

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

Pastor Aaron's Post-It

For many people, the time of autumn and fall is almost a season of comforts: warm fires, falling leaves, changing flora and fauna, football, and warm sweaters. These comforts are gifts from the Lord and every gift from God is not meant to terminate on the gift itself but to help turn our hearts back to God in repentance, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.

Whatever the reason, whatever the cause or comfort, God is always searching for a way to bring us back to Him - to bring us back in fellowship with the Giver of all good gifts. There are some sound steps we can take to turn our hearts back to God.

Remember:

- Make a decision - no turning back (Jer. 29:11)
- Find your true identity in who Christ says you are (Col. 2:13-14)
- Claim Jesus Christ as your rock, refuge, and redeemer (Psalm 18:2)
- Seek godly relationships (Prov. 12:26)
- Choose prayer, praise, and thanksgiving

ABCD Missions Conference! "Next Door and Around the World"

Ecuador, a women's prison, the street, Nagaland, and the University of Sioux Falls: what do these have in common?

Come and find out how God is moving near and far and how our churches of the ABCD are joining with God in doing some life-changing work.

This year, we are asking that all Missions Conference guests bring items that will help the Union Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls. Some of those items are:

twin fitted sheets, standard bed pillows, NLT Kids' Bible, TUMS antacid chewables, Theraflu, USPS Forever Stamps, Kleenex, Luvs Diapers - Size 4, and Lysol Wipes.

When? Friday 4PM through Saturday 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 missions locally and internationally

Who? Anyone who wishes to come *Lunch will be provided, Saturday noon. Please visit our region's website for more information and to register under "2024 Mission Conference!"



A Big Gift to Push Forward!

The encouraging news of cement work happening at Camp Judson is exciting and just as exciting is the news of a fantastic gift recently given towards the Camp Judson Roger Williams Lodge Campaign.

Just a little over a week ago, camp director Tracy Koskan, called me with the exciting news. A generous anonymous donor has given \$500,00 towards the building campaign at Camp Judson.

How the donor chose to give has sparked an interest from others in giving in the same way. It appears that the gift was given in the form of stock certificates. What a wonderful way to show an "investment" in making an eternal impact with the Gospel in the lives of youth and families. A letter has been mailed out to invite others to join in and help in the same way by gift of stocks and/or securities. If you or anyone you know may be interested in investing in the same way, please give the ABCD office a call at 605-575-2071 or e-mail to: abcdakaaron@gmail.com. Thank you!

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Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress

If you have ever played a competitive team sport like football, basketball, or volleyball, you know the importance of “momentum” in each of these games. Coaches do all they can to “ride the momentum of positive play” to victory. I think the same holds true with our fundraising effort for the construction of the new Roger Williams Lodge at Camp Judson.

“Momentum” was built at the beginning of our campaign, and with the vision of this project firmly planted in the hearts and minds of people throughout the Dakotas, we continue to be blessed.

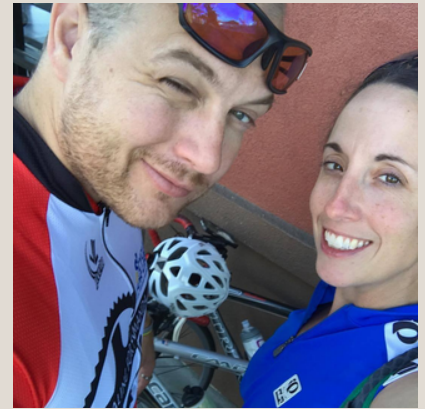
In September, an anonymous donor gave \$500,000 worth of appreciated stock to our campaign. In total, there is now more than \$3,300,000 in cash and pledges towards our initial goal of \$4,000,000. In addition, more than \$5,000 was given in offering from the guys attending Men’s Roundup - the weekend of September 21st .

From all of us on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, we can’t thank everyone enough for the generosity that we have experienced. Please pray that this, “momentum”, will continue and we reach our goal sooner rather than later.

There is other good news we would like to pass on. Geidel Concrete Construction, of Rapid City, has begun work on the building foundation and lower-level walls. They are a very reputable company and believe that they can complete this phase of construction within one month to six weeks. Pray that the “momentum” we have experienced in fundraising will be carried into all phases of “construction”.

Only By His Grace,

Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



Pastor’s Corner with Chris Gromis

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 Chris Gromis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Watertown, SD. Chris 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. Want to talk to him about his progression of faith.
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. Seeing life change. Seeing people come from the world into a relationship with God. That’s what keeps me going.
3. Family? A. Wife, Karen, daughters - Cayna, Kelti, and son, Corbin

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Pastor's Corner with Chris Gromis (cont'd)

- 4. Originally from? A. Inland Empire, southern California
- 5. Favorite food? A. Cake
- 6. A favorite Bible verse?
A. Luke 23:46. "Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last."
- 7. How have you seen God working recently? A. Seeing God deliver a person from the world and their struggles to a place where they are seeking God almost every day.
- 8. A favorite movie?
A. *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*
- 9. Favorite book of Scripture and why? A. "The Gospel of John, it's easy to understand but so theologically rich."
Thank you for letting us get to know you a little more, Chris! God bless you, your family, and your ministry - in Jesus's name!



Camp Bentley Broadcast

On my desk I keep a double-sided picture frame. One side is a picture of the ranch in southwest North Dakota where I grew up. The other side is a picture of Camp Bentley. Both are home to me. These are pictures of my happy places. The American Baptist Youth gathered in September at Camp Bentley for our convention. Many of the youth said that camp is their happy place. A place that is home to them. Our theme was "Home." With the help of our speaker Rev. Mike Sourile, we explored not just our physical homes but finding a spiritual home in Christ.

On Sunday we did a prayer walk based on My Heart, Christ's Home by Robert Boyd Munger. In our prayer walk we explored the various rooms around camp and gave over the rooms of our hearts to Christ. The youth also did projects around camp, helping prepare camp for winter. We are so thankful for all they accomplished and, most of all, the servant hearts they demonstrated.



Pastor Appreciation Month



It is our desire to honor and bless our Pastors during the month of October! They do so much seen and unseen, and it is a joy for us as a congregation to celebrate them intentionally during this month.

Our pastors have been a steadfast presence in our lives, offering spiritual guidance, support, and inspiration. They have been there to celebrate our joys and provide comfort during our trials. Their tireless efforts, heartfelt sermons, and loving care have helped us grow in our faith and find solace in our spiritual home.

This month, come together as a congregation to show your appreciation in meaningful ways. Remember, it's not about the size or grandeur of the gesture but the sincerity and love behind it. Our pastors have dedicated their lives to serving our spiritual needs, and a simple gesture of appreciation can mean the world to them.

Thank you for your continued support, love, and prayers for our pastors. May God bless them abundantly during this Pastor Appreciation Month and always.

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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.

September proved to be a time of travel and timely meetups. While meeting in Milwaukee, WI with other Executive ministers from the Mountain and Prairie states, I was able to help solidify several speakers for upcoming ABCD events.



Exec. Minister Aaron Kilbourn with Men's Roundup speaker, Dane Kissack - top 3 world-ranked roper and Jesus follower

I also was able to receive the great news of the most recent wonderful gift of 500K towards the Camp Judson campaign! I was able to meet with Prairie Executive Ministers and plan for the Prairie Pastors Conference in Omaha, NE as well as help lead Men's Roundup. Between numerous zoom meetings and check-ins with ABCD pastors, prayer was a constant practice!



Steve Cook recognizing one of our beloved "angels," Dave Gnirk, at Camp Judson

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 footings have been poured for the Roger Williams Lodge.
2. A beautiful gift of 500K was given to the Camp Judson Campaign
3. ABCD pastors leading competently through change
4. Summer camp season went well for Bentley and Judson
5. Men's Roundup challenged and encouraged men.
6. Baptisms happening across the ABCD region, from young to old
7. Pastors and churches excited by new starts and opportunities throughout the ABCD region
8. Several churches trying innovative ways to reach the lost in their communities



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 to be unified in mission
- Prayers for our ministry partners around the world and next door
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson leadership for the ability to reach out
- Pray for the safety of farmers as they try to finish the harvest.
- Pray for the Church of Hope in Pierre, SD as they are searching for a new Prison Congregation Pastor
- Pray for believers to faithfully share the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Pray for our country and the leadership of our country to turn to God and His supply

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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