

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

Pastor Aaron's Post-It

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. - Jesus, in John. 13:35

Parents must model love in the home—not only by how they treat their children, but by how they speak of and treat fellow believers. Children who grow up in homes of anger or hypocrisy often become adults who distrust the church.

Church culture must be intentionally shaped by love, not mere formality or religious activity. Programs and events are not substitutes for personal connection, mutual care, and shared life. A loving church is not necessarily the one with the best music or the most polished preaching—it is the one where members genuinely care for one another.

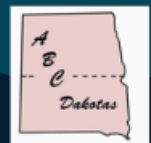
Please take a moment and pray:

Today, we lift up a world desperate to know that every person is deeply loved. Each day, we're confronted with voices of hate, insult, and anger, words meant to exclude and diminish those who don't conform to narrow expectations. God, empower us to be the disciples You have called and commanded us to be. In Jesus name, Amen.

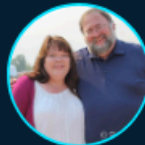
2025

ABC OF THE DAKOTAS BIENNIAL

"Seasons and Reasons"
Acts 14:16-17



Our Featured Speakers:



DAVID BLACKWELL

Pastor and ASCENT representative, Florence-Carlton Community Church, Montana



JUAN BONILLA

Founder, Papa Corazon Ministries



YAGANA YAKUBU

Pastor - Church of Hope, Women's Penitentiary, Pierre, SD



DEREK ELGERSMA

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

10-11 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1500 E. MELGAARD RD.
ABERDEEN, SD 57401

REGISTRATION:

605-575-2071

<http://abc-dakotas.org/>

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Camp Judson Campaign

We lost a dear friend of Camp Judson in the passing of Bernie Christner on August 17, 2025, at the ever-youthful age of 91. Bernie was a fixture at camp through the years, and if you did not know him personally, you surely could see his workmanship in various places around Camp. The care he gave to his patients in his professional career as a physical therapist carried over to the projects he was part of at Camp Judson. Blessed with a little construction knowledge, his legacy of building and remodeling projects will forever be remembered as we look around the Camp property. He was an integral part of the construction of the dining hall but also poured himself into many of the cabin roofing and remodeling projects. To say he left his imprint at Camp can be stated as both literal and figurative. In the construction of the dining hall, he backed off the upper deck, fell 20+ feet, landed on his head, and left a depression in the dirt pile where he landed. He was taken by ambulance to Rapid City Regional but walked out that evening mostly unscathed. Angels were busy that day!

In his memory, the family asked that memorial gifts be directed to Camp Judson. Many of his friends and relatives recognized Bernie's passion

for the camp and have given generously to his memorial. If you have not heard that Bernie passed, but would like to contribute to his memorial, please direct your gift to Camp Judson and be sure to note it is for his memorial. Bernie's wife, Peg, and family are profoundly grateful for the outpouring of love they have experienced.



It was another successful camping season, but Tracy is now looking forward to a return to the building project which looms in front of him daily. He would like to complete the construction of the building by the beginning of the next camping season. It is an understatement to say this is a monumental task. Many things must go right and "bumps in the road" must be few. We need to remember Tracy, his family, the camp staff, employees, and volunteers in our prayers.

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

Why Did the ABCD Executive Minister Travel to Ecuador?



Guayaquil, Ecuador is not usually someone's first choice for travel - or second, or third. Guayaquil, Ecuador has seen a sharp rise in drug cartel activity and violence which has spilled over from Columbia and Venezuela in the last several years. This has greatly affected how churches and pastors in Ecuador conduct ministry and the sharing of the Gospel. Enter our brother, Juan Bonilla. Juan has founded Papa Corazon (lit. "Dad's Heart") and has worked through South America and the United States in building strong, Christian families. For the past 10 years, Pastor Juan has poured into communities and families that have been decidedly unchurched and wavering. In the midst of Guayaquil's orphan crisis, Pastor Juan has trained and led congregations in what it means to

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have intact, Jesus-loving families. Although the work can be hard, dangerous, and fraught with prayer, Pastor Juan has seen success and lives transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In August, pastor Otto Garcia of El Punto Es Servir of Sioux Falls, SD and I, were invited by pastor Juan to help bring messages of encouragement to pastors and ministry leaders of Ecuador as they have grown weary and discouraged from the cartel and cultural pressures of doing ministry. At the end of one of my messages from Psalm 23, one pastor came up to me and said, "For a long time I have been keeping this weight on me from my past. Now I know that God's goodness and mercy will follow me. Thank you." Please continue to pray for ways we can serve our Latino brothers & sisters.

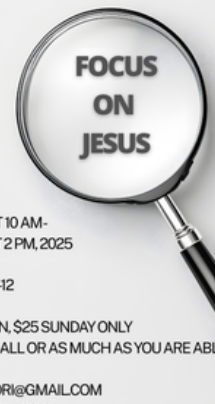
**Camp Bentley Broadcast**

Camp Bentley is preparing for our last two events of the season, ABY Convention and camp closing. This will be the second year in a row we have hosted ABY Convention at camp. We will start Saturday, September 20 at 10 am and end at 2 pm Sunday. We are looking forward to learning about our theme "Focus on Jesus", playing together, and growing in community. Youth are encouraged to come for as much of youth convention as they can. Camp closing will be September 22-24. This camp is free and is an opportunity to help get camp ready for the winter. For either camp, please email abcdaklori@gmail.com to register.

Many thanks to all who made our 2025 season go smoothly, especially our staff and camp board, who serve faithfully year round.



- ABY Convention - September 20-21 @ Camp Bentley
- ABCD Pastor's Retreat at Camp Judson - Oct. 1-3.
- ABCD Region Policy Board at ABCD Biennial - Oct. 11.
- ABCD Region Biennial, 1st Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD - Oct. 10-11.
- AB Women's Sunday - Oct. 21.
- Great Commission Society, Denver, CO - Nov. 3-4



SEPTEMBER 20 AT 10 AM -
SEPTEMBER 21 AT 2 PM, 2025

YOUTH GRADES 7-12
CAMP BENTLEY
COST \$50 SAT/SUN, \$25 SUNDAY ONLY
PLEASE COME TO ALL OR AS MUCH AS YOU ARE ABLE
TO REGISTER
EMAIL: abcdaklori@gmail.com
QUESTIONS 701-595-2313

ABY CONVENTION 2025VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!

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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.

July was a month of not only traveling and ministering to pastors and ministry leaders in Ecuador but also of preaching and teaching in the Dakotas. I had the privilege of preaching at The Point Is to Serve in Sioux Falls, SD as well as teaching several pastors-to-be on the subject of pastoral ministry and creating ministry plans for their congregations and themselves.



Taking a few hours to talk over apologetics with Mark and Noah Spence of Living Waters Ministry

Lori Dvirnak-Lundblad and I continue to work alongside our churches looking to call pastors in Stanley, ND as well as Watertown, SD and Sioux Falls Emmanuel Baptist. Work with congregations in conflict continues as well as there have been positive signs of healing. Your prayers for the health and well-being of our ABCD churches is much appreciated!

Church and Pastor Resources

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.



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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

- Give thanks for the leadership of Steve Cook as he helped facilitate Men's RoundUp at Camp Judson.
- Pray for pastors in Ecuador who minister to families despite violence and cartel activity.
- Pray for the witness and example of followers of Christ
- Pray for churches that are seeking pastoral leadership
- Pray for churches trying to teach the beautiful Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Pray for revival and a desire to please the Lord in every area of our lives .
- Pray for a love for our neighbors

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