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## Nothing to Fear

This is the 79th 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 5

The enrollment jumped to about 115 that very year, and at camp meeting, July 1, 1926, Neumann reported an operating gain for the school year. In response, the constituency voted to build a new dormitory to accommodate the increased enrollment.<sup>19</sup>

When fire destroyed the girls' dormitory before construction of a new one could begin, Neumann and Meyer moved decisively and proposed to the next constituency session that two new dormitories be built to give the academy a new lease on life with first-rate accommodations.

The target price for the two buildings was to be \$40,000, approximately one-third of which was to be raised from the constituency by an every-member canvass. The source of the remainder of the funds is not known.<sup>20</sup>

The opening of the school had to be delayed because the dormitories were not yet ready after four months of feverish building and when school did open accommodations were less than ideal, but students pitched in, helping complete construction, and the dormitories were essentially finished early in 1928. The progressive administrations of academy and conference now announced their next project, an extensive improvement of the school's

grounds.<sup>21</sup>

One year later the mild recovery that the agricultural industry had been making in North Dakota was wiped out as the nation entered the Great Depression. But Sheyenne River Academy was to survive the hard times, due largely to what had been accomplished thus far and to the determined efforts of Henry Meyer and R. R. Neumann who each spent ten years at their respective posts.<sup>22</sup>

Enrollment dropped during the depression, but Neumann visited tirelessly, recruiting students and held together a core student body large enough to justify the operation of the institution. Never in the records of the period do we find speculation or doubt regarding continuation of the school.

Neumann's boundless optimism must have eventually become contagious, for in 1934, despite the ravages of the "Dust Bowl" years, Sheyenne River Academy registered a record-breaking initial enrollment of at least 149 students.<sup>23</sup>

Only once in the depression years was there a financial "crisis," when deteriorating conditions at the school's laundry building, which made it unsafe for students to work there any longer, made the construction of a new laundry necessary. At the same time, the owner of one of the faculty homes notified the school that the house would no longer be available for rent.

Principal R. W. Fowler (who in Neumann's tradition, served as principal for several years) collected used materials and a load of lumber given in payment for a student's account, marshaled student and faculty labor, and built the two necessary buildings for \$2,000 of which \$800 was paid out of the school's operating funds. A special conference-wide offering was taken to meet the remaining \$1,200 indebtedness.<sup>24</sup>

19. *Ibid.*, August 31, 1926, 2.

20. *Ibid.*, April 26, 1927, 9; July 19, 1927, 7.

21. *Ibid.*, October 18, 1927, 2; December 6, 1927, 4; January 10, 1928, 6.

22. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, *op. cit.*, "North Dakota Conference"; "Sheyenne River Academy".

23. *Northern Union Reaper*, November 13, 1934, 4.

24. *Northern Union Outlook*, March 22, 1938, 1.

**Next time from *Nothing to Fear*:**

**Chapter 14: Hard Times, Good Times - 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:

[dakotaadventist.org/resources/communiques/dakota-dispatch](https://dakotaadventist.org/resources/communiques/dakota-dispatch)

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

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## Dakota Campmeeting



Join us for Dakota Campmeeting 2024! Visit our website for more information and to register for a room: [dakotaadventist.org](https://dakotaadventist.org)

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## Real ID

I got my "Real ID" today. In about 12 months, this will be the accepted form of identification to board airlines and enter federal buildings. A "regular" driver's license will no longer be accepted in these situations.

Officials know how to easily spot a Real ID by the gold star on the card. On my particular card, there's also a standard picture of me, an opaque thumbprint picture of me that can be seen from the front or the back of the card, and additionally, a silver hologram of my image that can be seen when you tilt my card into the light. The back side includes the North Dakota Great Seal.

Impressive, right? According to all the documents I gave the official when I applied for my Real ID, I proved that I am who I say I am, and I live where I say I live.

Looking at that gold star got me thinking about Heaven. In the Bible it says that not everyone who cries, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom. Some have fake IDs and will do

their best to present an image that looks believable even to fellow Christians. But God will say, "I do not know you." Their relationship with the Lord is missing. Their fake IDs are missing the gold star. No genuine relationship with Christ. No love deep down in their hearts.

God knows I am who I say I am, and He's got a crown already prepared, signaling my acceptance into the kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:8 says, "Now there is a crown waiting for me. It is given to those who are right with God. The Lord, who judges fairly, will give it to me on the day He returns."

God knows our hearts. He knows those who have a genuine relationship with Him and have His imprint on their minds, on their hearts, and in their hands. Their thoughts, feelings, and actions are all in alignment with Christ. Hebrews 8:10 says, "I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

And so it is that we have the seal of God on our foreheads as further proof that God knows us and fully accepts us.

I've got my Real ID, and I've got my identity in Christ. I'm ready to go places when the time comes. Are you ready?



*Worship Thoughts and photos 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](#).*

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## **Tebelius Takes Third Place at State Spelling Bee**



“I don’t want to do it, Dad. Sorry...” is what I told my dad, Karl Tebelius, the night after Hillcrest School announced that they would be participating in the Stutsman County Rural Spelling Bee. The annual spelling bee had always been a big deal for me and my family, but especially my dad, because it was so special to him to see me doing well in activities such as that. I had always shown interest in the spelling bee, but this year it didn’t seem so important to me.

In the weeks that passed following the announcement, my parents, especially my dad, urged me to participate in the spelling bee because it would be my “last chance” to do something like that, as I was in eighth grade. However, the more they urged, the more I decided against going. Although I had the lists of the words at my fingertips, they all seemed easy to me but just didn’t engross me as they had in years past.

A few weeks before the spelling bee, most of my friends made it known that they would be engaging in the event, and even they continued to goad me to join in the throng. As the final weeks before the registration deadline drew nearer, our teacher, because so many of our class members were entering the spelling bee, made our weekly spelling tests out of the words on the spelling bee word list. After scoring A-pluses on those tests using the most difficult words, I realized that I could actually have a chance at doing well in the spelling bee. Anyway, the worst I could do was lose.

The day of the Stutsman County Rural Spelling Bee came fast after that, and I found myself walking into the doors to take the written part of the test. The environment during the written exam wasn’t much unlike a test at school. It wasn’t stressful, but it wasn’t enjoyable either. However, the words given to write were extremely easy and came from the simplest word list, so I breezed through it.

After much waiting, the results of the written test came back—I and the rest of my friends and family were excited to find out that I had made it to the oral rounds! We all had a quick prayer huddle, and then on to the oral rounds I went. I found my seat in my chair up front, amongst four other contestants, and after much stress and tension, won! I had done it! I took my trophy and papers for the North Dakota State Spelling Bee and was on my way.

Over the weeks that passed between spelling bees, I was consistent and urgent in learning all the words so I could do well or win in the state bee. However, towards the end, I became more and more bored with practicing and ended up stopping completely the final two weeks before the competition.

Yet again, I found myself walking in the doors on the day of the state spelling bee, though

these were at the Bismarck Event Center. As I waited for the written test, I became more and more anxious. An hour and a half later, I walked out slightly worried and stressed, but certainly much more relaxed. I figured if I passed, it would be great—but if I failed, I could save myself a lot of further anxiety.

A few hours later, though, my name was called for making it to the orals! What a rush! My family, schoolmates, and teacher went wild! Thus it was, that at 1:30p, I was in chair number one in the orals room.

Confidently, I strode up to the microphone and, after much prayer from both me and my family in the crowd, correctly spelled my first, second, third, fourth, and so on words. The more I got up to spell, the more the competition field dwindled. Eventually, after much tearing of paper in my pocket, praying every time I was at the mic, and chewing on my sweatshirt strings, I was in the top four and qualifying for a trophy.

My rivals went from three spellers to two. I finally stood up and spelled the word “attuned.”

“Your word is... attuned,” the speaker announced.

“Attuned, A-t... u-n-e-d, attuned,” I responded.

DING

“The correct spelling is a-t-t-u-n-e-d. Good try, though.”

Although it may seem like I would have been sad or devastated that I got so far and lost in third place, I was ecstatic! And, as we drove home that day, I smiled to myself. I would’ve never made it so far if it hadn’t been for my teacher, friends and schoolmates, family—but most of all, my dad and God.

This entire escapade taught me a few things, such as perseverance always pays off, as when I practiced all the time for the State Spelling Bee, and prayer pays off even more. I prayed more about the spelling bee in those short few months than most things I pray about, and God got me pretty far.



*Article by Kale Tebelius, eighth grade soon-to-be graduate of Hillcrest Adventist School in Jamestown, North Dakota.*

*Photos by Missy Brass, mother of Kale and member of Jamestown Church; and Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director. Watch for the June issue of OUTLOOK Magazine to read a version of Kale's story.*





## Hugh Davis

Hugh Davis is the associate director of communication at the Mid-America Union Conference (MAUC). With over 20 years of experience in digital media, marketing, and communication across healthcare, public education, and city government sectors, he offers substantial expertise in his role within the church. Hailing from Detroit, Michigan, Hugh is a proud product of Adventist Education and earned his degree from Andrews University. He also serves as the digital media manager for OUTLOOK magazine, where he applies his skills to enhance digital communication, further showcasing his commitment to leveraging digital platforms for effective communication within the Adventist community.



## Brenda Dickerson

Brenda Dickerson is the MAUC communication director and editor of OUTLOOK magazine. She enjoys collaborating with the many talented photographers, designers, and bloggers who help keep OUTLOOK's product suite strong and relevant. Dickerson graduated from Union College and Ohio University and holds a master's degree in organizational communication. She has served in the MAUC Communication Department since 2010 and has edited the OUTLOOK since 2013. In addition, Dickerson is currently the president of the Society of Adventist Communicators where she organizes and promotes skills training, resources, and professional development for communicators around the North American Division.



## Elder Robert Forbes II

Bob Forbes, a graduate of Union College, is a “mostly” retired pastor with over 36 years of ministry experience, dedicating 13 of those years to the Dakota Conference. He grew up with a passion for Adventist Community Services (ACS) and Disaster Response and has been serving as the ACS director for the last five years. Bob works closely with the State Emergency Services and the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster for North Dakota and South Dakota. Bob also serves as the Dakota Conference ACS Federation president. Bob and his wife, Gerry, are approaching their 46th anniversary. They have three adult children and six grandchildren.



## Dr. Hubert J. Morel Jr.

Hubert Morel Jr. serves as the vice president for administration of the MAUC. He assists in leading the Union's six constituent conferences and focuses on policy development and constitutional matters. Morel holds a bachelor's degree in theology from Oakwood University, a master's of divinity from Andrew's Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in biblical counseling from Trinity Theological Seminary. His pastoral career began in 1981, with ministerial roles in Florida and Georgia. He was elected president of the Southeastern Conference in 2008, where he served two terms. Morel is married to Raquel, and together they have two adult sons and one granddaughter.





## Elder Elden Ramirez

Elden Ramirez is the executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference. Before he assumed this role in 2021, he was the undersecretary of the North American Division (NAD). He has also served as president of the Montana Conference and has led the NAD Office of Volunteer Ministries. His diverse ministerial career has included various positions such as academy chaplain, youth pastor, senior pastor, and church planter. He has also directed departments focused on family life, camp ministries, health, and youth ministries. Ramirez's commitment extends to music, leading an a capella gospel ministry with his wife, Jenny, and their two daughters, Elennie and Jasmine.



## Dr. Ivan L. Williams Sr.

Ivan L. Williams Sr. currently directs the NAD Ministerial Department, supporting over 4,200 pastors across the Division. From an early age in Atlanta, Georgia, Williams felt a divine calling to ministry that prompted him to pursue a theological education. He earned degrees in communications and theology from Oakwood University, Andrews University, and a doctorate from Claremont School of Theology, focusing on pastoral burnout. Beyond pastoral duties, he also serves as a U.S. Air Force Chaplain and co-hosts the "Ministry in Motion" broadcast. Williams enjoys family, reading, preaching, barbering, athletics, and sharing hope. He is supported by his wife, Kathleen, and two children.



## Matt & Josie Minikus

Matt and Josie Minikus' music is a reverent, contemporary folk blend of vocals, guitar, piano, and a variety of other instruments. As songwriters, they are passionate about writing meaningful, thought-provoking lyrics and beautiful melodies. Through their music and stories, they seek to help others peer a little deeper into the unfathomable love of God—a love they have personally encountered and have been drawn by.

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## Teacher Appreciation Week

We are so appreciative of ALL of our Dakota teachers! Whether you work in a private or a public school, you are a light to your students and co-workers. Thank you for ALL that you do!



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## **Bullinger Awarded for Excellent Photography**

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest, which saw participation from 170 photographers with over 800 submissions. Established in 2004, the contest invites amateur photographers to capture distinctive aspects of North Dakota. The theme for 2024 focused on the state's seasonal beauty and associated activities, with winning photos slated for use in tourism promotional materials.

Paulette Bullinger, a member of the Mandan Adventist Church and the Dakota Conference Women's Ministries Director, won in two categories: Fall Scenery for her "Sims Historic Church" photo and Spring Scenery for her "Blossoms in May" photo featuring the North Dakota State Capitol.

An avid photographer, Paulette is known for her readiness to "jump out of the car" to capture moments of God's beauty, and she also plans photography road trips. She is



very generous with her talents and frequently shares her photographs with the Conference Office—her work has been used on the website, graced *Dakota Messenger* covers, and is regularly featured in the *Dakota Dispatch*.

The winning photos from the Governor's Photo Contest are displayed on the 18th floor of the North Dakota Capitol. For a complete list of finalists and their works, visit: [ndtourism.com](http://ndtourism.com)



Article by Jodi Dossenko, Conference communication director. Photos were taken from Paulette Bullinger's and [Governor Doug Burgum's Facebook pages](#). You can follow Paulette's photography page on Facebook, "[A Little Slice of Heaven - Photos by Paulette](#)."

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## Bismarck Church Hosts Gardening Workshop

In April, the Bismarck Adventist Church health committee hosted a gardening seminar led by Dwight Duke, Rosie Christenson, and Tami Flemmer. The presenters shared their knowledge on a variety of topics. Attendees learned about garden design, starting plants, soil preparation, seed selection, companion planting, fertilizing, managing pests, harvesting, and more. This event was designed for gardeners of all skill levels, offering something new for everyone to learn.

The presentations led up to a special tour on May 5, 2024, of Dwight's greenhouses at The Skyline Ranch in Hensler, North Dakota. Here, Dwight and his family grow thousands of vegetables annually, which are then sold at local Farmer's Markets. The tour, attended by about 30 guests from the Bismarck and Mandan Adventist churches, provided a practical

example of the seminar's lessons in action. It was an unforgettable reminder of how we can plant and God can bless.



*Photos by Linda Oswald, member of the Mandan Adventist Church in North Dakota. Article written by ChatGPT with information from Linda Oswald. Though the Bismar Co-op has closed, you can still view their video about [Dwight Duke here](#).*

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## Youth & Young Adults

Each day, God is at work performing miracles in our lives; unfortunately, we don't always seem to see or acknowledge them. Last Friday, I arrived at Flag Mountain Camp to be greeted by about three inches of snow. This was not what I had expected or wanted since I had come down to the camp to open it up with Nathan Roe, our returning camp ranger. As I woke up on Sabbath morning to a beautiful sunshiny day, the snow shimmered throughout our beautiful camp. By lunchtime, nearly all of it was gone. I was excited that now we would be back on schedule with completing our tasks.

Everything seemed to be going well Sunday morning as we started to do the projects necessary to get the water going. Unfortunately, a part needed to be replaced, and it wasn't available anywhere until Monday. Despite that challenge, God had people step in and point us to the place we needed to go. He also provided a person who was able to fix our chainsaws. Although our work wasn't going as expected, we were still able to get work done.

Every time Ranger Nathan and I encountered a problem, God provided an answer. Several times God began putting the solution in motion before we could even ask—or even discover



we had a problem! On Monday night, we had another storm with three more inches of snow. While the snow completely messed up our plans, it allowed us time to complete a project that could only be done indoors. God is so good to us.

God has had people show up and help us at just the right time. I am reminded of the scripture that tells us that before we can even ask, God is already answering.

I am encouraged that although things haven't been going the way we thought they should go, God is making things happen at just the right time—His time. And He is the ultimate project manager. If He is doing all of this before the campers even show up, I can hardly wait to see all He is going to do once our campers arrive.

I encourage you to begin each morning in prayer, putting your whole trust in Him. He is worthy of it, and He is always faithful. I challenge you to watch for how He shows up in a big way to be with you and help you through each daily problem. Don't miss out on seeing His miracles tailored just for you!



*Article by Pastor Ted Struntz, Conference youth and young adults director. Photos by Pr. Ted and Nathan Roe.*

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# Make Memories this Summer!

*Have Fun*

*Make Friends*

*Sharpen Skills*

*Relax & Unwind*

*Build Relationships*

*Conquer Fears*

**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



**Register Online!**



DAKOTA ADVENTIST CAMPS

## Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

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

**Theme:** Mothers, Students & Teachers - Preparing Workers for the Harvest

**Pastoral Staff:** Potential pastor for Grand Forks

**Education Staff:** Leanne Erickson, Eric Garrett, Lewis Stanton

**Office Staff:** Jodi Dossenko, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

**Field Staff:** Bob Forbes, Kelli Wasemiller

**Adventist Entities:** Grand Forks Church, Prairie Voyager School

**Northeast, North Dakota:** Rolla, Pembina, Langdon, Grafton, Cando, Devil's Lake, Grand



Forks, East Grand Forks MN, Spirit  
Lake Reservation

[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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117499925?pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDlmc2NoZz09)  
pwd=MHJVS0k4Ryt1UWVXT0I4MDlmc2NoZz09

Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

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## Kids' Corner

Did you know that Pastor Stephen Eastwood from the Pierre/Bowdle church district has a YouTube series full of fun Bible stories for kids?! [Click here](#) to check them out!



*It Is Written* has launched a special Vacation Bible School series entitled *Flight 3:16*! During *Flight 3:16*, children will visit five exciting countries as they prepare for the ultimate destination—Heaven! This complete VBS kit includes all items needed for 14 children. Start planning your next VBS today! Purchase your kit for \$289.99. Save \$30 when you use

coupon code **Flight316e**. [Click here](#) for more information.

If you are interested in contributing devotional or craft videos to be shared with our Conference kids, please contact Kelli at [dakotachildrenministries@gmail.com](mailto:dakotachildrenministries@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.*



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## Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple.

The office preaching/visitation schedule is in blue.

### May -

- 6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 11: ADRA Disaster Relief
- 11: Elder Mark Weir preaching in Hermosa, SD
- 11: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Jamestown, ND
- 11: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown, SD
- 18: Prairie Voyager 8th Grade Graduation in Grand Forks Church, ND (11:00a)
- 18: Local Church Budget
- 18: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Hot Springs, SD
- 18: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Bismarck, ND
- 18: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 21: Invitation Hill 8th Grade Graduation in Dickinson Church, ND (6:30p)
- 23: Brentwood 8th Grade Graduation in Bismarck Church, ND (6:30p)
- 23: Hillcrest Kindergarten Graduation in Jamestown Church, ND (6:30p)
- 23: Hillcrest 8th Grade Graduation in Jamestown Church, ND (7:00p)
- 24-26: DAA Graduation Weekend
- 25: Dakota Challenge
- 25: Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Lehr, ND
- 27-29: Camp Pitch for Dakota Conference Employees
- 29-1: Dakota Campmeeting at DAA



## June -

- 1: Dakota Campmeeting at DAA - Dr. Ivan L. Williams Sr. preaching
- **1: Camp Development**
- 2: Dakota Constituency Session at DAA (9:00a)
- 3: Conference Office Closed - Campmeeting Recovery Day
- 4: Conference Office Closed - Memorial Day Observed
- **8: North American Division Women's Ministries**
- 12-16: Cub Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 8-10)
- **15: Local Church Budget**
- 16-23: Junior Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 11-13)
- **22: Dakota Challenge**
- 23-30: Teen Camp at Flag Mountain (ages 14-17)

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: [www.dakotaadventist.org/events](http://www.dakotaadventist.org/events)

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## Blessed & Kept

May you absorb the grace of God in Jesus.

May you come to a better understanding of your worth because you have received this grace.

May you know that you have not received grace in spite of who you are—but because of who you are, you have received grace.

May the boundless love God has for you be the only reason you need when you ask yourself why you have received this grace.

If God died so that you might receive this grace,

The worth of your life is the very life of God.

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

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## May 9 Dispatch Photo



*Photo taken in North Dakota by Paulette Bullinger, Conference women's ministry director. See story above to find out more about this incredible photo!*

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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](mailto:communication@dakotasda.org) with the name of the photographer and a short description of where it was taken.

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**Communication Director / Editor - Jodi Dossenko**

E-mail: [communication@dakotasda.org](mailto: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](mailto:communication@dakotasda.org). Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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- [!\[\]\(6302aad5aed157b291fddf37b4870784\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Website](#)
  - [!\[\]\(a9ca2c237943a6d0a9f22252f295b6f3\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Facebook](#)
  - [!\[\]\(9a01a64e0b4ff865df7d32ee7991fe8b\_img.jpg\) Dakota Conference Education](#)
  - [!\[\]\(6aefe9a3d997eb8b55c40ecd5fa7053f\_img.jpg\) Dakota Adventist Academy](#)
  - [!\[\]\(baa8f8ba8c970db55300f5bb45bb3460\_img.jpg\) Dakota Youth and Young Adults / Camps](#)
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