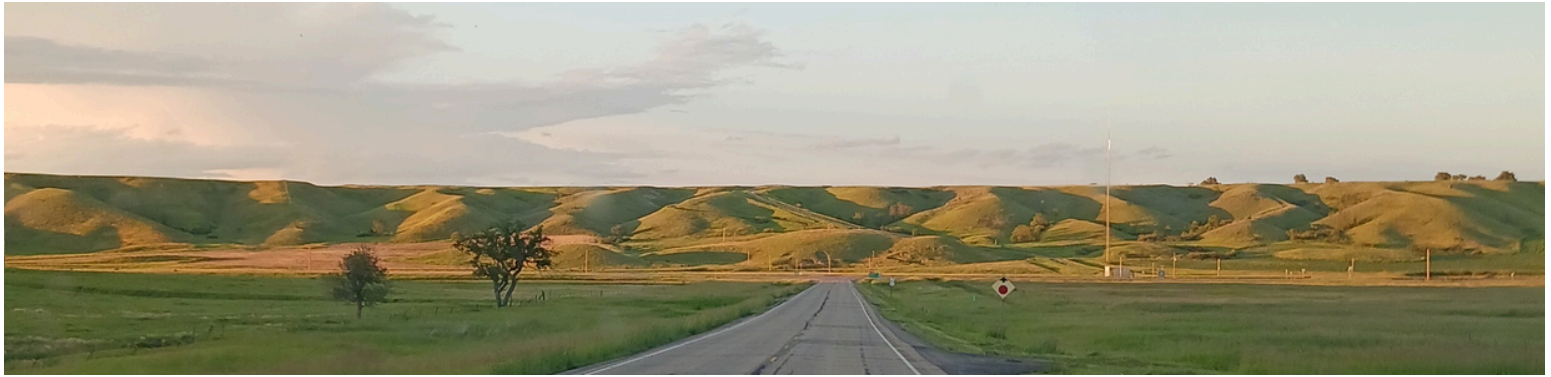


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Pastor Aaron's Post-It

If the Son sets you free...." (Jn 8:36). Be sure not to substitute *Savior* for *Son* in this passage. The Savior has set us free from sin, but this is the freedom that comes from being set free from myself by the Son.

It is what Paul meant in Galatians 2:20 when he said, "I have been crucified with Christ...." His individuality had been broken and His spirit had been united with His Lord; not just merged into Him, but made one with Him. "...you shall be free indeed"—free to the very core of your being; free from the inside to the outside.

We usually rely on our own energy, instead of being energized by the power that comes from the true and valid identification with Jesus Christ.

Remember:

- Because of Jesus, we are free to approach God boldly (Heb. 10:19)
- We have freedom to relate to God as His child and heir (Gal. 4:7)
- We have freedom to walk with God through life (2 Cor. 6:15-17)
- We have freedom to live out God's purposes in our lives (Eph. 2:10)

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 of 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?

We had a well-attended and meaningful time in Bismarck, ND last week as we talked and shared about important moments of faith in our lives and ministries. We are planning for a time for our West River pastors in August. Watch for details!



Pastor Ryan Pennington, Rev. Micah Reiersen, and Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn

Welcome Rev. Micah Reiersen!

As of June 29th, 2024, it is with great joy and thanksgiving that Micah Reiersen has been ordained by the ABC of the Dakotas at The Point Is to Serve church in Sioux Falls with Joel Fredrikson leading a time of commemoration and laying on of hands the next day at worship on Sunday, June 30th.

Having served several ministries throughout South Dakota, Micah is planning on continuing his call as he applies to be an armed services chaplain. A consummate peacemaker and gifted musician who is firmly founded on the truth and love of God, Micah continues to trust the Lord as He waits for God's continued guidance. Please pray for God's provision and help as Micah makes new connections and searches out God's plan in Nashville, TN. Thank you! God is going to continue to do great things through Micah!

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Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress

Since the time of the April 20th fundraiser in Sioux Falls, donations to the Capital Campaign have slowed - as expected. We are still in awe of that effort and grateful to all the volunteers and donors who made that event so successful. Our campaign currently has just over \$2.8 million dollars in cash and pledges.

While it is impossible to thank each individual donor from this platform, we do want to recognize a special \$500 gift to our Capital Campaign. For several years, the students in Marilyn Kallander's class at Calvary Christian School, baked cookies at Camp Judson as a fund-raiser for their school. The \$500 gift was a "Thank You!" to the camp for all its help in those fund-raising efforts.

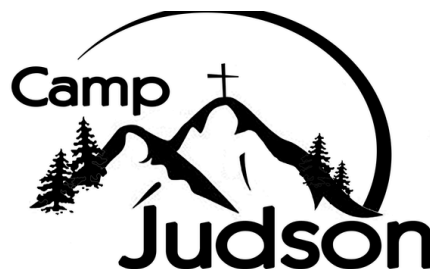
While fund-raising has slowed, activity at Camp Judson is headed in the opposite direction. July will probably set records for attendance. A foretelling of camper numbers began with the College and Young Adult Camp in May followed by a very successful Project Camp near the end of the month. Two weeks of Day Camps in late May and early June were full. 80+ children attended the first Day Camp and



and there were about 100 at the second. This number does not include the volunteers (young and old alike) who counseled, chaperoned, and provided activities for all the grade-school aged children.

More than 150 attended the first High School Camp in mid-June and approximately the same number of people came in for the first Family Camp at the end of June.

Youth camps in July are full to overflowing and the camp staff and management did quite a bit of work in the off-season to provide accommodation for the swelling numbers of campers. Each cabin on the west side of camp now has its own shower, toilet, and vanity. In addition,



two beautiful mobile "housing units" have been set on leveled locations on the west side of camp. Each unit can house 8 campers and a counselor. A small self-contained showering unit has also been installed on the east side of camp for those cabins that don't have a shower facility.

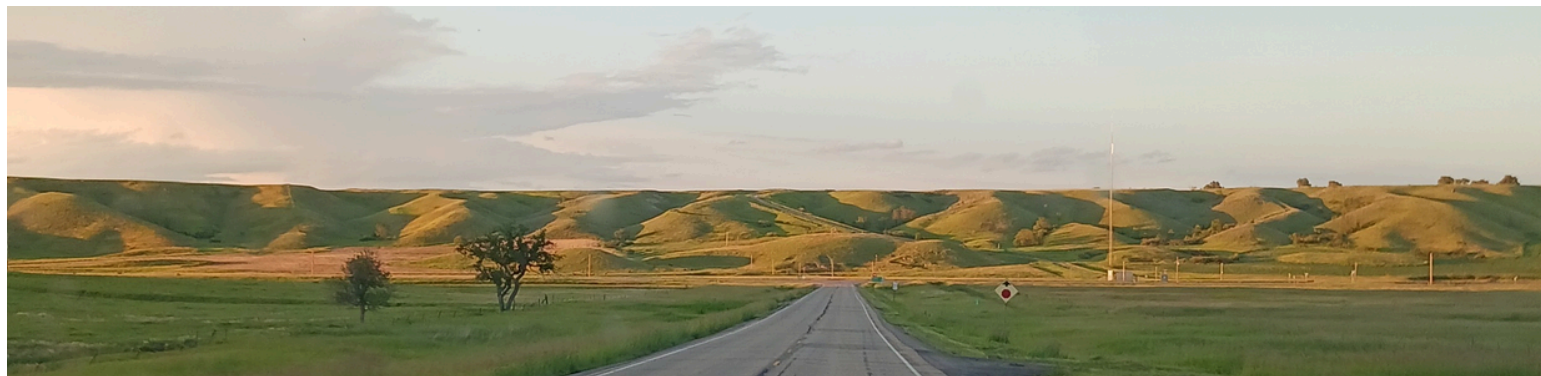
We thank God for His provision as Traci and Dani deal with what appears to be, (as reflected by the increase in camper numbers), a real yearning for spiritual growth, direction, and reassurance that God "is real" and is still in control in this mixed-up world. Please pray for them and the entire camp staff as they face the "heat and heart" of the camping season.

Only By His Grace,

Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



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Camp Bentley Broadcast

God has blessed our 2024 camping season. We have seen increased attendance at Men's Roundup, Women's Retreat and Junior High Camp. Men's Roundup had more than 4 times the men and boys as in 2023. Women's retreat had a high of 75 women and girls, which was a true answer to prayer. Jr High camp had 20 more students than last year. Jr High campers explored the theme, Finding your ID in JC. Jr. Camp also had strong attendance and lots of fun with their theme GOAT- God Over All Things which included time with actual goats.

We are looking forward to our two remaining camps: Family Camp- Sailing with Spirit and Sr. High Camp. Updates are underway with new equipment for the rec hall, new sound systems in the chapel and dining hall as well as a remodel of the storm shelter. Dates will soon be set for our fall work camp to close camp for the season. Our staff is doing a great job and we have an amazing group of counselors for our youth camps. Thank you for your prayers, spreading the word about Camp Bentley, your gifts of time and money to help us reach people of all ages with the Good News of Jesus. As our special t-shirt says: I'm just here for the food, the fun, and a whole lot of Jesus!



GOAT time at Camp Bentley!

Up and Coming Events

Several things happening! Maybe you will find something that piques your interest!

• The Longkumers are coming! The Longkumers are coming!

Here is the visit schedule as the Longkumers come to the Dakotas all the way from Nagaland:

- *Taku- Berthold Baptist- July, 21st, 10 am
- *Katie- Minot Immanuel- July 21st, 10 am
- *Powers Lake Bethel Baptist- July 21st, 7 pm
- *Stanley 1st Baptist- Mon., July 22nd, 7 pm
- *Glenburn 1st Baptist- Tues., July 23rd, 7 pm
- *Bismarck 1st Baptist- Wed., July 24th, 12 pm
- * Fargo 1st Baptist- Wed., July 24th, 7 pm
- *Rapid City 1st Baptist - Sat., July 27th, (tentative time)
- *Sioux Falls Emmanuel Baptist - Sun., July 28th, 9:30 am
- *Lucas, SD 1st Baptist - Sun., July 28th, 7 pm

Sturgis, SD ABC Emergency Services August 5-10

Men's Roundup at Camp Judson September 20-22

ABC of the Dakotas Pastor's Retreat October 2-4

*More information on these events can be found on our website:

<http://abc-dakotas.org>

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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 June is a time for vacations, school being out, and warm weather, I've been on the road in scenic North Dakota visiting our pastors, spending time with the men at Camp Bentley at the end of May at Men's Roundup, talking about NECU (North East Christian University), and having some quality



Installation of Rev. Randy Rasmussen, 1st Baptist, Viborg, SD

sit-down conversations and meals with those minister on the western side of North Dakota. I also had the honor and privilege of installing our very own Randy Rasmussen on June 2nd to serve at First Baptist Church in Viborg, SD. It was also a blessing to help Micah Reiersen join the ordained on June 29th and watch him take the next step in following the Lord.



Micah Reiersen Ordination participants at The Point Is to Serve, Sioux Falls

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. Young people responding to the call of God in their lives.
2. A wonderful fundraising event for Camp Judson with generous and grateful hearts.
3. Pastors in our region spending time with one another and the Lord.
4. Church leadership relying on the Lord as they search for a pastor.
5. A kindness and flexibility among God's people as they plan and prepare region opportunities.
6. All of our Camp ministry positions filled by loving, committed, and godly people.
7. Ways opening up for support to reach some of our missions overseas.



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 Powers Lake, ND and Stanley, ND as they search for a pastor.
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson as they minister to youth and families.
- Pray for those who are without Jesus Christ to hear and see the Gospel.
- Pray for the Church of Hope in Pierre, SD as they are searching for a Prison Congregation Pastor
- Pray for those in our states that need to know what the love of a local church can be like.
- Pray for the counselors of our camps as they have the most contact with each and every youth that come to camp.
- Prayer for those affected by flooding in SD.

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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