



Nothing to Fear

This is the 65th 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 10

A different kind of ethnic group received the attention of the North Dakota conference for a brief time during this period. In the fall of 1916, John Gayton, a Sioux Native American from Cannonball (Sioux County) wrote to the conference office about sending his daughters to the academy. Thirty years previously, Gayton had worked for an Adventist named Lawler in Emmons County and had heard the preaching of M.M. Olsen. In later years the things he had been taught began to come back to him, so he gave up drinking and smoking and began with his daughters to keep the Sabbath. Intrigued by the story, Conference President S.E. Jackson, sent W.A. Alway to visit Gayton on the reservation. About a year later Alway began several series of lectures, delivered through an interpreter, to interested audiences at different locations on Standing Rock Reservation, and Richard Graham conducted meetings near Fort Yates (Sioux County) where Roy Saunders had been working for some time as a literature evangelist.⁵⁵

During his time on the reservation Alway wrote several lengthy, thoughtful articles for the *Reaper*, about the Native Americans, speculating that perhaps the best way to reach and convert them was through a system of education to be established on the reservation. Early in 1918, Conference President S.E. Jackson appealed to North Dakota Adventists to purchase land within the reservation for the purpose of witnessing and teaching basic principles of agriculture to the Sioux Native Americans. Reports over the next two years indicate that isolated believers on the

reservation were occasionally visited by Adventist ministers; that a call for ministerial help from Selfridge (Sioux County) was to be answered, if at all, by pressing into service one of "our young men"; and that a group of leading citizens of Fort Yates sent a petition to the conference office requesting the continued services of Roy Saunders; but gave no indication of an organized, systematic work among the Sioux in this time period.⁵⁶

Amidst the extensive evangelistic activity of those years, the organizational structure of the North Dakota Conference was developing and maturing to serve the continuing needs of a growing church. Educational work, a matter of much concern at the start of this time period, was highly developed by 1920, with a growing network of church and family elementary schools, regular in-service training programs for teachers, and active support from the office; early in 1915, the Conference educational superintendent was called upon to defend, in a Steele (Kidder County) court, a church member who had refused to send his children to public school, teaching them, in his own "home school" instead.⁵⁷

Sabbath School work also became more organized in this period with better record keeping and a steady flow of materials from the office to schools large and small around the conference. The "Missionary Volunteer" work for the youth, similarly, became more structured with the organization of local societies, the availability of reading materials in both English and German, structured activities for the youth at camp meetings, and training programs conducted by conference personnel for youth workers in various churches. The growth of the Tract Society and literature evangelism work during those years has been described elsewhere.⁵⁸

55. *Ibid.*, October 24, 1916, 5; October 31, 1916, 6; September 4, 1917, 5,6; September 11, 1917, 5,6.

56. *Ibid.*, January 1, 1918, 4, October 8, 1918, 5; April 8, 1919, 2; December 23, 1919,3.

57. *Ibid.*, March 16, 1915, 4.

58. See Chapter 11.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 11 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.

Women's Retreat



Make plans now to attend the upcoming Dakota Conference 35th Annual Women's Retreat, held at the historical Rough Riders Hotel in Medora, North Dakota. Due to the hotel availability, no registrations are guaranteed after August 29.

For more information and to register, [click here](#). Scholarships are available to those that need them.

At Women's Retreat, 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 during the Retreat weekend? 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 are willing to be a part of the panel.

Jesus, Our Friend

If you can read this, then you've probably developed at least one very close friendship. Now, there are besties, or BFFs (best friends forever). I recently lost a brother-in-law, and even more recently, a classmate. Each of them was married to their spouse for over fifty years. I can't even imagine the incredible void in the spouses' lives. For them, forever came way too soon. Is there a real forever friend? I believe we can all experience one. Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times,

and a brother is born for adversity.” Then we read in the next chapter, Proverbs 18:24, “A man who has friends must show himself friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Maybe you were the betrayer. At any rate, there is nothing more uncomfortable than to face your betrayer. There is this chasm between you that seems almost impossible to fill. Jesus experienced just such a betrayal. Judas, for a mere thirty pieces of silver, betrayed Jesus into the hands of the chief priests and elders (Matthew 26:48-50). And in that trying time, Jesus called Judas, “friend.” What is your friendship worth? Judas couldn’t live with himself, so he threw the thirty pieces of silver at the priests and went out and hanged himself. I believe, had he only repented and turned to Jesus, He would have forgiven him and spared his life, here and for eternity. Jesus said, “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Do you have love for one another? Or are there other thoughts and feelings for your brothers or sisters, or friends? This is a pretty good litmus test.

Then in John 15:13-14, Jesus says, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” One of the most widely known hymns that most of Christianity sings is *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. I especially like the rendition that is sung with the music to *The Rose* by Bette Midler. Jesus laid His life down for His friends, for you and me, if we choose to do His will. He bore the penalty for our sins. We are truly privileged to be able to take everything to Him in prayer. Don’t carry the burdens on your shoulders when He expects us to give them to Him. Don’t forfeit the opportunity to give Him your sorrows. He will gladly take them and give you joy and peace that passes all understanding. Truly, what a friend we have in Jesus. Choose Him as your BFF, just now, or just renew that friendship once again. May God bless and keep you.

Worship Thoughts by Gary Messer, member of the Richardton Adventist Church in North Dakota.

Dakota Conference Prayer Retreat



The cost to attend is \$80/per person. Options for lodging are as follows:

- Stay on site at Northern Lights: \$25/for 2 nights per person
- Quilt Inn: \$95/night (call 701.263.6500 to reserve)
- Local camp ground or other hotel

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Call Pastor Barry St. Clair with questions or to reserve NLC lodging at: 701.537.3931

Speaker: Paul Ratsara

Paul Ratsara is the chairman for the Master in Biblical Mission and Wellness and assistant to the president of Weimar University. Ratsara is known for his messages of biblical godliness, revival, and spiritual leadership. His deepest desire and purpose is to see revival and great awakening in God's remnant church and to finish the preaching of the gospel in this generation. Being converted from paganism, snatched by God from darkness to light - from error to truth, he has a very deep passion to share the good news of the Gospel with the world.

Using mainly the Bible and the writings of Ellen White, he has developed and implemented a very simple, but highly effective, method of church growth that has transformed the organizations he has led. He has served as a pastor, teacher, literature evangelist, and senior administrator at different levels for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 40 years.

DiscipleTrek

Campus Ministries of the North American Division (NAD) offered the first of many, campus ministry training events in our own backyard: the beautiful Black Hills of

South Dakota.

College-age women and men convened at Flag Mountain Camp, from July 3 to July 23. Campus ministry leaders from locales all over the country and Canada came to train, share the vision, and seek God. The program is called DiscipleTrek! ([Click here for more information.](#))

Testimonies

“DiscipleTrek is a life-changing experience that anyone considering ministry or just looking to solidify their faith should attend. The presenters are brilliant minds and great people that are approachable and love talking with you about any of your questions. The lessons you learn about yourself and about the Bible are invaluable and you get to do it with like-minded believers, with the same passion for Christ that you have! The community there is what the early church instructs us to be and provided me with friendships I hope will be lifelong! The event is incredibly well coordinated by the Lang Family, and you get lots of fun excursions in South Dakota, outside of beautiful Flag Mountain Camp. Every collegiate-age student with a passion to know Christ and a desire to share Him with others should attend DiscipleTrek!”



- Josh Boyko, NDSU

“DiscipleTrek and the Black Hills - what an amazing spiritually impactful experience. I am thankful for the friendships formed and the encouragement to take risks. I enjoyed experiencing the presence of God through nature and hearing the voice of God through biblical messages. I would encourage anyone with the opportunity to attend DiscipleTrek to take advantage of the opportunity. You will be blessed!!”

- Kim Harb MSUM

Gratitude for the Program and Donors

“The NAD Barna study on Adventist young adults noted that '70 percent of Adventist collegiate-age students attend non-Adventist universities.' This is a challenge we must address. We have not focused on the loss of our youth in these schools.”

“Studies have shown that somewhere between 60 percent and 80 percent of previously engaged Christian youth become disengaged with their faith as they transition into college,” Campus Renewal announced in a [“Campus Ministry Link”](#) report published on its website.

We are thankful to the North American Division for providing DiscipleTrek to help train student leaders to minister in their schools and thankful to the generous donors who made it possible.



If you have a son or daughter, a grandchild, or know of a young person moving to the Fargo/Grand Forks area to begin college, please let the campus ministries know so we can reach out to them. Text or call Pastor Darrel at: 701.391.9131.

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

Something Better

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "Something Better?" The Dakota teaching team recently participated in the North American Division Educator's Convention alongside 5,500 Adventist educators in balmy Phoenix. Teachers could choose from over 300 breakaway sessions in addition to special worship services, keynote speakers, and EdTalks that focused on leadership. Whether learning new classroom strategies or exploring resources in the exhibit hall, the teachers dedicated themselves to this time of professional development and rejuvenation in preparation for the new school year.

They were blessed by musical guests Micah Tyler, Laura Story, and Nicole C. Mullen and Christian comedian Phil Callaway reminded them that laughter is good medicine. Dr. Carlton Byrd uplifted each teacher by recognizing their God-given purpose and proclaiming that while the teaching profession is difficult at times, with the power of the Holy Spirit they will use their teacher's desk to share the gospel of Jesus.

Our Dakota teachers are dedicated to offering their students something better. As Dr. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, shared, "Teachers are God's secret sauce. They combine God's plan with God's favor, which results in something better." Join

us in lifting up all of our teachers, schools, and students in prayer as we begin the 2023-2024 school year.



Article by Kelli Wasemiller, Dakota Conference elementary superintendent. Photos by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director; Kelli Wasemiller, and Tabby Coto, former teacher in the Dakota Conference.

Pastors' Retreat: What Purpose Does It Serve?

Two weeks ago, most church members probably heard their pastors announce that they would be gone for a couple of days to attend a special “pastors retreat” and perhaps some are wondering exactly what that means. Why do pastors need to have a special retreat? And what do they do while they’re on retreat? As individuals, and as church bodies, we may get confused or perhaps not entirely understand what the job description of “Pastor” really is. It’s the same as any job, most of us probably don’t fully comprehend the work of doctors, scientists, or bank tellers. I’ve experienced this firsthand. I remember a classmate of mine once told my brother that pastors had the easiest job ever because all they do is preach once a week. I was shocked to hear this young man's perspective on the duties of a pastor. As a church, we are very blessed to have dedicated, hard-working individuals, who are called by God to tend to the needs of the church on a daily basis. Our pastors do not just preach, they also counsel, teach, study, pray, anoint, and so much more. I’m

sure many of us can think back to a time when our pastor came to the hospital to pray for us, opened up the Bible to answer a puzzling question, or supported us at one of our lowest points. Pastors play an important role in the church, acting as undershepherds over Jesus' flock.

But I think this begs an important question; who takes care of the shepherd, who counsels the counselor, and who prays for the anointer? Just as with any calling ordained by God, being a pastor is no walk in the park; it can be emotionally taxing and spiritually draining. That's why pastors have pastors too. Pastor Vernon Herholdt is the Dakota Conference's ministerial director and it's his job to see to the spiritual and emotional needs of the pastors in our conference. It was thanks to him that our pastors were able to enjoy an incredible week at Northern Lights Camp.

The retreat was a balance of spiritual blessings, fun, relaxation, and most importantly fellowship. In the mornings and evenings all who attended were blessed to listen to the teaching of Dr. Pierre Steenberg, a theologian currently working at Union College in Nebraska. He revealed new and exciting perspectives on Biblical history and the meaning of God's illuminated scripture, while also providing counseling and guidance on issues pastors and churches face day-to-day. In the afternoon, pastors were able to take quality time to spend with their families boating on the lake, practicing archery, relaxing, and even learning how to play Cricket with the help of our South African brothers and sisters. Which, to use the vernacular they taught us, was absolutely lekker. Amidst this was time for fellowship and companionship. Pastors were able to confide in one another, learn from each other, and build lasting relationships with those who understand the unique calling God has laid on their hearts.



So, why *is* it so important that our pastors have this opportunity? Well, think of it like Sabbath. Sabbath is a day of rest. We receive a blessing, our spirits are refreshed, and our minds and bodies feel rejuvenated and whole in preparation for the coming week. At the Pastors' Retreat, pastors received this same type of blessing. At the Retreat, they were able to set aside their call to serve and be served for a couple of days so that they could come back to their church districts with new knowledge and understanding, fresh ideas, and a restored spirit.

I don't say any of this to make my readers think that being a pastor is some ultra-spiritual, "holier-than-thou" calling. Actually, what I'm trying to highlight is the opposite. Just because our pastors are the spiritual leaders of the church, this does not mean they don't struggle. Look at the apostles and prophets; Paul called himself the least of the disciples because he struggled with so much guilt from the sins of his former life, Peter struggled with hypocrisy, and Elijah dealt with loneliness and depression. We all struggle. It is an innate fact of this sin-torn world. Rust corrodes even the finest metal. The title "pastor", "minister", or "preacher" does not shield anyone from our broken world. It doesn't matter our position or our title, we all need to be blessed, we all need to be counseled, and we all need God. So as a child of a pastor, I would like to thank Pastor Vernon, and everyone involved in putting together the Pastor's Retreat, for providing that blessing and that counseling. Thank you for equipping our pastors and taking care of them so that they can better take care of us!



Article by Afton Logan, daughter of Pastor Jason & Grace Logan of the Invitation Hill Adventist Church in North Dakota. Photos by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director.

Rapid City Parade Float

The Rapid City Adventist Church participated in the Custer County Fair parade. Their float won second place and focused on creating friendships for eternity.

Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Black Hills Health & Education Center, Custer Church, Hermosa Church, Hot Springs Church, Rapid City Church, Rapid City School, Spearfish Church

Southwest, South Dakota: Spearfish, Sturgis, Rapid City, Hot Springs, Custer, Wall, Pine Ridge Reservation

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

Dakota Youth & Young Adults

We just finished another fantastic summer of camp ministry! Praise God! Our summer's theme, "I AM," focused on seeing how our true identity comes from God, our Creator. We can see ourselves and our purpose more clearly by understanding how God sees us and by learning His plan is for us.

We had a great staff from all over the country who worked together to minister to our kids. This summer was also filled with new activities for our campers, such as our rock climbing wall, Tomahawk throwing, RC Crawlers, Gaga ball, and Lego Design. We were also able to bring back our beloved ceramics class this summer, which had been a staple at Dakota Adventist Camps in the past. And at Flag Mountain Camp, we were able to have Blacksmithing again! Our campers had so much fun with all of the activities we offered!

As we look back over the summer, there is much to be thankful for: we had amazing miracles, wonderful baptisms, and meaningful worships every day. We want to thank each of our churches and members who sponsored kids to come to camp, the parents and friends who drove them to camp, and our committed medical staff who provided top-notch, on-site care. You all made this summer great! Thank you for your support! — Pastor Ted and Lynnette Struntz



Article by Pr. Ted and Lynnette Struntz, Conference youth directors. Photos by Lynnette Struntz and Jahsouley Walton, Dakota Summer Camp staff member.

Kids' Corner

Are you passionate about Sabbath School? The North American Division (NAD) invites you to their virtual *Do It Together Refresh Sabbath School Conference*, held September 14-16, 2023, online.

Whether you're a Sabbath School director, superintendent, teacher, assistant, pastor, member, or volunteer - this conference is for everyone passionate about the ministry of Sabbath School. No matter your level of experience, this virtual event is here to inspire, educate, and empower you. Discover innovative teaching techniques, gain practical insights, and connect with like-minded individuals who share your enthusiasm for Sabbath School. The best part? The registration fee is completely waived, making it accessible to all. Can't make it on the event dates? Not a problem! Register now and receive a link to watch the seminar recordings at

OneTeamPlaybook.org.

Gather your Sabbath School community, schedule a watch party, and embark on this incredible learning journey together. Don't miss out on this invaluable opportunity - register today!



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.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

August -

- 19: Local Church Budget
- 19: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 19: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Turtle Lake, ND
- 19: Outdoor Church in Medora -- Bowman / Grassy Butte / Richardton district led (10:30a)
- 26: Dakota Challenge
- 26: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Rapid City, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 19: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in New Home, ND
- 27: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

September -

- 2: Local Church Budget
- 2: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Minot, ND (Evangelism Rally)
- 2: Ministerial Director Elder Vernon Herholdt preaching in New Home, ND
- 4: Conference Office Closed - Labor Day
- 7-30: Elder Mark Piotrowski presenting a Bible Prophecy Seminar in Minot, ND
- 8-10: Prayer Retreat at Northern Lights Camp
- 9: General Conference (GC): Radio Ministries
- 9: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Hurley, SD
- 10: Dakota Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 10: SE ACS Federation Meeting in Huron, SD (10a)
- 10: Dakota Constitution and Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 11: NE ACS Federation Meeting in Jamestown, ND (10a)
- 13-17: DAA Homeleave
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 16: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Hot Springs, SD
- 17: SW ACS Federation Meeting in Rapid City, SD (10a)
- 18: NW ACS Federation Meeting in Bowman, ND (10a)
- 18-21: Outdoor School at Flag Mountain Camp
- 22-24: Black Hills Convocation at Flag Mountain Camp
- 23: Dakota Challenge
- 23: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Grassy Butte, ND
- 29-1: Women's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 30: Camp Development
- 30: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Hot Springs, SD
- 30: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Grassy Butte, ND

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

Blessed & Kept

May you enter the first day of this new week with the excitement of the first day of a new school year.

With each frustrating behavior that you have come to expect with annoyance every day, may you react with surprise at a new challenge you will need to solve.

And as you see these behaviors with fresh eyes, may you see fresh solutions;
May you approach them with the patience and gentleness of a well rested soul.

May you enter the first day of this new week with the gratitude of the first day of a new school year.

May you be reminded of the joy of your work. Not the daily slog but the overall joy that can only be seen with some distance.

May you be reminded of the years of work you put in to be right here, right now.

May you be filled with grace as you contemplate the gift of being alive one more day.

May this posture of gratitude give you a lightness at the challenges of the day.

May you feel so grateful to be where you are that even difficulties become your pleasure.

May the excitement and gratitude with which you enter this day give you new stories to share.

Even if the day is very similar to every other, may your new perspective lead you to see it differently

May you finish the day with more energy than where you began.

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

August 17 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken by MiKayla Torres, senior at DAA and member of the Jamestown Adventist Church 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 communication@dakotasda.org 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: communication@dakotasda.org

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 communication@dakotasda.org. Bison [Copyright](#). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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