



Nothing to Fear

This is the 75th 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 14: Hard Times, Good Times - Part 1

On his way from Carrington to Beach, the conference president reported, "I started west, stopping at Valley City the evening of April 11...There had been some mention made (possibly at the conference committee and academy board meeting earlier in the day) and it would be considered a good plan to move the Sheyenne River Academy from Harvey to some better place, if the moving could be done without a great loss. About six weeks ago I mentioned something of this kind to the secretary of the Commercial Club at Valley City. The members of the club talked the matter over and decided to call a meeting of the citizens to make an offer to locate the academy at Valley City."

The president was C. J. Buhalts; the year was 1911, not yet seven years from the day Sheyenne River Academy first open its doors.¹

Valley City's offer, whatever it was, was obviously never accepted. But the problems and challenges of North Dakota's academy just as obviously began at an early date in the school's history.

From the start, Sheyenne River Academy had difficulty establishing a stable, loyal constituency. The largest segment of the enrollment in the early years consisted of the

“Americans” and English-speaking Scandinavians. Both groups, especially the former, however, were notoriously unsettled, always subject to be infected with the “moving spirit”; no stable constituency could be formed from among them.²

Two factors precluded the formation of a base of support among the Germans, the largest most stable ethnic group, and the one with the largest number of potential students. Before 1910, farming seems to take definite precedence over education, and sending sons and daughters appears to be optional in the thinking of the people, based on the needs of the farm.

After 1910, we enter the heyday of the foreign language seminaries. In the records of the time, it is easy to detect a divided loyalty, especially among the Germans, between Sheyenne River Academy and the Clinton German Seminary in Clinton, Missouri. Although the academy operated a German department from the outset, the appeal of the uniquely German school was enough to attract North Dakota German students to its elementary and academy-level classes. Recruiters from Clinton, as well as from the Danish-Norwegian Seminary at Hutchinson, Minnesota were allowed a free hand in persuading North Dakota academy-age students to attend their institutions.³

The Russians, at least in the early years of the Russian department at Sheyenne River Academy, were a notable exception to the general lack of loyalty to North Dakota's Academy. There was some attrition in later years, however, after S. G. Burley organized a Russian department at Broadview Swedish Seminary, LaGrange, Illinois, about 1918. By the time these events took place, however, other factors were arising, including the growing desire of foreign young people to be Americans and to speak English and the anti-foreign feelings that developed as a result of World War I, which would eventually sound the death knell of the foreign language seminaries.⁴

But the damage had been done, and as other academies in nearby states grew and prospered, competition for students became keen and without strong loyalties to hold them at home, many North Dakota students over the years attended other educational institutions, while Sheyenne River Academy struggled for survival.

1. *Northern Union Reaper*, April 18, 1911, 4,5.

2. See Chapter 10.

3. *Northern Union Reaper*, August 28, 1923, 5.

4. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, Arts., "Broadview Academy" p. 169; "Sergius Gregory Burley" p. 176; "Clinton Theological Seminary" p. 276.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:

Chapter 14: Hard Times, Good Times - Part 2 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:

dakotaadventist.org/communiques/dakota-dispatch

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

Dakota Conference
29th Annual Men's Retreat

THE CHRISTIAN & THE NATION 2.0

March 8-10, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Cedric Vine

ROUGH RIDER HOTEL
301 3rd Avenue
Medora, North Dakota

For more information and to register, [click here](#) visit our website.

Be Still

I love foggy morning walks. The persistent northern plains stiff breezes are quiet for once, and the fog absorbs most of the sounds, except for the crunch of snow under my feet.

"Be Still," God says. "Be still and know that I am God. I am bigger than the chaos in this world. I am here, and I will protect you. I will give you peace. Look at the foggy hillside, and feel My peace."

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10).

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

Worship Thoughts 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](#). Photo courtesy of Canva.



Struntz Accepts Full-Time Employment

Lynnette Struntz has recently been hired as a full-time employee bringing her wealth of expertise to several key roles within the Conference, including human resources associate director, youth and young adults associate director, and executive assistant.

With a strong background in communication and extensive experience working and ministering to young people, Lynnette is well-prepared for her responsibilities. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English, with minors in public relations and religion, from Southern Adventist University, followed by a master’s degree in English from Andrews University. Lynnette’s teaching experience includes four years at Portland Adventist Academy in Oregon, where she taught English Language Arts and Advanced Placement English Literature.



Furthermore, Lynnette has served in various administrative capacities at Adventist institutions, showcasing her versatility and dedication as a facilities manager, office manager, managing editor, graphic designer, and an English teacher at two Adventist universities. She has also worked in the communication department at both the Florida and Georgia-Cumberland conference offices. For the past two years, Lynnette has been the associate director of Dakota Summer Camps. Expressing her enthusiasm for the shift to a full-time position, she says, “I’ve enjoyed meeting the people in the Dakotas and working with the Conference youth; I am looking forward to strengthening these relationships and fostering new ones as I serve in these additional ministry roles.”

Lynnette is married to Ted, Dakota Conference youth and young adults director, and they

have two daughters—Liz, a senior at Dakota Adventist Academy, and Kat, an eighth grader at Brentwood Adventist Christian School. The family enjoys spending time together in nature, traveling, and meeting new people.

Lynnette's addition to the team is met with excitement and anticipation. Her skills, dedication, and passion for serving the members of the Dakota Conference will undoubtedly contribute to the organization's success.

Article and photo by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director.



Join Us For Easter

March 29-30, 2024

**“Light
Beyond
the
Shadows”**

WORSHIP | TEACHING | KIDS MINISTRY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 AT 7 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 30 AT 10 AM

**DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY CHURCH,
15905 SHEYENNE CIRCLE, BISMARCK**

Elizabeth Talbot merges biblical expertise with life insights. With a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies and a rich business background, she inspires with practical spiritual guidance. Her media presence (Jesus 101) and various books powerfully convey Jesus' message, making her talks a source of deep inspiration and practical faith navigation.



Prairie Voyager Students in Science Class

Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary School students in Grand Forks, North Dakota,

completed a unit on electrical circuits by making circuit boxes.



Photos by Leanne Erickson, teacher at Prairie Voyager in Grand Forks.

Knightly Knews: DAA Newsletter

DAKOTA
Adventist Academy
— Est. 1902 —

Knightly Knews

Your way to stay up-to-date on the happenings of Dakota Adventist Academy

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

Tebelius Wins Stutsman County Spelling Bee

The 5-8th grade students at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School in Jamestown, North

Dakota, recently competed in the Stutsman County Spelling Bee. Each student did an amazing job studying and representing Hillcrest. Alea Kahler, 6th grade, and Kale Tebelius, 8th grade, advanced to the oral rounds, and Kale went on to win! He will be advancing to the North Dakota State Spelling Bee in March. Let's give them all a big round of applause!



Article by Kelli Wasemiller, Conference elementary superintendent. Photos by Susie Kahler, member of the Jamestown Adventist Church.

Dakota Adventist Academy Work Bee

Dakota Adventist Academy Work Bee



Looking for a way to give back? We are searching for volunteers of all skill levels to donate their time on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Join us at the Academy as we work to revitalize our school while reengaging with our community. Lunch will be provided. Please register online and let us know what skills you can share.

To register, please visit:
dakotaconferenceeducation.org/daa-work-bee

Calling ALL handymen, handywomen, and those with skills in wiring, plumbing, carpentry, sheetrock, sweeping, and cleaning—we need you! If you can hold, carry, or help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our 3rd annual Work Bee on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Lunch will be provided.

This year's Work Bee will take place in the classrooms, boys' dorm, and girls' dorm.

Volunteers are needed to complete the following tasks:

- Replace ceiling tiles
- Install blinds

- Install faucets
- Caulk windows
- Install light fixtures
- Vacuum & sweep
- Clean gym floor mat
- Drill holes & cut angle iron
- Install commercial glass
- Run chainsaw
- Demo & hang drywall

[Click here](#) to fill out a form so we can place you in a suitable work area. Thank you in advance for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!

DAA WORK BEE

8AM - 3PM | 7TH APRIL 2024
15905 SHEYENNE CIRCLE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Calling ALL handymen, handywomen, and those with skills in wiring, plumbing, carpentry, sheetrock, sweeping, and cleaning—we need you! If you can hold, carry, or help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our 3rd annual Work Bee on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 8:00a-3:00p. Lunch will be provided.

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- Drill holes & cut angle iron
- Install commercial glass
- Run chainsaw
- Demo & hang drywall

Use the QR code below or visit the website to fill out a form so that we can place you in a suitable area of work. Thank you in advance for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!

To register, please visit: dakotaconferenceeducation.org/daa-work-bee

Rapid City Holds Annual Gala

The Rapid City church, school, and community had a fabulous time at this year's gala! The fiesta theme was full of fellowship, food, and fun. We were treated to a delicious taco bar, Jarritos soda, and all the chips and salsa that your heart could desire.

The auction successfully sold students' lovely art and delicious donated desserts. The evening ended with a piñata breaking open and spilling all sorts of goodies for the kids. This event is always a lot of work, but everyone pitched in to make it a success, which resulted in \$4,838 being raised for the school. A big thank you to the Home and School Association for supporting our school!



Article by Kelli Wasemiller, Conference elementary superintendent. Photos by Kelli; Pr. Brian Mungandi, pastor of the Rapid City Adventist Church in South Dakota; and Stephen Wasemiller, communication director for the Rapid City Adventist Church.

DAA Preview Days

Dakota Adventist Academy is thrilled to host Preview Days from February 22-24! Prospective students in grades 7-11 and their parents are invited to experience DAA firsthand and make new friends. Preview Days offer a great opportunity to earn scholarships, meet DAA students, and have a great time while learning about the opportunities DAA offers. [Click here](#) to register now.



You're Invited Dakota Adventist Academy Preview Days Feb 22-25



Benefits of Attending Preview Days

- Registration begins at 5 pm Thursday Feb 22
- Chances to earn Scholarships
- Preview the classes
- Check out dorm life
- Meet the Friends you will have for Life
- Parent information session

Register at: <https://mydaa.org/admissions/>

Youth & Young Adults

Pathfinder Bible Experience

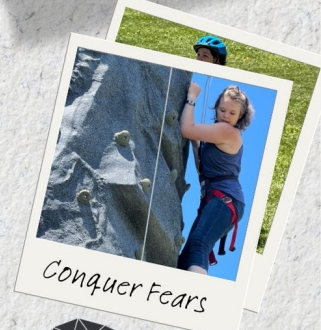


Calling ALL Pathfinders! Come to the PBE qualifier & Pinewood Derby Race held March 1-3, 2024, at DAA. Register by February 19. Contact: Pathfinders@dakotasda.org

www.dakotaadventist.org/ministries/pathfinder-ministries



Make Memories this Summer!



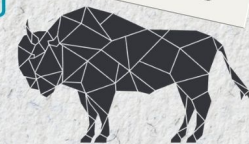

**Register
Online!**

Flag Mountain Camp Hill City, SD

CUB (ages 8-10) June 12-16
JUNIOR (ages 11-13) June 16-23
TEEN (ages 14-17) June 23-30

Northern Lights Camp Bottineau, ND

CUB (ages 8-10) July 10-14
JUNIOR (ages 11-13) July 14-21
TEEN (ages 14-17) July 21-28



DAKOTA ADVENTIST CAMPS

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for **February**:

Theme: Blessings for Blended Families

Pastoral Staff: Barry St. Clair

Office Staff: Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Bison Church

Northwest, South Dakota: Bison, Rosebud Reservation

Other: Blended Families, Single People, Married Couples, Single Parents, Widowed People, Grandparents

[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=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDlmc2NoZz09>

Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Kids' Corner

It's time to get ready for Vacation Bible School! VBS is a fabulous evangelistic ministry for your community and leaves a lifelong impact in children's lives as they fall in love with Jesus. This year's theme is, "Thunder Island: Where Jesus is Always With Me." The kit is currently on sale from [AdventSource](#) for \$125, and resources are available on the Adventist VBS website. Learn more at: adventistvbs.org



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.

February -

- 17: Local Church Budget
- 23-24: DAA Preview Days
- 24: Dakota Challenge
- 24: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Dickinson, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 25: Constitution & Bylaws Committee at Conference Office (10a)

March -

- 1-3: Pathfinder Bible Bowl and Pinewood Derby at DAA
- 2: Local Church Budget
- 2: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Dickinson, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 3: K-12 Board at Conference Office (10a)
- 8-10: Men's Retreat at Medora, ND
- 9: Secondary Endowment
- 9: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Minot, ND
- 10-13: New in Ministry Meetings at Conference Office
- 16: Local Church Budget
- 16: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Sioux Falls, SD
- 16: Mid-America Union Pathfinder Bible Bowl in Lincoln, NE
- 23: Dakota Challenge
- 23: Dickinson Regional with Elder Mark Weir Preaching
- 24: Executive Committee at Conference Office (10a)
- 29-30: Elizabeth Talbot at DAA

- 30: Local Church Budget
- 30: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Manfred, ND
- 30: Youth & Young Adult Director Elder Ted Struntz preaching in New Home, ND

April -

- 1: Office Closed - Easter Monday
- 1-2: Elementary Teacher In-services at Conference Office
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Manfred, ND
- 6: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in New Home, ND
- 7: Work Bee at DAA

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

Blessed & Kept

May nature teach you to thrive.

May you take your cues from the living world around you.

May the seasons demonstrate your need to move on from certain things in your life and start something new.

May the seasons remind you that your current circumstances are not permanent or static. Things will change. You will not feel like this forever.

May the migration of birds indicate your need to trust your instincts—to leave toxic environments that will kill you slowly; to find reprieve in warmer, more welcoming climates.

May the resilience of tundra grasslands inspire you to endure the long winter of your soul; knowing that spring is coming, and despite being buried in snow and subzero temperatures, you will be revived and once again grow and green and blow in the gentle summer breeze.

May the life-death cycle of organic material lead you to have better relationships with the earth, other people, yourself, and God.

Just as a dying plant feeds the soil nutrients needed by another plant, may any death you experience

Whether the death of a loved one, a pet, a season of your life, an old friendship, a job, or a way of doing things

May any death you experience give life to something else, something new.

May the deaths of your life nourish the birth in someone else's life.

May you praise the Creator of this world who can teach us so much about how to thrive.

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

February 15 Dispatch Photo



Photo taken in South Dakota by Reese Saxon, DAA registrar and photography teacher.

The Dakota Conference Communication Department is always looking for beautiful photos to use in the *Dakota Dispatch*, the *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.

Communication Director / Editor - Jodi Dossenko
E-mail: communication@dakotasda.org

If you have local church news or stories to share,
please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles,
and pictures to the email listed above.

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 the Communication Department at communication@dakotasda.org. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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 - [!\[\]\(3df135a685d1b545c4fa64a5f3516545_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Facebook](#)
 - [!\[\]\(de62294faded52808857591d246c2e7a_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
 - [!\[\]\(632b91ede65784e1fc241c52ebe20c23_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
 - [!\[\]\(9e570ad7bd1e47f5a8419f32768deae0_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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