



Nothing to Fear

This is the 69th 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 3

The only knowledge that most people in the Adventist Church today have of Margaret Rowen, if they have any knowledge of her at all, is that she claimed to be a prophetess and predicted that Jesus was to return to this earth on February 6, 1925.

This is unfortunate because it causes us to tend to look at her followers as either deluded fools or wide-eyed fanatics. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Unlike those of us who have become jaded by the barrage of mystic and psychic mumbo-jumbo that the 1970s spawned, people in 1916 did not automatically tune out Margaret Rowen when she began to claim to receive revelations from God. Many of them listened, convinced that they were following the Biblical admonition to "try the Spirits whether they are of God."²³ After all, many of them had met Ellen White personally and heard her speak; a living prophet in the church was the norm, not the unique. Were not, even now, Adventist evangelists preaching that the war was the prelude to Armageddon? Did not the Scriptures say that before the end God had promised to "pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy?"²⁴

Those who listened carefully began to pick up discrepancies between Mrs. Rowen's visions and the Bible's teachings.²⁵ However, most of the warning signals were

ignored, or overlooked, because of three lines of evidence that seemed to persuasively confirm the authenticity of Mrs. Rowen's claims.

The first of these was the physical phenomena allegedly connected with Mrs. Rowen's visions. In vision, she seemed to manifest many of the physical conditions described by biblical prophets and characteristic of the early, public visions of Ellen G. White, such as open, unblinking eyes, absence of breathing, and rigidity of the body.²⁶

Although the church has long taught that physical phenomena are not a conclusive test of a true prophet because of the possibility of fakery or of an evil source of these supernatural manifestations,²⁷ these and other "spectacular" elements of the gift of prophecy have been and continue to be overstressed as evidence of genuineness.²⁸

One of those apparently convinced by this evidence was Mrs. Rowen's next-door neighbor, Dr. B. E. Fullmer, a private-practice physician who became a leader in Mrs. Rowen's movement and editor of her publication *The Reform Advocate And Prayer-Band Appeal*.²⁹

The second line of evidence that seemed so persuasive was Mrs. Rowen's remarkable "vision" of her parentage and early life. Although the natural child of Alfred and Matilda Wright, Mrs. Rowen claimed to be shown in vision that she was actually the illegitimate child of Alfred Wright and a wealthy heiress, May Gillette, of Philadelphia. Mrs. Rowen explained that she "saw" that, in order to save the family embarrassment, she, as a newborn infant had been placed in a basket and given to Alfred Wright to dispose of in the bay.

Unable to toss his child into the water, Wright brought the baby home. He told his wife, Matilda, that he had found the child abandoned on the wharf and suggested that they take it and raise it as their own.

But now, according to Mrs. Rowen's "vision", her real mother, the wife of a wealthy Philadelphia businessman named Harold Mills, was grieving for her child.

23. 1 John 4:1.

24. Joel 2:28.

25. Arthur L. White, "The Margaret Rowen Story," (Washington, D.C.; unpublished manuscript, 1965), 64. It should be emphasized that Mrs. Rowen had very few "teachings." The discrepancies referred to here are more or less incidental statements in her writings which could have been easily overlooked since they were not made points of emphasis. Two of these discrepancies were: 1) Mrs. Rowen wrote of the activities of Pilate and his followers during the millennium, a time during which, according to Adventist teachings there was to be no human life on earth. 2) Mrs. Rowen had a vision in which

she saw that Christ, Lucifer, and Gabriel were three coequal archangels and that Christ was later elevated to be the Son of God. Adventists teach that Christ was not an angel or created being, but an eternally existent member of the Godhead or Trinity.

26. Daniel 10:8-10, 15-18; Numbers 24:3, 4, 16; Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White, Messenger to the Remnant* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1954), 5-8.

27. Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White, Messenger to the Remnant, op. cit.*; "Visions," *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, op. cit.*, pp. 1380-1381.

28. It is the personal opinion of the author that emphasis on physical phenomena and on fulfilled predictions, used as proof of authenticity, more often dissuades than persuades belief in prophecy, particularly modern prophecy. The high spiritual tone of prophetic messages, their agreement with the Biblical record, and their effect on the lives of people seem to the author to be not only the best arguments in favor of, but the basic substance of prophecy, the more "spectacular" elements being secondary.

29. Arthur L. White, "The Margaret Rowen Story," *op. cit.*, 2-7.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - Part 4 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/communiqués/dakota-dispatch>

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

Free Marriage Seminar

If you are thinking about marriage, getting married soon, or are already married, come to the Fargo Seventh-day Adventist Church on October 13 & 14 for this free event, hosted by Dr. Pierre Steenberg, professor of family relationships at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. Come and learn practical skills to communicate better, solve conflicts, and nurture love in your marriage. Build the happy marriage you have always dreamed of at this free seminar! For more information, text or call: 701.391.9131

Location:

Fargo Adventist Church
5718 36th Street South
Fargo, North Dakota

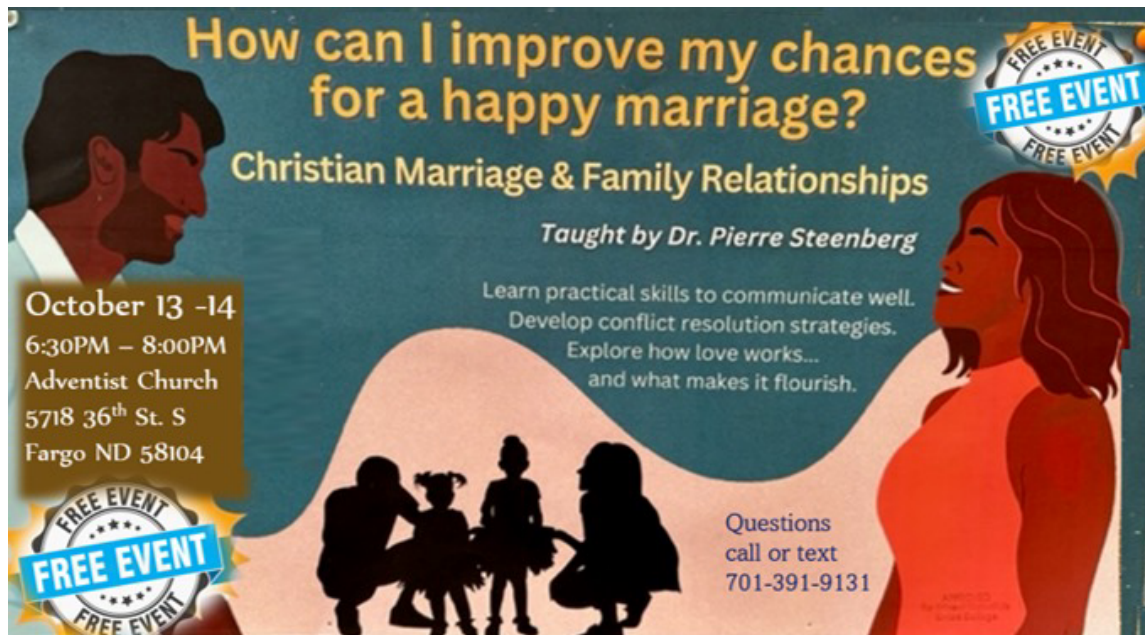
Schedule:

Friday, October 13: 6:30p - 8:30p

Saturday, October 14: 11:00a - 12:00p

Luncheon provided in Dining Hall

Saturday, October 14: 1:30p - 3:00p



GPS Signals

Check out the map of this wheat field!

The blue and green lines represent swaths each of the combines took through the field. Anything not shaded in blue or green represents lakes, sloughs, weedy patches, and rock piles. What a maze!

Usually, we enter a field and the lead combine sets a direction (usually north), then makes the first swath to set the job. The other combine operator then selects that job and is "zoned in" via GPS signals to the exact swaths of the lead combine.

This is a new feature for us this year, and we are excited to be able to work any patch of the field, knowing our swaths are in perfect alignment and will never have frustrating little 15" strips where the two combines meet.

When I got to some of the areas of this field, I veered off course and made wild, crazy, haphazard zigzag lines trying to pick up little patches behind sloughs.

Soon my phone rang.

It was my brother in the lead combine. He saw my zigzag patterns and knew I

needed some educating! He explained how to get back on the job screen and to select "East" when I got into these areas.

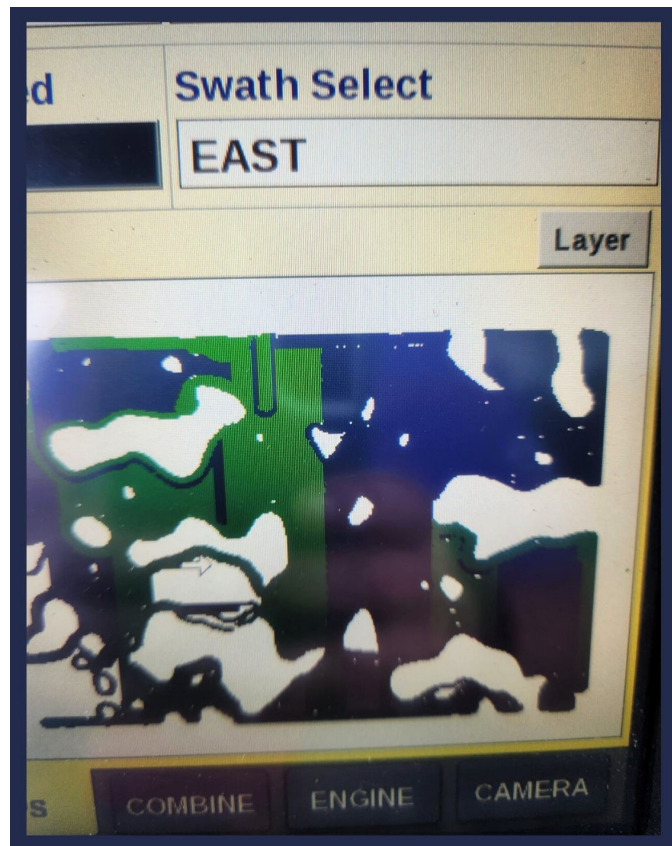
Oh, what a delight! It is so much easier to work when I'm back on the right track, zeroed into the lead combine's settings once again. No more crazy creative patterns in the wheat. No more picking up skips left and right. Just nice, easy straight lines. Pleasing to the eye and much more efficient!

Do you ever have times when your life takes unexpected turns? You're humming along, and all of a sudden you find yourself going in a different direction.

While you flounder trying to figure things out, be open to receiving more insight directly from the Word in studying your Bible, or pay attention to the wise counsel of a friend who has been down that curved path and knows how to reset your steps again. You'll be glad you listened.

"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed" (Proverbs 15:22).

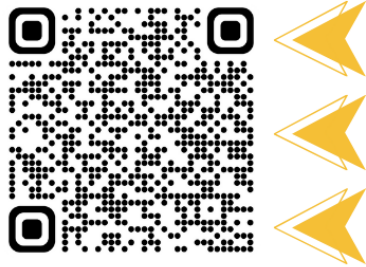
Worship Thoughts and photo by Brenda Klein, member of the New Home Adventist Church in North Dakota. Follow Brenda on Facebook for more devotional thoughts at [Farm Girl Faith](#).



WE ARE HIRING

Join the Dakota
Conference elementary
teaching team. Scan
the QR code for more
information.

- **Sioux Falls
K-8 Head Teacher**



Contact: education@dakotasda.org

Rapid City VBS

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School took a deep dive into the sea this year! With the theme, "Fishers of Men," **49 kids** learned about how God loves us and calls us and as a result we want to witness, or share our story with others. Kids rotated through various stations completing crafts, eating delicious snacks, playing games, and immersing themselves in Bible stories. During the main sessions, kids learned new songs and memorized Matthew 4:19-20 and Matthew 28:19-20. Scuba Sally visited each day to share about different sea creatures specially designed by God and mission offerings were collected to assist in children's songbook translation in Cambodia and a water supply system for a hospital in Kenya. Seeds of God's love were planted and we know an eternal impact was made. A big thank you to all of the volunteers for their time and energy to make VBS a success!



Story and photos reprinted from the Rapid City Seventh-day Adventist Church newsletter with permission from Stephen Wasmiller, church communication director.

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

JAIME JORGE
Healing Music

Signs of the Second Coming

I attended the "Signs of the Second Coming" seminar at the Minot Adventist Church from September 7-30, 2023, presented by Elder Mark Piotrowski, vice president of administration for the Dakota Conference. I thought the seminar went very well. The topics of the presentation ranged from understanding the prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, 8, and 9; and the prophecies contained in the second half of the book of Revelation. The distinctive teachings of our church were presented with the focus falling in each one of the presentations on Jesus Christ as our Savior and our only hope of our salvation. The entire seminar presented the Bible as the inspired Word of God and how to understand the unique issues of the end times.

Members interceded in a prayer room that was set up for that purpose each evening while the lecture was presented inside the church sanctuary. We had a total of 21 community guests attend, with nine precious souls completing the entire series. Church members were also blessed by hearing God's end-time messages in this format.

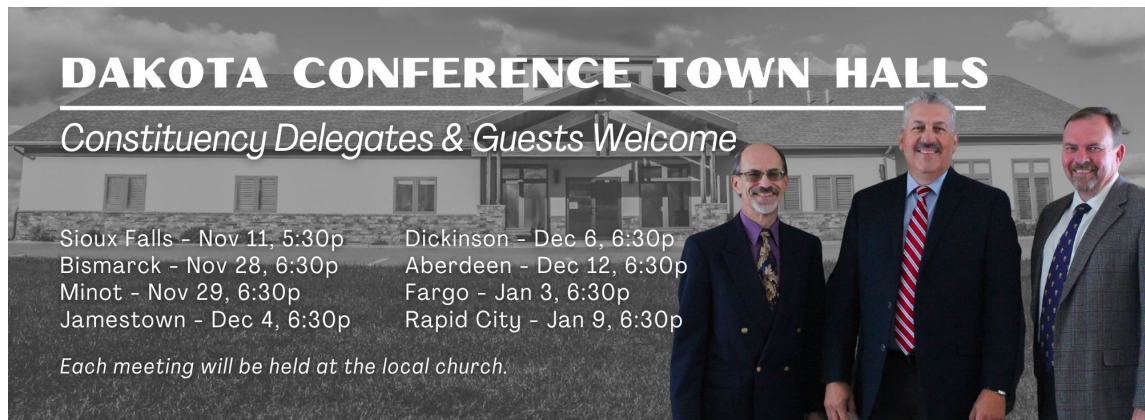
A graduation was held on the closing evening with a light supper. Pastor Casper du Plessis is now presenting a Bible class preparing attendees for baptism. Please join us in prayer as these seekers are led to make eternal decisions for Christ—accepting Him as Lord and Savior. I believe the Holy Spirit is moving in their hearts. I believe that seeds were planted in the guests who were not able to attend the whole seminar, and I pray that those seeds will come to fruition in God’s timing.

A video recording of the series has been posted on the [Minot Church YouTube channel](#). We look forward to continuing to reach out to our city and community with the everlasting Gospel in these critical last days.



Article by Cole Frank, communication secretary at Minot Adventist Church in ND. Photos by Pr. Casper du Plessis, pastor of Minot / Turtle Lake church district; and Elder Mark Piotrowski, Dakota Conference VP of administration.

Dakota Constituency Town Halls



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

Youth & Young Adults

Over the years, as I have worked in youth ministries, one of my favorite things to witness is young people accomplishing something they can be proud of. Just recently, Lynnette and I were able to go to Hot Springs for the Black Hills Lightbearers Pathfinder Clubs induction and investiture program. I have had the privilege of being with this club before, and I was excited to see how much they had accomplished and grown individually this last Pathfinder year. The hard work they did earning honors and investiture levels was something to be proud of. What was even better was to see how much they have done for service and outreach. Their club directors showed their club that Pathfinding is about service to God, and everything else they learn makes them better equipped to serve God. On Sunday, the group from Hot Springs hiked up Crazy Horse. It was awesome seeing them having fun accomplishing the 10K hike together.

When I was earning my Master Guide, I was in a class where the instructor shared a great quote from page 7 in *Messages to Young People*: “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming savior might be carried to the whole world.” We all want the young people in our church to be involved in sharing Jesus with our communities. We want them to experience the joy that comes from working for their Savior. One of the best ways for our young people to experience this is Pathfinders. Pathfinders isn’t just about going camping and earning honors, those activities are just part of the proven method of training our young people to do service. In the Pathfinder song, the words in the second line say “servants to God are we.” I pray that wherever we have youth in our Dakota Conference, our church families will see Pathfinders as an opportunity to help our young people reach the potential that God would have them reach.

“The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand” (*Messages to Young People*, page 7).



Article by Pastor Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director. Photos by Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director.

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

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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDImc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day Adventist Church

[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

[Click here](#) for a link to a fun fall craft found on the NAD Children's Ministries Instagram account.

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.

October - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

- 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
- 4: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Grassy Butte, ND
- 5: K-12 Board of Education - Conference Office (10a)
- 6: Dakota Constitution and Bylaws Committee - Zoom (7p)
- 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)
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 18: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdle, SD
- 22-23: Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 25: Annual Sacrifice
- 28: Bismarck Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 29: Minot Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)

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

Blessed & Kept

May your day be filled with joy.

Negative experiences stick to us easily and naturally. But for positive experiences to stick, it requires reflection on the experience for at least 10 seconds.

May you absorb the joyful moments of your day.

May the 10 seconds you spend thinking about them concretize the joy of the moment in your mind.

May your heart fill with gratitude for the small glimpses of Heaven these moments afford you.

Even amidst the difficult moments of the day, may the absorbed joy spill over so that you can remain calm and patient.

There is much to dismay over, but there is also so much joy to be found.

May the eyes of your mind focus on the joy—not ignoring the bad and the ugly, but finding the joy in it.

May you seek and find the face of God.

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

October 12 Dispatch Photo




Photo in the Black Hills of South Dakota by Liz Struntz, member of the Bismarck Adventist Church and senior at DAA.

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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