

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

### Pastor Aaron's Post-It

Peter grasps the weight of Christ's death when he writes, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus perfectly accomplished all that is necessary for sinful men and women to enter into fellowship with God. Rules and effort are just futile mechanisms for trying to climb into heaven.

In contrast, the manger's message is one of liberating mercy. God has wonderfully taken the initiative and come to rescue us through Jesus. We don't need to make a long journey to find God, because Christ, the newborn King, knew His role. What is the right response? Simply to bow before Him humbly, praise Him wholeheartedly, and wait for Him expectantly all of our days.

### Questions to ponder:

- How is God calling me to think differently?
- How is God reordering my heart's affections and what I love?
- What is God calling me to do as I go about my day today?

### ABCD Missions Conference well received in Huron, SD



Earlier in November, the ABCD held their Biennial Missions Conference at First Baptist Church in Huron, SD. Pastor Dwayne Williams church was extremely welcoming and accommodating for all the guests that came to celebrate what God is doing "across the world and next door" in the Dakotas.

Representatives from dozens of churches came and shared wonderful fellowship and worship as speakers from Ecuador, Nagaland, Sioux Falls, and Pierre shared how God is moving. There was also an \$11,110 offering taken up for the developing ministry of Hope Village which helps women transitioning out of prison of Hope Village. A time of prayer over needed items was given for those who might be suffering from homelessness and poverty. Many commented on how welcoming and engaging the conference was as well.

### Church of Hope News!

The pulpit at Church of Hope has continued to be filled by Pastors Russell Jones and Rachel Byrum, as well as Vicar Nance Orsbon throughout this year as we searched for our new Pastor. A call was recently extended to Yagana Yakubu, and we are very pleased that she has accepted the call. We will now begin the VISA process, and we covet your prayers in that regard.

One very special event which will take place again this year is the Christmas Goodie Bags which are presented to each woman every year. Due to restrictions, we continue to accept only monetary donations bags, which are a gallon-sized zip-lock bag filled with a variety of candies, snacks, teas, and hot cocoa mixes.

As in previous years, we ask for your partnership in presenting a goodie bag to each woman at the South Dakota Women's Prison, to bring joy at Christmas time to a group of hurting people. We appreciate any support you can give to this outreach. Your gift can be sent to: Church of Hope, P.O. Box 785, Pierre, SD 57501. Please designate the monies for goodie bags. Any extra funds received will be used for the ministry throughout the coming year.

Thank you for blessing these precious ladies at the South Dakota Women's Prison. Please remember them in your prayers during this challenging season of year.

- Kari

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### Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress

If you are like Judy and me, we cherish the holiday season more and more each year. Maybe it is the nostalgia we feel as we reflect upon the experiences and substance of our lives and long for a return to simpler times or maybe it is the reality of our own lives as we celebrate the holidays without people who have left us for their spiritual homes. Whatever the reason, things of real importance to us, seem to take on a heightened urgency and stronger meaning.

When Judy and I accepted the responsibility of chairing the fund-raising effort for the capital campaign, there was a sense of urgency that we both felt about the project. Camp Judson has been a big part of our lives and we both wanted to ensure that younger generations had the same opportunities to find the living and loving Savior that we had found. Shortly, Tracy and Dani will be sending out their annual Camp Judson Appeal letter. Again this year, donations will be directed to the Capital Campaign. Please give as the Lord leads you. If you are now in your "Golden Years", as I am, you should check with your financial advisor and plan to make a donation to Camp Judson through a QCD (qualified charitable distribution)

from your IRA or another "tax advantaged" gift of other assets. We have reached 80% of our original \$4,000,000 campaign goal. Maybe this is the time we reach that goal. Work continues on the new building despite the onset of winter weather. The plumbing of sewer lines is complete. Tracy is evaluating bids for the plumbing of the fresh water supply system.

The concrete floor of the east half of the building will be poured during the next break in the weather and backfilling around the poured walls should begin soon. Be mindful that all this construction work is happening while Tracy and Dani are doing the logistical planning and prep for next year's camping season and Jake is performing necessary camp maintenance and repair. Continue to pray for those who make Camp Judson a "bright light in a dark world".

Only By His Grace,  
Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede  
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



### Pastor's Corner with Dave Wisthoff

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 Dave Wisthoff, pastor of First Baptist Church in Glenburn, SD. Dave 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. "Moses. Because he would have quite the stories to tell, especially after coming out of Egypt."
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. "I really enjoy working on sermons because I get to dig into the Bible so much."
3. Family? A. Wife, Tam, daughters Anna, Sarah, and son, Seth

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### Pastor's Corner with Dave Wisthoff (cont'd)

- 4. Originally from? A. Tennessee
  - 5. Favorite food? A. Pizza
  - 6. A favorite Bible verse?  
A. Proverbs 3:5-6 and John 14:6
  - 7. How have you seen God working recently? A. "We're waiting to see God right now and to see what what God has in store."
  - 8. Favorite movie? A. *Facing the Giants*
  - 9. Favorite book of Scripture and why? A. "Romans. Because I knew that I hadn't really understood it and it challenged me to dig into it."
- Thank you for letting us get to know you a little more, Dave! God bless you, your family, and your ministry - in Jesus's name!

### Camp Bentley Broadcast

Camp Bentley is working with INSPIRITUS Community Health Foundation to double your blessings during our TWICE BLESSED campaign. From November 15 through December 31st, the gifts you make to Camp Bentley scholarship funds are eligible for a match by the INSPIRITUS Community Health Foundation.

Inspiritus will match up to \$2500 total for our scholarship fund. These gifts are used to scholarship ALL FIRST TIME CAMPERS and campers with financial need. Help us earn our 1-1 match by going to [twiceblessednd.com](http://twiceblessednd.com) to donate. All gifts are welcome. To give of one's self freely is always a blessing. So give your gifts double the impact this holiday season with TWICE BLESSED. Scan the QR code to give online or send to the address in the picture.

Thank you and God bless you,  
Rev. Lori Dvirnak Lundblad

### Special Visit from NECU



On Wednesday, November 20th, the Dakotas was privileged and blessed to have Director of Operations, Huzo Meru and former Nagaland Secretary, Alemtemshi Jamir pay a visit to the campus of the University of Sioux Falls. Alem and Huzo have been taking a type of "thank you tour" through AZ, CA, MA, KS, and SD in order to not only express gratitude for support of NECU but to share how NECU has been growing and the unique partnerships they have undertaken with schools like Berkley and Oxford University.

Because of an initiative started by the ABC of the Dakotas, we have been able to raise more than \$12,000 to fund needs-based scholarships for students entering the 3-year programs at NECU. A sincere and heartfelt thank you is expressed from Huzo and Alem to the individuals and churches that are helping to support students attending NECU as they prepare to be salt and light throughout the country of India!



"The Lord is not through with you yet. You still have an open door here, and until the Lord moves you, you're to bloom right where you're planted" - Mr. Bridges

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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.

November proved to be a time of important zoom meetings and coordinating with other ministries. I was invited to be one of the workshop leaders and speakers at the Prairie Pastors Conference in Omaha, NE March 31-April 2nd as well as help plan for the event with other ABC Executive Ministers,



*A quick selfie w/ former North East Christian University Pro-Chancellor, Alemtemshi Jamir at Falls Park, Sioux Falls, SD*

I also was able to spend time with Pastor Juan Bonilla and discuss ways that we can engage our region with parenting helps through Padre de Corazon. A good portion of the month was also used to carry out the ABCD Missions Conference and the special visit to USF and Sioux Falls by NECU leadership. Thank you for praying!



*Spending some time in Sioux Falls with Pastor Juan Bonilla from Ecuador*

### Up to Some Good

Here are some good things that are happening in our region that remind us of God's blessings and His moving:

1. Concrete walls are erected for the Roger Williams Lodge.
2. A well-attended ABCD Missions Conference in Huron, SD
3. ABCD pastor perseverance and prayer helping to bring positive change
4. Baptisms and younger families coming to several of our region churches in the ABCD
5. Willingness to try different paths to bring people to faith in Christ
6. A welcoming and hospitable spirit extended to several out-of-country guests in the Dakotas
7. ABCD budget passed by the Region Policy Board with several new initiatives being supported



### 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 ministries to be unified in mission
- Prayers for our pastors and ministry leaders during the busy holiday season
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson to receive quality counselor applications for the coming summer
- Pray for those who are missing loved ones this time of year
- Pray for the Church of Hope in Pierre, SD as they are finishing up VISA details for newly-called Pastor Yagana
- Pray for believers in our country to be faithful in prayer over the change in the USA's national leadership

*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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