



## Nothing to Fear

This is the 62nd 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 7

By 1920, the lines of distinction between the German churches and those of other nationalities begin to be blurred in the contemporary record. To be sure, the individual churches maintained their unique ethnic character for many years to come, but some of the evangelists, apparently equally proficient in the English language, seemed to have attempted to broaden their appeals to the increasingly diverse audiences they encountered by using the common tongue of the immigrants' new home. This seems especially to be true in the newly settled areas west and south of the Missouri, where America's melting pot effect was more pronounced than in the original areas of German settlement. Thus we see the successful evangelist among the Germans, R. T. Nash, conducting an evangelistic crusade among an apparently nonhomogeneous group of settlers at Mott (Hettinger County) and organizing a church of eighteen members in early 1915, and following up earlier evangelistic endeavors of Scandinavian evangelist A. V. Rhoads in the Watford City-Croff-Hastings-Clear Creek area of McKenzie County establishing a single church with three Sabbath Schools, due to the scattered nature of the membership. This church later formed the nucleus of the church at Keene which in more recent years has been located at Watford City, where Rhoads' evangelistic efforts first began.<sup>38</sup>

The blurring of ethnic distinctions in evangelism is even more clear-cut in the case of the English and Scandinavian work of this period. The Scandinavian evangelists had always been willing and able on request to hold a few services for the "Americans,"

and the early mingling of the ethnic groups other than the Germans and Russians in North Dakota makes distinctions between evangelistic endeavors often tenuous at best.

The English branch of the work seems to have visualized itself in terms of the massive challenge of the raw frontier west and south of the Missouri, District 7. English work in the rest of the state was largely a by-product of some other ethnic outreach, with assistance from the conference office staff. English churches grew up at Goodrich and at Jamestown beside their German counterparts. German ministers helped nurture the little English church in southern Emmons County that took its name from the nearby South Dakota town of Pollock. Scandinavian ministers and conference officials provided the infrequent pastoral care received by English-speaking churches as far-flung as Fargo and Williston.<sup>39</sup>

In District 7, John Walker was joined, in 1908, by H. F. Meeker, an Iowa minister, but neither man could do sustained evangelistic work in the vast territory, their time being consumed in travel, visiting the scattered groups and isolated families continually moving into the new frontier land. A church was established at Heart (Morton County) consisting of a group of Adventists who had recently moved into the area from Illinois. The Cedar Creek Church with Sabbath Schools at Cedar Creek (Adams County) and across the border at Lemmon, South Dakota, was similarly founded by immigration as much as by evangelism. Ministering to a company (possibly not organized) at Lark (Grant County), groups of believers at Hazen (Mercer County), New Salem (Morton County), Paradise (Grant County), Flasher and Gall (Morton County), and isolated believers in a dozen other locations left little time for concentrated evangelistic efforts.<sup>40</sup>

To make matters worse, in 1908 John Walker was appointed business manager of Sheyenne River Academy in addition to his other duties. Late in 1910, John Walker, the North Dakota Conference's first president left the state to assume the duties of the presidency of the British Columbia (Canada) Conference.<sup>41</sup>

Meeker's reports, which continue through most of 1910, reflect a similar pattern of activity among a multitude of isolated groups of believers and manifest an understandable growing frustration with the magnitude of his solo task. In a November 24, 1908, report, Meeker counseled church members in the district who wanted ministerial help to distribute literature, visit and get acquainted with their neighbors, and stir up some interest, then ask for help, "and you will not long ask in vain."<sup>42</sup>

During one of Meeker's circuits, in 1909, of District 7, he visited an Adventist settlement southeast of Bowman (Bowman County) where he organized a Sabbath

School. Within a year, a church was organized with scattered members meeting in a central location, where a church school was later conducted also. From this new church, two workers for the church in North Dakota were soon sent out, T.M. Langberg as Sheyenne River Academy (SRA) farm manager and part-time evangelist, and C.E. Langberg as a full-time literature evangelist.<sup>43</sup>

38. *Ibid.*, June 1, 1915, 3; April 10, 1917, 4; July 23, 1918, 2.

39. *Ibid.*, February 15, 1910, 4; October 6, 1914, 5,6; March 21, 1911, 5.

40. *Ibid.*, May 5, 1908, 6; September 1, 1908, 2,3; July 27, 1909, 7; June 2, 1908; 4,5.

41. *Ibid.*, November 24, 1908, 5; November 16, 1909, 3.

42. *Ibid.*, November 24, 1908, 5.

43. *Ibid.*, June 29, 1909, 3; May 2, 1911, 5; September 30, 1913, 6.

**Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:**

**Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 8 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.

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## Sonnets of Creation

### Part 7 of 7

Now, God finally felt that he was done  
He looked at the lime, the crocus, the clover  
The sky and the clouds, the moon, and the sun  
He saw the starfish, the guppy, the plover.

'Twas the most perfect thing He could create.  
He heaved a light sigh, sat down in a glade,  
And glanced the moon in its crescent wane state.  
Thus God rested from all that he had made.

This last day brings us to the end of our tale  
Of the great earth and the sky up above  
And the crisp green sea that ships always sail,  
But in that night glade all God felt was love.

See, on the very last day, God rested,  
And since then He hasn't been bested.

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



### Inspire others. Become a Teacher in Dakota

Teaching is much more than a job; it is a calling with deep purpose. And teaching in a Adventist school means you also inspire students to find their own true purpose in God. Experience the satisfaction of challenging youth to dream big and to make those dreams come true. Become an Adventist teacher and inspire in each student a life of faith, wisdom, and service.

Early Childhood | Elementary/Secondary | College/University



## Bread of Life

*“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty (John 6:34-35, NIV).*

Quite a few years ago when I was just a child, my family moved into a new home in Pierre, South Dakota. There was a neighbor that brought us over a loaf of bread and

cookies to welcome us to the neighborhood. Over the course of time, we celebrated life together and became not only neighbors but family. That made a huge impression in my life and I carried it on through my children. My children have since grown up and our neighbors have turned into family, because of loaves of bread and goodies.

One Sabbath a few months ago, our elder at the Spearfish Adventist Church, Ben Holstlaw, was preaching about how we need to go out into the world and not expect people to come to us. At that moment, I felt the Holy Spirit reminding me of the bread and my neighbors. If you are like me, it is difficult to go out door-to-door and give Bible studies because I let fear stop me. The Holy Spirit told me that I could do it and share the Bread of Life, so I shared my idea.

What the Spearfish Church has started has become an amazing thing! We start off with having the church pray for the people who live on a specific street or area and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare them to receive the Bread of Life. Then we have people in the church bake loaves of bread and bring them to the church on the first Sabbath of every month. We add a wonderful book called *Who is Jesus* by John Millie Youngberg, as well as a bookmark made by one of our elders that has a scripture on it, times of our church services, address, and website. We gather together that Sabbath with all the loaves of bread and items and tie a pretty ribbon around them to hold it all together. Then we enter the Sanctuary to pray and go out two-by-two into the neighborhood to deliver the gifts door-to-door and meet our neighbors. We just get to know who they are and ask if they have any prayer requests. One time we even had a neighbor tell us to come back and deliver three more loaves to different neighbors because we had run out of bread to give. Another neighbor of our church family has even begun to help bake bread for the cause. After the group has delivered the bread, we write cards thanking each family for the privilege that it was to meet them. Their names and addresses are kept because in the future we would like to host a dinner and invite all of our Bread of Life recipients.

This has been the most amazing experience that our church has been a part of! The story is not finished and it is still being written—It is a movement in progress. I would like to encourage all of the Adventist churches to embrace this kind of ministry and to go out and meet their neighbors. We pray that with the Lord's help, we will see those beautiful people in heaven because they received the Bread of Life!



*Article and photos by Tammy Bonde, prayer coordinator for the Spearfish Adventist Church in South Dakota.*

## **Dakota Conference Men's Retreat**

Even though our 28th Annual Dakota Conference Men's Retreat was canceled because of a spring blizzard that shut the entire state down, it was rescheduled and took place with new dates, speaker, buildings, and more. The little town of Medora, North Dakota, becomes a very busy place beginning each May, but the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation found room for us and with a few changes in building location, were able to accommodate us anyway.

Cedric Vine, our guest speaker, was not able to reschedule until next year so 2022's speaker, Jony Hajaj, was willing to take his place. Jony has a special way with words. Born in the Middle East and a converted Christian, he was able to bring the Lord's Prayer before us with even greater meaning and light that most of us hadn't recognized before. Surely God's word can never be exhausted!

Ed Dickerson blessed us again, taking us back in time to when Jesus walked the face of this earth, blessed the people, healed the sick, and caused the blind to see. Ed helped us remember that Jesus has promised to continue to bless us until His soon return.

If you were one of the men that didn't make it to the Retreat this year, you really missed out, but we look forward to seeing you next year at Medora, March 8-10, 2024.



*Article and photos by Randy Rubbert, Dakota Conference men's ministry director.*

## Poetry and Tea to Welcome Spring

In the spirit of spring and all things fresh and dainty, Invitation Hill Adventist School held a poetry tea party, appropriately called, "A PoetTea." The room was decorated with a refined and colorful spread, boasting finger cakes, sandwiches, and even some lavish macarons, which were provided by a church member's home bakery! Plum purple, bumblebee yellow, and garnet pink pansies perfumed the tabletops, and the tinkling of teacups and soft classical music lifted the atmosphere.

Students from grades K-6 recited splendid pieces of poetry ranging from heartwarming pieces such as "Which One Loved Best?" by Joy Allison to comedic rhymes like "A Mortifying Mistake" by Anna M. Pratt. All of the students did a wonderful job, and their recitals brightened the faces of all the supportive parents, extended family, and friends who came to hear them.

With springtime beginning to creep across the frostbitten grounds of North Dakota, some might say that the bright apple blossoms, larking birds, and pattering rain is its own sort of poetry. Invitation Hill Adventist School's recital was a small reminder of

what a beautiful world our Creator has constructed for our enjoyment. The pretty verses and well-constructed stanzas, with every line and syllable carefully planned and arranged, remind us of how order can create harmony and beauty.

The school's tea party brought back fond memories of the book *Anne of Green Gables* which is the very embodiment of springtime, whimsicality, and simple pleasures. During the recital, I was reminded of little Anne and her ability to view the entire world as a piece of poetry. Lately, the fact of what a beautiful world we live in seems to be appearing in every book I read and every paper I write. In our fast-paced society, it is a reality we too often forget, and it is one God has put in my heart to share because the more I ponder it, the more impressed I become with the simplest pleasures of living. Like hearing one of our kindergarten students reciting a four-line poem that she worked so hard to memorize or seeing how beautiful and refined the young ladies of the school felt when I taught them how to hold their tea cups properly and curtsy to their guests.

All of these things are their own kind of poetry, and they don't need to be put into verse to speak to our hearts. In fact, the whole world is poetry. Music, art, science, and the very Bible are all overflowing with poetry. God, I suspect, is a poet. Anne of Green Gables once said, "I believe the nicest and sweetest days are not those on which anything very splendid or wonderful or exciting happens but just those that bring simple little pleasures following one another softly like pearls slipping off a string." This is God's poetry. Each day we must ask ourselves; are we prepared to listen to the verses He has prepared for us?





## Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

**Theme:** Freedom, Military, Law Enforcement, First Responders

**Pastoral Staff:** Jason Logan, Brian Norton

**Education Staff:** Betty Hay, Janna Wright, Thomas Chapman, Madison Hudema

**Office Staff:** Cindy Miller, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

**Adventist Entities:** Beulah Church, Bowman Church, Grassy Butte Church, Invitation Hill Church, Invitation Hill School, Richardton Church

**Southwest, North Dakota:** Bowman, Hettinger, Dickinson, Beulah, Hazen, Grassy Butte, Richardton, Standing Rock Reservation

**Other:** Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders

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



## Dakota Youth & Young Adults

Dakota Camp season is in full swing with only a few days left until Northern Lights Cub Camp! It is not too late to register your child to attend one of our Northern Light Camp programs offered on the banks of Lake Metigoshe.



Photos by Jahsoulay Walton, Dakota Summer Camp staff member.

## 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](http://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 [dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com](mailto:dakotachildrensministries@gmail.com).



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

*Kelli Wasmiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent & children's ministries coordinator.*

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## Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

### July -

- 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
- 8: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grand Forks, ND
- 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
- 23-30: Teen Camp at Northern Lights (ages 14-17)

- [29: Worthy Student](#)
- [29: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Edgeley, ND](#)
- 29: Edgeley Church - 50th Anniversary
- 31: Pastors' Retreat at Northern Lights

August -

- 1-3: Pastors' Retreat at Northern Lights
- [5: Local Church Budget](#)
- [5: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Richardton, ND](#)
- 7-10: North American Division Teachers' Conference in Phoenix, AZ
- 9-13: Dakota Conference Pathfinder Camporee at Flag Mountain Camp
- [12: North American Division Christian Record](#)
- 12: Outdoor Church in Washburn, ND
- 13: DAA Registration

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: [www.dakotaadventist.org/events](http://www.dakotaadventist.org/events)

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## Blessed & Kept

May the impulse of love drive you.

May you fully absorb how loved you are.

May you grasp, even for just a moment, the height, and depth, and breadth of the love God has for you.

May this love define you.

May the confidence this love gives you lead you to drop all need to pretend in front of others.

May you fully and truly be yourself without any shame, because yourself is all you were ever meant to be, and you are loved just the way you are.

May this love guide you.

With all the opportunities you have for hate, may you choose instead to love.

May your only enemy be your desire to hate other people.

May you vanquish your enemy.

May you slowly erode your enemy's power over you.

May you see with new eyes.

May you see that your perceived enemies of yesterday were not your enemies at all, but were in fact fellow children of God.

May your absorption of love transform your desire for the world.  
May your desire be one with God's desire.

That all people would be reconciled to the Father.  
May your love make the kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven.

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

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## July 6 Dispatch Photo



*Photo by Greg Clements at Teddy Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.*

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](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com) with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

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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](mailto:j.dossenko@gmail.com)

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- [!\[\]\(f54e37e084c1f0536e5af6fd7937c2e4\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)

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