

DAKOTA DISPATCH

Sharing the unchanging love of Jesus in a changing world.



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-sixth 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 6

In 1895 the Minnesota Conference's North Dakota Mission joined South Dakota in a new Dakota Conference under the leadership of N.P. Nelson, one of South Dakota's pioneer Adventists and president of the conference from 1892 to 1898.⁶⁰

By 1896 South Dakota had begun to recover from the drought and O.A. Olsen reported that camp meeting attendance at Madison that year "was larger than at any previous meeting", that many new members had been added to the churches of the two states during the past year, and that "plenty of rain has fallen and I think I never saw crops looking so well anywhere."⁶¹

Following camp meeting at Mitchell in 1897, J.W. Watt conducted tent meetings at Canton with little success and eighteen miles west at Lennox (Lincoln County). The Lennox crusade was a real team effort. "Professor Berthelson" assisted Watt in preaching to the English-speaking population and also held services in Danish. David Voth and John Isaac held meetings for the Germans three times a week. The evangelistic team also scheduled two meetings each week for children, and Watt's daughter presented health and temperance topics to the women of the community twice each week as well.⁶²

At Mitchell a year later, reported the *Review*, "A lively interest is manifested in the health work; thirty-five are attending the 'School of Health'."⁶³

Reorganization was the first order of business at the 1901 conference session as the Dakota Conference brought its organizational structure in harmony with the new plan hammered out at the recent General Conference session. Outgoing president W.T. Millman noted that the drought having ended, "the population of the Dakotas increased fully one-third during the last three years." The Dakota Conference had a total of 52 churches, 33 in South Dakota and nineteen in North Dakota, including four new churches, three in North and one

in South Dakota, added at that session, and 1,824 members. N.W. Allee was elected the conference's new president.⁶⁴

Sometime during 1901 the Elk Point church donated land for the establishment of a secondary school in South Dakota. The following year a school, variously known as South Dakota Intermediate School, Elk Point Intermediate School, and Elk Point Industrial School, was opened using an existing building on the property. In 1909 the school became a full-fledged secondary school under the name Elk Point Academy, just two years before it was moved to Redfield (Spink County) and renamed Plainview Academy.⁶⁵

Following the establishment of a separate North Dakota Conference in 1902, reports in the *Review* indicated large baptisms of 65 and 68 people in successive camp meetings in 1904 at Canton and in 1905 at Woonsocket (Sanborn County), of growth and progress in the German churches, of a new church at Groton (Brown County) by 1905, and of new churches at Beresford (Union County), Woonsocket, and Artesian (Sanborn County) by 1906.⁶⁶

60. See Chapter 5 of this book.

61. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 14, 1896, 439.

62. *Ibid.*, September 7, 1897, 573.

63. *Ibid.*, May 3, 1898, 289.

64. *Ibid.*, July 23, 1901, 478.

65. "Plainview Academy," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1001.

66. *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, July 14, 1904, 16; July 20, 1905, 15; February 23, 1905, 21; August 3, 1905, 20; January 25, 1906, 18.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 8, "To Effect an Organization" - Part 1 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.

YOU ARE INVITED

DAA FALL FESTIVAL

Bring a friend, or two, and join in the fun! Money will be raised for class projects and trips.

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 AT 7:30 PM

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!

There is Jesus

"There is Jesus" is a song performed by Zach Williams and Dolly Parton. It has touched my heart and speaks to me in an amazing way. If you haven't heard it, look it up online and listen to the words. This is what came to my mind as I listened.

Throughout my life I have found myself trying to walk alone, ignoring the pleas of God to come home. Verse one clearly describes my situation:

"Every time I try to make it on my own,
Every time I try to stand, I start to fall.
And all those lonely roads that I have traveled on,
There was Jesus."

When I lost my son, Luke, at birth, I thought, "Where is He?" When my marriage fell apart and my boys were taken from me, again I asked, "Where are You?" The song's second verse clearly spoke of my heartache and the answer to my question:

"When the life I built came crashing to the ground,
When the friends I had were nowhere to be found.
I couldn't see it then but I can see it now,
There was Jesus."

As I grew in Christ I saw my need of Him. As I saw Him more, I loved Him more. This verse is true for every one of us:

“For this man who needs amazing kind of grace,
For forgiveness and a price I couldn't pay.
I'm not perfect so I thank God every day,
There was Jesus,
There was Jesus.”

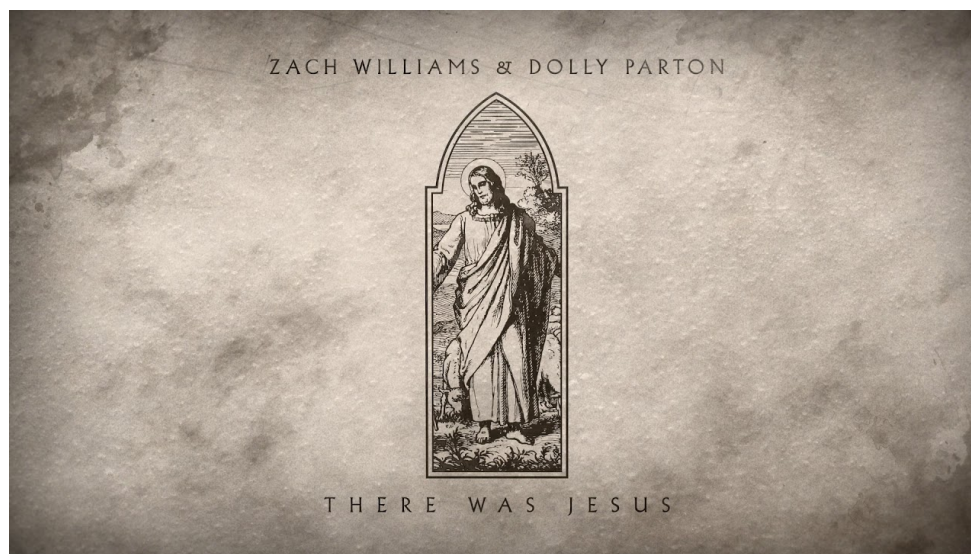
No matter what our walk in life is, no matter what path we have taken, there was Jesus:

“In the good or the bad,
Whether waiting or searching,
In healing or in hurting, There is Jesus.
Every minute and every moment,
No matter where we have been or where we're going, there is Jesus!
Even when we didn't know it or didn't see it, There was Jesus!”

Jesus was there for everything, every high and every low, every second of our life, always reaching out His hand saying to you and me, saying, “Here I am! I am right here with you.”

Look back and you will see Jesus was with you the entire time.

Worship Thoughts by Pr. Sam Thomas, pastor of the Custer / Hot Springs church district, in South Dakota. "There Was Jesus" lyrics written by Zach Williams, Jonathan Smith, and Casey Beathard.



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.

Planting Seeds in Hot Springs

How many of you can testify that during your childhood you lacked direction and purpose? Was your growth and development hindered as the result?

When God places a desire on your heart it's amazing what you can do with something you didn't even realize you had. My missionary friend, Chris, and I had been brought to the Black Hills Health and Education Center for what we thought were missionary positions at the campus. As we studied God's word and read the Spirit of Prophecy we felt the strong impression of haste and urgency to reach those who had not been reached in the community.

That is when we found ourselves standing in the local Community Center speaking with the director about a recreation program. She explained some of the logistics and welcomed us to come and help. I thought it was exciting, but I didn't know that my friend Chris was going to volunteer us to take over the full 3-hour recreation time with the local youth that Friday.

Talk about a leap of faith! When you walk out in faith it changes everything. When we followed the Holy Spirit's leading to start working with the children, we knew it was God's timing and that it was going to be big. I always say pray big because we have a big God.

Chris and I brainstormed and came up with a “search and rescue” activity where we would place and take pictures a big, stuffed, black cat in various places around town. The idea was for the participants to use a map of photos and work as a team to find the cat.

The first children's program was a hit, there were 12 children in attendance and we seized the opportunity to share how important it is to ask the Lord for help. Before we began the activity, we prayed and asked God to help us find the cat. This is not an Adventist youth group; this is a group of neighborhood children. We moved as a group onto the mapped course. One of the stops was at the local Historical Center which has a wishing well. I asked the kids, “How many of you believe in wishes?” I elaborated and said, “You know, we don't have to rely on wishes when we have God. Let’s pray again and ask God to help us find the cat.”

After the activity was over, a 9-year-old boy came up and confided in me that their family no longer attends church. We don't have to have the Bible in our hands to preach. We believe in Christ’s methods alone, which is the only method that gives true success. We mingle with these kids with the desire to meet their needs, and as we do that we know that soon their parents will follow. We have been given a beautiful ministry.

At the second meeting we had 30 kids, the week after that over 20 kids attended. We don't have to do much except to be the light. The miracles started pouring in! The third event we had was centered on team building. We set up a survival station in which I had put out a duffle bag with many survival items. I included a Bible because I was curious to see how many of the kids would recognize the need for a Bible in a survival situation. I was stunned because without prompting, every kid took the Bible. I was surprised again when we approached the injured stuffed cat - they all took out the Bible and when I suggested prayer, they prayed over the cat.

As we go forward with this project, we are gaining momentum and interests with not just our community but surrounding churches. We are excited about encouraging other believers and lay the blueprint for them to follow, then they too can step out in faith and start a ministry or outreach in their own back yards.

We would like to continue this ministry, planting seeds as we see our efforts having impact and growing as God waters them.



Article and photos submitted by Stacey Dean. Stacey attends the Hot Springs Adventist Church in South Dakota.

Poets and Prophets

The 1989 film *The Dead Poet's Society* tells the story of an all-boy's boarding school in New England whose literature teacher, Mr. Keating (played by the late Robin Williams) challenges his students to engage with their classwork on a deeper level. It was a culture and time where studying the mechanics of meter and rhyme were more important than wrestling with one's emotional response to the verse.

In the film Mr. Keating recalls to a small group of students his own experience as a young man at the same school. A group of young men would gather together in a cave, and drink deeply from the richness of experience and thought found in their literature textbooks.

One of the current students remarks, "So you sat around in a cave reading poems?"

To which Mr. Keating replies, "We didn't just 'read poems'. We let them drip off our tongues like honey."

If such inspiration can be gained from Thoreau, Walden and Emerson, what sort of inspiration could be gained from reading the Bible in such a way? If poets can inspire us, why not prophets?

There is a place for deeper, comparative, analytical study. Certainly, when forming doctrines or studying theology we should be as scholastically responsible as possible. But there is also a place for letting the Spirit of God simply speak to us through His Word.

I found myself in a similar situation when I attended Seminary as a young adult. Theology, hermeneutics, exegesis...these things were and are important. But I came to the realization that I was so invested in analyzing Scripture that I had forgotten how to let it speak to my heart. So, in no small way inspired by the aforementioned film, a small group of three friends set out late one night into the woods armed with flashlights and Bibles. We didn't just read verses. We let them drip off our tongues like honey.

It revived our souls.

Fall Week of Worship just ended at Dakota Adventist Academy. One of those same three friends from Seminary (Pastor Jonathan Burnett of the North Shore Adventist Church in Chicago) joined us and shared from Scripture and from his heart about some broken people who found that God is more beautiful and faithful to us than we deserve or can imagine. It was powerful. But Pastor Jon and I would both testify that the most powerful thing that happened last week was not his preaching. It was when a group of a dozen students met with us after worship Friday evening to read the Bible together.

We were reminded that God's word is powerful. We were reminded that the God behind the words is more beautiful and faithful than we imagine. We were reminded that even though the glow of our spiritual high will fade, and we will once again find ourselves in the valley, He will finish the work He began in us. He is good!


I personally was reminded of what it looks like to grab ahold of the promises of God with the faith of a child. To actually believe what He says. To allow it not only into my mind, but into my heart. I was reminded that there is a deeper experience of joy and worship that comes as a response to what God has done in my heart. I was reminded that God's word, and God himself, are just better. Better than I, even as a believer, often give Him credit for.

Have you lost your first love? Can you recall a time when you read Scripture and let it drip off your tongue like honey? Have you recently connected with the heart of God, or have you relegated Him to the lower levels of religion?

No matter how you answer these questions, I suggest you find a few friends, choose a night, and bring your flashlights and Bibles.



Article by Pr. Rob Carlson, DAA chaplain and upper grades' Bible teacher. Photos by Zak Adams, DAA boys' assistant dean and art teacher.



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

Hello Dakota Church Family,

It's time to start planning for Vacation Bible School 2022! I recognize that many churches are currently in the nominating committee season and new individuals might be leading VBS for your churches next summer, so please forward this information along as needed. I have also sent this to all of the Dakota pastors so they're informed as well.

Below is information regarding the 2022 VBS program published by the NAD entitled Jasper Canyon: Where Every Kid is Treasured by God. AdventSource is running a promotional right now where you can preorder the kit and save \$25. There is also a webinar video that you can watch, which overviews the program and the various stations. The conference always purchases one of the VBS curriculum kits and we are willing to loan that kit out to the local churches to help save you that expense. But that also requires all of the churches to stagger when they hold VBS so that everyone gets a different week with the curriculum kit. Doable, but it requires us to start planning now.

Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in borrowing the conference kit and what dates you'd like to schedule for your VBS program. Thank you so much for your ministry to the children of the Dakota Conference!

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

[Click here](#) for more information or to preorder a kit for your church.

Preorder Your Jasper Canyon VBS Kit Now & Save \$25!

God treasures each one of us! At Jasper Canyon VBS kids will have fun discovering the important treasures Jesus has given each one of them. Five days of Christ-centered activities will help them dig into the Bible to find out how uniquely special they really are!

The Jasper Canyon VBS kit includes a director's manual, guides for each station, music CD/DVD, sheet music, opening and closing program videos, multimedia USB, posters, promotional materials, and more.



SALE \$134.99
Retail \$159.99

Start planning your next VBS – preorder your kit today!
Kits will ship in January 2022.



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.

November -

- 4: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Custer Church, SD
- 6: DAA National Honor Society Vespers & Fall Festival
- 7: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10am)
- 11: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 13: World Budget
- 13: Sioux Falls Regional - Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 15-18: MAUC Year-end Meetings in Lincoln, NE
- 18: MAUC Executive Committee in Lincoln, NE (9am)
- 18: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 20: Local Church Budget
- 20: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in New Home Church, ND
- 24-25: Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27: Dakota Challenge

December -

- 2: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 4: Local Church Budget
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdon Country Church, ND
- 9: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 11: North American Division - Adventist Community Services
- 11: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot Church, ND
- 12: Dakota Executive Committee at Conference Office (10am)
- 13: Deadline for Church Nominating Committee Reports
- 16: Dakotans Pray via Zoom (7pm)
- 17-18: Celebration of Praise & Bismarck Regional at DAA

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

Blessed & Kept

May your self-condemnation cease.

Jesus asks the woman who is to be stoned for adultery, 'where are your accusers? Does no one condemn you?' Upon seeing all her attackers gone, she responds, 'No one, sir.' Then Jesus says, 'Neither do I condemn you.'

May you internalize this same non-condemnation from Jesus, the only one worthy of judging you.

May you leave behind your self-given title of sinner. Replacing it with your true title, daughter and son of God.

May you separate yourself from your sin, knowing it does not define you and that it is not who you are.

May your own self-judgement be silenced because the only being in the universe worthy of judging you, isn't interested.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

November 4 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Paulette Bullinger, west of Mandan in Morton 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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- [!\[\]\(ba6dc7fecffbf82e7fd414c1c97a1ece_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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