deeper than what is expected.
May you face the difficult situations of the day with the assurance of the outcome.

May goodness and mercy follow you wherever you go.
May the goodness of God go with you to places devoid of light.

May you be the proof of God's goodness.
May you demonstrate a reason to hope.
May you give to someone else the feeling of safety with which you have been blessed.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

October 21 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

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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- [!\[\]\(1e9d865c5de095f8e3304757c49e79d7_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(735b10d724a5f0ec5005c4eb3eb9c9d1_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(e6250f05bc27fa93236b816562b699f9_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
- [!\[\]\(d190cc638f389909d4b049d6c19e4cb2_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Charity Run](#)
- [!\[\]\(4d34001966c7597a8c3e4293694bde37_img.jpg\) Dirt Kicker Run Facebook](#)

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