

Dakota Happenings

DBC Monthly Newsletter | December 2023



Dr. Mac's Minute:

Why Lottie?

Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22

Focus: *““He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of God’s household.”—Ephesians 2:17-19*

Note: I first shared this several years ago. I like to bring it out every few years to remind us why the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions continues to be critical to our efforts to reach the nations for Christ.

As Titanic sank, lifeboats were only half full. The wealthy would not share their “salvation” with the poor. As cries rang out from the North Atlantic’s icy waters, the selfish shut their hearts and ears . . . with salvation for so many so close!

On September 1, 1873, a new missionary left Virginia for China. For 39 years, Charlotte Diggs Moon—Lottie to her friends—served Jesus in Tengchow and P’ingtu. At first, she lived in the relative safety and comfort of the mission compound.

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**Dr. MacDonald's
tentative schedule:**

December 2023

- 3 State Directors of Evangelism Meeting
- 10 Hot Springs, SD: Cascade Road Baptist
- 17 Newell, SD: Newell Community Baptist
- 24 UNAVAILABLE
- 31 Hot Springs, SD: Cascade Road Baptist

January 2024

- 7 Belfield, ND: Belfield Baptist
- 14 Hot Springs, SD: Cascade Road Baptist
- 21 Sturgis, SD: Connection Church
- 28 9:00 a.m.—Blunt, SD: Calvary Baptist
10:45 a.m.—Pierre, SD: Capitol Heights Baptist

NOTE: DBC office will be closed for Christmas and New Year's from December 20-January 1.



Children And Security

Children and youth are precious members of society and churches most typically have ministries that are geared toward reaching these groups. These groups also happen to be the most preyed upon in both the church and the world. Family issues at home can lead kids and teens into vulnerable states which predators seek out. Because this vulnerability travels with them, the church ought to provide due diligence in protecting children and youth. How can the church fulfill this role? Simply put, policies. Any policies should be discussed with and reviewed by an attorney prior to implementation.

One policy that ought to be in place is that of background checks for all volunteers and church staff that will interact with children and/or youth. Even if there is the slightest potential that a volunteer or church staff member will have an interaction with a child or youth, they ought to go through a background check. Background checks should also be updated periodically. The Dakota Baptist Convention works with Ministry Safe for background checks and training for volunteers and staff so they can know what signs of potential abuse to look for.

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What is the Cooperative Program?



AROUND THE DAKOTAS

Is your church doing something great around the Dakotas that you would like to share with your brothers and sisters around the Dakotas?

Write a brief summary of what happened (or is going to happen) and email it to Alysia McCord at alysia@dakotabaptist.com.

If you have two to four good pictures, send those as well.

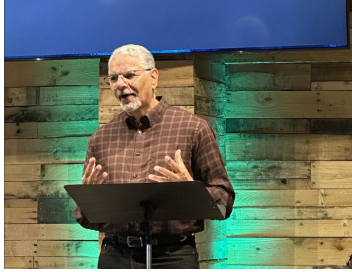
TWO BLACK HILLS CHURCHES PARTNER TO CREATE NEW MINISTRY

Connection Church in Sturgis, SD and Black Hills Baptist Church in Whitewood, SD, have come together to form a new ministry in Sturgis. According to Connection pastor Matt Price, Restoration Ministries is a “Christ-centered ministry whose goal is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those lost and bound in addictions and strongholds.”



Through this ministry, the two churches are seeking to introduce those who carry the burden of addiction to Jesus Christ who can set them free from their bondage. There are many kinds of addictions, such as alcohol, drugs, sexual sins, as well as others that can trap people into an endless cycle of personal destruction for the individual and those around them. Restoration Ministries is seeking to help the addicted and those impacted by these addictions.

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The Siouxland and Prairie Partners Associations held their annual meetings in November to wrap up the 2023 meetings of the associations throughout the Dakotas. Prairie Partners met at Hope City Church in Bismarck, ND. Siouxland met at Connection Church in Sioux Falls, SD.



LOTTIE MOON RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE

Sample resources for the 2023 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer have been mailed to the churches. Additional resources can be requested online at www.dakotabaptist.com or through the DBC office.



REQUEST RESOURCES

Be Aware
of the latest
scam activity



CYBERSECURITY

A Message from Guidestone - Financial Services

The US Government will never request you send money via wire transfer to foreign accounts, cryptocurrency, or gift/prepaid cards. The FBI requests victims report these fraudulent or suspicious activities to their local FBI field office and the FBI IC3 at www.ic3.gov. Be sure to include as much information as possible.

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A promotional graphic for the 2024 ERLC Internship Program. It features a group of five diverse young professionals in business attire standing against a blue background. In the top left corner is the ERLC logo, which consists of a crown above an open book. The text is centered and reads: "APPLY NOW FOR THE 2024 ERLC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM" in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below this, it says "OPENINGS AVAILABLE IN BOTH WASHINGTON, D.C. AND NASHVILLE" in smaller white text. At the bottom, a yellow box contains the text "APPLY ONLINE AT ERLC.COM/INTERNS" in black.

Apply now for an ERLC Internship

The ERLC internship program is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of ministry leaders as they discern their callings to serve the Church in the public square.

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*Click the image above to access full CP article

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