



Nothing to Fear

This is the twenty-ninth 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 9: Hastening the Coming of the Lord - Part 2

In the meantime, the work among the German-Russians was growing rapidly through the labors of ministers and of laymen returning to the area from America to evangelize their homeland.

In November 1890, the first general meeting of Seventh-day Adventists was held at Eigenheim in the Caucasus, attended by more than 100 of the 356 members then recorded in Russia.

Among those attending were a number of Russian Adventists from the Stavropol area who came with Babienco, their leader, and his sister. The group was happy to see them, yet apprehensive at having native Russians in the Protestant meeting (it was illegal to proselytize Russians). At this meeting Babienco became the first Russian Seventh-day Adventist to be ordained a church elder.

Soon after the meeting Babienco secretly visited the “brethren” in Tarashcha. Finding seven persons ready for church membership, he organized them into a church. At another place he found eight people “rejoicing in the truth”. One of them, a bank clerk who had a good education in Russian and Polish, soon helped in the preparation of tracts in Polish.

Less than a year after his ordination, because of his evangelistic work among the Russians, Babienco and seven members of his church at Stavropol were sentenced to exile at Herusy, the terminus of the 200-mile stagecoach route.

Persecution only served to multiply the work. The German members who had met with the Russians were sent under arrest to their home colonies on the Volga where they continued to do

missionary work.

Babienco's sister continued the work in Stavropol until she was also exiled. But the church remained strong and leaders were developed who carried the gospel to other places.

Babienco himself, enroute to Herusy, talked to the Russian Protestant coachmen; soon an interest was kindled and within three years, more than 200 persons in that area began to keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

Babienco was threatened with another exile, even farther from Russian centers, but the amnesty proclaimed on the accession of Czar Nicholas II prevented this. Nevertheless, his five-year term was increased by another eight years. Separation from his family and continued harassment by the political administration turned his mind to emigration. With the help of English Protestants he went to Romania in 1896, where his family joined him.

In 1903 the family emigrated to Canada and settled on a farm in Saskatchewan.

Sharing his father's evangelistic fervor, Babienco's son, Theophil T., became a Seventh-day Adventist minister and began to preach among the large numbers of Russians then immigrating to the United States and Canada.³

In the meantime, Juda A. Litwinenco, a Ukrainian farmer who had settled at Herried (Campbell County), South Dakota, had become a Seventh-day Adventist about the turn of the century. Acquainted with the large Russian Stundist settlements in the McLean-McHenry-Ward County area of North Dakota, Litwinenco desired to share his new-found faith with his fellow countrymen.⁴

In the summer of 1906, Babienco and Litwinenco worked together among the Russians south of Balfour in McHenry County, holding evangelistic meetings and giving Bible studies resulting in the organization of a church of 28 members, the first Russian Adventist church in North America.⁵

3. "Theophil A. Babienco"; "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 94, 1347-1351.

4. Louis Martin Halswick, *op. cit.*, 91.

5. *Northern Union Reaper*, August 28, 1906, 2, 3. Halswick, (*op. cit.*, 92) says that a Russian church was organized at Beaver Creek, Saskatchewan in 1905. In the *Review and Herald* of November 20, 1941, 20, however, T.T. Babienco, who worked at Beaver Creek about 1919, reporting on the dedication of the new church in Beaver Creek, says that the church was "organized in 1916." Numerous factual errors in Halswick's work suggest that it was prepared on the basis of recollections of individuals rather than documentary evidence

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 9, "Hastening the Coming of the Lord" - 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.

You are Invited to a Workshop

DOES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MATTER TO FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION?

MARKETING AS MINISTRY WORKSHOP

by Teresa Kelchner of Christian Education Matters

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

School Board Members. Principals.
Teachers. Volunteers. Pastors.
Sabbath School Leaders.
Pathfinder Leaders. Lay Leaders.
Men's/Women's Ministry Leaders.
Christian Entrepreneurs.

APRIL 24, 2022

9am - 3pm

Free Lunch

RSVP 701.258.9000

**Dakota Adventist Academy
15905 Sheyenne Circle
Bismarck ND 58503**

Have you been seeking how YOU can be a missionary fulfilling the Great Commission, right here in your own community? You have a mission field, right here at Dakota Adventist Academy in Bismarck, ND!

If you are someone who wants to make an impact but do not know how to make a difference, then this workshop is for YOU. If you are someone who has a burning desire to build up the next generation of leaders for our church or an advocate for Christian education, then this workshop is for YOU. If you are a business person or an entrepreneur who seeks to grow your company in a Godly way, then this workshop is for YOU. If you are just a little bit curious, then this workshop is for YOU.

About the speaker:

Teresa Kelchner is a champion, advocate, and coach whose indefatigable passion encompasses more than 30 years of experience working in clinical practice, medical research, patient education, sales, marketing, web-publishing, venture capital, fundraising, communications, teaching, and volunteering in both for-profit and non-profit organizations, serving on boards; a myriad of professional experiences which she applies to growing Christian schools.



Since 2012, she has worked to build capacity with 200+ Christian schools, both large (>1300 students) and small (<30 students). Nine NEW Christian schools have been started. Clients include Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Seventh-day Adventist schools. Teresa was a member of the NAD's Educational Taskforce to study the state of Adventist education and a guest lecturer at the Andrews University Theological Seminary. Her first book, *52+ Ways To Promote Your School At Church*, has become MinistrySpotlight.com which scripts weekly messages ministering to church members on the value of Christian education.

Teresa thrives to grow "anything". She is a master gardener, and she's been known to grow people, ministries, programs, and dollars. Working with churches, developing volunteers and

problem solving are her strengths. Teresa was a National Merit Scholar recipient and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Maryland.

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301.788.9522

Dakota Adventist Academy Work-Bee



Looking for a way to give back? We are searching for volunteers of all skill levels to donate their time on Sunday, April 3, 2022, from 8:00a-3:00p. Join us at the Academy as we work to revitalize our school while reengaging with our community. Lunch will be provided. Please register online and let us know what skills you can share.

To register, please visit:
dakotaconferenceeducation.org/daa-work-bee

Thank you to all who have registered. For those who haven't, there is still time! When you arrive on Sunday, please come through the front doors and stop in the lobby to sign in.

For a list of tasks and to register [click here](#). There will be plenty of work for everyone, regardless of skill. Come build community!

Relational Trust

A few weeks ago my husband and I decided that life wasn't crazy enough so we found ourselves at the animal shelter adopting a one year-old dog named Clyde. Needless to say, the demands of that week were rearranged as I found myself supervising a dog and adjusting him to our home. I felt like I had to follow him everywhere to learn his bathroom cues and make sure he didn't get into any mischief. A few days after we got him, he managed to get ahold of a roll of paper towels and shred them all over the basement. Clyde knew that he'd been naughty and proceeded to go curl up and hide in a far corner of our house. I don't know much background on Clyde, whether he was abandoned, abused, or adored prior to his arrival at the shelter; but we know that every external behavior, good or bad, has an internal motivator. All week I thought I was determining whether I could trust Clyde, but seeing him huddled in the corner reminded me that he's still figuring out whether he can trust me.

I once had a group of 7-8th grade girls who were boy crazy and unfortunately, none of them had a healthy home or mom in their life to mentor them through adolescence. One particular Friday, these girls were bouncing off the walls excited because they were going to the away high school football game that evening and were traveling with some "super-hot" high school boys. Naturally,

this made me nervous and alarm bells were ringing in my ears. I asked whether they had adult permission, supervision, or chaperones, and they couldn't understand why I was so worried. It played out like a teen movie and I was the nagging buzz-kill adult. As we dismissed, I pulled the girls aside and made sure they each had my phone number to call in case things went south and I needed to go pick them up somewhere. I looked them in the eyes and told them, "I trust you. Please do not break my trust." The school secretary told me later that the girls went down to the office to wait for their rides and were complaining about how I had been all over them about this football game. The secretary told the girls, "You realize it's because she loves you and wants you to be safe right?" The girls were shocked! "Wait, she's being this hard on us because she loves us?" It was a paradigm shift for them and I received text messages the entire night updating me on the football game and letting me know when they were each home safe.

Isn't it crazy that God trusts each of us and offers us the freedom of choice to trust Him back? Trust can be really hard! Sometimes it takes reminders like Clyde or my group of girls to remember that trust is relational, running both directions as we receive trust and extend trust. In Hebrews 2:13, Paul says, "I will put my trust in Him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

My prayer this week is that the young people in your life will recognize your love for them amidst every external behavior they throw your way. I pray for your wisdom and discernment in identifying the internal motivators, the heart of any issues that might arise. I pray that we will each renew our trust in Him and model that trust. And finally, let us rededicate our desire that each young person will put their trust in Jesus so someday soon in heaven, we can say, "Here I am, and the children you have given me."

Worship Thoughts by Kelli Wasemiller, Dakota Conference education superintendent and children's ministry coordinator.

Women's Ministry Leaders Meet In Person

Women's Ministry leaders from across the Mid-America Union Conference (MAUC) met in Lincoln, Nebraska, for a weekend of training, sharing, and worship. Following postponements, COVID outbreaks, and airplane rescheduling, the group was finally able to meet!

On Thursday, January 7, DeeAnn Bragaw, North American Division women's ministry director, opened the workshops with worship in the Ortner Center at Union College. This was followed with sharing information and ideas by the various leaders about their past retreats. Brad Forbes, from AdventSource, stopped by with information about many of the publications available and we all went home with a suitcase of great resources to share! That afternoon, we were given interesting workshops via Zoom by Wanda LaGrand and Denetra Gray.

Sabbath morning, January 8, found us at the home of Nancy Buxton, MAUC women's ministry leader. There we had worship, music, and brunch. That afternoon we had a presentation via Zoom by Karen Styer on the sanctuary followed by a time of questions and answers. After dinner, Sheryl

Olsen, a professional home designer/stager, presented some ideas on making our homes appealing.

Not only was our weekend informative and inspirational, but as this was my first Advisory as the Dakota Conference women's ministry leader, the experience of being with these spirit-filled women and learning in person is something I will use and treasure. We have met many times via Zoom, but nothing is like being together in person. We shared testimonies, tears, and hope. I am so grateful for having had this wonderful opportunity.



Article by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministry director. Photos submitted by Paulette.

Nurturing Environment

Dakota Adventist Academy has a nurturing, loving, Christ-like family atmosphere. Students are encouraged to reach academic excellence, develop leadership qualities, and strengthen unique talents when they are cared for individually. Every one of our amazing families are known by name and are supported to develop nurturing, loving, Christ-like relationships at home.

If you know someone who is seeking a quality education, please contact Anthony Oucharek at: anthony.oucharek@mydaa.org / 701.258.9000.



Investment Fair Held at Invitation Hill

One of our favorite events of the school year is becoming a tradition. When I was a little girl, I remember the Watertown Seventh-day Adventist Church holding an investment fair to raise money to give to missions. Three years ago, we resurrected this concept at Invitation Hill Adventist School in Dickinson. We encouraged and helped the students in making items to be sold at the fair and invited our church family to do the same.

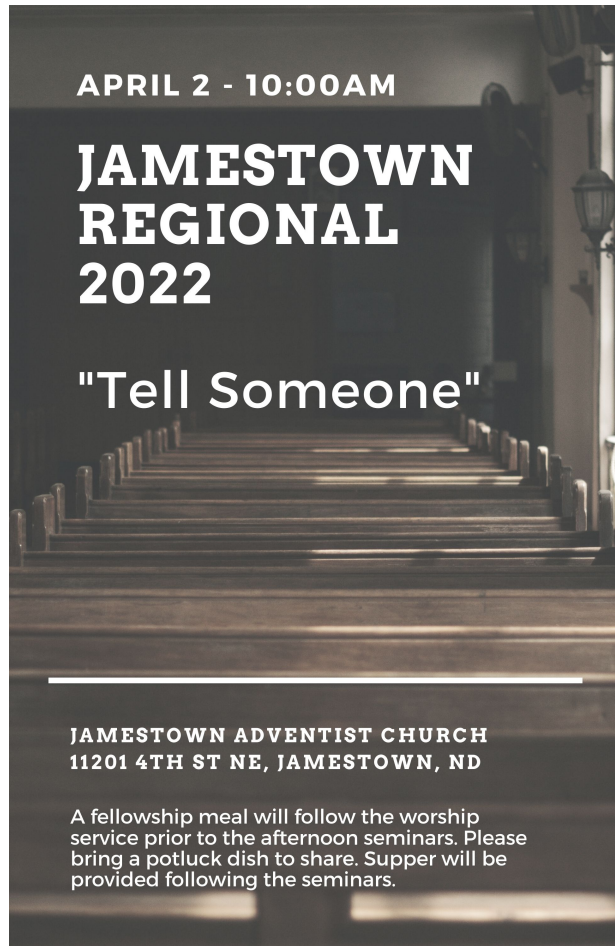
Ms. Hay and the K-2 class made rice/sock snowmen and a variety of other items. The students in grades 3-8 learned how to operate sewing machines and made rice-filled cloth bags that can be chilled in the freezer for cold packs or placed in the microwave for hot packs. We selected two projects to support this year: well-digging for villages in Cambodia and outfits of clothing for children in Chad.

On the evening of the fair, tables were set up in the gym and many folk brought items and laid out their wares. The event was advertised on a local radio station and people invited their friends and neighbors. By the end of the evening, a total of \$5,101.58 was given for missions (some through direct donations as well as through purchasing items). We were so thrilled to be able to send such a significant amount to support these worthy projects. One attendee who gave a generous donation commented that they were happy to donate since this event's purpose was for a good cause.

I am blessed to belong to a church and school board that has committed to not hold fundraisers for our school's operating expenses. God has blessed, and in the five years that I have been at Invitation Hill School, the numbers have never been in the red. When the school has a need and it is placed before the congregation, it has been met (and quickly) EVERY single time. This story's icing on the cake is that exactly a week after this mission benefit event, a check was given for the needs of our school for almost the exact amount as we had sent out to support the mission projects. It was a double blessing - we had the opportunity to give and God returned the blessing back to us. What a mighty God we serve!



You Are Invited



APRIL 2 - 10:00AM

JAMESTOWN REGIONAL 2022

"Tell Someone"

JAMESTOWN ADVENTIST CHURCH
11201 4TH ST NE, JAMESTOWN, ND

A fellowship meal will follow the worship service prior to the afternoon seminars. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Supper will be provided following the seminars.

SABBATH AFTERNOON SEMINARS

2:00PM



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EADVENTIST

Julie Brude: Membership Clerk



DOES MY CHURCH COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY?

Jodi Dossenko: Communication Director



PEOPLE WITH WILLS LIVE LONGER

Elder Charlie O'Hare: Trust Director



A FORMULA TO END THE WORLD: JESUS' METHOD FOR COMPLETING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Elder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR



TELLING OUR STORY: THE RELEVANCE OF THE ADVENT MOVEMENT TODAY

Elder Mark Piotrowski: VP of Administration / HR



DOLLARS & SENSE

Mark Seibold: VP of Finance



RECLAIM

Elder Ted Struntz: Youth & Young Adults Director



EVANGELISM BOOTCAMP

Elder Mark Weir: President

Upcoming 2022 Regional Meetings

Theme: Tell Someone

What to look forward to:

Sabbath School - 10:00am

Church - 11:00am

Potluck Lunch

Seminar Sessions on Church Life - 2:00pm

Supper

Jamestown Regional: April 2

Participating Churches: Bowdon Country,

Cleveland, Edgeley, Harvey, Jamestown,

Manfred, & New Home

Rapid City Regional: October 15

Participating Churches: Custer, Hermosa,

Hot Springs, Rapid City, & Spearfish

The Challenge

The other night, I called my 87-year-old uncle who served in the Navy during WWII. I asked him if he had ever seen anything like the events we are seeing in our world today. Instantly his reply was, "No."

In times like these I have asked God, on more than one occasion, "How can we as your people impact our world? How will we ever fulfill the unique calling You have placed on us as a Church?"

In response to my questioning, God put on my heart one thing that could be done. The idea originated from a documentary I saw on YouTube. It was about a revival that took place in 1970 at Asbury College, in Wymore, KY. Dr. Kinlaw, the acting president during the time, shared where the roots of the revival began to take hold - it was in God's Word. Six students, under a deep sense of their need for a closer connection with God, challenged one another to do two things. First, they committed to reading their Bibles every day, for 30 days. Then they committed to writing down and sharing, or witnessing, to one another what God had revealed to them in their time alone with Him. With those humble beginnings a revival was born. The revival would spread with power across North America as well as to other parts of the world. (If you are interested in seeing the 37-minute video, click on the link or search in YouTube under: "[Kinlaw, Asbury College, Revival!](#)")

God says to His people, "...these words that I command you today shall be on your heart... You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6,8-9).

Starting in January of this year, I offered a challenge to anyone who wanted to participate in the Huron Adventist church and to my own family members. I did so through two texting groups which had already been established. The challenge was this: To commit to reading your Bible each day for the month (each month since, I've made a renewed commitment offer to the larger group), writing down what you learned, and sharing it with the group. Where in Scripture and how much each person read daily, was totally up to them.

Not everyone chose to participate, for legitimate reasons all their own, but for those who did and have continued to renew our commitment each month, it has proven to be a tremendous blessing! How could it not be? I can safely say that we have all grown closer to God and to one another as a result. This month I have included the Mitchell church family and they have taken hold of it with vigor!

So, may I challenge you, dear reader? Are you a part of a texting group(s), or with people here and there, who you believe would be willing to commit, one month at a time, to such an experiment? Invite them to join you in reading the Bible every day for one month; then to share/witness, in brief, what they've learned that day. All great revivals begin with God's Word as we "bind" our hearts to the heart of our Creator.



Article by Pr. Dave Moench, pastor of the Huron / Mitchell church district in South Dakota. Photos by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministry director.

2022 Camp Registration is Open!

Come to Dakota Summer Camps

Flag Mountain
cub camp, ages 8-10 • June 15-19 • \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 • June 19-26 • \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 • June 26-July 3 • \$275

Northern Lights
cub camp, ages 8-10 • July 13-17 • \$200
junior camp, ages 11-13 • July 17-24 • \$275
teen retreat, ages 14-17 • July 24-31 • \$275

Register online at:
dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

Register today at: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

Church Members Meet for Ukraine Prayer Service

According to the United Nations, about 100,000 Ukrainians have been forced to flee from their homes. More than five million people are expected to seek refuge in other countries, including the United States. On Wednesday, March 2, members from the Grand Forks Seventh-day Adventist Church met to discuss and pray about the recent attacks on the Ukraine. Together, they lifted their Ukrainian brothers and sisters heavenward - praying for safety, courage, and special strength for those that are affected by this terrible crisis. The members that were present agreed to continue lifting the people of the Ukraine in their daily prayers.

Article by Pr. Mike Temple, pastor of the Grand Forks church in North Dakota.



Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for the month of **April**:

Theme: Breaking Ground - Soil Preparation

Pastoral Staff: To find a new pastor for the north central South Dakota region.

Education Staff: Pam Fenton,
Christine Taylor

Office Staff: Judy Weir

Adventist Entities: Bowdle Church,
Mobridge Church, Pierre Church,
Tolstoy Church

North Central South Dakota: Pierre,
Mobridge, Selby, Gettysburg, Eagle
Butte,

A graphic for "DAKOTANS PRAY" featuring a person's hands clasped in prayer. The text includes "is now scheduled weekly", "Thursdays at 7:00p CT", and Zoom meeting details. The logo for the Seventh-day Adventist Church is in the bottom right corner.

**DAKOTANS
PRAY**
is now scheduled weekly
Thursdays at 7:00p CT

Meeting ID: 895 8855 6393
Passcode: 885424
Call in: 253.215.8782

Zoom:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89588556393?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89588556393?pwd=ZDhqXNpNUJJdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09)
[pwd=ZDhqXNpNUJJdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89588556393?pwd=ZDhqXNpNUJJdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09)

Seventh-day
Adventist Church

[Click here](#) to visit the Prayer Ministries' webpage.

Dickinson Regional Photos: March 26, 2022



Photos by Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministry director, and Jodi Dossenko, conference communication director.

Kid's Corner

A new Yellow Chair Devotional series following the book *The Wonder of Easter* by Ed Drew is available. We will explore the final moments in the life of Jesus as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pB-gSRwUa&list=PLT8TBICrTY6el1SnbUGieuH83t9Az48XT&index=1>

April's craft corner video focuses on Easter and will be available April 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKG5FFewK1U>

Storytime with Zeus has been journeying through the *Child's Steps to Jesus* book series by Linda Porter Carlyle. Each book shares a simple approach to biblical truths such as salvation, conversion, helping others, or making choices. Check out the read-aloud videos below or if you want your own book set, they are available to purchase through the ABC.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT8TBICrTY6f8qhthC3hZVyhLQxaSyw1i>

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, [Dakota SDA Kids](#), and explore the many videos available for children.



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

Dakota Conference Calendar

Offering schedule is in purple.

Office preaching schedule is in blue.

April -

- 2: Jamestown Regional - [Elder Mark Weir Preaching](#)
- [2: Local Church Budget](#)
- 3: DAA Work Bee (8am-3pm)
- 9: Education Sabbath
- [9: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Lehr Church, ND](#)
- [9: Elder Mark Weir preaching at Watertown Church, SD - Reaching Youth & Young Adults Seminar](#)
- [9: Hope Channel International](#)
- 11-15: DAA Spring Week of Worship
- [16: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at DAA Church, ND](#)

- 16: Elder Mark Weir preaching at Cleveland Church, ND
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 18: Conference Office Closed - Easter Weekend
- 20-24: DAA Homeleave
- 23: Elder Ted Struntz preaching at Cleveland Church, ND
- 23: Dakota Challenge
- 24: Ministry Seminar by Teresa Kelchner at DAA (9am)
- 30: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Watford City Church, ND
- 30: Elder Ted Struntz preaching at Turtle Lake Church, ND
- 30: Camp Development

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

Blessed & Kept

May you trust the promise.

Nothing can separate you from the love of God.

May you be convinced that nothing

No height

No depth

No sin

No behavior

No evil thought

No doubt about who God is

No doubt about who you are

No desire to be separated

Nothing, nothing, nothing can separate you from the love of God.

May you absorb the love of your creator and believe that you are very good.

May God's love overcome the doubts you carry about your worth.

May your work be insignificant when measured against the significance of how loved you are.

Because it doesn't matter at the end of the day, may you be set free to do your work unencumbered by the social pressures of yourself and others.

May you do your work better because you have finally placed it in perspective.

May your life be rooted and grounded in love.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

March 31 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Susie Kahler 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

Dakota 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](#). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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 - [!\[\]\(f5ee48910650695cea680b2433c1d60d_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
 - [!\[\]\(da0f02caffeb5a74776a1d5d1892b059_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(edb096eed27f3ac1241ba8d18d05acad_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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