



Nothing to Fear

This is the 71st 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 5

The calls for reform that characterized both the Rowenites and the German Reformers, brought the two movements together, for at least a short time in 1922-23. The Open Appeal issued by the "representatives of the International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists Reform Movement " to the 1922 General Conference in San Francisco bears, in addition to the names of the German leaders Welp, Spanknoebel, and others, the name of B.E. Fullmer of Los Angeles, Margaret Rowen's close associate and next door neighbor.³³

While there is no evidence that the German Reform Movement as a whole accepted Mrs. Rowen as a prophetess, there was, at least in North Dakota as we shall see, a close working relationship between the two groups.

The idea of prophetic visions had not been foreign to the German Reform Movement. In 1915, the year following the German church's abandonment of non-combatancy, several individuals in central and southern Europe claimed to have had visions in which they saw that the blossoming of the "stone fruits" (cherries, plums, etc.) that year would mark the close of human probation and usher in the events leading up to the return of Christ. These individuals, already active in the protest against the statements of the German leaders, called upon the church leadership to publish their visions, declaring that if their message was rejected, this would mean that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had fallen from God's grace. Such attitudes became part of the climate which caused church leaders and those who dissented over the combatancy issue to overreact to each other, setting the stage for the emergence of the Reform Movement a few years later.³⁴

Following the General Conference of 1922, key leaders of the German Reform Movement, and Margaret Rowen herself, visited North Dakota, sowing seeds of dissatisfaction and looking for support for their cause among the German churches of central and south-central North Dakota.

The movement found ready acceptance among many church members who were dissatisfied or disgruntled with the church and its leadership and bitter rejection from many others. Perhaps the thinking of this latter group had been strongly polarized against the Reform Movement by an earlier 1920 visit of the ever popular Conradi and his German associate, Paul Drinhaus, to North Dakota. During his visit, the German leaders had told of hard times in the homeland due to the war, possibly even citing the agitation of the reformers.³⁵

From the records available and the recollections of those living at the time, it seems virtually impossible to separate the two movements and say that this group was Rowenite and the other, German Reform. The official name of each group contained the word "reform" and the work of both groups seems to have been lumped under the generic term "reform movement" by both proponents and opponents in North Dakota. Mrs. Rowen and the German leaders appear to have worked in the same areas, preached in the same churches, all apparently contemporaneously. Wherever we find evidence of the influence of one, the presence of followers of the other can be documented as well.³⁶

33. See notes 21 and 22, this chapter.

34. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, June 15, 1967, 6.

35. Northern Union Reaper, October 26, 1920, 5.

36. Although this conclusion is admittedly based on what might be discounted as "hearsay evidence" - the 60 year old recollections of people who witnessed the events. and although much of this testimony is, on the surface, contradictory, we are confident that the conclusion is correct, for these very reasons. While some identify the movement as Rowenite, some as German; when questioned further, most will acknowledge the contemporaneous presence of representatives from both groups and admit that they cannot tell where one group ended and the other began.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 13: Legacy of Uncertainty - 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.

"It's Not That Far to Bethlehem"

Dec. 16, 2023

Dakota Adventist Academy presents "It's Not That Far to Bethlehem" by Dennis and Nan Allen, a Christmas musical drama.



featuring

*DAA's Choir,
Instrumentalists, &
Handbell ensemble.*

*Also featuring students
from Brentwood Adventist
Christian School.*

Wormwood

Behind the shed at church, a little tree was planted alongside his siblings as part of a brand-new shelterbelt. The trees were delicate little waifs, just bare little sticks out on the prairie, poking through long rows of weed-block cloth.

During the first few years, all the trees were watered to keep them from scorching in the hot summer sun. Weeds that tried to compete for nutrients were tugged out promptly.

The tree and his siblings grew and flourished until they no longer needed watering or weeding. They could hold their own.

This spring, the little tree poked his head out from a particularly snowy winter only to discover his siblings were already completely free of snow and busy growing.

"Oh, no!" he thought to himself. "I've fallen behind."

And a weed named Wormwood germinated nearby.

Every day, the tree compared his growth to that of his siblings and was always disappointed with his own progress. He chastised himself for not saying things the right way to his siblings last fall. Surely that was why he was still half-buried in the snow. His siblings must be punishing him.

Wormwood grew quickly, inching closer and closer to the little tree. Soon the weed surpassed the tree in height.

The anxious thoughts kept coming, harder and faster each day, until the poor little tree

was consumed with worry about the upcoming winter, ruminating about last winter's difficulties, and comparing himself to his siblings.

He also worried about Wormwood. Whenever the tree tried to be cheerful, Wormwood told him he wasn't tall enough or strong enough to withstand even a little weed pressure.

The poor little tree was only knee-high, desperate for sunshine from above and for nutrients from the soil. The nasty weed completely blocked the sun, and the roots crowded out the poor little tree.

The tree couldn't fight off the weed. At last, all he could think to do was pray. He prayed for someone to come and take Wormwood away so that he could see the sunshine again.

One day, the One Who Mows the Lawn brought a helper. This helper noticed the tree's plight and yanked Wormwood out by the roots and burned it.

Doesn't anxiety work like that, too? Things are going well, and then thoughts come crowding in, like, "I shouldn't have said that earlier today. Why didn't I say this instead?" Or, "What happens if it rains too much and the crop gets ruined?" Or, "I'm afraid I'll be single the rest of my life!"



Pretty soon, ruminating on the past and worrying about the future sucks the joy right out of the present. It keeps you from growing into the maturity God has planned for you. And often, you can't break free from it without outside help.

If you're someone who struggles with anxiety or depression, just know you're not alone. You're likely just so enmeshed in it that it's blocking your view of God and of others and clouding your perspective.

One of my favorite scriptures to claim when anxiety threatens to choke out my view of the Son of God is Matthew 11:28-30. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Another is a reminder that I shouldn't try to fight anxiety on my own. I can ask for help. Exodus 14:4 says, "The Lord will fight your battle, and you will hold your peace."

I can take that promise all the way to my pillow tonight.

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](#).

Invitation Hill Adventist Elementary School

It has been an extremely active first quarter for Invitation Hill Adventist School in Dickinson, North Dakota. Here are a few highlights.

Teachers praise God for an increase in enrollment this year. The school ended last year with 13 students and started this fall with 18. They are a wonderful group of young people!

Thanks to various volunteers, students and teachers have enjoyed a nutritious and delicious, home-cooked hot lunch on Tuesdays. One of the big benefits of hot lunches like these is that many times students are heard saying, "I don't like [olives, for example]!" But it turns out that they've never actually tried them. Students have discovered that they actually enjoy their newly tried foods. Hot lunchtime is also enjoyable because the whole school gets to eat and fellowship together.

Our mission project for the year is to raise money to dig a well in Myanmar. The upper graders read the book, *A Long Walk to Water* and learned about the many challenges that face villages that lack a clean and reliable source of water source. These challenges include serious health issues and even the inability to receive an education because so much time is devoted to just obtaining water. Our original goal was \$1300, but we have already raised more than twice that much, so now our hope is to see how many wells we can sponsor. Some money has come in through donations, but most has come in as a result of our "Let's Move with a Mission" day. Students garnered pledges from family members, church members, and parents' co-workers and then rode bikes or walked several miles that day to earn the funds.

A few weeks ago we had our annual food drive for the Veterans' Closet. On a Wednesday we went out and distributed 400 grocery sacks to neighborhoods near the school. The following Monday we went back and picked them up, leaving the book *God Still Moves* at every home that filled a sack of items for the food drive. Then we delivered the items to the Veterans' Closet. The VA center workers were very happy to see us and all the food, as their shelves were close to bare.

The last week of October was a week of spiritual emphasis, and Pastor Nathan James came to share with us. He encouraged the students in their prayer lives by sharing testimonies of amazing answers to prayer. He urged them to be fully armed daily by putting on the armor of God. He also encouraged them to accept trials and troubles as opportunities for the Lord to shape us and mold us into His likeness. At the close of the week, he asked if any would like to commit their lives to Jesus through baptism, and several students went forward. Two students are already preparing for baptism, and we are thrilled that several more would also like to take this step.

Thank you to everyone in the Dakota Conference who supports Christian education through your giving, volunteering, and prayers! It is such a wonderful mission field in which to work each day.



Article by Janna Wright, head teacher at Invitation Hill Elementary School in North Dakota. Photos by Janna Wright, Pr. Jason Logan, Endine Karges, Claudia Nastase, and Ron Wright.

Divine Connections: The Nurse, The Pastor, and The Open Word

Her name is Netria, and "our story" is pretty amazing (if I must say so myself). When I had my heart attack, and it didn't appear that I would pull through, my wife lined everything up for me to be flown to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

I don't remember much about my arrival, but I do recall a few of the nurses that attended to me after I had been there for a number of days. One of those nurses was Netria. She was pleasant, kind, and a very capable care-giver as I struggled to keep going.

I discovered that Netria was a Christian woman, but I had no idea that she was from the same denomination that I pastor with. We were both surprised and elated to have that connection.

But, that's not the best part!

One day, my wife Roberta, and daughter Taylor were conversing in my room about *The Open Word*. My wife told me, "Honey, we have to get the user name and password for your devotional. These subscribers must be so confused that they haven't received any devotionals from you."

Netria paused what she was doing stopped and turned towards my wife. "Devotional?" she said. My wife smiled and said, "Yes, Mike does a daily devotional by e-mail and sends it out to hundreds of subscribers every morning."

"What's the devotional called," replied Netria. "*The Open Word*," responded my spouse.

This beautiful nurse gasped and exclaimed, "Oh my goodness, YOU'RE Pastor Mike!" I told her that I was, and she became quite excited.

"I have been a subscriber to *The Open Word* for YEARS," Netria excitedly told me. You have NO IDEA what *The Open Word* has meant to me. I read it every morning while I was going through nursing school. It was such an encouragement to me!"

I couldn't hold back the tears!

Of all the people in this world to be caring for me in such amazing ways, here was a subscriber to *The Open Word* Daily e-Devotionals...someone I had never even met was telling me how much I had helped HER, as SHE was caring for ME!

Only God could have lined that up.

I was reminded once again that we serve a God who knows all about us, our struggles, our trials, and our challenges, and even works out some of the details that He KNOWS will bring us encouragement just when we need it.



I will be forever grateful for this experience and thankful for Netria, her love for Christ, and her testimony of how a tiny ministry called *The Open Word* gave her a blessing that came full circle back to the one who sends it out each morning.

God is an amazing provider!

Story and photo rerun with permission from Pastor Mike Temple, author of the *Open Word* Devotional. To subscribe, [click here](#).

Knighly Knews: DAA Newsletter



If you are interested in receiving the *Knighly Knews*, a monthly newsletter about the happenings at Dakota Adventist Academy, [click here](#) to sign up!

Adventist Community Services

Most of you have probably seen these yellow buckets before, maybe at Campmeeting or a Federation meeting, or perhaps your church has a couple of them to be filled. You might wonder what their purpose is.

Some time ago, the Dakota Conference Adventist Community Services Department (ACS) received 720 of the buckets at no cost in order to have certain disaster supplies readily available for those impacted. It is something that can be given out immediately while waiting for donations to accumulate.

With that in mind, the ACS Department would like to see each church take some empty buckets, fill them according to the list provided, and use them as needed for local emergencies.

Preparedness always trumps last-minute chaos. Please contact Pastor Bob for information on getting buckets to your church. Email: acs@dakotasda.org



Article and photos by Pastor Bob Forbes, Dakota Conference ACS director.

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
-

Youth & Young Adults

The apostle Paul tells us that we (the church) are the Body of Christ. Each one of us is challenged to use the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us to bless the body. In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul gives us a list of Spiritual Gifts and shows how they work. He specifically says that they are given so that the body can grow and edify love.

I have found that often when we speak with congregations about Spiritual Gifts, there seems to be the belief that only adults possess these gifts. But according to the Bible, each of us is filled with the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. It would lend itself to reason that our young people who have been baptized are gifted with the power of the Holy Spirit, as well. This means we should be looking for better ways to involve our young people and children in church. Also, you don't have to be baptized to participate and bless the body. God wants all of us to experience the joy that service to Him brings.

Over my years of pastoring, I have heard a plethora of reasons why we shouldn't allow the younger generation to lead out. Each one of those reasons is terrible and unbiblical. Paul tells Timothy that "no one should despise his youth." God called him to use his gifts and talents to grow the church, which Timothy did with great effect. I was once told in one of my churches that to hold the position of elder in the church one had to be at least 50 years old. I asked if I was able to be an elder and was told, "Of course! You are the pastor." Yet, at that time, I was only halfway to 50. Age does not make one fit to serve.

You may be asking, "How do we involve young people and children in our church?" Well, the short answer is to actively incorporate them into every facet of church. Whether upfront or behind the scenes, we can intentionally involve them in service.

We can involve them by having them be deacons or deaconesses, say the morning prayer, sing or play special music, lead out in song service, run the sound system, greet people at the door, or teach a Sabbath School class. In one church I pastored, the kindergarten class teacher had been teaching kindergarten sabbath school for 60+ years; she had started when she was just a young teenager, and parents would come from other churches just to have their kids in her class. Invest in our young people. Teach them how

to preach. Give them opportunities to share what God is telling them through His Word. Remember, Jesus tells us that we need to become like children. He also says that a child will lead us.

It doesn't matter how old or young you are, God has called you to use your gifts and talents in your church. My prayer is that you will answer His call and help others to faithfully answer that call as well.



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 **November**:

Theme: Thanksgiving - For God's Abundant Blessings

Pastoral Staff: Darrel Lindensmith, Nate Skaife, Mike Garcia

Education Staff: Trudy Smith, Dusty Ricketts, Dixie Thoman, Laura Zakari

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

Adventist Entities: Fargo Church, Wahpeton Church, Ellendale Church, Jamestown Church, Hillcrest School, Cleveland Church

Southeast, North Dakota: Fargo, Moorhead,
MN, Wahpeton, Ellendale, Jamestown, Cleveland, Edgeley

Other: Native American Ministries,
North American Division (NAD)

[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?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0l4MDIImc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Kids' Corner

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/visitation schedule is in blue.

Conference Regionals and Town Hall schedule is in green.

November -

- 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 Weir preaching in Beulah, ND
- 18: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Bowdle, SD
- 18: DAA Church-to-Church Program in Spearfish, 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)

December -

- 2: Local Church Budget
- 2: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Sioux Falls, SD
- 2: Jodi Dossenko singing in Fargo, ND
- 2: DAA Church-to-Church Program in Turtle Lake, ND
- 4: Jamestown Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 5: K-12 Finance Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 6: Dickinson Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 9: NAD Adventist Community Services
- 9: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Spearfish, SD
- 10: Executive Committee - Conference Office (10a)
- 11: Constitution & Bylaws Committee via Zoom (7p)
- 12: Aberdeen Constituency Town Hall Meeting (6:30p)
- 15: DAA Celebration of Praise
- 16: DAA Celebration of Praise and Bismarck Regional - DAA (10a)
- 16: Dakota Challenge
- 23: Local Church Budget
- 25: Office Closed - Christmas
- 30: Dakota Evangelism

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

Blessed & Kept

May the scars of your past prove you are more than the worst that has happened to you.

May all the parts of yourself the scar doesn't touch remind you that there is much in your life besides your trauma.

May the moments of joy you experience—the laughter you share, the smile provoked by beauty—be your protest against the awful things that try to define you by your pain.

May the lessons learned from your scars put them into a broader perspective... Not that the lessons are why it happened to you. But that even the darkest moments can be redeemed; that death brings forth new life.

May you see yourself in your fullness

Not denying the scars but living out of the reality that you are still here

What could have killed you didn't.

And what doesn't kill you knows whom you belong to.

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

November 9 Dispatch Photo



Photo of New Home Adventist Church in Stutsman County, North Dakota, by Brenda Klein.

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

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