

November 2024 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071



Pastor Aaron's Post-It

What does an unthankful believer look like? It has to be like the proverbial square-shaped circle. It doesn't exist! But maybe we struggle with how to show gratitude. Gratitude is a vital part of the Christian life. God Himself instructs us all throughout His Word to be thankful and to have grateful hearts.

This gratitude is not just saying "thank you" but actually actively expressing and living out our feelings of gratefulness. So, how do we apply this? How do we show God that we are grateful? Let's remember some ways to show gratitude to God, and in turn, to others:

Remember:

- *Make time for God every day*
(I Chron. 16:11)
- *Use your blessings to bless others*
(1 Peter 4:10)
- *Take care of and love people*
(Matt. 22:36-40)
- *Be generous* (Acts 20:35)
- *Thank God in prayer and worship*

ABCD Missions Conference! Reminder for Nov. 8-9

Because registration will close on Monday, November 4th, please remember to register on the ABC of the Dakotas. The registration fee for this event is only \$10 and the ABC of the Dakotas has blocked off rooms at the Best Western in Huron, SD. The number to call to get your name on the hotel room is 605-352-2000. We are encouraging everyone that is coming to be willing to bring a few immediately needed items that Union Gospel Mission can distribute for the winter months:



When? Fri. 4PM through Sat. 1:30 PM, Nov. 8-9
Where? 1st Baptist Church, Huron, SD. You can register on the ABCD website or call the ABCD Office
Why? To share and see what God is doing in our local/international missions

Your Church Can Be a Thanksgiving Blessing



From the beginning of NT Christianity, the local church was the way believers accomplished so much that God had called them to. At the feet of the leaders appointed in the church, believers gave offerings (see Acts 2-4). It still amazes me that God chooses the local church as His *Plan A* to care for others, minister to the community, equip disciples, and send out people to the nations.

One of the beautiful things that I have witnessed in our Dakotas is how generosity is contagious. Whether we are trying to help build up our Camp Bentley and our Camp Judson or fund needs-based scholarships halfway around the world, we have faithful people in our Dakota churches who love to give and love to be spurred on to give!

As we draw close to the end of the year, I want to make a special plea to our ABCD churches to prayerfully consider giving to the ABCD region so that vital and crucial ministries to our churches and pastors can continue with support. Thank you! - Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn
If you would like to learn more about your ABC of the Dakotas, please visit:
abc-dakotas.org/about-us/our-mission

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Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress



In my report to you at the beginning of August, I mentioned my interest in the writings of Henri Nouwen and in particular his book entitled; "The Spirituality of Fundraising". I was recently challenged by the following excerpt from that book.

"Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate in our vision and mission. Fundraising is precisely the opposite of begging. When we seek to raise funds, we are not saying, "Please, could you help us out because lately, it's been hard." Rather, we are declaring, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which God has called us."

We have been blessed beyond measure and more than 3.3 million dollars has been raised towards our original goal of 4.0 million dollars. Continue to pray for the Camp Judson Capital Campaign.

There has been terrific progress on the construction of the new building. Geidel Concrete has completed all the basement walls and is now working on the floors. Jake and Tracy can't say enough "good things" about the quality of their work and the responsiveness of this company. They have even built a special "feature" into the design which you will have to ask Tracy about the next time you visit the camp.

Only By His Grace,

Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



Pastor's Corner with Dan Kuno

Each month, some time will be taken to get to know our ABCD region pastors. This month, we get to know a little more about Dan Kuno, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ipswich, SD. Dan was willing to answer a few questions about who he is and what drives him:

1. Who in the Bible would you like to meet? A. Peter. Because he's the most unlikely guy to succeed.
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. Tissues at the altar. People weeping before the Lord and getting right with God.
3. Family? A. Wife, Phyllis, daughters - Kerry and Danielle along with 8 grandchildren.
4. Originally from? A. Watertown, SD.
5. Favorite food? A: Anything BBQ or smoked. I judge BBQ down in Kansas City.

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Pastor's Corner with Dan Kuno (cont'd)

- 6. A favorite Bible verse? A. Luke 2:52, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."
- 7. How have you seen God working recently? A. IN the area of the unexpected. We've had a few baptisms of a 65-year-old and a 70-year-old. Also, in faithfully preaching the Word of God. "I'm just pocket change to be spent however He wants."
- 8. Favorite movie? A: *Quigley Down Under*
- 9. Favorite book of Scripture and why? A. Proverbs. There's a promise that if you just read it, you gain wisdom. There's a chapter for each day of the month. Read it!

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THE BEST LONG-DISTANCE MARKSMAN & RIFLE IN THE WORLD!

The Successful applicant will be awarded long-term & gainful employment in one of the County's pre-eminent cattle properties. Applicants will receive \$100,000 in gold. Apply Marston Station Western Australia.

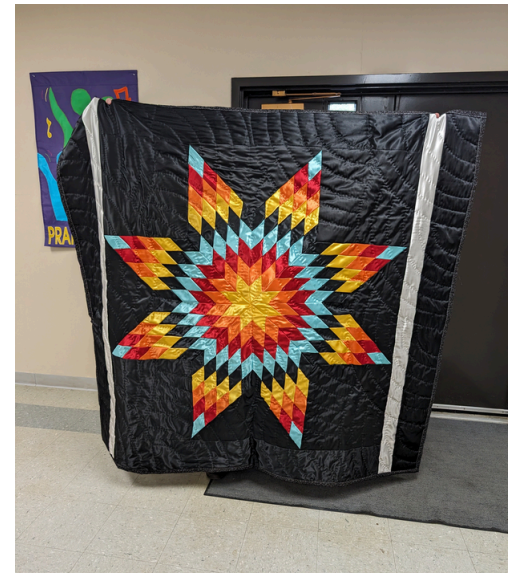
Camp Bentley Broadcast

The Camp Bentley Board met on Saturday, October 26. It was a wonderful time of celebrating the 2024 season, planning for 2025 and dreaming for the future. Camp Bentley has received two large memorial gifts that will go towards upgrading the rec hall. There will be more to come as the committee meets.

Our scholarship fundraiser with Inspiritus/St. Joseph's Foundation will kick off November 15-December 31. These are matched dollars, up to \$2500, to scholarship first time campers and campers with financial need. Giving Hearts Day 2025 is February 13 th . We have set our giving goal at \$70,000 with a match of 30,000. Giving Hearts Day gifts will be used to upgrade recreational activities and spaces at camps, Details of how to give will be coming to churches and Facebook soon.



Church of Hope Star Quilt Raffle



Each year a beautiful, hand-made quilt is donated to help benefit the active and necessary ministry at the Church of Hope located in the Women's Penitentiary in Pierre, SD.

Pictured above is this year's star quilt that would accentuate any home. Drawings for this quilt will be held December 8th. Tickets can be purchased by contacting First Baptist Church in Pierre by email: firstbaptist@midconetwork.com or by phone at 605-224-2030.

Thank you for considering a fun and decorative way to support one of the few ministries available to incarcerated women in South Dakota.

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Here and There

As Executive Minister, I have the distinct privilege of traveling the open range of the Dakotas and visiting with pastors and believers of all kinds. In this section of *Dakota Baptist*, I will share some about where I've been and who I've seen.

While the season showed changing in October, the need for a pastor's retreat did not change. We had a great group of pastors led by Rev. Dr. Robin Duncan on the theme of "Seasons in Life" and it was good to see a few new faces, too.



Meeting up at Hot Springs First Baptist Church with pastor David Cook

Serving with the Camp Judson committee has been rewarding and helpful to see how much work goes into providing a quality, Christian camping experience. I also had the privilege of preaching at Trent First Baptist Church and meeting up with old friends there as well! The month was also very busy with planning the upcoming Missions Conference in Huron, SD. Thank you pastor Dwayne Williams for having such a wonderful and helpful host church!

MMBB Cares!



Pastors are essential to the health of our congregations. We know our clergy need to be equipped and refreshed for their difficult work yet according to Barna Research about 42% of pastors want to quit. Over half of pastors who have considered quitting full-time ministry say "the immense stress of the job" has factored into their thoughts on leaving.

Beyond these general stressors, two in five pastors (43%) say "I feel lonely and isolated. We want our pastors to feel cared for and confident in their ministry. MMBB (Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board) has received a grant from the Lilly Foundation to offer FREE counseling and ministry coaching to any ordained minister or a person functioning in an ordained role. This is a tremendous opportunity to receive up to 6 counseling sessions or 8 coaching sessions FREE via telehealth. You don't need to be a member of MMBB or even working in an ABC church to qualify. No region staff or church members will know as it is completely anonymous. Apply through www.MMBB.org/MMBB-cares. If you or a pastor you know are in need, please take this opportunity to work towards wellness and wholeness.



A Time to Pray

Each month, we will feature prayers concerning our ministries in the Dakotas that we can offer to God, knowing that we can, **"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."** - Rom. 12:12

- Prayers for our churches in Stanley, ND and Powers Lake, ND to be able to call good preachers
- Prayers for God to get the glory at our ABCD Missions Conf.
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson as they prepare for winter
- Pray for two of our churches in Sioux Falls to find quality, godly worship leaders
- Pray for the Church of Hope in Pierre, SD as they are searching for a new Prison Congregation Pastor
- Pray for believers to trust in the Lord throughout the election process and political change

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,
- Phil. 1:3-4

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