



Nothing to Fear

This is the 46th 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 5

A 1916 report lists the school's property as 240 acres; 160 acres had been sold at the close of 1910. The campus facilities as listed in that report included, a main school building, 40 x 44, two dormitories for boys (South Hall and either the 1907 cottage, the old laundry, or the new laundry?), a new dormitory for girls (North Hall), a farm house, barn 40 x 60, granary, root cellar, laundry, etc.³²

The next areas of need demanding the attention of the conference and academy administrators were the overcrowded dining hall and chapel facilities. The over-taxed kitchen, which had to be utilized as overflow seating for the dining room could no longer keep up with the growing student body. Chapel seating was also at a premium, requiring a number of students to share the platform area with faculty members during assembly services. A new oven, capable of baking 80 loaves of bread an hour was purchased in early 1916 and the Conference Session of the same year authorized the construction of an addition to the main building, expanding both the dining hall and the chapel.³³

About 1 a.m. the morning of December 14, 1916, fire broke out in the furnace area of the new girls' dormitory completed just one year earlier; within 45 minutes the

building collapsed in ruins. The most severe injury was the broken collarbone of a girl who jumped from a second story window to escape the flames, but with the exception of a new piano and the clothing from three of the girls' rooms, the building and its contents were a total loss. Fortunately, the building had been adequately covered by insurance, and the replacement dormitory was ready for occupancy by the start of the 1917-1918 school year.³⁴

A host of other improvements, both major and minor undertaken about the same time included: the installation of a new steam furnace in the restored dormitory, construction of two coal bins for the main building and girls' residence, new flooring in the boys' dormitory and on the third floor of the main building, painting, varnishing, and refinishing of walls, floors, and woodwork elsewhere in the building, and the installation of the electric light system for which the administration was so sharply criticized.³⁵

The final major improvement to the physical plant of the academy during the closing years of its second decade was the remodeling of a cement block house donated to the school by a resident of the community into a dormitory for academy teachers, late in 1919.³⁶

The record of the instructional program of Sheyenne River Academy's formative years reveals a gradual development from virtually a strictly academic curriculum to the more familiar (at least theoretically) Adventist emphasis on the integration of religion, manual labor, and practical education with the traditional academic disciplines. Student work requirements, beginning with an optional maximum three hours per day (a policy which apparently drew considerable criticism as being excessive and distracting), developed into a stipulated forty-eight-hour work month by 1920.³⁷

Apart from the practical training of employment on the school farm, at the blacksmith shop established in 1908, or elsewhere on the campus, practical education, at least in a formal sense, apparently did not occupy a prominent role at the academy for several years. During 1915, the school authorities reported conducting four "industry classes", blacksmithing, woodwork, sewing, and domestic science, as well as an "agriculture class". Classes in poultry, gardening and hydrotherapy were also part of the industrial curriculum the following year, and the school acquired a printing press and began to teach its related trades in 1920.³⁸

Interestingly, Bible classes appear to have been elective in the academy's early

years. A 1912 report from the school noted that about one-half of the students were enrolled in the nine Bible classes offered.³⁹

Sheyenne River Academy's early curriculum soon expanded to embrace courses in the natural sciences. A 1908 botany class combined the collection and identification of plant specimens with practical endeavors of seeding and arranging flower beds around the campus. Sometime later a science laboratory was apparently established and equipped over a period of years.⁴⁰

32. *Ibid.*, February 15, 1916, 9, 10; January 31, 1911, 5.

33. *Ibid.*; January 11, 1916, 4; June 27, 1916, 8; July 11, 1916, 3; January 18, 1916, 5; Clara McClelland, *op.cit.*

34. *Northern Union Reaper*, December 19, 1916, 3; January 2, 1917, 4; September 4, 1917, 5.

35. *Ibid.*

36. *Ibid.*, December 2, 1919, 4.

37. *North Dakota Conference Session Record Book*, *op. cit.*, 1, 52; *Northern Union Reaper*, September 11, 1917, 5; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement*, 1920-1921, 20.

38. *Ibid.*, June 9, 1908, 6; February 16, 1915, 3; November 23, 1915, 3; December 12, 1916, 7; September 7, 1920, 6; *Sheyenne River Academy Annual Announcement*, 1916-1917, 4.

39. *Northern Union Reaper*, July 16, 1912, 5.

40. *Ibid.*, June 9, 1908, 6; September 11, 1917, 5.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 10, "The School Is a Live Question" - Part 6 by Robert K. DuPuy

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

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

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

Dakota Pathfinders

If your church has a club for the 2022-2023 year, please email Pastor Ted at dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com. We want to ensure that you are receiving all of the communication about upcoming events and club opportunities.

Thank you for your help and your ministry.

ATTENTION DAKOTA PATHFINDER CLUBS

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CONTACT PASTOR TED
dakotayouthandyoungadults@gmail.com



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. This fall's 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.

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
- 4:00p - DAK Rehearsal #1 in Upper Chapel
- 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
- 3:00p - DAK Rehearsal #2 in Upper Chapel
- 3:00-5:30p - Free time for visiting
- 5:30p - Supper in cafeteria
- 7:15p - Vespers: Mr. Steve Ladig speaking
- 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.



Overthinking

I can't believe I missed the obvious.

I was preparing the cabin for our October waterfowl hunters the other night. It was

getting dark, so I flipped on the outside light as I made a trip to the pickup with some laundry. No light.

Ugh! In years past, the east light would turn off and on at will, sometimes leaving our cabin guests to fumble in the dark looking for the stairs. Last fall, we added log siding to the north side and discovered some wires had been crossed at the outlet. We reversed them, and it seemed to fix my problem



with the east light for the season. But now the light was out again.

I checked the continuity by testing and resetting the interrupter switch at the outlet. Everything seemed to be working fine. I checked the breaker box, too, even though that seemed the illogical cause of the light not working if power was coming to the outlet. The breaker was fine. I tried the north light switch just for fun. To my horror, it wasn't working either!

Oh, dear! Now I'll probably need to call an electrician and that will cost me hundreds of dollars. Also, electricians are in short supply in my rural neighborhood, and I've never been able to successfully hire one in the past despite numerous attempts to line one up. What's a girl to do?

The next morning it hit me. It was so simple, and yet with the past history of this particular light, I had completely overlooked the obvious. I ran down to the basement, grabbed a couple of light bulbs, and tested them on a working lamp just to make sure they were good bulbs. Then I dashed out to the cabin, unscrewed the non-working bulb, and began screwing in the good one. Lo and behold, there was light! I literally laughed out loud to myself at this simple solution I had missed. I repeated the process with the north light and was again rewarded with a happy glow of light. So simple, and yet I had made it so hard.

I do that with other aspects of my life, too. I jump to negative conclusions about a situation and then I catastrophize in my mind, thinking of all the horrible consequences that could happen based on my flawed thinking. Today I'm going to try to remember to "keep it simple." It just might shed some new light into a dark corner of my brain!

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure,

making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7).

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](#).

The Missing Piece

For the first unit in Bible class this school year, Prairie Voyager School in Grand Forks, North Dakota, has been learning about archeology and digging for artifacts. Specifically, artifacts that help prove that the Bible and God are real.

As part of the class, the teacher wrote Bible verse references on the back of plates, broke the plates, and then buried the shards of pottery in the playground gravel. Students would then dig for the shards and piece the plates back together to discover the Bible verses written on the pottery.

The first day of digging was a hot 90-degree day. With at least 35 pieces to find, students found half of the pottery shards. On day two, the class went back out to dig and found quite a few more pieces. On day three, the class found all but five of the remaining pottery shards. To speed the process along, Mrs. Erickson called in a recruit - her husband Troy. On day four, Troy came to the school over his lunch break and lifted shovels full of gravel for the students to filter through. That day, all but one piece of pottery was found. The students had already put the plates back together and knew that one missing piece of pottery had the majority of a verse written on it. They needed this piece.

By day five, the kids were over the digging experience. Mrs. Erickson sent Troy out on his own to find the remaining piece. With only a short time to dig over his lunch break, Troy sent up a prayer, “Lord, this is for your glory - for the truth to be taught to these students. Help me find the piece.”

Shovel one, nothing. Shovel two, nothing. Shovel three... ting, recovered!

Troy returned to the class, carrying the missing piece of pottery that held the needed verse for the project. With this, he also brought another lesson for the students on God’s faithfulness in the little things, proving that He cares for us.



Prairie Voyager Dig Site

Article and photos by Leanne Erickson, head teacher at Prairie Voyager School in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Adventist Community Services in Rapid City

ACS Report

BY ANN HANEL

It was feeling like fall here for a couple of days, but we are in the heat again for a few days. School has started and the leaves on the trees will be turning colors soon. I really like the fall season. Beautiful colors and smells coming from the kitchen, and cooler temperatures.

It has not slowed down much in the Food Pantry. We are still helping with food, personal care items, and household items when we have them. Some folks are working more hours and are still having a difficult time making ends meet. I did hear today that the Federal Government will be discontinuing the rent relief program in a few weeks and

that is going to make it extra difficult for people. We are bracing for that. We still make several referrals weekly for housing, gas, utilities, car repairs, etc. Prayers continue for our clients.

The Black Hills Health & Education Center along with the Health & Education Alliance of the Dakotas and ACS sponsored a visit from Dr. Conrad Vine the first weekend of August and the turn out was good. Thank you all for attending and making this happen. Dr. Vine was very appreciative and enjoyed his time up here touring the Black Hills and meeting us.

We are still continuing to accept recipes for the Pathfinder's Cookbook Fundraiser. The blank recipe cards are on the counter in the fellowship hall and just give your recipes to Darlene Stafford or Wavenny Albright.

We have had a lot of meetings with the NAD, VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster), and FEMA. We will be meeting with Volunteers of America and we also received a call from the volunteer coordinator from the Salvation Army who may be interested in partnering with us.

That's it for now, -Ann



Dr. Conrad Vine from Adventist Frontier Missions visits Rapid City SDA Church

Article and photo taken from the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church's September Newsletter. Reprinted with permission from Stephen Wasemiller, communication director in RCSDA.

Pastors' Appreciation Month

October is Pastors' Appreciation Month. The Dakota Conference currently has nineteen pastors on staff with one of them attending the seminary program at Andrews University. Throughout the year, our pastors work to expand the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church here in the Dakotas.

This month, please take extra time to show your pastor how much they are appreciated. Remember to daily lift your pastor up in prayer. We are proud of our pastors and so thankful to have them as part of the Dakota Conference team!

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR

- Pray for your pastor
- Give a gift card for a meal
- Volunteer for a job at church
- Send an encouraging email
- Have your pastor's back
- Speak highly of your church & pastor
- Send your pastor a card
- Attend worship services



Dakota Youth & Young Adults

It's hard to believe that fall is already upon us! It was just sixty days ago when we awarded one of our summer camp staff with the coveted distinction of "Honor Cabin Counselor of the Year." Counselor Baker, from South Dakota, earned this coveted

award by motivating his campers to give of their best in keeping their cabin area clean and learning the Bible power passages. He had more honor cabin wins than any other counselor! What I especially love about Baker's story is that he certainly is no stranger to Dakota Adventist Camps. He has been a camper here each year since he was a little boy, and he loves our camps and environment so much that he wanted to come back and work as a staff member. Baker's enthusiasm and dedication to our camps is inspiring. I love to see the lasting impact our camps have on our kids and youth. We are already making plans for our 2023 Summer Camp Season. I hope you are, too!

Along with fall comes the return of Adventurers and Pathfinders from the summer break. Besides conducting some training and meetings with our local leaders, I've also had the opportunity to meet with Pathfinder leaders from around the NAD. Last week Lynnette and I spent some time at a camporee in Montana connecting with other conference Pathfinder directors and Ron Whitehead, director of the upcoming *Believe the Promise International Pathfinder*



Camporee that will be held in our union in 2024. Pathfinder clubs are already busy preparing to attend this amazing experience in Wyoming. You can check out the [camporee website here](#). If you have ever been to one of these international camporees, held every five years, then you know the lifelong memories that are made there. I cannot wait to lead our Dakota Pathfinders through this event!

However, much closer on the calendar is the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). I will be sharing more about the local testing of PBE for our clubs in an upcoming Dispatch. For those of you who may not know much about this Bible study program, I encourage you to check out the official website here: nadpbe.org

It's not too late to start a local Pathfinder club and incorporate this vital ministry into your church. Ask me how; I am happy to help.

It has been great being able to meet so many of you already in my short time here.

This weekend I hope to meet more of you at the Custer church, and next weekend I will have a booth set up at DAA's Alumni Weekend. I invite you to stop by and spend some time telling me about your camp and pathfinder experiences. If you are new to the area, I would love the opportunity to tell you about our great camps and other youth ministry opportunities. I look forward to meeting you soon!

~ 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 **October**:

Theme: Heritage - Faith of our Fathers

Pastoral Staff: Jim McCurdy, Stephen Eastwood, Brian Norton

Education Staff: Anthony Oucharek, Forrest Calhoun, Greg Ratter

Office Staff: Julie Brude

South Central, South Dakota: Murdo, Mission,

**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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0l4MDlmc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Chamberlain, Winner

[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.

DAKOTA CONFERENCE TOWN HALLS

Join us for a DAA centered meeting!

Bismarck - September 8	Dickinson - September 27
Fargo - September 19	Rapid City - October 13
Aberdeen - September 22	Sioux Falls - October 20
Jamestown - September 26	

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 -

- 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: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Custer 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 Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grand Forks Church, ND
- 29: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Richardton Church, ND
- 29: Secondary Education Endowment

November -

- 5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Harvey Church, ND
- 5: Local Church Budget
- 5: DAA National Honor Society Vespers & Fall Festival
- 6: K-12 Board & Executive Committee Combined Meeting (10a)
- 12: Aberdeen Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 12: Annual Sacrifice
- 14-17: MAUC Year-end Meetings in Lincoln, NE
- 17: MAUC Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE

- **19: Local Church Budget**
- 23-24: Conference Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 23-27: DAA Homeleave

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

Blessed & Kept

May the limits of your content be infinite.

You are enough.

May God's satisfaction with who you are guide you to stop seeking the approval that has already been granted to you.

May God's acceptance of you help you to begin accepting yourself.

May God's desire for you spark within you a belief that you are worth being desired.

There is enough.

May God's promised provision rob you of your selfishness.

May it snatch your anxieties that tell you to hoard your resources.

May God's promised provision grant you peace amidst the uncertainty of tomorrow.

May you seek out just enough bread for today.

It is enough.

May Christ's work on the cross calm your need to do more in your walk with God.

May the cross be enough without your input.

May you ponder the goodness of God's gift without any thought of how you can repay it.

As you ponder the hidden answer to the question, "how are you?" the part that you don't say out loud; that encompasses all of the nuances and takes into account the full context of your life

In spite of all the strife and stress in your life,

May that hidden answer, be unequivocally

I am content.

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

September 29 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Leanne Erickson, teacher at Prairie Voyager Elementary School, taken near Grand Forks, North 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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 - [!\[\]\(da0f02caffeb5a74776a1d5d1892b059_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(edb096eed27f3ac1241ba8d18d05acad_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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