



Nothing to Fear

This is the 68th 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 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - Part 2

Not to be discounted is the probable influence of L.R. Conradi, who was then head of the church's work in Europe. The non-combatant stand of the Adventist Church had been staunchly endorsed by Ellen G. White, and Conradi had apparently begun to lose confidence in Mrs. White and her teachings as early as 1888 when she endorsed the church's renewed emphasis on "righteousness by faith" - a position Conradi apparently rejected.¹¹ At the 1913 General Conference of the church, Conradi had cautioned the leadership to act "with great prudence in considering the matter of military service, otherwise they would bring great difficulty to thousands of our brethren."¹²

Finally, and probably most prominent, were the fears, real or imagined, that opposing the government would curtail the work of the denomination and possibly even result in the closing of its churches.

The overwhelming majority of Adventist draftees followed the official position of the church leaders in Germany. Of those who did not, some were able to obtain non-combatant service in the medical corps, but many suffered imprisonment, severe treatment and possibly even death for following their convictions.¹³ A few, angered

by the actions of church and government, issued unfavorable statements against the German government in the name of the church.¹⁴ As a result, Seventh-day Adventist churches in the State of Saxony were closed by the public authority.

Their worst fears apparently confirmed, the German church leadership, Schuberth, Conradi, and Paul Drinhaus, president of the Saxon Conference, entangled in an ever-growing web of circumstances, issued a second statement reaffirming their stand on combatancy on March 4, 1915.¹⁵ Apparently this official statement from church leaders satisfied the German government and churches in Saxony were allowed to reopen.

But to avoid further conflict with the government, church leaders considered it necessary to disfellowship from their local congregations many church members across the nation who opposed the leadership's official stand.¹⁶

Representatives of several groups of these disfellowshipped individuals, cut off from the mainstream of the church both legally and ideologically, met in Magdeburg, Germany at the end of the war. They viewed the German church's position on combatancy and Sabbath observance, and the fact that the General Conference, headquartered in Washington, D.C., had not repudiated that position, as indications of universal apostasy. Perceiving no other choice, these representatives organized themselves into the "International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, Old Movement standing firm since 1844", the latter phrase later being changed to "Reform Movement."¹⁷

This new organization considered itself to be the true "remnant church." Along with the "apostasies" of combatancy and compromised Sabbath-keeping that seemed to be endorsed by the worldwide leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; they added, what seemed to them, a deemphasis of its historic health reform message and a rejection of the message of righteousness by faith as given at the 1888 Minneapolis General Conference session of the church.¹⁸

In 1920 the reform representatives met with members of the General Conference Committee and the three German Union Committees at Friedensau, Germany to present their case. When asked directly what the General Conference's position on the German leadership's statement regarding combatancy and Sabbath-keeping was, General Conference President A.G. Daniells replied that he did not approve of that declaration because "in it we find expressions that we greatly regret to see." And at a workers' meeting held in connection with this Friedensau gathering, the

three German leaders who had issued the second statement publicly acknowledged their error.¹⁹

The reformers found these statements unacceptable, however, and branded them and a later 1923 "Declaration of Principles" on non-combatancy, as "false confessions", because the General Conference statements did not make non-combatancy a test of church fellowship but granted to each member the freedom to serve according to his individual conscience.²⁰

In 1922 the Reform Movement issued an "Open Appeal" to the General Conference, meeting in San Francisco, requesting another hearing on the same issues. Daniells refused to grant the hearing.²¹

In this 1922 "Open Appeal" the German reformers were joined by a top leader of another "reform movement", which arose in America in 1916 under the leadership of Mrs. Margaret W. Rowen.²²

11. LeRoy Edwin Froom, *Movement of Destiny* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1971), 677-679.

12. *Zions-Wachter* (German church paper of this period), XVIII (1914), 735-738.

13. "SDA Reform Movement," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1183.

14. *Ibid.*, "Germany," 453.

15. "Reformation Study Course," *op. cit.*

16. *Dresdener Neueste Nachrichten*, (Dresden Latest News), April 12, 1918.

17. "Reformation Study Course," *op. cit.*, Lesson 13.

18. "Reformation Study Course," *passim*.

19. "SDA Reform Movement," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, 1183.

20. "Reformation Study Course," *op. cit.*, Lesson 13 and 14.

21. Information regarding this document is from a xerox copy of the original pamphlet, a copy of which is on file at the Archives, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Washington, D.C.

22. Listed as one of the "representatives of the International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement" is B.E. Fullmer, 1112 Gower Street, Los Angeles, California, next-door neighbor and close associate of Margaret W. Rowen.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - Part 3 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.

Sparrows on a Tire

What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31).

God cares for these little birds enough to know each one, and He grieves when one dies. Just think about that...If He cares so much about little insignificant birds like the ones absorbing warmth from this tractor tire, imagine how much more He cares about us.

God isn't aloof. He's present and He cares so much about me. He even knows how many of my hairs went down the drain last time I showered. He knows how many I still have firmly attached to my scalp, too.

That's pretty awesome! Only someone who cares deeply about me would bother to learn such intricate details about my life.

My God loves the sparrow. My God loves me.

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](#).



Rapid City Regional

You are invited to attend the upcoming Rapid City Regional on October 14, starting at 10:00a. Please bring a potluck dish to share for the fellowship meal at noon. Supper will be provided following the seminars. Plan to stay for the 6:00p Jaime Jorge concert and support the local Adventist elementary school.



RAPID CITY
Regional


"I Follow"

October 14, 2023
Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church
1636 Concourse Ct, Rapid City, SD

You are invited to attend a special Sabbath where Dakota Conference personnel will provide Sabbath school and worship service. Please bring a potluck dish to share for the fellowship meal at noon. Supper will be provided following the seminars. Plan to stay for the 6:00p Jaime Jorge concert and support the local Adventist elementary school.

RAPID CITY Regional

10:00a - Sabbath School
11:00a - Church Service
12:15p - Potluck Lunch
2:00p - Afternoon Seminars
4:45p - Light Supper
6:00p - Jaime Jorge Concert



Jaime
JORGE

**HERE I AM
TO WORSHIP**
CONCERT TOUR

JAI ME JORGE *Healing Music*

Active Social Committee in Jamestown

In the Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, members can thank Allison Mack, head of the social committee, and helpers Garrett and Melissa Brass, Christina Masich, Penny Gottfried, and Amanda Naasz. The group's efforts to pull church members together through events such as Sabbath Breakfast and Harvest Bonfire have been much appreciated.

On the last Sunday in July, beautiful weather and good food made for a perfect "meet and greet" with Jamestown / New Home church district's new pastor, Nate Skaife and his family. Young and old alike relaxed and talked at Klaus Park, while

the children played in bouncy houses. The festivities included Allison asking Pastor Nate questions about himself and his family so all in attendance could get to know them better.

Other activities have also been a blessing—such as Sabbath breakfast, which was held an hour before Sabbath school and church began. Many showed up for the event, which in turn boosted attendance for the church service. One activity that has been able to get church members and visitors to stay for the fellowship meal is “Dessert First.” Held in the church foyer and organized by Darleen Erickson and Lois Nenow, the concept is to provide snacks, bottled water, punch, and a delicious dessert so folks will stop and take time to talk and get to know one another better. The fellowship provides time for people to share experiences, strength, and hope with visitors or those who may be struggling in their spiritual journey. Everyone has enjoyed being able to slow down a little to have a snack, and it brings the church together.

Innovative ideas to help the church become a family in Christ are desperately needed in these perilous times. Everyone should depend on Christ, but learning to depend on each other takes conversation. Conversation and prayer build relationships with each other and Christ. It is the church members’ hope that through activities such as these, all can learn how to be concerned and loving through the grace of our Heavenly Father and in turn make the Jamestown Adventist Church shine to their neighbors and community.



Article by Tony Freitas. Photos by Tony Freitas and Lacey Peppersack, members at Jamestown Adventist Church in North Dakota.

Dakota Constituency Town Halls

DAKOTA CONFERENCE TOWN HALLS
Constituency Delegates & Guests Welcome

Sioux Falls - Nov 11, 5:30p	Dickinson - Dec 6, 6:30p
Bismarck - Nov 28, 6:30p	Aberdeen - Dec 12, 6:30p
Minot - Nov 29, 6:30p	Fargo - Jan 3, 6:30p
Jamestown - Dec 4, 6:30p	Rapid City - Jan 9, 6:30p

Each meeting will be held at the local church.

The purpose of the Town Hall meetings is to:

- Provide orientation regarding procedures, processes, and session rules of order
- Discuss any issues pertaining to the session

- Gain input and advice from the representatives of local churches
- Raise issues that may be added to the session agenda
- Elect representatives to serve on the nominating committee for the constituency session.

Town Hall meetings will be held at the local Adventist Church; see graphic for locations and times. These meetings are geared primarily towards delegates, but all members are encouraged to attend and support your conference. Please plan to arrive and register approximately 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each church supports its own delegates; consider carpooling to save expenses.

Regional Church Breakdown:

- **Sioux Falls:** Hurley, Huron, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Yankton
- **Bismarck:** Bismarck, DAA, Goodrich, Mandan, McClusky
- **Minot:** Bottineau, Bowdon Country, Harvey, Manfred, Minot, Turtle Lake
- **Jamestown:** Cleveland, Edgeley, Jamestown, New Home
- **Dickinson:** Beulah, Bison, Bowman, Grassy Butte, Invitation Hill, Richardton, Watford City, Williston
- **Aberdeen:** Aberdeen, Bowdle, Ellendale, Kulm, Lehr, Pierre, Watertown
- **Fargo:** Fargo, Grand Forks, Wahpeton
- **Rapid City:** Custer, Hermosa, Hot Springs, Rapid City, Spearfish

DAA / PVA / SRA Alumni Weekend

Make plans to attend this year's DAA/PVA/SRA Alumni Weekend, October 6 & 7 at Dakota Adventist Academy. Come early for the Golf Scramble at Tom O'Leary Golf Course, and stay to visit with your friends and attend the car show—the first of hopefully many! To show your car, register it at the alumni website: dakota-alumni.org.

Although the weekend is targeted for graduating classes ending in four and nine, everyone is invited. We hope to see you there!

2023 Alumni Weekend Schedule

Events and times are subject to change

Friday, October 6

- 11:00a Golf Scramble
- 2:00p Registration
- 3:00-6:00 Car Show
- 5:30 Supper &
Pioneer Reception
- 7:00 Vespers
- 8:00-9:00 Social Hour

Sabbath, October 7

- 8:30-9:00a Breakfast
- 10:00 Sabbath School
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 12:15p Honor Class Photos
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:30 Open Mic for Classes
Art Class with Mr. Way
- 5:30 Supper
- 7:15 Vespers
- 8:00 Business Meeting
- 8:30 Alumni Games

Golf Scramble

FRIDAY, 11 AM
OCTOBER 6, 2023

TOM O'LEARY
GOLF COURSE

1200 N WASHINGTON ST #1,
BISMARCK, ND 58501

11:00 AM TEE TIME, TEAMS OF 4
\$35 PER PERSON



DAA/PVA/SRA
**ALUMNI
WEEKEND**
OCTOBER 6, 7 - 2023
HONOR YEARS:
2019 • 2014 • 2009 • 2004 • 1999 • 1994 • 1989 • 1984
1979 • 1974 • 1969 • 1964 • 1959 • 1954 • 1949

IT MAY NOT BE A
Little Deuce
Coupe

**BUT WE'D LOVE TO SEE IT AT THE
ALUMNI WEEKEND CAR SHOW!**

Friday, October 6, 2023 at 3:00-6:00p
at Dakota Adventist Academy

Visit our website for
more details and to
register your car:
dakota-alumni.org
Click the "More" tab



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: Marveen Gentillon, Jacob Pittenger, David Werner

Education Staff: Reese Saxon, Stephen Staff

Office Staff: Judy Weir, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Field Staff: Paulette Bullinger

South Central, South Dakota: Murdo, Mission, Chamberlain, Winner

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



Kids' Corner

The Dakota SDA Kids YouTube channel has begun singing through the *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook. View the playlist by [clicking here](#).

Due to Kelli's workload, she won't be creating any additional video series at this time. If you are interested in contributing devotional or craft videos to be shared with our conference kids, please contact her at dakotachildrensministries@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 elementary education superintendent.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching schedule is in blue.

Conference Regionals and Town Hall schedule is in green.

September -

- 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 Grand Forks, ND

October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 6-7: DAA/PVA/SRA Alumni Weekend
- 7: Secondary Endowment
- 7: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Ellendale, ND
- 8-10: New in Ministry Meetings - Conference Office
- 14: Dakota Challenge
- 14: Rapid City Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 14: Jaime Jorge Concert - Rapid City Church/School (6p)
- 14: Hillcrest Fall Festival - Jamestown, ND (7-10p)
- 14: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown, SD

- 18-22: DAA Home Leave
- 19-21: Society of Adventist Communicators - Springfield, MA
- 26-31: NAD Year-end Meetings - Columbia, MD

November -

- 4: Local Church Budget
- 5: K-12 Board of Education - Conference Office (10a)
- 7: Executive Committee - Zoom (7p)
- 11: Dakota Challenge
- 11: Sioux Falls Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 11: Sioux Falls Constituency Town Hall Meeting (5:30p)
- 13-16: MAUC Year-end Meetings - Lincoln, NE
- 16: MAUC Executive Committee - Lincoln, NE (9a)

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

Blessed & Kept

May you trust that God is in control.

May you trust that you also are in control.

May you trust that all humans are in control.

Rather than this fact giving you fear may you trust in the essence of who humans are.

We bear a striking resemblance to our creator.

And our creator is good.

May you trust in the goodness the creator implanted in each one of us.

May you trust in the collective capacity for beauty this goodness creates.

May your trust increase the trustworthiness of those in whom you place it.

Because of the goodness created by our trust of each other,

May you find it that much easier to trust in the God who placed within us the goodness that you are trusting.

God is so so good.
May you tap into God's goodness within you.
May you trust others to do the same.

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

September 28 Dispatch Photo

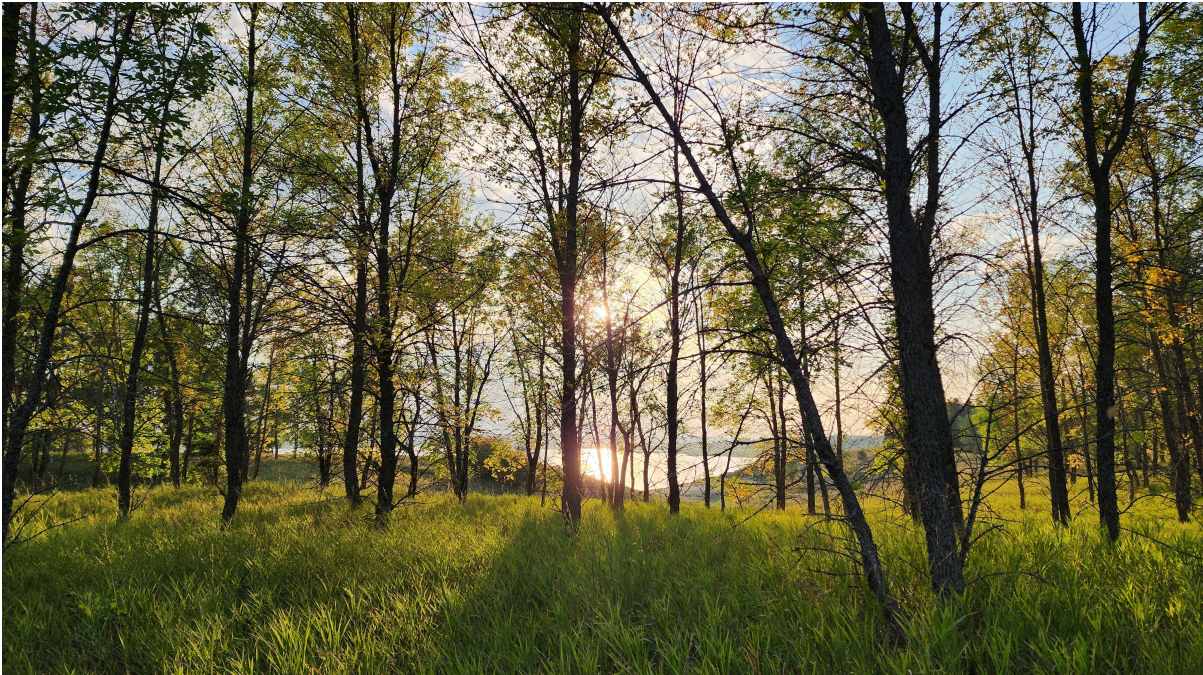


Photo taken on the Pipestem Trail near Jamestown, North Dakota, by Susie Kahler, member of the Jamestown Adventist Church.

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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