



Nothing to Fear

This is the 39th 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 6

The long-awaited ministerial help, Burley and Litwinenco, (apparently Litwinenco retained his South Dakota farm and did not work full time in North Dakota) having finally arrived, the Russian people, seeing their numbers growing ever larger, turned their attention to an area which they had learned by hard experience was one of desperate need.

At a general meeting of the Russian churches at Dogden, October 27 - 31, 1910, a major topic of discussion was the need for a school for the Russian youth. The Russians had learned the bitter lesson that education, or the lack of it, could be a decisive factor in discerning truth from error, and they were determined to give their children the chance they had been denied.

It was decided that the best way to provide for the education of the Russian youth was to establish a Russian Department at Sheyenne River Academy, the first such department in an Adventist educational institution. Chosen to head up the new department was the energetic young evangelist Sergius P. Burley.²⁹

Burley was born in Boguslav, in the Russian Ukraine. In his youth he served as an altar boy, planning to become a priest. Searching the Bible for himself led him to join the Baptist Church, and eventually, in 1903, to become a Seventh-day Adventist. Because of persecution from his relatives and friends he emigrated to Canada and attended Portage Plains Academy in Manitoba and later Union College.³⁰

The decision to add another language department could scarcely have come at a less convenient

time. A severe drought had raised serious questions in many minds whether there would even be school at the academy that year. Determined to go ahead, the school board had instituted belt-tightening measures including the elimination of the business manager and farm manager as well as all hired hands, turning these responsibilities over to the students.³¹

And the Russians seemed the least likely to be able to send students to Sheyenne River Academy. Not only had the drought been so severe that the farmers hadn't even gotten their seed back that year, but the year before a devastating hailstorm had wiped out their 1909 crop also.³²

Education, however, was more precious than gold to the Russians, and twenty-seven students enrolled in the inaugural year of the Russian Department, giving the academy the largest enrollment in its history to that time, 83 students. Apparently some Russian students had to be turned away for lack of room.³³

The second year of the Russian Department the enrollment was down to seventeen, due to a third year of almost total crop failure, but that year also witnessed the first graduating class in the history of Sheyenne River Academy, consisting of a single student, Miss Regina Litwinenco, the daughter of the Russian minister, J.A. Litwinenco. During her final year at Sheyenne River Academy, Miss Litwinenco also served as the Sabbath School secretary of the North Dakota Conference.³⁴ In later years, the department rallied and grew to forty students in 1916.³⁵

The Russian Department of Sheyenne River Academy continued under Burley's direction through the 1917-1918 school year, and through 1940 under the direction of Alex Yakavenko (1918-1919), N.J. Michalenko (1919-1922), S.M. Harkov (1922-1923), J.N. Nahorney (1923-1928) and J.C. Michalenko (1928-1940).

As North Dakotans became more "Americanized" there was less need for a unique Russian Department. Over the years of its existence it declined from a peak during the Burley years where a full curriculum (including the last two years of elementary school) in which math, history, literature, Bible, language, music, vocational courses, and even English was taught in Russian, to language and Bible classes only (the two Bible classes taught in alternate years) in the mid 1920's, to the point (about 1934) where even these courses would only be offered if there was sufficient demand. Finally, in 1936, only two Russian language courses were offered under the Modern Language Department. When J.C. Michalenko left North Dakota in 1940, the Russian Department ceased altogether.³⁶ In the meantime two other Russian schools had been established at Battleford Academy, Saskatchewan, Canada, and at Broadview College and Theological Seminary at La Grange, Illinois, but were subsequently closed leaving Sheyenne River Academy as the North American Division's only Russian training school for many years. A number of graduates from the Russian Department over the years were called to labor as ministers, teachers, literature evangelists, and publishing house workers for their fellow countrymen.³⁷

29. *Northern Union Reaper*, November 8, 1910, 1, 2.

30. "Sergius Gregory Burley," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 176.

31. *Northern Union Reaper*, August 16, 1910, 4; August 30, 1910, 5; November 8, 1910, 1, 2.
32. *Northern Union Reaper*, October 5, 1909, 3; November 8, 1910, 1, 2.
33. *Northern Union Reaper*, November 22, 1910, 5; December 13, 1910, 4; *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 130.
34. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 16, 1912, 5; lists of graduates in early annual academy bulletins; *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, I, 136.
35. *Northern Union Reaper*, March 7, 1916, 6. *History of Sheyenne River Academy*, prepared by Clara McClellan, c. 1916.
36. Determined by examining annual academy bulletins from 1916-1941; also *Seventhday Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*
37. "Battleford Academy"; "Broadview Academy," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 114, 169-170; Sheyenne River Academy Calendar 1935-36, 24; *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, February 7, 1918, 17.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 9, "Hastening the Coming of the Lord" - Part 7 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.

Way to Go, Graduates!

Congratulations to the 8th grade graduating classes of 2022!





Brentwood Adventist Elementary School:
Lacie Garrett



Rapid City Adventist Elementary School:
Olivia Bowen & Carter Aldrich



Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School:
Cephuriah Saylor & Brannen Kahler



Invitation Hill Adventist Elementary School:
Sarah Fils-Aime

Congratulations to DAA's Senior Class of 2022!



Nathaniel Blackburn, Emily Davidson, Sabrina Douglas, Wylee Gareau, Halie Garrett, Alison Hoffman, Kyungmin (Isaac) Kim, Skylar Longtin, Anna McCarthy, PawLay Pway, & Caleb Tachenko

Photos by Zak Adams, Jodi Dossenko, and Mark Piotrowski.

Buffet of Choices

The ancient bearded man dressed in the vestiture and hood of chain mail speaks quietly and with conviction: "You must choose, but choose wisely. For as the true grail will bring you life, the false grail will take it from you."

Directed by Steven Spielberg in 1989, the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" depicts a scene in a remote cave room. In this scene, Dr. Jones must select The Holy Grail (a cup presumably used by Christ at the Last Supper). The myriad of golden choices that are available to him is staggering. A 700-year-old knight explains that he alone has been guarding the cup for centuries.

Indiana Jones has the opportunity to choose a chalice from which to drink the water of eternal life. He chooses a simple, dusty goblet from behind two bedazzled specimens. He dips it into a pool of water and drinks from it. "You have chosen wisely" the old knight quietly whispers.

As far-fetched as this movie is, this scene has repeatedly played out in my mind over the last 25-plus years. "You must choose, but choose wisely." This thought-provoking phrase has cycled through my brain in a way that would probably make Spielberg proud. His message stuck, and it repeats itself often as I go through the daily task of living.

If there ever was a statement that applies to humans in 2022, I am convinced that this is it. "You must choose, but choose wisely." Life is a veritable buffet of choices and opportunities. I am inundated with media, compelling voices from the left and from the right—also music, news, books, magazines, hobbies, and relationships. Yet, with all the technology that exists, I am often left with this hollow feeling. I feel that I am simply unable to properly decide what to keep and what to leave.

As intimidating as it sometimes is to choose correctly, we are faced with this daunting task in almost every moment of each day that we live. “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:3, NKJV).

My ability to choose wisely in every circumstance doesn't magically appear after spending time with my Creator. But I have noticed that my willingness to consider God's kingdom and His will gives me the peace I need to move forward.

Pastor Mike / [The Open Word](#)

Worship Thoughts used with permission by Pr. Mike Temple, pastor of the Grand Forks Adventist Church in North Dakota. Click the link above to visit the Open Word and sign up for a daily devotional thought.

Dakota Adventist Academy Blood Drive

FRIDAY, JUNE 3
8AM TO 11AM

To schedule your life-saving appointment please visit the locating office at Campmeeting.

THE BLOOD DRIVE WILL BE HELD IN THE BLOODMOBILE IN FRONT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE.

 **GIVE BLOOD TODAY** | vitalant.org
Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

vitalant



If you attend Dakota Campmeeting 2022, please consider donating blood on Friday, June 3. A participation sign-up sheet will be available at the Locating Office.

Of Such Is The Kingdom of Heaven

She bounced through the door and beamed from ear to ear as she exclaimed, “Guess what!? I finished all my Bible studies! Now I can get baptized!!” My heart was overflowing as I celebrated with her and, just two days later, I witnessed my 4th-grade student lead her mother into the waters of baptism. What a privilege it was to watch these two precious souls give their lives to Jesus with a brand new commitment, and experience a new relationship with Him.

Just two years prior to this experience our school decided to incorporate Preview Days in our marketing efforts. We choose several days throughout the school year on which to invite students from our community to join us for the day and preview what Hillcrest has to offer. Leading up to our first Preview Day, Matia's family heard the radio spot advertising our event and decided to come check it out.

As time went on God continued to lead and guide in amazing ways. She enrolled at our school that fall and immediately they emerged themselves in our church and school family. Matia attentively soaked up class worships, asked amazingly insightful questions, and openly shared her growing love for Jesus. Watching her relationship with her Maker grow and mature into a real and personal experience has been a priceless privilege to behold.

Matia's eager participation in worship, Bible studies, and Bible class at school, as well as regular Sabbath School attendance and a willingness to engage in any kind of spiritual conversation, soon led her and her mother to baptismal studies with one of our pastors. Matia's love for Jesus inspired her mother's quest for Biblical truth as well, and together they completed all their baptismal studies with sincere eagerness. Together they were baptized and joined the Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church on February 19, 2022. Matthew 19:14 was recited from the baptismal tank, "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven' (NKJV)."

Looking back on the details of their journey, this sweet, outgoing young lady visited our preview day as a 2nd-grader, enrolled that fall as a 3rd-grader, then completed baptismal studies and not only gave her life to Jesus but also led her mother in the same decision as a 4th-grader. To God be the glory!

While Matia's story is beautiful and inspiring, not all faith journeys unfold so quickly and smoothly. As educators, pastors, and also as lay disciples of Jesus, we don't always have the privilege of reaping, or even hearing news of, the harvest produced by the seeds we sow. However, I want to urge you to keep sowing those seeds and leave you with the encouragement of Galatians 6:9, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (NKJV).



Article and photos by Tabitha Coto, lower grade teacher of Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, ND.

Campmeeting Schedule: June 1-4

DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY / TIME	WEDNESDAY - 1ST	THURSDAY - 2ND	FRIDAY - 3RD	SABBATH - 4TH
7:30 - 8:15		BREAKFAST SERVED IN CAFETERIA		
8:30 - 9:45		ELDER GIL WEBB "Members of One Body"	ELDER MIKE TUCKER "Rewind Conversations"	9:15 - 10:45 SABBATH SCHOOL DR. MARK WEIR 10:50 - 12:20 CHURCH SERVICE DR. JOHN MCVAY
9:45 - 10:00		15-MINUTE BREAK		
10:00 - 11:15		DR. KENDRA VALENTINE "Anchored and Unafraid"	ELDER GIL WEBB "Go Thou"	
11:15 - 11:30		15-MINUTE BREAK		
11:30 - 12:40		ELDER MIKE TUCKER "Danger Signs"	DR. KENDRA VALENTINE "Secure in the Judgement"	
12:30 - 1:30	CHECK-IN BEGINS	LUNCH SERVED IN CAFETERIA		
1:15 - 2:00		PRAYER ROOM OPEN		2:00 - 3:00 ANOINTING SERVICE 3:00 - 5:00 ROUND TABLE DR. JOHN MCVAY, ELDER MIKE TUCKER, DR. KENDRA VALENTINE, ELDER GIL WEBB, DR. MARK PIOTROWSKI FACILITATOR: DR. MARK WEIR
2:00 - 3:15		ELDER GIL WEBB "Hot Topics"	ELDER MIKE TUCKER "What Did You Expect?"	
3:15 - 3:30		15-MINUTE BREAK		
3:30 - 4:45		DR. KENDRA VALENTINE "Anchored for Life and Worship"	DR. MARK PIOTROWSKI "Living A Life Anchored in the Will of God"	
4:45 - 5:30		FREE TIME		
5:30 - 6:15		SUPPER SERVED IN CAFETERIA		
6:00 - 6:45		PRAYER ROOM OPEN		
6:45 - 7:00 Music Ministry	Pr. Harold & Abby Chin	Karges Brothers	Almost Home	7:00 - 9:30 HALL OF REMEMBRANCE CLOSING REMARKS DR. MARK WEIR MUSIC CONCERT PAM TUCKER
7:00 - 8:30 Program	DR. JOHN MCVAY "Jesus on the Cosmic Throne"	DR. JOHN MCVAY "Wall Bashing"	DR. JOHN MCVAY "The Math of Marriage: 1+1=1"	
Special Musics:	Linda Oswald, Bonnie Sunby, Joe Van Inwagen, and Christine Taylor	Jodi Dossenکو, David Ballesteros, and Charlotte Merkel	Ladies Choir and Pam Tucker	
8:30 - 9:30		FELLOWSHIP		
SABBATH SCHEDULE DIFFERS; SUNDOWN IS 9:31P; ABC OPENS AT 9:45P				

Are you interested in attending Dakota Campmeeting? Online credit card payments are now accepted. To register online, visit:

dakotaadventist.org/ministries/campmeeting

The Adventist Book Center will be on-site during Campmeeting 2022. They are finding supply chain shortages in both food and books, but are doing their best to have favorites in stock.

Please note: This year you will want to arrive by 6:45p for the evening meetings to enjoy 15 minutes of music ministry provided by various Dakota music groups.

2022 Camp Registration is Open!



Dakota Adventist Camps

Flag Mountain Camp
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 Camp
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 FOR CAMP ONLINE
DAKOTAYOUTHANDYOUNGADULTS.ORG/CAMPS

Register today at: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Fathers, Dakota Conference Team, & Campmeeting

Pastoral Staff: Kris de Bruin, George Shaver

Education Staff: Jared Gibson

Office Staff: Mark Weir, Paulette Bullinger

Adventist Entities: Aberdeen Church, Watertown Church

Northeast, South Dakota: Aberdeen, Redfield, Watertown, Lake Traverse Reservation



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?pwd=ZDhqXNpNUJJdXczR0JFNjVDTE9xdz09>

Seventh-day Adventist Church

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

Kid's Corner

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.

May -

- 26: Rapid City 8th Grade Graduation (6:30pm)
- 28: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Mitchell Church, SD
- 28: Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Turtle Lake Church, ND
- 28: Dakota Challenge
- 30-1: Camp Pitch for Conference workers

June -

- 1-4: Dakota Campmeeting at DAA in Bismarck, ND
- 4: Dr. John McVay preaching at Dakota Campmeeting
- 4: DAA Annual Fund
- 6-7: Conference Office closed - Campmeeting Recovery Day & Memorial Day (Observed)
- 6-11: General Conference Session in St. Louis, MO
- 11: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Hurley Church, SD
- 11: Women's Ministries
- 15-19: Cub Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 8-10)
- 18: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Northern Lights Camp, ND
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 19-22: Pastors' Called Convention in Lexington, KY
- 19-26: Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)
- 25: Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Grassy Butte Church, ND

- 25: [Dakota Challenge](#)
- 26-3: Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

July - The Dakota Dispatch will not be published in July.

- 2: [Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Turtle Lake Church, ND](#)
- 2: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 4: Conference Office Closed - Independence Day
- 9: [Elder Bob Forbes preaching at Watertown Church, SD](#)
- 9: [World Budget](#)
- 10: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 13-17: Cub Camp at Northern Lights (ages 8-10)
- 16: [Local Church Budget](#)
- 17-24: Junior Camp at Northern Lights (ages 11-13)
- 23: [Dakota Challenge](#)
- 24-31: Teen Camp at Northern Lights (ages 14-17)
- 30: [Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching at Cleveland Church, ND](#)
- 30: [Worthy Student Fund](#)

August -

- 1-2: Teacher In-services at Conference Office
- 6: [Local Church Budget](#)

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

Blessed & Kept

May the peace of Christ fill you to overflow

Jesus says to his disciples before being executed, peace I give you, my peace I leave with you.

May this promise transcend the millennium and be embedded in your day.

May you inexplicably maintain calm in the face of situations that warrant rage.

May you comfortably leave work unfinished because it is time to focus on other things.

May you not lament all the things left unchecked on your to do list.

May you instead celebrate that even with the things left undone, you are still accepted, loved, and valued.

May you receive bad news with grace.

May you entertain an eternal perspective of the day's events.

May you place the importance of these events into the eternal perspective.

May you face whatever challenges the day has with the peace of one who has faced death and conquered it.

Written by Casey Bartlett.

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

May 26 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by Charlie O'Hare of a Red-Breasted Grosbeak in Pierre, South Dakota.

If you have 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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 - [!\[\]\(1086da34995924f924c8e8e23387d139_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(ffa6dd4cd8800071ccc1a355540c540c_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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