



Nothing to Fear

This is the 60th 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 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 5

The second notable gathering was a German camp meeting, held at Gackle July 9-13, to strengthen the fledgling work in that new area. The public interest at Gackle was so good that the German Baptist Church cancelled its Sunday services to allow its members to attend that gathering on the edge of town.

Not everyone in Gackle was favorable to the message of the Adventist evangelists, however; a group of dissident town folk tried to disrupt the meeting by rolling a heavy iron rake wheel down the hill into the crowded tent. The wheel was stopped short of its potentially destructive mission, however, when it lodged, just outside the tent, between two tent stakes that had been inadvertently driven too close together. D. D. Kurtz and J. J. Reiswig stayed in Gackle to follow up on the interest generated by the brief camp meeting.²⁷

The next dozen years of the North Dakota Conference were marked by aggressive evangelistic activity among the state's four dominant nationalities, and by the development of the church's organizational and departmental structure to meet the continuing needs of churches trading their often unsettled frontier heritage for a more stable, permanent place in the spiritual culture of the communities in which

they were located. The success of the work among the Russians during this period which has been detailed in another chapter was only exceeded by the growth and expansion of Adventism among the Germans. The efforts begun in Gackle during the 1908 camp meeting continued during the next year and on July 17, 1909, a church of twenty members was organized by Carl Leer and John Seibel. In less than one year, the new congregation had dedicatory services for its new church building and by 1917, a second Gackle group was meeting at a country location ten miles north of town.²⁸

The efforts of the German evangelists continued to bear fruit throughout the period in the southern part of the state. Through the efforts of John Seibel, J. J. Reiswig, and William Wentland, a church was formed at Kulm from rival Sabbath-keeping factions at about the same time the Gackle church was organized. The new congregation had its own church building almost immediately, an old, converted granary eleven miles southeast of Kulm.²⁹

By 1910, a German church had been organized at Wishek (McIntosh County) and a company was meeting at Ellendale (Dickey County) formed of a single Adventist family and a group of unaffiliated Sabbathkeepers.³⁰

The German evangelists, after several years of working in and around the town of Lehr (Logan-McIntosh Counties) finally struck pay dirt early in 1914 when John Seibel began a series of evangelistic meetings in a schoolhouse located between two large churches. Local ministers, who had tried unsuccessfully to draw people away from the meetings with rival services, were aided by an outbreak of scarlet fever in town which resulted in the suspension of all public meetings.

Undaunted, Seibel made his appeal personally to the town's mayor and was soon back in business. "Ten families and three sisters" became Seventh-day Adventists as a result of this series and a church was organized later in the year.³¹

Further north, in the area where the German movement had first been concentrated, a second group had formed in the McClusky area, being operated as a Sabbath School south of town in 1912 and was followed by the formation of a similar group south of Goodrich, the following year. In the meantime, the existing churches were being strengthened by on-going evangelistic and revival efforts.³²

27. *Ibid.*, 3.

28. *Ibid.*, August 24, 1909, 4,5; July 26, 1910, 6; May 22, 1917, 5.

29. *Ibid.*, July 20, 1909, 5; August 24, 1909, 5; Kulm church history, prepared by church members.

30. *Ibid.*, June 21, 1910, 3; May 19, 1908, 7; January 18, 1910, 5.

31. *Ibid.*, March 31, 1914, 5,6.

32. *Ibid.*, December 26, 1911, 3; July 2, 1912, 4.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - 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 Campmeeting 2023

Another year of Dakota Campmeeting has come and gone but it has left attendees blessed by the fellowship, lovely music, and the speakers' messages. Weekday seminar presenters were Elder Craig Carr, ministerial director at Mid-America Union Conference; Pastor Esther Knott, associate director for the North American Division Ministerial Association; and Elder Tim Roosenberg, Idaho Conference evangelist. Elder Bradford Newton, president of the Pacific Union Conference, delivered the message each evening and for the church service on Sabbath.

Before each weeknight meeting, a half hour of music ministry was performed. As the nights progressed, the number of attendees grew to hear some of the musical talents from across the Dakotas.

Behind the scenes, pastors, elementary teachers, camp staff, and office workers prepped, cleaned, and ultimately made sure the programs ran smoothly. It takes a team of people to put together an event such as Campmeeting, and this year's team did an incredible job!

Youth divisions were teeming with young people. Brienne Engelhart returned for another year of teaching the cradle roll/kindergarten room. Pastor Roy Morris and Pastor Casper du Plessis led out in the primary room. Pastor Darrel Lindensmith, Pastor Jacob Pittenger, and Kathy Tebelius provided a program for the juniors. Pastor Ted Struntz, Pastor Mike Garcia, and several of the Dakota Camp Staff led out in the youth department, and Pastors Kris and Kisa de Bruin gathered with the

young adults on Friday evening and Sabbath to hear Elder Craig Carr present on "Who You Say I Am."

The high point of the week were the three baptisms spread out on Friday and Sabbath. Richardton and Bismarck Adventist churches will each gain a member, while the Dakota Conference Family cheered on the decisions made for Jesus.

The week ended with the ever-powerful *Hall of Remembrance*, a slideshow of each Dakota member who has passed away since last year's Campmeeting, closing remarks by President Mark Weir, and a concert by musician, Hugo Yin. One member stated, "Yin's testimony was so inspiring and touching that I want to hear it again."

Next year's Campmeeting is scheduled for May 29 - June 2, with the Constituency Meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2024.



Article by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director. Photos by Jodi Dossenko; Marlin Miller, Conference maintenance director; and Lynnette Struntz, Conference associate youth director.

If you missed this year's Campmeeting, sessions are available for viewing on our YouTube Channel: [DakotaAdventistConference](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDakotaAdventistConference).

Sonnets of Creation

Part 5 of 7

God could see that he wasn't quite finished.
 It was still so quiet, silent, and still.
 For His plan, the space would be diminished,

But after all, wasn't it there to fill?

He created the fish who swim and splash
And the mighty whale that breaches and sings,
Touching the air and falling with a crash,
But, of course, the sperm whale doesn't have wings.

So He painted pink on the flamingo.
He sent the chickadee early in noon.
Next was the raven and the kraaing crow.
Piercing the sky, was the song of the lune.

It was in no way a cacophony.
It was the fifth day choir symphony.

By Afton Logan, member of the Invitation Hill Adventist Church in Dickinson, ND.

Dakota Conference Women's Retreat



Begin making plans now to attend this year's Dakota Conference Women's Retreat in beautiful Medora, North Dakota. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Adventist Book Center Update

The Dakota Conference has been blessed to partner with the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and their Adventist Book Center for the past ten years. Campmeeting marked the final event that the KS-NE ABC will be involved in the Dakota Conference—Product that wasn't sold is scheduled to be picked up and taken back to Nebraska.

The future of an ABC continuing at the Dakota Conference Office will be addressed at the June Executive Committee. Manufacturers' price increases on lighter product packaging, combined with an increasing number of vegetarian products available locally, have dramatically decreased sales and profit margins. The matter of limited conference staff time and expense ordering, managing, and carrying inventory, formerly done by KS-NE personnel, is being assessed for financial feasibility.

For the month of June only, the Kansas-Nebraska ABC is offering \$5.00 shipping on orders of books for constituents of the Dakota Conference. To utilize this deal, call the KS-NE store directly at: 402.488.3395.

Battle Creek Warriors Pedal for the Camporee

Pathfinders from the Hermosa Adventist Church in South Dakota, are earning their cycling honor and their \$225.00 ticket to the International Camporee in Gillette by riding the Mickelson Trail this spring, summer, and fall. The trail is 108 miles long, but they will ride it in sections. Their first ride was on Sunday, May 21, from the Mountain Trailhead to Hill City Trailhead—10.5 miles. The first mile or so was uphill to Crazy Horse, then was either flat or downhill the rest of the way to Hill City.



Article and photos by Jennifer DeFluiter, Pathfinder leader and member of the Hermosa Adventist Church, and Becky McCurdy, pastor's wife and member of the Hermosa Adventist Church in South Dakota.



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End-of-Year Boys' Club Retreat

This year, the area received a lot of snow, more snow than in previous years, especially in the month of April. Due to this reality, the Dakota Adventist Academy's Boys' Club was faced with a unique dilemma when planning its retreat. The retreat had to be moved from the scheduled weekend in May, to April, and with that move, a place to go camping was needed.

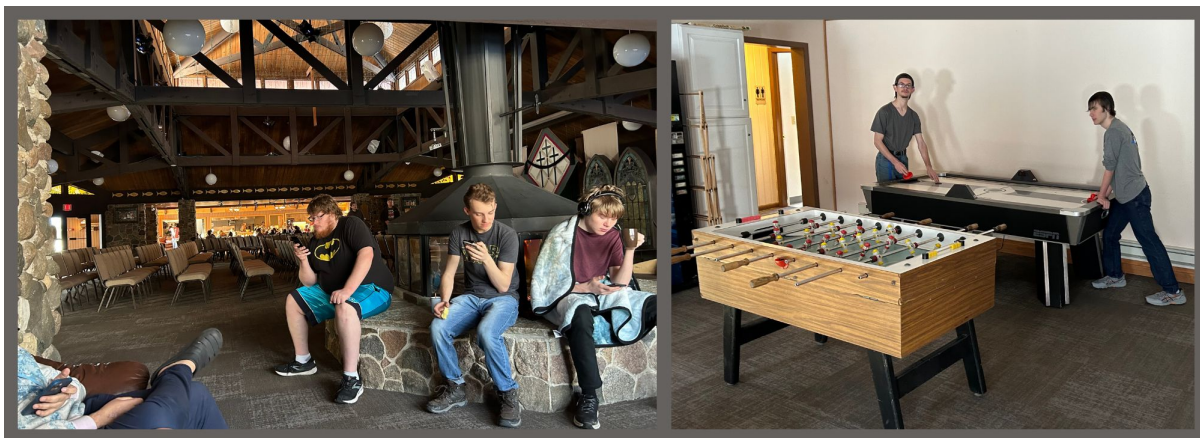
Boys' Club members looked around at several places. They tried to find a place that

would be able to house the group as well as keep them warm. Through searching, a place was found that allows year-round lodging and could accommodate the group size—Metigoshe Ministries. On Friday, March 31, the group loaded up and headed out.

The guys arrived before the evening and settled in. Hosts at the camp were very welcoming and gave a tour of the grounds. Many of the guys were excited to see an air hockey table that they could use and play games with each other. Others were excited that the camp had a steam room where they could go and relax. That evening, a nice worship was held to bring in the Sabbath and the guys enjoyed relaxing and hanging out with each other.

On Sabbath, a wonderful church experience was had that was led entirely by the students. They arranged music, and Noah, member of the senior class, provided a worship thought. Throughout the afternoon, the guys hung out talked with each other, and connected in a way that only happens when one is away from the normal routine. The Sabbath was closed out with a wonderful worship—A few songs and a simple worship thought. That evening, several of the guys and Mr. Zak Adams, recruiter and art teacher, organized a hide-and-seek game through the lodge.

Sunday, the group packed and cleaned up their stuff and headed back to campus. After returning to the Bismarck area, they closed out the trip by heading to the mall so the guys could walk around and have some fun. Overall, the group had a great weekend and were able to connect with each other and deepen the bounds that existed.



Article and photos by Stephen Staff, DAA dean of boys and athletic director.

McClusky Ladies' Luncheon

A Ladies Luncheon with the theme "Secure" was held May 13, with 48 ladies from area churches and the McClusky community attending. Attendees were blessed by beautiful music, great messages, delicious food, and a fun "kindness project"—Painting rocks with encouraging messages to share around the neighborhood.

Vicky Reile, member of the Manfred Adventist Church, was a happy and energetic hostess. She also shared her musical talents and helped Kathy Tebelius, member of the Dakota Conference Church, and Sara Wiedrich, Manfred member, provide beautiful music.

Cheryl Erickson, member of the Cleveland Adventist Church and also known as the "Pumpkin Lady", had a wonderful message. The five main points she shared were that God has a plan; we have to trust Him; fortify your faith for hard times; take the rock out of your shoe, and have second degree faith.

Sarah Christenson, member of the Manfred Adventist Church, led out in a study of Mary of Nazareth, and also shared five ways to have security in God with Bible study and belief in God; prayer; fellowship; praise; and testimony.

Jess Boehm, a young lady from the community, shared her testimony of recovery from a traumatic brain injury due to a horse accident. She felt secure in God during that difficult time and was able to shine hope into the lives of the attendees also facing trials.

Free will offerings were collected for the Sheridan Memorial Home, an assisted living home in McClusky, and for Cheryl Erickson's campaign to raise money for churches in India. Paulette Bullinger, Dakota Conference women's ministries director, brought a beautiful photo backdrop and took photos, which provided a fun and memorable keepsake for the ladies.

Delicious food was provided that included an Italian soda bar. Ladies felt it was a highlight of the day and enjoyed making their own sodas, which were "super yummy." Many door prizes were given away, and everyone received a pen and bookmark to take home. The program ended with an unplanned, but much-appreciated song by Sue Schalfmann, member of the McClusky Adventist Church and pianist extraordinaire, and Jodi Dossenko, vocalist and Dakota Conference communication director.

The luncheon was organized by McClusky Seventh-day Adventist Church but

happened because of the many helping hands of the Manfred Church members. It was a joy to serve the ladies of central North Dakota and the women in charge look forward to the next luncheon!



Article by Lisa Heitzmann, member of the Manfred & McClusky churches. Photos by Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger and Lisa Heitzmann.

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: Dave Moench, George Shaver

Education Staff: Anthony Oucharek

Office Staff: Lynnette Struntz, Ted Struntz, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Field Staff: Camp Staff

Adventist Entities: Aberdeen Church, Huron Church, Watertown Church, Potential Aberdeen Church School

Northeast, South Dakota:

Aberdeen, Redfield,
Watertown, Lake Traverse
Reservation

Other: Fathers, Dakota
Conference Team,
Campmeeting, Summer
Camp Ministry

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



**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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117499925?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDIImc2NoZz09)
[pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDIImc2NoZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117499925?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDIImc2NoZz09)



Dakota Youth & Young Adults

It has been an exciting time in the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Department! All year Lynnette and I have been preparing for this summer, and it's finally here! Our camp staff arrived on Sunday the week of Dakota Campmeeting to help set up, prepare, and facilitate Campmeeting. It was great to see them pitch in and help in the different departments from AV, to locating, the children's divisions, and more.

Campmeeting was also a special time for our Pathfinders! On Sabbath, our Pathfinders, dressed in their Class A uniforms, marched into the main auditorium and displayed their Radio Flyer floats that each represented an element of Pathfinders. One of our clubs shared their musical talents through their bell ministry. Awesome job, *Bells on Fire!* During the week, Pathfinders had the opportunity to earn the model rocketry honor. It was awesome for us to see all of the Pathfinders' preparation, hard work, and creativity pay off. Thank you, Pathfinder Family! After Campmeeting and clean-up, our camp staff immediately transitioned to camp mode and left early Monday morning for camp.

Our 2023 camp season officially began with staff training this week at Flag Mountain Camp. This means that days are long and nights are short as we prepare for young people from across the United States to join us for fun times praising God, making friends, and learning new things. But our staff is firmly committed to getting the work done. We have a fantastic staff this summer! They encourage each other, choose to have positive attitudes, look for ways to go the extra mile, and devote personal time to worship our Creator. For instance, tonight we finished worship, and we gave the

staff some free time until lights out. I went to the office to take a phone call, and when I came back to the fireside, staff were standing around the piano singing worship songs and praising God. It sounded amazing, and they sang together for over an hour. And this morning before breakfast, several staff members were doing their personal devotions out on our porch overlooking Castle Creek. What a blessing to have a staff that seeks to praise and worship God like this!

These are just two examples that represent how our staff often use their free time to worship or sing together; I believe God has brought this group together to do a transformative ministry here at the Dakota Adventist Camps. Please continue to pray that God will use our camps to change lives for Him this summer. And if you know a young person that would like to spend a week having fun learning about Jesus, please encourage them to come to Dakota Adventist Camps this summer!



Article & photos by Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director, and Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director.

DAKOTA ADVENTURIST CAMPS

SUMMER 2023



Flag Mountain Camp
 CUB (ages 8-10) June 14-18
 JUNIOR (ages 11-13) June 18-25
 TEEN (ages 14-17) June 25-July 2



Northern Lights Camp
 CUB (ages 8-10) July 12-16
 JUNIOR (ages 11-13) July 16-23
 TEEN (ages 14-17) July 23-30



REGISTER ONLINE!

REGISTER: dakotayouthandyoungadults.org

Kids' Corner

Dakota SDA Kids is taking a summer break from releasing new material. What should we study this fall in our Yellow Chair Devotional time? Crafts? Songs? Stories? Connect with us at dakotachildrenministries@gmail.com.



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 & children's ministries coordinator.

Women's Retreat Request

At the upcoming Women's Retreat in September, there will be a session about Outreach Ministries. If you are participating in a type of outreach in your area, would you be willing to be on a panel at the retreat? If you don't plan to attend, Char Timothy would love to hear what you are doing so she can share it. The committee is looking for ideas that involve single people or groups...anything you do to share the love of Jesus.

Please, email Char at ctimothy56@gmail.com and share what you are doing, how you got started, how often you do it, and indicate if you plan to attend and would be a part of the panel.



Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

June -

- 10: NAD Women's Ministry
- 10: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Wahpeton, ND
- 14-18: Cub Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 8-10)
- 17: Local Church Budget
- 17: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Medora, ND (Chimney Park, 10:30a)
- 18-25: Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Williston, ND (Revitalization Pt.1)
- 25: Dakota Executive Committee - Conference Office (10a)
- 25-2: Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

July -

- 1: Local Church Budget
- 1: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Rapid City, SD
- 1: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Williston, ND (Revitalization Pt.2)

- 4: Office Closed - Independence Day
- 8: GC World Budget
- 8: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 8: Women's Ministry Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Mitchell, SD
- 12-16: Cub Camp at Northern Lights (ages 8-10)
- 15: Local Church Budget
- 15: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Harvey, ND
- 16-23: Junior Camp at Northern Lights (ages 11-13)
- 22: Dakota Challenge
- 22: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Lehr, ND
- 22: Ben Dossenکو preaching and Communication Director Jodi Dossenکو singing at New Home Church, ND
- 23-30: Teen Camp at Northern Lights (ages 14-17)
- 29: Worthy Student
- 29: Edgeley Church - 50th Anniversary

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

Blessed & Kept

May a flood of peace overwhelm you.

May all things settle in your mind, even when they haven't settled in the world around you.

May you walk the tightrope of acknowledging all that is wrong in your life and the world while not being consumed by it.

May refreshing waters carry away your anxieties as you find rest in a God who cares for you enough to care for you.

The deep dark valley of death is filled with shadows

May your courage be bolstered because you know that shadows can not touch you.

May you resolve to keep walking because you know that if there are shadows there also must be light.

May you find comfort in your eternal lack of isolation. For the prince of light walks with you.

Even as everything seems to burn around you, may you cling to the one who has

promised to never, ever leave you.

May your soul find a home in the comforting presence of the most high God.

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

June 8 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger of the North Dakota Capitol Building and tree blossoms.

The Dakota Conference Communication Department is always looking for beautiful photos to use in the *Dakota Dispatch*, *Dakota Messenger*, the website, and more. If you are willing to share, please send them to j.dossenko@gmail.com with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

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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