

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

### Pastor Aaron's Post-It

New starts, resolutions, new beginnings - these are all familiar markers of the New Year. People promises themselves to lose weight or have less screen time or read the Bible more. Of course, resolutions have been broken almost as much as they have been made. So how do we follow through on these kind of promises?

God has made many promises that He always has followed through on. In fact, 2 Corinthians 1:20 tells us, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." Thank God we can rely on Him! So as you are starting the Year:

#### Remember:

- *Throw yourself into your promise. Don't show up halfway.*
- *Daily remember your deeper "Why am I doing this?"*
- *When it gets challenging, ask yourself, "What's stopping me?"*
- *When adding things into your life, do it with pace and balance.*

### ABCD Pastors Getting Together

Fellowship, Foundation, and Formation - this is why area pastors will be getting together in the months to come at a central location for a few hours. The idea is that pastors can connect more than once or twice a year and help encourage and sharpen one another. We have a variety abilities, experiences, and gifts within each of our region pastors. Why not work together and build one another up in the Lord and in our ministries?

The first pastor get together will be held for pastors primarily in northeast SD and southeast ND. The meeting details are as follows:

**When?** Thursday, January 25th, noon

**Where?** Lone Pine Bar and Grill, 2647 10th Avenue SE, Watertown, SD

**Why?** Fellowship, Foundation, and Formation

**Who?** ABCD pastors near Watertown, SD

\*Lunch is provided - you just have to come!



### Welcome Pastor Michael Guzman!

After a thorough and prayerful search, 1st Baptist Church of Aberdeen, SD has called pastor Michael Guzman to be lead pastor. Michael, his wife Shawna, and three children hail from the Anaheim, CA area. Michael is very thankful and excited to come serve at 1st Baptist.

Having served several ministries in California, Michael knew that God had blessed him and his family with the opportunity to minister in Aberdeen. Mike Salem, a member of the 1st Baptist Search Committee, says that the church feels the same as Michael was installed as their pastor this December 10th. Please pray for a wonderful start and enduring ministry for the 1st Baptist church family. Thank you!

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### Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress

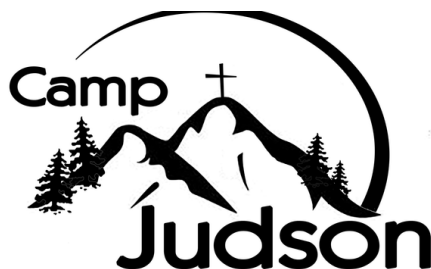
We are happy to report that the "Year End Appeal" from Camp Judson was quite successful. I have received feedback from Tracy that a little more than \$90,000 was deposited in December and donations are still coming in. We've been overwhelmed by the response and continue to be amazed by the faithfulness of God's people. While this is very exciting news, the tracking of new pledges, pledges fulfilled, pledges still in progress, new gifts, and matching challenge money, etc. has created an accounting situation that will take some time to untangle. Historically, the pace at Camp will slow during January and February and should provide some quiet time and a good opportunity to put our accounting back on track. While we don't have a definitive total now, a good approximation is probably about \$2,600,00 - \$2,700,000 which includes the application of matching challenge money.

"From the construction site, we have learned that Tracy is "detailing" the excavation with some of our heavy equipment to ensure we have room to place concrete forms, have a proper-sized egress from the lower-level theater, and ensure that final lower-level grades have been achieved. Architectural services have now been contracted after a brief bidding process, structural engineering services are being provided by a "friend" of Camp Judson, and the search is on for a General Contractor.

As the largest project ever undertaken at Camp Judson, we are trying very hard to ensure that all aspects of this project are being done well. We hope this update every month is keeping you, our stakeholders, well informed.

Only By His Grace,

Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede  
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



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### Pastor's Corner with Brett Best

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 Brett Best, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD. Brett was willing to answer a few questions about who he is and what drive him :

1. Who in the Bible would you like to meet? A. "Zechariah. Because his book is like the X-files with some weird stuff."
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. Teaching. Because it's a Bible study on a more personal level with feedback,
3. Family? A. Wife, Kary. Daughter, Katie, son, James, and daughter Melanie and Son-in-law, Austin.



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### Pastor's Corner with Brett Best (cont'd)

4. Originally from? A. Winner, SD  
 5. Favorite food? A. Steak  
 6. A favorite Bible verse?  
 A. Psalm 37:4  
 7. How have you seen God working recently? A. Despite tight finances at church, God has provided. People have not been anxious in response to finances.  
 8. A favorite movie?  
 A. *Star Wars: Episode IV*  
 9. Favorite book of Scripture and why? A. Revelation, because it always presents a challenge and keeps me from being complacent and thinking I've figured it all out. If you would like to find out more about the Revelation Bible Study, do a YouTube search for **ebcsf**

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

Be sure to watch next month for our next pastor. It could be yours!

### Camp Bentley Broadcast

We had a wonderful 2023 season. Our managers, Nathan and Amanda Keller, were amazing and kept things running well. Campers and staff had great weeks of growing in their faith and building relationships with other Christians. Twice Blessed giving will end at midnight on December 31, 2023. Our goal was \$2500. As of December 20, we have raised almost \$3600. We will receive a match of \$2500 from the Inspiritus Community Foundation. These funds are used to scholarship all first time attenders and those with financial need to Camp Bentley.

What a gift to be able to invite children and youth to Camp Bentley with no concerns about how to finance their week. Thank you to all who gave. We are still praying for a manager, assistant manager, and cooks for Camp Bentley in 2024. These positions are pivotal to our camping program. Please pray with us. If you know anyone who may be interested in any of these positions, please have them contact me: [abcdaklori@gmail.com](mailto:abcdaklori@gmail.com) or by phone 701-595-2313.



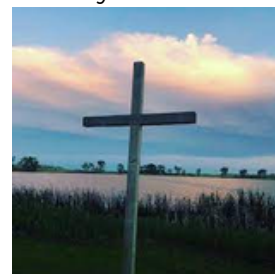
Camp Bentley will be a participating charity for Giving Hearts Day on February 8th, 2024. Giving Hearts Day is a wave of giving that happens every February around Valentine's Day for charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Donations will be matched up to \$20,000.

Donations can be given on the website:  
<https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/1257>

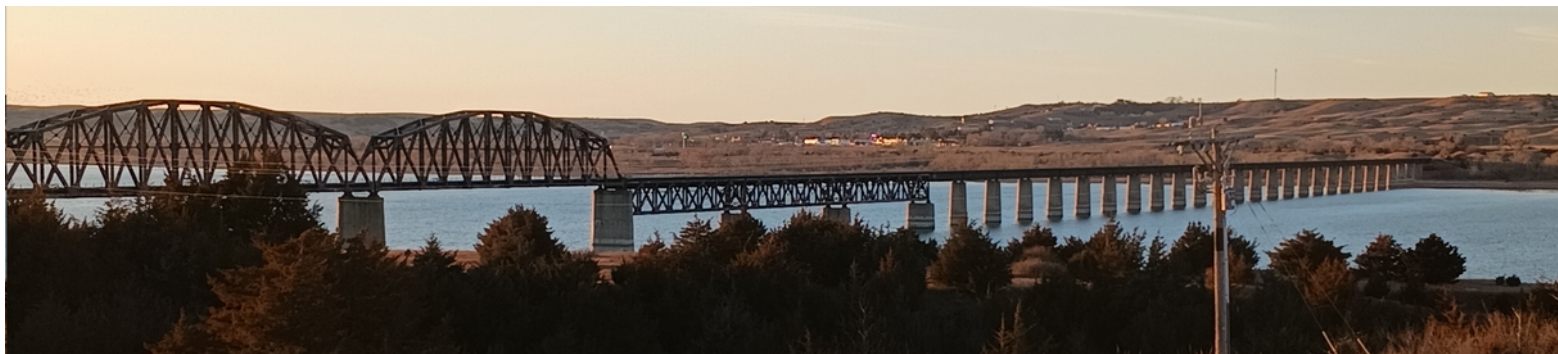
You may also write a check to Camp Bentley and mail to:

Lori Lundblad  
 9115 Baine Dr  
 Bismarck, ND 58503.

Thank you for giving of yourself to Camp Bentley.



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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 December is often a time for holidays and Christmas cheer, it is also a time that the church can be the most outreach-oriented in the community. It was wonderful to visit churches since our winter has not been so harsh (so far)!



Exec. Minister Aaron Kilbourn, Assoc. Exec. Lori Dvirnak-Lundblad, pastor Russell and Victoria Jones attending concert in Pierre

I also had the privilege of preaching at First Baptist Church of Pierre, SD and attending the Christmas concert in Pierre, too. It was a privilege to help install Michael Guzman at First Baptist Church in Aberdeen, SD. Spending time with young people considering serving in ministry has been one of this month's highlights!

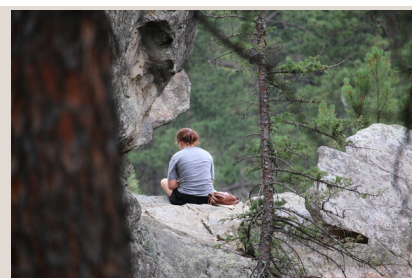


A divinely appointed meeting with Georgie, an Israeli native and graduate of Bethlehem Baptist College.

### 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. New beginnings for churches with intact leadership and Christian fellowship.
2. Heartfelt giving to Camp Bentley that helped exceed some goals.
3. Churches receiving visitors who were able to hear the Gospel over the Christmas holiday.
4. Ranchers showing interest towards the Holy Cow project for Camp Judson.
5. Pastors willing to meet together, fellowship, and grow this month.
6. Financial provision in churches where finances have been tight.
7. Committed ministry leadership that seeks the best for God's kingdom and glory.



### 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 faithful with those who visit
- Prayers for our ministry partners in NE India as they grow and minister
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson leadership for peace and vision.
- Pray for families and individuals who remember loved ones during the holidays.
- Pray for the Church of Hope in Pierre, SD as they are searching for a new Prison Congregation Pastor
- Pray for the leadership of our churches as they continue to hold out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the safety of those who travel during winter months.

*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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