

Dakota Happenings | January 2021



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***The Dakota Baptist
Convention Offices
will re-open
on Monday,
January 4, 2021***

Maturity is Mastering the Basics

Passage: 2 Peter 1:12-15

It was 1961 and the Green Bay Packers had just started training camp. The previous season had ended with a heartbreaking defeat in the NFL championship game. The Packers squandered a lead late in the fourth quarter to lose the title game to the Eagles. It was a rough offseason for the players and when they returned to training camp the next season, they were fired up and eager to take their game to the next level. Legendary coach Vince Lombardi had a different idea, though. On the first day of practice he stood before the team, held up a ball, and said, "Gentlemen, this is a football."

For the next month Lombardi covered the fundamentals of how to block and tackle. They opened the playbook and started over from page one. At one point, Pro Bowl receiver Max McGee joked, "Coach, could you slow down a little? You're going too fast for us." That year the Packers became the best at the basic tasks every other team took for granted. Several months later Green Bay beat the New York Giants to win the NFL championship.

Someone said, "maturity is mastering the basics." Peter understood this. He wrote to his friends, "*I shall always be ready to remind you of these things even though you already know them and have been established in the truth which is present with you*" (**2 Peter 1:12**). "These things" referred to the basics of God's character and grace and their faith that he had discussed in **verses 3-11**.

Peter loved going back to the basics. He saw it as a way to "stir" them up. More important, he knew that he did not have much time left to ground them in these basics because he knew that, "*the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent*" (**vv. 12-14**). Jesus had shown the apostle that the time of his homegoing was not far away.

2020 was a rough and, in many ways, heartbreaking year. It would be natural to look for exciting and grand ideas designed to make up for lost time. Perhaps, however, we need a different focus as we enter 2021. Maybe, instead of trying to pick up where we left off at the close of 2019, what we need is to go back to the basics. Let me suggest three basics that we need to master for the Master. They are as basic as A—B—C.

The "A" is "Alone" . . . spend alone time with Jesus as your daily priority. Develop a renewed discipline of listening to Him and talking with Him through daily time in the Word and prayer.

"B" is "Build" . . . build up your family with His love. Jesus said others will know we are His disciples, "*by the love you*

have for one another" (**John 13:35**). Build your family (both your at home family and your spiritual family) by worshiping together, meeting one another's needs, being quick to forgive, and eager to yield.

Finally, "C" is "Care" . . . care for others as you go about your day. Jesus looked upon the masses with a broken heart. He saw them as, "sheep without a shepherd" (**Matthew 9:36**). The "social distancing" of 2020 might tempt us to prioritize the question, "what can we do in 2021 to get people back in the pews;" but Jesus never told the world to come to the church. He told the church to go to the world. And He set the example. Jesus cared about the needs, the pain, and the lostness of those around Him . . . and He did something about it.

Maturity IS mastering the basics. Let's go to the Master and let Him give us a refresher course in the A-B-C's of walking with Him in our personal life, family life, and ministry life as we launch into 2021.

Dr. MacDonald's Tentative January & February Schedule:

January 2021	3	OPEN
	10	OPEN
	17	Huron Baptist Church
	24	OPEN
	31	Rapid City: Hills of Grace Church
February 2021	7	Fort Worth: State Exec Dir's Mtg
	14	OPEN
	21	OPEN
	28	OPEN



Around the Dakotas



Connection Belle Fourche crushes Lottie Moon Offering goal

Connection Church in Belle Fourche, SD thought they had established a challenging goal for their 2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions when they set it at \$22,000. Turns out they underestimated a bit. As of the Sunday before Christmas they had given \$46,196.99!

This kind of mission-giving spirit is not new for the seven-year-old congregation. Connection pastor, Stephen Carson said,

"Since our church started, we have really tried to build into our DNA a culture of missions generosity."

He shared that the people have a great concern for the vast lostness around the globe and a strong sense of their own role in changing that reality. "Contemplating the immense darkness and unreached peoples of the world," Carson said, "we know that we have a responsibility as a church and as individual believers to pray, give, and go on mission."

Ordination Service for Chris Orr

Christ Church in Rapid City is honored to announce an upcoming ordination service for Chris Orr. It will be held at Christ Church, 1900 Evergreen, on Sunday, January 10th at 3 pm. All are welcome to attend.



Chris Orr

BHABA to host Christmas Party in January

Black Hills Area Baptist Association will be hosting a Christmas party in January for its members and anyone attending one of its member churches. Why January? The association has found that the holidays can be overwhelming and it's just easier to get together afterwards. The event will be at Christ Church, 1900 Evergreen Drive, on January 16, 2021, from Noon - 2 pm. The church will provide the meat and desserts and is asking guests to bring a favorite side to share. Please contact Sherril Morgan, office manager of Christ Church, at 605-791-5591 or office@christchurchrc.com for more information or to RSVP.

Community Prayer Event for the Will Graham Celebration

Community Prayer Rally: January 7, 6:30-8:00 pm
Open Bible Church - 2225 E. Saint Patrick St, Rapid City

All are welcome to join this evening event as we gather together worshipping with live music and praying for the Black Hills Community and surrounding areas, local churches, and specific needs for the upcoming Black Hills Paha Sapa

Celebration. The time will end with a short inspiring message of encouragement from a local pastor or community leader.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching". Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV

Dawn Reber

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Celebrations Director | Crusade Ministries

Christmas Greetings from the Phillips Family



North American Mission Board Prayer Calendar for 2021

From the North American Mission Board...

One thing you will never hear a missionary say is, "Pray for me less." Prayer is an essential element to ministry effectiveness. As the Holy Spirit empowers missionaries, they need your prayers. You can support your missionaries by



praying for their relationships with God, their families and their ministries. As you pray for the missionaries and chaplains in this calendar, you can help bear their burdens and unite in their celebrations as they see God move in remarkable ways. Thank you for your partnership in reaching North America with the gospel. We pray that 2021 will be a blessed year in your life and for your church. God bless you.

If you would like a prayer calendar, please send an email to [**paul@dakotabaptist.com**](mailto:paul@dakotabaptist.com) with your mailing address and how many you would like.

