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Dakotans Helping Dakotans



Churches should have received their Baker State Missions Offering materials. If you have not, please email Paul (paul@dakotabaptist.com) so he can verify your information and re-send them.

Dr. Mac's Minute 

The Loyal Love of a Good God

A few years ago I visited a Sunday School class that was studying Psalm 136. The psalm opens, *"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever"* (Ps. 136:1). Two words in this verse captured my attention. The first was "good." The class had a lengthy discussion on what the word "good" means. Some focused on the idea that God does good things in our life. Others pointed out that good can refer to the

quality of what God does for us. Still others saw good as describing God's kindness and graciousness.

These are all "good" observations, but there is another facet of this verbal diamond that stands out to me. Let's take a quick trip to the New Testament. A man approached Jesus one day with a question, "*Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*" Before focusing on the man's question, Jesus posed His own question, "*Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone*" (Luke 18:18-19). Jesus was speaking of God's character. He is holy. He is righteous. People can occasionally be motivated to do good things (usually if there is something good in it for them). Jesus reminded the man that only God is good at the very core of His being.

Paul captured this reality, too, when he wrote: "*There is no one righteous, not even one*" (Rom. 3:10). The only way we can be called good is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. "*He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Back to the psalmist's message . . . we can shout our thanksgiving because God, and only God, is good. He is righteous. He is holy. No one else can claim that title.

The other word I noticed that day serves as the whipped cream on top of the truth that we serve a good God. "*His love endures forever.*" The word translated love is one of the most theologically important Hebrew words in the Old Testament. In fact, it was one of the first vocabulary words I learned in my seminary Hebrew class. The word is "*hesed.*" It means "loyal love." Not just any kind of love . . . but a love that endures, a love that is loyal—no matter what happens.

People talk about love a lot in our society, but it tends to be a self-serving, fickle emotion, rather than a lifelong commitment and a motivation to action. "I'll love you as long as you love me." "I'll love you as long as you can do something for me." "I'll love you until something (or someone) better comes along." That's not *hesed* and it is not the way our good God loves us. "*If we are faithless He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself*" (2 Tim. 2:13). We are loved with the loyal love of a good God.

How about a cherry to add to the top of all this? Read the remainder of Psalm 136. The psalmist goes on to describe how God is both superior and amazing. In other words, not only are we loved with the loyal love of a good God . . . our good God has the sovereign strength to act on His loyal love.

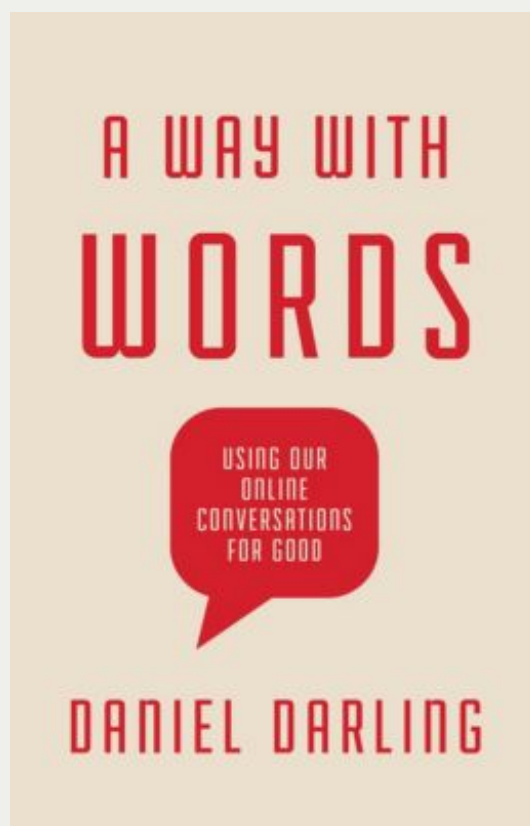
Walk with confidence this week. Sing His praises boldly. Tell His story to everyone you meet. Why??? Because your God is good AND His love

endures forever.

Dr. MacDonald's Tentative August & September Schedule:

- August 2 - Capitol Heights - Pierre, SD
- 9 - Edgemont Baptist - Edgemont, SD
- 16 - Edgemont Baptist - Edgemont, SD
- 23 - Capitol Heights - Pierre, SD
- 30 - Restore Church - Yankton, SD

- September 6 - OPEN
- 13 - Hills of Grace - Rapid City, SD
- 20 - OPEN
- 27 - OPEN



A Way With Words

Social media was made to bring us together. But few things have driven us further apart. Sadly, many Christians are fueling online incivility. Others, exhausted by perpetual outrage and shame-filled from constant comparison, are leaving social...

[Read more](#)

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Around the Dakotas



Connection Church - Spearfish Reaches Out to Lead/Deadwood Area

Connection Church in Spearfish is reaching out to Lead/Deadwood with the gospel. Jonathan and Katharine Hansen are working with others from the area to start a new work in the community. Assisted by their team and a mission team from Harmony Baptist in Springfield, MO, they conducted a two-day block party on July 27 and 28. They had about 50-60 on Monday evening and lots of rain on Tuesday. A weekly home Bible study has been started in Lead.



Hills of Grace Conducts "Church at the Lake"

Hills of Grace-Rapid City moved their July 26 worship service to Sheridan Lake in the Black Hills. Worship was led by Kristyn LaBine, followed by a message on biblical baptism by Pastor Jimmy Dettman. The church then walked down to the beach where two young ladies from the children's department were baptized. After the service a couple of the men grilled hamburgers and hot dogs as the church enjoy a potluck picnic.



Annual Church Profile



In the next few weeks, you will be receiving your church's Annual Church Profile in the mail. Here are some instructions:

1. To report on your ACP, you need to report 12 consecutive months. Lifeway doesn't care what 12 months you report, as long as they are consecutive.
2. There will be instructions to complete your ACP online on the first page of the packet. If you have any questions, or need any help, you can contact me.
3. If you complete your ACP online, you DO NOT need to mail it back to me. If you need me to complete it online for you, you need to mail it to me by November 1st.
4. While you have your ACP pulled up, please check the information for your church, and change anything that is incorrect. For example, your church's address, phone number, website, email address, etc.
5. If you have had any leadership changes in the last year, you can update that as well, while you are on the website.

As always, if you have any questions, you can call or email me.

Karen Holmes

kshnsouthdakota@hur.midco.net

DBC Directory Update

Within the last couple of weeks, scams have been sent via text message asking for money or gift certificates claiming to be from one of the pastors or state staff members in the Dakota Baptist Convention. While we do not know where the scams are coming from or where the scammers are getting their information, we decided to be proactive and remove all personal phone numbers from the DBC's online directory. We have kept church phone numbers on the site.

If you need a phone number for a pastor or staff member of a Dakota Baptist Convention church, please contact Paul O'Dell at the DBC office (605-716-0130 or paul@dakotabaptist.com). You can also contact Paul if you desire to have your church's phone number(s) removed from the online directory.



Dakota Baptist Ministry Training Institute Registration Opens August 1st

Two courses are being offered this semester:

- A new course in Discipleship and Evangelism
- Hermeneutics

Either class counts toward the certificate program and also earns credit you can use toward other degree programs at either Midwestern Seminary or Spurgeon College. These courses do require a \$100 fee which is used to cover time for the instructors and to add to the Dakota Baptist continuing education funds for college tuition reimbursements.

We are also offering a free single module class in the institute designed to help new or returning students with course management strategies and techniques for getting the most out of online learning courses.

Registration for the classes opens on August 1, and the classes will run from September 7, 2020, to December 7, 2020. You can go to dakotabaptist.com/dbmti to request information or sign up for access to the DBMTI portal to be prepared for the fall.



Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop

Blackaby Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop
September 14-16, 2020
Rapid City, South Dakota

Blackaby Ministries, in partnership with the Dakota Baptist Convention, is pleased to announce an upcoming Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop at the Cambria Hotel & Suites in Rapid City, South Dakota, September 14-16.

The three-day workshop will provide an introduction to key transformational

skills and principles, while also serving as the first step of the BMI Leadership Coaching Certification program.

We integrate the biblical principles found in Experiencing God and Spiritual Leadership with key coaching skills to help you become more effective at guiding the people you serve to connect with God's agenda.

Full scholarships available for cooperating Dakota Baptist Convention member churches. This is a great opportunity for pastors and church leaders! Please register by August 14th to take advantage of the scholarship and hotel rooms.

[Register or Learn More](#)

Former Dakota MSC Volunteer Frank Alexander Goes Home to Be With Jesus



Frank Alexander, a longtime Mission Service Corps volunteer in the Dakotas, passed away on June 3, at his home in Tennessee. He was 80 years old.

Frank and his wife Mary were well known throughout the Dakotas, especially in the Black Hills. The Alexanders were first placed in Custer in 1984. In 1986 they were transferred to Sturgis where they had a dream to reach out to bikers at the annual Sturgis Rally. Starting with a card table, two chairs, and a sign that said, "FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS," they shared the love of Jesus with everyone who passed by. Over the next twenty years they added free ice water, Bibles, and gospel tracts to their table. They eventually came up with a rolling cart so they could deliver water and encouragement to nearby vendors.

Mary said, "People came from all over the country to work in the booth." In their final rally in 2005, she shared that, "we gave out over 80,000 cups of water and more than 500 Bibles." During all the years of this ministry the Alexanders never lost sight of their primary purpose, which was, "talking to people about God's plan for their lives."

Frank regularly ministered to area churches through supply preaching, leading music, and puppets. The puppet team was widely known and respected. They performed for five years in the Mount Rushmore amphitheater.

Outside mission teams learned to love Frank and Mary as the couple worked at coordinating mission teams to assist churches, not only in the Dakotas, but in Wyoming and Montana, as well. They also were the Denver coordinators for YouthLink 2000, an SBC-wide evangelistic simulcast that encompassed seven cities. Nearly 90% of the youth that participated from the area they worked in either gave their lives to Christ or surrendered to full-time missions.

The Alexanders finally got their own property in Boulder Canyon in 1994. Even this became a tool for ministry as they created a quiet place where pastors and wives could experience a time of personal retreat at no cost. The center also hosted several mission groups.

Mary said, “One of the decisions we made before beginning our ministry was that we would NEVER charge a church for serving.” Mary sold Christian books, often setting up a table at state convention and association meetings, where they provided books to pastors at cost.



Over 22 years Frank and Mary served with 61 churches in the four states that made up the old Northern Plains Baptist Convention. Their impact is still felt today. Please pray for Mary and the family as they grieve their loss and celebrate Frank's homegoing.

F.A.I.T.H. Riders Adopt Sturgis Tent Ministry

For the past 14 years the Dakota Baptist Convention has sponsored an intentional evangelistic ministry during the annual Sturgis Bike Rally. This year the F.A.I.T.H. Riders, a national Christian motorcycle organization, has adopted this ministry and the ministry website.



F.A.I.T.H. Riders from across the nation have participated with Dakota Baptists and other Southern Baptists from around the country in the annual effort to win the lost that come to Sturgis. Under a tent on a street corner, volunteers share their personal salvation story, the gospel message, and then invite visitors to give their life to Jesus. In the time this ministry has been spearheaded by the DBC, thousands have come to know Christ and then followed up on by

churches in their home community.

After the 2019 Rally the DBC decided to pass leadership of this ministry to the F.A.I.T.H. Riders , along with the website, sturgisbikegiveaway.com. Anyone interested in knowing how to pray for this effort or assist the F.A.I.T.H. Riders can find information at this website.



EVANGELISM



Pastor,

As you know, the hope of the gospel is the thread that weaves through every ministry you undertake. Because every story, ultimately, points to the story of Jesus. And now more than ever, people are looking for this story of good news and hope for redemption – even if they don't know it.

We know you're working hard to share the gospel and equip your members to effectively proclaim Christ, and we want to help you continue to do that!

So, here's our gift to you: continue to train your congregation in evangelism by ordering your first kit of each of our evangelism training resources for free at namb.net/evangelism.

You can pick one or all four of the following kits:

- Who's Your One Kit
- 3 Circles Evangelism Kit
- The Best News Kit
- Live This Kit

We hope you enjoy this gift, and we pray the Lord uses these resources to send your people on mission!



Carrying on the Work of Christ
in the Dakotas

2020 Dakota Baptist Gathering

Our Annual Meeting is re-Gathering this October 8 & 9 at the Comfort Suites in Rapid City, South Dakota! Mark your calendars now and sign-up on our website.

- Three meals will be served throughout the meeting. Advance reservations must be made online for these meals.
- Registration is available online now at the DBC website.
- Messenger cards have been sent to eligible DBC churches.
- Features of this year's annual meeting will include Thursday afternoon round-robin sessions for the men and a coffee fellowship for women. The men's sessions will be led by Jeff Mueller, Brent Reeves, and T. J. Green.
- In the large group session, Rob Greywater will share a personal testimony and Tar Henderson, the small church evangelism director for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, will speak.
- After these sessions a missions banquet will be served. The program, "Partnership . . . creates enduring relationships," will focus on our mission partnerships around the globe. Missions presentations will be made by the SBC Executive Committee, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board.
- The Thursday evening business session will feature a presentation by the Staff Study Task Force that has been at work over the past two years, installation of the DBC's new executive director and his annual message, and recognition of new and retiring DBC pastors. Business will include budget and calendar recommendations from the DBC Executive Board and other miscellaneous business.
- On Friday morning Henderson will lead a Bible study. Messages will be preached by George Crawley and outgoing DBC President Sean Donnelly. Business will include reports from various committees and DBC staff and the election of officers.
- Music will be led throughout the meeting by DBC worship leaders, Ashton Rone, Alvin McAmis, and Joel Harris.
- Proposed resolutions are due by September 1. If you would like to submit a resolution for consideration to the Resolutions Committee, e-mail them to the DBC office at paul@dakotabaptist.com.