

July 2025 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071

Pastor Aaron's Post-It

This Independence Day we have an opportunity to be on our knees thanking God for all He has given us. The United States is a country in which everyone has more opportunity than any other country. Thank God for a country where there is no caste or class to keep a man from going to the top. If a man has a will to work and study, he can go ahead regardless of his background.

Also, thank God, He has given us freedom of religion. Whatever you may believe, no one can close your church because your religion does not coincide with another's. A few people meeting in a small, out-of-the-way shack, worshiping God as they believe in Him, have the same right to religious freedom as the people who worship God in the great cathedrals on the avenues of our greatest cities.

Please take a moment and pray:

"Thank You, God, for allowing me to have another chance at opportunity this day. Thank you for the freedoms I have and the freedom in Christ that You have given. Amen."

Reverend Don Shoemaker



We were saddened to hear of the passing of the former Associate Executive Minister of the Dakotas, Rev. Donald Shoemaker, in early June. Pastor Shoemaker was a faithful servant who we know is now enjoying his heavenly reward alongside his dear JoAnne. He helped many of our churches through pastoral searches, working with American Baptist Youth, giving vision to Camp Bentley through the building of a dining hall, and assisting in the creation of the Dakotas region. He and JoAnne were dedicated to preserving the history of the North Dakota Baptist Convention through their book, *North Dakota Baptist State Convention 1884-1984: A History*.

Many in our region remember time with Don and JoAnne fondly as they were truly a joy to be with, even on long youth trips to Colorado. We also remember him as we clean at Camp Bentley recalling his saying to leave camp cleaner than when you came.

Church of Hope Quilt



This beautiful quilt was raffled off for the Church of Hope last year. The Church of Hope raffle raised more than \$1,400. Thank you everyone for your support!

Soon everyone will have a chance to support the very active and essential ministry of Church of Hope at the Women's Penitentiary in Pierre, SD!

As you know, the Church of Hope provides essential counseling, prayer support, Bible studies, worship, and fellowship possibilities for the women incarcerated at the Women's Penitentiary in Pierre. Under the capable and caring guidance of Pastor Yagana Yakubu and the Church of Hope Board, lives are being impacted and transformed by the Gospel.

The quilt raffle is every year and always brings in a decent amount of interest and support. This is just a fair warning for those who want a shot at another beautiful quilt while supporting and encouraging COH ministry with your financial gifts!

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Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress

With the camping season now in full swing, the staff and management are now focused on providing and supporting the ministry work that is done at Camp Judson. Whether it is making sure that every camper is fed, the cabins are cleaned, there is wood stacked for the campfires, or that the Camp store doesn't run out of gummy bears - the list of chores is endless.

Because of this intensive, round-the-clock work, construction on the new building has slowed significantly. This bit of downtime does, however, afford planning time for the next phases of construction. It allows management time to seek qualified contractors for detailed designs for the construction of the HVAC, plumbing, and electrical portions of the project, and lastly, it gives time to piece these parts into a coherent and cohesive schedule for completion.

This is the third summer that Camp Judson has been without a chapel and other indoor areas for large gatherings. We believe that with a "great big push" in the construction effort this fall, winter, and next spring, and the generosity of God's people to achieve our \$4,000,000 goal, we will be able to praise God for His provision and worship in a new and beautiful space next summer.

We covet your prayers and all financial support for our capital campaign. If Camp Judson has been part of your life, the lives of your children, grandchildren, or friends, and the time is right to make your "largest possible gift" to our campaign, please contact our Region Executive, Aaron Kilbourn, and he will put you in touch with one of our Executive Committee members. Your gift will help to ensure that Camp Judson continues to be one of the best, if not "the best", Christian camping experience in the region.

Lives are changed every day at Camp Judson, and we can tell by the overflowing numbers of camp registrations that children, youth, young adults, and families are hungering for God's Word. God bless you and your family!

Only By His Grace,
Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede



Pastor's Corner with Daniel Sampson

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 Daniel Sampson, pastor at New Birth Baptist Church in Fargo, ND. Daniel has been a pastor in Fargo for 11 years.

Daniel was willing to answer a few questions about who he is and what's on his mind:

1. Who in the Bible would you like to meet? A. "Daniel. Amazed at how he maintained his connection with God in every season of life."
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. "Seeing people realize who they are in Christ."
3. Family? 3 children - 20, 18, 16.

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Pastor's Corner with Daniel Sampson (cont'd)

Camp Bentley Broadcast

4. Originally from? A. Brooklyn, NY
 5. Favorite food? Chicken parmesan with fettucine
 6. A favorite Bible verse?
 A. Acts 20:24
 7. How have you seen God working recently? A. "God has been orchestrating opportunities for me to encourage others while healing my heart."
 8. Favorite movie? *The Book of Eli*
 9. Favorite book of Scripture and why? A. "The Book of Acts. It was the first book I read when I was scared and homesick when I went camping for the first time. I was afraid of the darkness, the sounds, and being so far from home. I had a small orange Bible of just Psalms and the N.T. I couldn't fall asleep so I began to read it. It comforted me, allowed me to sleep, and gave me courage to stay at camp."

Thank you for letting us get to know you a little more, Daniel! God bless you, your family, and your ministry - in Jesus's name!



Men's Roundup started our June and was a great time for 35 men and boys. Over 80 women gathered for Women's Retreat with the theme "Be Strong and Courageous". Jr. High Camp had 57 campers developing "Holy Habits" and having lots of fun. Jr Camp had 43 campers learning "God's Dos and (Do)nots!" including a breakfast of donuts. Our staff were also busy with two family reunions to round out the month.

We are looking forward to our remaining camps. Family Camp is July 11-13 with Yagana Yakuba from the Church of Hope as our speaker. Sr. High will end our season on July 13-19. Please register today at: campbentleynd.org.



- 1st Baptist of Sioux Falls 150th Anniversary Worship Service and Choir - July 6th - 10 AM.
- Sturgis Emergency Services Mission, First Baptist, Rapid City, SD - August 4-13.
- Men's Roundup at Camp Judson, Keystone, SD - August 22-24.
- Region Executive Ministers Meeting at Camp Judson - September 9-11.
- AB Women's Sunday - Oct. 21.
- ABCD Pastor's Retreat at Camp Judson - Oct. 1-3.
- ABCD Region Policy Board at Camp Judson - Oct. 3.
- ABCD Region Biennial, 1st Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD - Oct. 10-11.

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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 & believers of all kinds. In this section of *Dakota Baptist*, I will share some about where I've been and who I've seen.

June saw an increase in helping our churches around our ABCD region. We have pastor openings in Kief, ND and Stanley, ND as well as at Emmanuel Baptist, Sioux Falls and 1st Baptist in Watertown, SD. The ABCD Region Policy Board met as well and was encouraged on several fronts in terms of preparation for new church plants and our fiscal responsibility and investments.



Preaching and seeing old friends at Trail Ridge Senior Living Community in Sioux Falls as well as preaching at our churches in Burke, SD and Lucas, SD were a privilege and joy. Meeting with national ministry leaders from ASCENT and seminaries was beneficial as we look to building up our pastors & congregations in our ABCD region. Your continued support and prayers are appreciated!

Church and Pastor Resources

Each month this section will feature several resources that might help churches and pastors with a variety of different tasks and ministry areas. Each featured resource will have a link to click on for more info!

1. Relationship Resources -

Relationship Resources uses practical applications and Biblical principles to facilitate growth in all relationships. Through their books, trainings and workshops, people feel empowered when they learn how to rediscover God's joy, manage stress, and develop healthy relationships.

<https://relationshipresources.org>

2. **ASCENT** - The heartbeat of Ascent is to connect the orthodox, globally minded, missionally engaged Christian community around the call of the Great Commission. Among the cultural and ecclesial fragmentation of our current moment, we know the Holy Spirit to be stitching together a new movement. We are composed of local congregations, regional denominational families, national ministry networks and communions, mission agencies, non-profit ministries, and theological institutions.



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 pastors and congregation member travel safety in these summer months
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson leadership and student counselors
- Pray for people needing freedom in Jesus Christ
- Pray for the witness and example of followers of Christ
- Pray for churches that are seeking pastoral leadership
- Pray for those who are looking for ways to serve the church
- Pray for revival and a desire to please the Lord in every area of our lives .

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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