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175 Days of Prayer

CELEBRATE 175 years of continuous ministry of the IMB by joining us in 175 Days of Prayer. Each day will feature one request and can be sent to you as a push notification from the IMB Pray app, accessed at imb.org/pray or the Pray Daily newsletter, or seen through IMB social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)).

REJOICE over what God has done and continues to do as we

INTERCEDE for missionaries and for the nations.

175 DAYS OF PRAYER
May 11 – November 29, 2020

Dr. Mac's Minute 

**Knocked Down, but Not
Knocked Out!**

It's the 14th round. The challenger is on the mat... again. His eyes are swollen shut. Blood stains his face. His trainer growls at him to stay down. The referee is halfway through the count: "FOUR, FIVE, SIX..."



Then, miraculously, a burst of power surges through the body of the fallen warrior. The challenger struggles to his feet and motions for the champ to come at him one more time. The champ, he himself battered and bruised, shakes his head and slowly moves in to continue the fight.

I love the first "Rocky" movie! The look on Apollo Creed's face as Rocky rose the last time was worth the price of admission. How could Rocky still be standing? Could nothing finish off the "Italian Stallion"?

Paul was the "Rocky" of the Bible. He described his years of serving Christ this way: *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"* (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). I like this translation of that last line: *"We are knocked down, but not knocked out!"*

The apostle knew what it was like to fight on when others shouted to give up. Knocked down by stinging blows of criticism he rose for one more round. Imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead—there was no affliction for the cause of Christ Paul had not experienced... yet he kept coming back to fight the good fight of faith! How did he do it? More important, where do we find the strength to rise when we are buffeted by life?

In the same chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul pointed to two future realities: 1) *"Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you"* (v. 14). Paul knew his suffering would benefit the Corinthian people and that Jesus would one day vindicate him. 2) *"For momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond comparison"* (v. 17). Scars he suffered were nothing compared to the scars Christ suffered for him. And they paled in comparison to the joy and peace he would experience when he finally saw Jesus face-to-face.

Paul's point??? God goes through every difficulty with us, uses every pain to fulfill His purposes, and promises to make all wrongs right. Keep fighting the good faith. When life's blows connect and you find yourself on the mat of discouragement, cry out to your Savior. Let the power that raised Jesus from the dead surge through your soul and then stand to fight one more round for Him.

Thank you, Jesus, for enduring all that You endured so that I can endure all for You.

-Fred MacDonald

P.S. I have started providing a weekly "Pastor Fred's Brown Bag" message for children. It posts each Sunday around 9 am (MDT) on [my](#)

Facebook page. Churches are welcome to use it in anyway that helps children know how much Jesus loves them.

Around the Dakotas...

Living Hope Baptist Church, West Fargo, ND -

Living Hope hosted a food drive to support the Emergency Food Pantry in Fargo on April 25. The church opened its doors for people to drop off donations and also offered to pick up donations. They received 836 pounds of food and \$1050 in donations!

First Baptist Church of Mandan, ND -

Pastor Allen Thomason is using YouTube to broadcast his sermons during the pandemic. Here's an example of a Youth & Kid's worship experience:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khBkoeMGICs>



Valley Community Church, Rapid City, SD -

Valley Community hosted a free drive-through lunch on April 29th. 75 lunches were given out. They've also been delivering food twice a week for [Corona Help SD](#).

Set Free, Sturgis, SD -

Set Free Sturgis will be celebrating its 2-year anniversary on May 26!

Creator's Fellowship (formerly Sharp's Corner Baptist Chapel), Porcupine, SD -

Like many churches, services have consisted of uploading Bible studies and lessons on YouTube and meeting through Zoom. They discovered a [breakout room feature on Zoom](#) that allows the group to break out into smaller groups. Along with food boxes through their pantry ministry, they are helping folks with tilling the soil for gardens.

Restoration Church, Sioux Falls, SD -

Restoration Church has had three baptisms so far this year and another four first-time decisions for the Lord. Their attendance has grown each week since last year and have been near capacity several times. Pastor Patrick Boll celebrated his 7th anniversary as Senior Pastor on January 27th.

Joy Community Fellowship, Hot Springs, SD -

Joy Community Fellowship had a "Drive Inn" service on Palm Sunday using a [low power AM transmitter](#). They switched to Zoom the next Sunday because of a blizzard and have found that to work well in also doing outreach. They report that attendance is even up (including for prayer meetings)! Pastor Bill Martin is also working with a local radio station (KJFP FM 92.7) and having his Sunday morning and evening messages broadcast.

Capitol Heights Baptist Church, Pierre, SD -

Pastor Bob Bogart said, "For the past 37 years of preaching I have never seen

church doors closed - until now." To accommodate the pandemic, he has upgraded the church website to accommodate online giving as well as audio and video messages. He has been using a digital recording studio and uploading the messages (along with a manuscript of each message) to the website. He is also hand delivering manuscripts to shut-ins or people who don't have computer access. The best part - the church has had four new members join the church digitally during this interim period! They will be personally received once regular services resume.

Cornerstone Community Church, Mobridge, SD -

Cornerstone has been live streaming its services to Facebook, YouTube and its website. The church is partnering with Parents for Positive Changes for a food box distribution with boxes from Feeding South Dakota (switched to drive-through for April 25th). The church is also reaching out through Taekwondo classes with an average of 50 or so students. For those who are in the area, Pastor Everett Hornbostel has made arrangements to bring comedian Brad Stine to the church August 26.

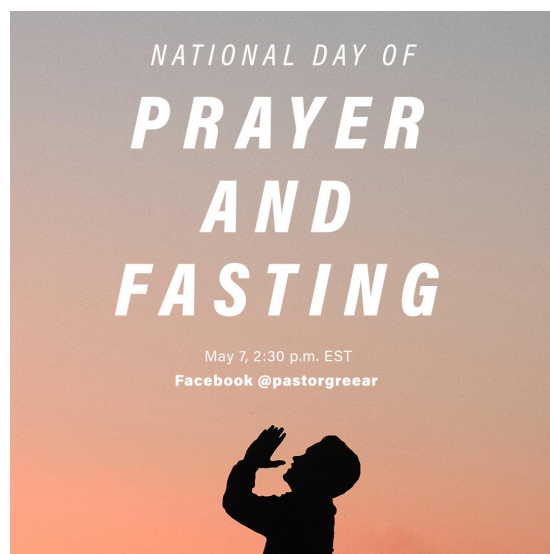
First Baptist Church of Wolsey, SD -

FBC Wolsey is planning to have church services in their building starting this Sunday - Mother's Day. They will have hygiene items like soap and sanitizer readily available. The church will also follow social distancing guidelines to help folks feel safe while coming together to worship.

Don't forget that Thursday is National Day of Prayer!

From J.D. Greear, President of the Southern Baptist Convention -

As you know, the first Thursday of each May has been designated as the National Day of Prayer. This year, of course, the coronavirus pandemic has presented us with unique circumstances that eliminate the possibility of physical prayer gatherings in most places. However, our nation needs our prayers now more than ever as we walk through the crisis this pandemic has caused.



In my time with God over the past few weeks, I have continually found myself coming back to 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Of course, that verse was given to ancient Israel, showing the heart of God for His people, and it's meant a lot to me to read and meditate on God's willingness to hear their cries for help in times of trouble. Jesus told us that if we ask anything in His name, He will hear us. We should take Him at His word

on that now more than ever before, desperately crying out to Him in response to the current crisis that grips us and the world around us.

I know many of you already have planned very special virtual events or programs for our National Day of Prayer (May 7th), but I want to invite you to consider joining myself, our Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President and CEO, Ronnie Floyd, both of our convention's Vice Presidents, Marshal Ausberry and Noe Garcia, and pastors, missionaries, and church planters from all across the national and around the world on a virtual call to prayer and fasting. This will take place on Thursday, May 7th, at 2:30 p.m. EST. We'll be broadcasting this on **Facebook Live**. This should not, of course, replace any programming you already had planned; instead, it's simply another resource for us to join together and cry out to the Lord together.

Preparing to Open Again

As we work our way through these unusual times, there have been a lot of questions and thoughts that we never would have considered before. Many of you have found yourself doing services online for the first time, wondering how to connect to new guests who have tuned in to watch who have never been in the doors of your church before, and pondering other questions unique to this time in your church's life. As talk turns to opening up again, there will be more questions and concerns to think through.

In keeping with our vision for the Dakotas, knowing you can do this, and we can help, we are here to provide resources and support to you. I have been posting links on the Dakota Baptist Convention Facebook page throughout with helpful information as I find it and I would encourage you to check out and like our Facebook page if you haven't already. We have posted information for help with online giving for instance. We have churches using multiple options for online giving and the choices can feel overwhelming to some. If you need help in this area, please contact the DBC office and we will be happy to work with you to find the solution that best fits your situation.

Recently, Ken Braddy of Lifeway published two blog posts with a list of questions to ask as your church makes plans to open its doors for services again. He published a PDF with all of the questions in one place and I am passing that document along for those who have not seen it already. I would also highly recommend following Ken's blog as he posts every weekday with good ideas and insights into church ministry in general and Sunday school and small groups in particular. You can check it out at <https://kenbraddy.com/>.

If your church is still planning to do VBS this summer, and I would encourage you to think about finding a way to do something, you can get some ideas at <https://www.lifeway.com/4ways>. I also have VBS materials available if your church needs some supplies.

Additionally, I have created a virtual space on a platform called Slack for pastors and others in the Dakotas to share ideas and encouragement. Several of our churches use this tool for communication and fellowship and we would like to invite you to take part in the conversation. Contact me by phone or email and I will get an invite to you.

We are also working on some online training resources, and I would like to involve you in the process. If your church has found some positive ways to use technology to help reach your community, please share it with us. I would like to pass along some of the best of what we have learned together to help each other grow.

There are many challenges in the days ahead, but we will face them together as partners in ministry.

-Jeff Musgrave

Open Ken Braddy's "48 ?'s to Ask Before Reopening Your Church"

ReGather:

Helping Ministry Leaders to Identify Current Opportunities,
Avoid Burnout, and Prepare for the Future.



FEATURING:



Tate Cockrell



Ed Stetzer



Jimmy Scroggins

A Free, Virtual Conference for Ministry Leaders

In the midst of this COVID-19 season, we wanted to share a free resource with you in partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Great Commission Conversations.

The ReGather Conference is a virtual conference that will help ministry leaders to identify current opportunities, avoid burnout, and prepare for the future in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

This conference is free and will take place on May 8 from 11:00am-12:15pm (EDT).

Speakers will include:

Ed Stetzer - Dean of the School of Missions, Ministry, and Leadership and Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College

Jimmy Scroggins - Lead Pastor, Family Church, West Palm Beach, FL

Tate Cockrell - Associate Professor of Counseling

Free Books for Those Who Register

All attendees will receive a free Wordsearch Bible library of books written or edited by the hosts as well as 25 additional resources.

[Learn More](#)

LifeWay Creates Church Assistance Package

By Aaron Earls

As churches adjust to ministry in a post-COVID-19 world, LifeWay has developed a collection of resources to help congregations.

The new Church Assistance Package from LifeWay is available for any congregation around the world and can be accessed at lifeway.com/churchassistance.



“LifeWay wants to do everything we can to help churches sustain their vital ministries during this time,” said Ben Mandrell, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. “Because of this, we have been working on solutions for supporting local churches as they seek to grow together as disciples during this season and walk with them as they begin rebounding.”

Mandrell said Michael Kelley, senior vice president of church ministries, and others developed the Church Assistance Package as one of those solutions. For Kelley, the package is an extension of LifeWay’s reason for existence—to serve the church. “We want to have something real, a tangible benefit for all types of churches as a way of coming alongside them and helping bear the burden of this crisis,” he said.

The Church Assistance Package includes:

- A \$100 credit applied to new and existing LifeWay church billing accounts
- A \$100 credit toward resources from LifeWay Worship
- Free access to the Generosity by LifeWay digital giving platform and discounts on related resources
- Free access to select Bible study teaching videos for small groups
- A 50% off promotional code for a future Broadman Church Supplies order for churches ordering Broadman supplies from lifeway.com for the first time in 12 months
- Free digital access to summer ongoing curriculum for churches when they purchase ongoing curriculum for their groups
- Free eBook access and special bulk pricing for select B&H book titles

[Read More](#)

The DBC Youth Camp Is NOT Canceled!



Camp is not canceled! Camp has been relocated from Crystal Springs Campground in Medina, North Dakota, to a virtual camp using the Zoom meeting platform.

“I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.”

-Psalm 27:13-14

We are so excited for what God will do this year through DBC Youth Camp 2020. We will see His goodness in all this!

Here's what you need to know:

- **The changes are simply location and cost.** We will still do many of the activities included in camp week: Bible study, games, team building activities and worship services - to name a few.
- **This year there is no cost to attend camp.** The campground is one of our largest expenses; and while it is worth every penny, changing to virtual camp will limit our expenses allowing both students and adults to attend camp for free.
- **We hope changes to location and cost allow more students across the Dakotas to attend camp.**
- **T-shirts will be available to purchase, if you so choose.** A link on the dakotabaptist.com website will be coming soon (look for it under the DBC Youth Camp event). Anyone may purchase shirts and support camp in this way. *You do not have to attend camp to purchase a shirt.*

- **We still require pre-registration for both students and adults.** The registration deadline is June 1. Your registration may be submitted online or via mail. If you are submitting a registration via mail please notify Bethany Savery so we can add you to our pre-registration information. (bethany.savery@gmail.com)
- **If you are an adult wishing to be a camp leader you are required to complete the Ministry Safe training online.** Please turn in your registration ASAP so we can provide you with this training before camp. We will also be having trainings on May 29 and May 30 to help camp run a little bit more smoothly and help adults understand how things will work. We ask that you attend one of these virtual training's (all of this information will be provided to you once we receive your registration information).
- **We will have several interactive activities throughout the week.** Two of these require work outside of camp week.
 - **Talent show:** If you would like to be apart of the talent show, please submit your entry in video form to Bethany via text (605-391-4821) or email (bethany.savery@gmail.com) by June 2, 9pm Central Time. Remember, all selections must be approved by camp directors. No "secular songs" are allowed. If you wondering if your song is allowed, please feel free to message Bethany.
 - **Superhero Day:** *We will have lots of fun with these super hero characters!* Create a superhero character for yourself based on your personality, likes, and dislikes. Write 1 to 3 sentences about your superhero. Give yourself a name, create a costume for yourself then take a picture of yourself in that costume in a superhero pose. These superheroes need to be completely made up by you! You may NOT use superheroes like Captain America, Batman, Wonder Woman, etc. Please submit photos via text (605-391-4821) to Bethany by June 3, 9pm Central Time. The person who best describes and dresses like their superhero will receive an Amazon gift card.

This is just a broad overview of what is coming to camp this year. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact Bethany.

Bethany Savery, DBC Youth Camp Director:

Text: 605-391-4821

Email: bethany.savery@gmail.com

[Visit Youth Camp Webpage](#)

Cooperative Giving Report

The pandemic has affected churches not only physically but also financially. Even then, we are grateful to our DBC churches as they faithfully give to the Cooperative Program to help missionaries and ministries around the world.

See April 2020 CP Report

Executive Board Approves Plan for Short-Term Response to COVID-19 Challenges

The DBC Executive Board met via Zoom in a special called meeting on Thursday, April 30, to act on a recommendation from the Admin Team and Executive Director to adopt a short-term response plan to deal with financial challenges created by the coronavirus crisis. The plan was needed to respond to a decrease in anticipated funding from LifeWay and NAMB and to uncertainty about the impact of recent societal restrictions on Cooperative Program giving. Both agencies have announced freezes in some or all of the partnership funds they provide to SBC state conventions. The total of the frozen funding is approximately \$50,000 through the end of 2020.

The plan involves three steps. The first step, designed to replace the funds from LifeWay and NAMB, authorizes the use of up to \$50,000 from the “Unrestricted Fund Balance,” if needed. This account is CP giving from past years that went over and above that year’s DBC budget needs.

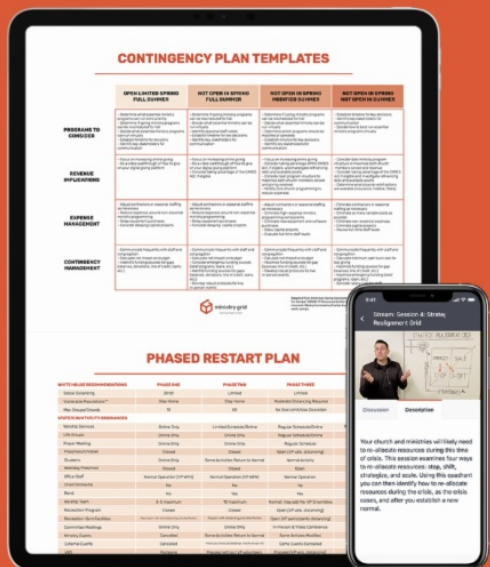
The second and third steps are intended for use only in the event that CP giving for 2020 experiences a significant decline due to the impact of the pandemic on DBC churches. If needed, funds will first be drawn from the “Strategic Impact Fund,” which is money from the sale of the former DBC office in Bismarck. If these funds are insufficient, the final step would be to draw from the “DBC Reserve Funds.” These are funds set aside in the past to provide up to six months of budgetary needs, should there be a major crisis. This fund is often casually referred to as the “rainy day fund.” If it becomes necessary to move beyond the unrestricted funds to the impact or reserve funds, the Board will meet again to consider making budget changes that reflect the effect of the pandemic on DBC churches.

The plan was designed to make use of past Cooperative Program giving by the DBC churches first, then move to critical needs funds. The Board was given a status report on CP giving that indicated that, through the end of April, giving was slightly ahead of the same time period in 2019. As a result, it is hoped and anticipated that this plan will enable the DBC to continue to retain those emergency funds for the future.



ministry grid

training made simple



A COMPLETE COVID-19 GUIDE TO LEAD YOUR CHURCH TOWARD A NEW NORMAL

This free training will help you...

- ✓ Establish clarity in the midst of chaos
- ✓ Create financial and ministry contingency plans
- ✓ Reframe constraints as opportunities
- ✓ Restructure ministries to relevant areas
- ✓ Shift focus and resource the right things
- ✓ Avoid common mistakes and learn best practices
- ✓ Emerge from this season stronger than before

[Access the FREE Training](#)

New Dates for Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop in Rapid City!



Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dakota Baptist Convention and Blackaby Ministries had to postpone the Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop that was to originally be held April 6-8. We are pleased to announce that the new dates for the workshop are September 14-16 (Monday - Wednesday). It is still going to be held at the Cambria Inn & Suites in Rapid City.

As before, the cost of the workshop for DBC churches is free! We can also provide lodging for those who could not otherwise afford it.

[Learn More](#)