



Nothing to Fear

This is the 45th 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 10: The School is a Live Question - Part 4

During the same period the arduous process of maintaining and improving the academy's physical plant progressed with a two-stepforward-one-step-backward cadence. Water problems plagued the academy during most of its existence. Historical records of the academy's early years talk of digging new wells or enlarging old ones during 1908, 1909, 1912 and 1919. Just after the completion of the first of these wells, conference and academy administrators confidently reported that pipes from the well "have been connected" so that the continual trips up the hill for water could soon become a relic of the past, and that a bath and sewage system would be part of the academy's modern facilities "soon."²⁴

The following year, however, new academy principal J.F. Simon reported that "a large well is being dug, and a tank placed in the attic of the main building to force water through all the buildings", adding the caveat that "the water question is a problem not yet solved" and early in 1910, Conference President C.J. Kunkel reported to North Dakota church members that the Conference Committee (or Academy Board) had "talked over" a plan for a water system, including "bathroom and toilet facilities" and had "decided that such a plan should be worked out and the cost ascertained." The problem of "inadequate lighting" (kerosene lamps) and lack of fire protection was also discussed.²⁵

Two years later, the problems still remained unsolved. Another well failure required hauling water from the Sheyenne River to be stored in four large barrels kept in the crowded kitchen, and a small fire in the main building served to underline the water

problem. Plans for a new well, a gasoline-fired pump to transport water to the supply tank and cistern, and the construction of two bathrooms - one in the girls' dormitory and one in the proposed new laundry building - were announced by the Academy Board.²⁶

Sometime during the next five years these plans apparently became reality; Conference President S.E. Jackson reported in mid-1918 that the conference administration had been "severely" criticized for the installation of "the electric light plant, the water system, etc." Nine months later, the *Reaper* reported however, that work had begun on "a new well" for the academy.²⁷

Three new structures were added to the campus during the years 1912 to 1915. The construction of a new laundry building, measuring 16 x 24 feet, to be located east of the girls' dormitory was announced in 1912. A large new "hip roof" barn was built during 1913 on a previously existing foundation begun several years earlier, replacing the "poor excuse" for a barn that had served the school farm.²⁸

The third new building added to the campus during these years was a new 30 x 60 by eighteen feet high girls' dormitory named North Hall. A new dormitory had been an obvious need for several years as the enrollment at the academy had steadily increased; in 1915 rooms had to be rented in the residence of Mr. Saunders of the local community for boys who could not be accommodated in the school's living quarters.²⁹

Actual discussion of building the new facility had apparently begun sometime earlier, but at an academy board meeting late in 1913, when it was revealed that the school was \$10,000 in debt, the board voted to suspend any further improvements and attempt to pay off the debt by the end of 1914.³⁰

A brief series of good agricultural years had begun to improve the economic condition of North Dakotans and of church members, enabling the conference to eliminate the debt on schedule. Because the school was now free of debt, the plans committee of the Conference Session held in connection with Jamestown camp meeting of June 1915 recommended the construction of the new dormitory during the summer of 1916. The constituents, eyeing the crowded conditions of the school and wary of the fickle nature of the agricultural economy, voted to begin construction before the start of the coming school year, and pledged \$8,000 for the project, \$2,000 more than the estimated cost of the new building. Actual construction, delayed until after harvest in order to be sure the crop situation remained favorable to the meeting of those pledges, began in earnest in August, and the girls occupied their new home in November, leaving their older facility to the boys.³¹

24. *Northern Union Reaper*, June 9, 1908, 6; October 5, 1909, 4; August 20, 1912, 4; March 25, 1919, 4; September 29, 1908, 7; November 24, 1908, 5.

25. *Ibid.*, October 5, 1909, 4; March 15, 1910, 6.

26. *Ibid.*, August 20, 1912, 4.

27. *Ibid.*, June 25, 1918, 5; March 25, 1919, 4.

28. *Ibid.*, August 20, 1912, 4; September 2, 1913, 8; September 23, 1913, 8; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement, op. cit.*, 10.

29. *Ibid.*; December 7, 1915, 5; January 26, 1915, 4.

30. *Ibid.*, January 20, 1914, 2-3; February 17, 1914, 4-5; July 28, 1914, 3.

31. *Ibid.*, April 6, 1915, 5; August 10, 1915, 6; June 29, 1915, 2-3; September 21, 1915, 4- 5; December 7, 1915, 5.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 10, "The School Is a Live Question" - Part 5 by Robert K. DuPuy

If you are a new subscriber or have missed the earlier installments, you can find all issues of the Dakota Dispatch on our

website: <https://www.dakotaadventist.org/communiques/dakota-dispatch>

The first installment of *Nothing to Fear* starts in the October 22, 2020 issue.

DAA / PVA / SRA Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend 2022 is right around the corner. Please make plans to attend on October 7 & 8, you are welcome even if you never attended one of our schools. Honor years are any class graduating in a year ending with "8" or "3" - though these are the honor years, this weekend is geared at ALL classes. The Alumni Association would like to experience a "Taste of Heaven" and connect with as many graduates as possible.

A few highlights of the weekend will include the following: A Dakota Singers (AKA Honors Choir) reunion with Mr. Brendan Krueger, music teacher from the 90s; an art class with Mr. Gary Way, English and art teacher from the last couple of decades; and the return of the Golf Scramble on Friday.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday, October 7:

- 11:00a - Golf Scramble at Tom O'Leary Golf Course (1200 N Washington St, Bismarck)
- 2:00p - Registration at DAA
- 3:00-5:00p - Art Class with Mr. Way at DAA in the lower level of the circle
- 4:00p - Pioneer Reception in cafeteria - 50 year class provides programming
- 5:30-6:00p - Supper in cafeteria
- 7:00p - Vespers - Mr. Brendan Krueger speaking
- 8:00-9:00p - Social hour in circle

Sabbath, October 8:

- 8:30-9:00a - Breakfast in cafeteria
- 10:00a - Sabbath School
 - Adults: Speaker Myndi Timothy Clements
 - Ages 0-7: Taught by Char Messer Merkel and Lacey Merkel
 - Ages 8-12: Taught by Dixie Schaffer Thoman
 - Ages 13-18: Taught by Elder Ted Struntz
- 10:50a - Worship Service - Elder Neil Biloff speaking
- 12:15p - Class pictures
- 1:00p - Lunch in cafeteria
- 2:30-3:00p - DAA music showcase
- 3:00-5:30p - Free time for visiting
- 5:30p - Supper in cafeteria
- 7:15p - Vespers
- 8:00p - Alumni Business Meeting
- 8:30p - Alumni Volleyball and Basketball Games

Some things to note:

- All meals will be donation based this year so no meal tickets are needed. Please bring an offering to help defray costs.
- You do not need to register for the Golf Scramble - just make sure your team is at the golf course before 11:00am.
- If you were a former member of Dakota Singers (DAK) / Honors Choir and would like to join in the DAK Reunion with Mr. Brendan Krueger, [click on this link](#) to fill out the questions. Mr. Krueger will then be in touch with you.



Lighten Your Load

North Dakota is not known for its steep hills. And yet, we have one.

At least, WE think it's steep. It's the only hill my family farms that can't be driven up with a fully loaded combine or a fully loaded grain cart. In fact, I've always had strict orders to stay off that hill and let someone more experienced tackle it.

The experienced driver gets to the top from the gently sloping west side after emptying his combine hopper into the grain cart and giving himself a pep talk. (At

least, I imagine there's a pep talk. That's what I would do.) Then, he flips on his rotors and reels, and inches to the south edge. The weight of the combine pushes him faster and faster, so he must constantly pull back on the stick to try to slow it down. Once down, he circles back to the top via the gentle west slope and repeats the downhill plunge for three or four more passes before the hill is considered "safe" for the rest of us.



The important key for today's thought is: if you want to succeed, you need to unload first!

Job had friends to support him when multiple catastrophes struck. That blind guy that Jesus healed with a loogie? His friends were instrumental in leading Him to Jesus and advocating for him. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."

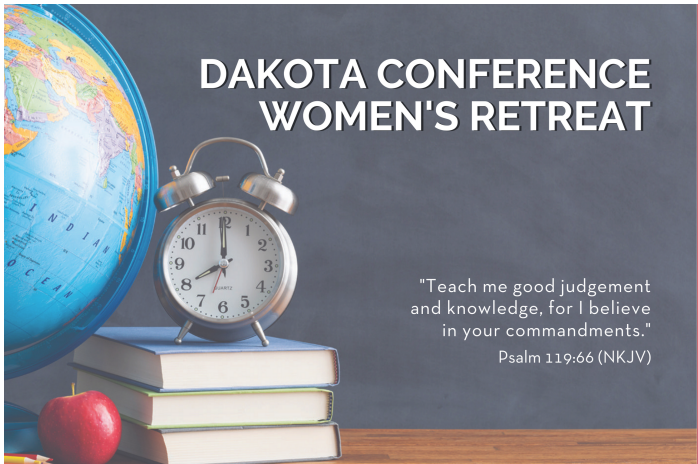
I know I've felt much relief when I've shared my burdens with my sister or a trusted friend. That support and encouragement are priceless!

It's also important to give your worries to God. "Cast all your cares on Him, for he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7); "Cast all your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you" (Psalm 55:22). And this one is a favorite: "The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Remember to reach out to a friend if you have worries, to be a friend to others, and to cast your deepest burdens on the Lord.

Worship Thoughts and photo by Brenda Klein, member of the New Home Adventist Church in North Dakota.

Follow Brenda on Facebook for more devotional thoughts at [Farm Girl Faith](#). "Humble Thyself" lyrics by Robert Byron Hudson.



**DAKOTA CONFERENCE
WOMEN'S RETREAT**

"Teach me good judgement
and knowledge, for I believe
in your commandments."
Psalm 119:66 (NKJV)

Class is in Session
**September 30 -
October 2, 2022**

The Abbey of the Hills
46561 147th St
Marvin, South Dakota

Brochures and registration
information is available at:
[dakotaadventist.org/ministries/
womens-ministries](http://dakotaadventist.org/ministries/womens-ministries)

For more information and to register online, [click here](#). Early bird prices have ended but there is still space. Registration closes on September 25. Sign up today!

Prairie Voyager Elementary School



Lower graders at Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary School in Grand Forks, North Dakota hold their models of a backbone.

Photo by Leanne Erickson, teacher at PVE.

Watertown Church Shows Neighborly Love

Once a month, the Watertown Adventist Church members take a gift door-to-door to their church neighbors. When the gift is given, the receiver is told that it is from the church down the street whose members just want to brighten their day. If no one answers the door, they move on to the next house without leaving the gift behind. The reason for this is so the neighbor does not come home, see an item waiting at their door, and feel relieved to have missed a group of "churchgoers" who want something from them. The members feel that it is important to show neighborly love without any expectations or needing something in return.

The Adventist group wears casual clothes so they appear less intimidating and try to keep to a minimum of three people - including at least one child. Within the gift is a church business card with a QR code for the individual to look up information about their church should they want to find out more about the givers. Gifts have included 9-volt batteries for smoke detectors, single roses, potted petunias, bubbles, and a good working pen.

This past Sunday, members hosted a Family Fun Day in the parking lot of their church. Included in the event were an ice cream truck, bounce house, obstacle course, face painting, and all the sweet corn a person wanted to eat. The day prior, an invitation for the event was included with the neighborly gift. Over thirty-five community guests attended and relationships between "neighbors" were established.

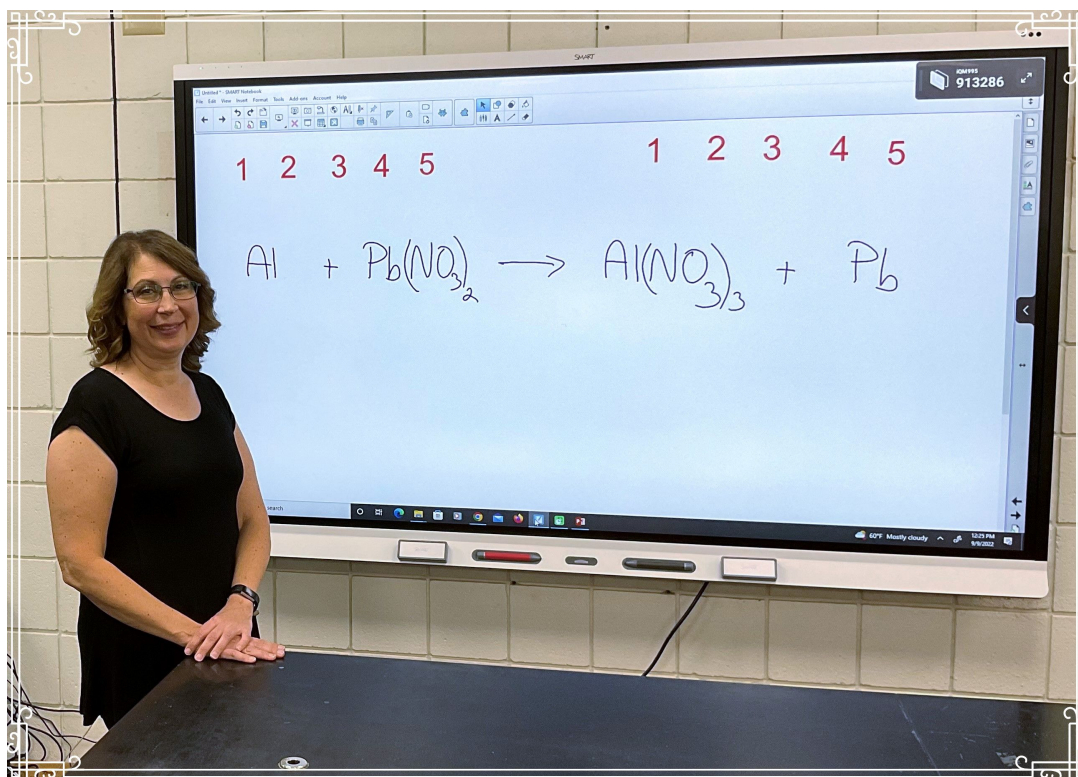


Article by Darla Anderson, head elder of the Watertown Adventist Church in South Dakota. Photos by Kim Pike, member of the Watertown church.

Answered Prayer at DAA

Ten years ago, a generous donation pushed Ms. Fenton's classes here at Dakota Adventist Academy into the modern age with the latest educational technology. The SmartBoard enabled students to engage in complex subjects like never before. "Henry" found himself enjoying his study of the more challenging concepts in Biology and playing learning games outside of the classroom from previous chapters just for fun. The classroom dynamic had been transformed into something interactive. Unfortunately, after a long run, the SmartBoard became non-functional. Ms. Fenton limped through the end of last school year and started a GoFundMe fundraiser.

At the beginning of August, the amount needed fell short of the goal. Then monies were received so that the school year could be started with a complete classroom. The difference was made up with the knowledge that there would be continued fundraising, returning the good faith money. After a few phone calls, the goal was reached and the good faith money returned. Ms. Fenton would like to express her sincere appreciation and thank all of her former students, alumni from DAA, and friends for their generous support and prayers.



Article by Pam Fenton, science and health teacher at DAA. Photo by Daniel Bracamonte, junior at DAA.

Adventist Campus Ministries

School has started again! Most of our college students are just landing in Universities in North or South Dakota. Here in the Fargo Moorhead area, we have

nearly 25,000 young people moving into dorms in the three colleges near us. Adventist Campus Ministries does not know the number of Adventist youth on the campuses here! That is a problem!

Once a month our ministry sets up booths at two of our campuses - NDSU and MSUM. These booths provide books and resources that help students deal with the many secular challenges in and outside of their classrooms. Most of the students we minister to are not Adventists. Many of the students we dialogue with are either not Christian, of another religion, or no religion (an ever-increasing number).



Why are Christians ages 18 to 29 leaving the church and rethinking their commitment to faith? Based on new research conducted by the Barna Group, one thing is responsible for this ever-growing statistic, found in the book, *You Lost Me: the Christian community has failed to “equip young adults.”*

To equip students, we offer free books at our booths on the scientific evidence for why Christianity and belief in God is logical even though science is misused to say God is a myth. Why is Jesus Christ not *just* a great guy? Why is evolution *not* the truth about how all life got here? How do you know God really spoke in the Bible? Who is to say I shouldn't have sex before marriage, or why is getting married important at all? These are the challenges that most of our youth face culturally and even academically.

Through this ministry, we have experienced growth in youth at church and have conducted baptisms. Below is a photo of our newest members, Jodeen and James (top left).

If you are reading this and you attend a church near a college, consider doing something like this as a ministry on campus.



Article and photos submitted by Pr. Darrel Lindensmith, pastor of the Fargo / Wahpeton church district in North Dakota.

If you know of any young adults attending up in the Fargo area, from anywhere, please let me know so we can include them in our Christ-centered programs! You can text me at 701.391.9131 or email darrellindensmith@outlook.com

Dakota Camps

All around the Dakota Conference, amazing things are happening with our youth! This past week, I had the privilege of having Friday morning worship for our school in Rapid City. It was great to see and visit with many of this year's summer campers that attend the school. I shared the biblical story of Ruth and her lifelong commitment and challenged each of them to mirror her steps and make a lifelong commitment to follow Jesus.

From Rapid City, my wife and I headed over to Hot Springs for Sabbath. Their pathfinder club was in charge of the worship service and I had the honor of giving the sermon. After preaching and taking part in a delicious fellowship lunch, I participated in the Black Hills Lightbearers Pathfinder and Adventurer induction and investiture services. It was exciting to see the Lightbearers' great enthusiasm! Their club is already looking forward to participating in the 2023 NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) over the book of John. Thank you to the Lightbearer leaders, Drs. Mike and Jaime Bohlman, and all of those in the Hot Springs church who are helping them have a successful Adventurer and Pathfinder program.

If your church hasn't yet started these important children's and youth ministries, it's not too late! Contact me to help you start this vital ministry in your home church. Don't miss out on all the fun! Since this Sabbath is World Pathfinder Day, would you commit with



me to spend at least 15 minutes in prayer for the children in our conference territory? We are told there is mighty power in prayer. Please join me in lifting up our young people before the throne of God.

One of the most rewarding and noble steps adults can take is helping young people. Throughout our conference, we have dedicated people diligently working to make sure that our young people are given opportunities to succeed. One way this is manifested is in the work that our members do at our camps.

At Flag Mountain, right before camp started, a group of volunteers installed new flooring in our medical rooms. It looks great! After camp finished, a Pathfinder group from Nebraska worked on our girls' cabin bathrooms. And just this past Thursday and Sunday, another hardworking group came out to put a new roof on our medical building and quadplex. It was awesome to watch how each group member worked together with one purpose - to take care of the camp they love.

At Northern Lights, a group of volunteers also worked diligently to reseal the dining hall's back deck, spruce up our flower beds, and finish siding and soffit on the dining hall - an integral job to ensure the new dining hall has longevity in our chilly climate. While up at Northern Lights for the work bee, my wife and I were delighted to see the Aurora Borealis right from the shores of our camp. It was beautiful to see the Northern Lights over Lake Metigoshe. It gave us just a glimpse of what Jesus' return might be like when the heavens light up with His coming. Oh, what a day that will be!

A huge thank you to each of you who willingly give your time, talents, and resources to keep our treasured camp facilities running and ready for ministry and to those of you who work with our future generation. Your ministry and sacrifice to these precious young people will have dividends in heaven. We are so thankful for each of you! Thank you for putting your heart into our Dakota Conference Camps and young people!

~ Pastor Ted



Article by Pr. Ted Struntz, conference youth director. Photos by Pr. Ted and Lynnette Struntz.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

Theme: Harvest - Making Disciples & Storing the Harvest

Pastoral Staff: Harold Chin, Vernon Herholdt

Education Staff: Debra Eszler, Ron Reese, Peter Hutaaruk

Office Staff: Jaelyn Pickett, Kelli Wasemiller

Adventist Entities:
Bismarck Church,
Brentwood School, Dakota
Adventist Academy

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

Meeting ID: 841 1749 9925
Passcode: 382190
Call In: 669.444.9171

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117499925?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDlmc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day
Adventist Church

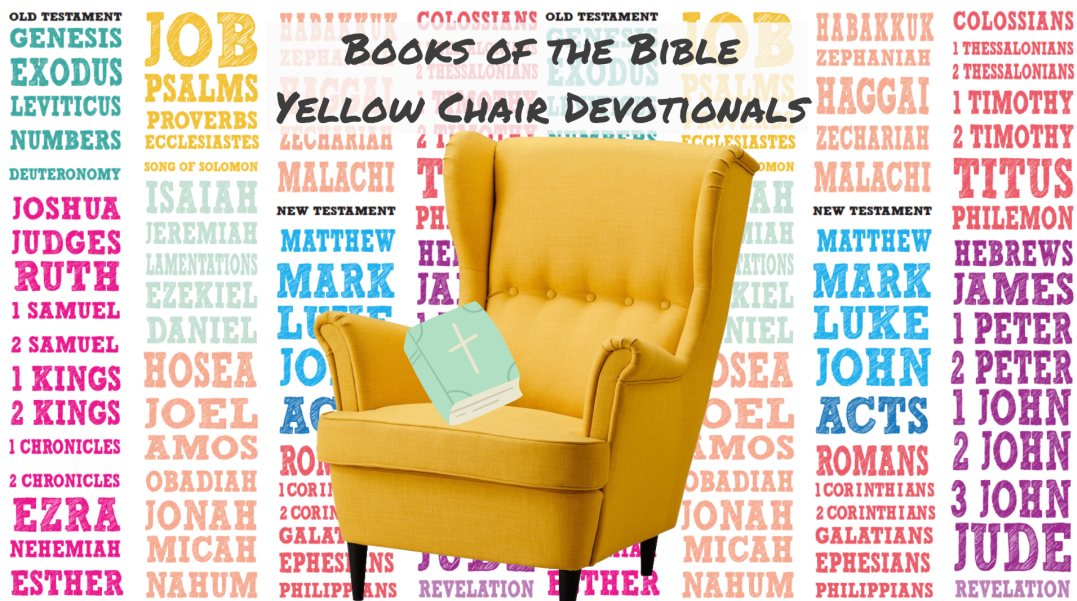
South Central, North Dakota: Bismarck, Mandan, Lehr, Kulm, Fort Yates, Cheyenne River Reservation

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

Kid's Corner

This month in the Yellow Chair Devotionals we are looking at each book of the Bible and how it fits into the larger story of Scripture displaying God's desire for a loving relationship with us. Click here to view "[Books of the Bible: Yellow Chair Devotionals](#)".

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.

Parent Resources

Mindy Salyers, from Seventh-day Adventist School Counsellation Services, presented at this fall's Dakota teacher in-services on mental health. Mindy has a master's degree in school counseling and recently started her own online program, which combines counseling services in a consultation model to better meet the needs of our Adventist young people.

"The 'Counsellation' pilot initiative started in 2019 during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. With a focus on student and teacher wellbeing, a Conference-wide School Counselor role was developed to enhance care and connectedness within Adventist schools. Now, during the Covid-fallout of mental health crises and trauma,

student emotional and social growth is more vital than ever. In order to expand a Kid-Counselor reach, this online model allows the capability to provide Biblically-based Social-Emotional learning for Adventist school students across the North-American Division! As of 2022, Counseltation has served 15 Conferences with individual, small group, and whole school student support." (Excerpt taken from Mindy Salyers' website under the "Who We Are" tab at: [counseltation.com](https://www.counseltation.com))

To read Mindy's past newsletters and access free parenting resources, click the link: <https://www.counseltation.com/for-parents>

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the clock ticks into yet another school year, I'm reminded that us parents have only 3,000 hours a year to teach our kiddos about Christ. Approximately 1,260 of those hours, however, are times when our children spend in school. Because you desire for your child to grow academically, socially, and emotionally within a Jesus context, you have placed your precious one(s) in an Adventist school.



As a Seventh-day Adventist school counselor, my goal is to support you and your student during 2022-2023 by enhancing the homeschool connection. Specifically, I hope to give you strategies to enhance your child's Social-Emotional Learning and growth. In this monthly Kid Connection newsletter, I will work to provide you with tools to strengthen your student's behavioral and emotional health, specifically within a contextualized Christian viewpoint.

As you and I work together, I hope to support you as a fellow parent and professional counselor, in both your parenting journey and your child's walk with Jesus.

Warmly,

Mindy Salyers

Seventh-day Adventist School Counselor

Self-Care September 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	 6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	 7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'	1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it
12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break	8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy
19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside	15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you
26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn	22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**



Reprinted with permission from Mindy Sayers. To sign up for Mindy's newsletter, [click here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.

DAKOTA CONFERENCE TOWN HALLS

Join us for a DAA centered meeting!

Bismarck - September 8
 Fargo - September 19
 Aberdeen - September 22
 Jamestown - September 26

Dickinson - September 27
 Rapid City - October 13
 Sioux Falls - October 20



Each meeting will be held at the local church and begin at 6:30p.

You are invited to attend one of our Conference Town Halls. These meetings will be centered around Dakota Adventist Academy with the goal to share as much information as possible regarding how our Conference is working towards the long-term viability of DAA.

Along with updates, financial information, and trend lines, you will have the opportunity to ask anything about DAA. Please plan to attend one of the seven meetings being held at the local Adventist Church. They will begin at 6:30p, local time, and last no more than 90 minutes.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

September -

- 14-18: DAA Homeleave
- 17: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Rapid City Church, SD
- 17: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Watford City Church, ND
- 17: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Spearfish Church, SD
- 17: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in Richardton Church, ND
- 17: Local Church Budget
- 18: Southwest ACS Federation Meeting in Rapid City, SD (10a)
- 19-22: Elementary Outdoor School at Northern Lights Camp
- 19: Fargo Town Hall Meeting - Fargo Church (6:30p)
- 22: Aberdeen Town Hall Meeting - Aberdeen Church (6:30p)
- 24: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Grassy Butte Church, ND
- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowman Church, ND
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 25: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a) *changed from Sept 18
- 26: Jamestown Town Hall Meeting - Jamestown Church (6:30p)
- 27: Dickinson Town Hall Meeting - Invitation Hill (Dickinson) Church (6:30p)
- 30: Women's Retreat in Marvin, SD

October - Pastors' Appreciation Month

- 1-2: Women's Retreat in Marvin, SD
- 1: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hot Springs Church, SD
- 1: Local Church Budget
- 7-8: DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend (Elder Neil Biloff preaching for church on Sabbath)
- 8: Camp Development
- 9-11: New in Ministry Meetings at Conference Office
- 13: Rapid City Town Hall Meeting - Rapid City Church (6:30p)
- 15: Rapid City Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 15: Local Church Budget
- 18: Executive Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 19-23: DAA Homeleave and Union College Volleyball/Soccer Tournaments
- 20: Sioux Falls Town Hall Meeting - Sioux Falls Church (6:30p)
- 22: Dakota Challenge
- 29: Endowment Sabbath
- 29: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Richardton Church, ND
- 29: Secondary Education Endowment

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

Blessed & Kept

May you find the courage to realize your dreams.

May life's brevity jolt you awake to your desires.

May your desire for the world and your imprint on it placed by God on your heart advance to the forefront of your consciousness.

May you find satisfaction in nothing other than taking a step towards that desire.

May the fear of failure recede.

May you find courage in the fact that your value and identity are not tied up in your success or failure.

May the fear of success diminish.

Tomorrow has enough worry of its own.

May you today, take a step towards your dreams; one step towards the life into which God has called you.

May you make the phone call, have the conversation, write the business plan, hit the launch button, begin writing the book.

May you take this step because of who you are now, not who this accomplishment will prove you to be.

May you take this step with the confidence of one who can not fail.

Because when your identity and value is already firmly established in God, no matter what happens in this venture, you can't.

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

September 15 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger, conference women's ministries director and member of the Mandan Adventist Church in North Dakota. Photo is of the BNSF bridge over the Missouri River taken from the Burleigh County side.

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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- [!\[\]\(78688513da7a924039ac16e546d7bf8b_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(508a1136d49b79584e89f03b586dfa9e_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
- [!\[\]\(857a1917d2813fe7f9df1c2d3a9286e1_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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