

In this edition:

- November Office Closures
- Dr. Mac's Minute:
"The Danger of the 'Aha' Moment"
Psalm 40:11-17
- Around the Dakotas
 - Cornerstone Baptist - Mitchell, SD
 - Hills of Grace, Rapid City
 - Connection Church, Lead, SD
- DBC Office to Share Building with Hills of Grace
- 2020 DBC ReGathering Pictures
- Dakota Baptists Elect New Officers
- Executive Board Holds Organizational Meeting
- Greetings from GuideStone
- Will Graham Launches Preparation for South Dakota Crusade
- Ten Percent: A Call to Biblical Stewardship



November Office Closures

November 11 for Veterans Day
November 26-27 for Thanksgiving

In addition, Paul will be out of the office November 23-25.

Dr. Mac's Minute 

The Danger of the "Aha" Moment

Passage: Psalm 40:11-17

Have you ever had an "aha moment"? No . . . I don't mean that time you were trying to figure out a frustrating problem, a lightbulb suddenly

appeared above your head, you miraculously realized what to do, and you cried out, "AHA!"

The "aha moment" I am referring to is the time when someone (usually that person who delights in making your life miserable) catches you saying or doing something embarrassing, wrong, or both. Then, with an evil glint in their eye and drippy sarcasm in their voice they say, "Aha! Got you!"

David experienced a painful aha moment. He shared it in Psalm 40. Here is his description of the moment: "*Evils beyond number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see. They are more numerous than the hairs of my head and my heart has failed me*" (v. 12).

You've heard of double trouble? David was suffering from triple trouble: 1) He was surrounded by enemies who opposed him and, more importantly, opposed God. 2) He was painfully aware of his own need for mercy. Every time he tried to focus on something else, one of his many personal failures popped into his mind (or he was reminded of them by one of his critics!). 3) Finally, the constant drumbeat of wickedness in others that he could not defeat and the wickedness of his own heart that he could not escape sapped his strength, both physically and emotionally.

Then, just as he reached the point where it seemed nothing could get worse, one of those adversaries found out about one of the king's shortcomings, got into his face, and smugly said, "Aha! Got you!" (vv. 14-15). Have you ever been where David was?

David's response to this aha moment is spread throughout his prayer in verses 11-17:

1) He declared his absolute faith in God's character and provision (v. 11). While his enemies hated him and delighted in opportunities to knock him down a notch or two, David knew that his God was full of a loyal love that He would not "withhold" from him. Further, the king of Israel knew that the King of kings was marked by "truth." David may have reached the end of his rope, but he knew that his God had not.

2) He acknowledged his own failure and inadequacy (vv. 12, 17). The accusations of the wicked were not just, but they were not totally inaccurate, either. I had a friend who used to say, "in every foot of criticism there are two inches of truth." This does not justify or excuse his enemies or their motives, but it was critical that David get honest before God and recognize his own contribution to the problem and his inability to solve it.

3) He asked God to deal with his enemies (vv. 13-15). I do find it interesting that he felt free to make some suggestions to God on how He might approach the situation:

*"*Let those be ashamed and humiliated'*

*"*Let those be turned back and dishonored"*

*"*Let those be appalled (literally, 'desolated')*"

But, here's the key, just as David had entrusted himself to the Master, he

did the same for his rivals. Rather than trusting his own wisdom to respond to the vultures, he trusted God's greater wisdom.

4) He invited others to experience the joy and peace that he enjoyed AND to join him in inviting others (v. 16). Note the two specific invitations David extended. First, *"Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You."* It is true that David was king of Israel, but in this matter he held no special status before his Creator. What God did for David, He was ready to do for the lowliest of David's servants. Paul said the same thing this way: *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Rom. 10:13). David was a "whosoever." His servants were "whosoever." His enemies were "whosoever." Paul was a "whosoever." And, you are a "whosoever."

Second, *"Let those who love Your salvation say continually, 'The LORD be magnified.'"* Whether it is salvation out of a desperate situation, as in David's case, or the salvation of your soul from the depths of sin, the good news of God's redemptive work is too good to keep to yourself. In fact, four ignored and rejected lepers concluded that failing to share good news with the very people that had ignored and rejected them invited terrible consequences (2 Kings 7:3-20).

David's prayer provides a roadmap for dealing with our embarrassing or painful aha moments; but, there is a final lesson we can't afford to miss. We can all point to times when we have been on the receiving end of a smug, "aha." Now . . . here's the million-dollar question—have you ever been the one on the giving end of a smug, "Aha! Got you!"?

Be honest. Hearing "aha" hurts. Being able to say it, however, somehow carries a strange sense of self-satisfaction. It may even bring a momentary feeling of superiority or vindication. We feel justified when our aha is delivered as a well-timed, stinging rebuke to the one who said aha to us. Nothing soothes our own hypocrisy like pointing out the hypocrisy of the one that pointed out our hypocrisy to cover their own hypocrisy (I think I'm getting a headache!). Therein lies the danger of the aha moment.

Note that, rather than taking matters into his own hands or striking back, David trusted God to make all wrongs right. When we try to avenge ourselves, especially by using the same weapons as our adversary, we take ourselves off of David's roadmap and put ourselves on a dangerous and destructive path. We lose the benefit of having God as our advocate and defender against our rival (besides, He is much better at payback than we are) and we put ourselves in line to be the recipient of the discipline He promises to the smug and self-righteous (refer back to vv. 14-15). It isn't that there are not times to stand up and take action, but when we follow the path that David did, we have God's wisdom, presence, and tools to experience His victory and bring glory to His name.

Stay on David's roadmap. As you deal with the carping critics, put your faith in the character and provision of God. Acknowledge your own failings and inadequacy. Ask God to intercede. Then, instead of seeking your own vindication, invite others—including the carping critics—to join you in celebrating the great salvation of the King.

Dr. MacDonald's Tentative November & December Schedule:

November 1 - Christ Church - Rapid City, SD
8 - OPEN
15 - OPEN
22 - OPEN
29 - Capitol Heights - Pierre, SD

December 6 - OPEN
13 - OPEN
20 - OPEN
27 - Not Available



Around the Dakotas



Click the above to view video

Cornerstone Baptist Church Mitchell, SD

Cornerstone Baptist is starting some major repair work in the sanctuary. Pastor Calvin uploaded a video on Facebook showing what will be done.

Hills of Grace Hosts Deacon Training

The deacons of Hills of Grace Church in Rapid City took part in a one-day training on Saturday, October 24. The deacons went through the book, "A Deacon on Purpose," by Tony Wolfe, which focuses on four roles of deacons: lead by example, serve God's people, support the pastor, and protect the peace. The training event was led by DBC Executive Director, Fred MacDonald.



The DBC office has several copies of this book, which are available at no cost for deacons of DBC churches. If your church would like copies of "A Deacon on Purpose" or are interested in having a training event for

your deacons, contact the DBC office.

Lead, SD Church Plant Schedules Kickoff Event



A new church plant connected with Connection Church in Spearfish is hosting a "Night of Prayer & Worship" on Sunday, November 15, at 6:00 p.m. This event will be at 106 Ellison Court in Lead, SD. Church planter Jonathan Hansen said this will be a time to "worship God and come together in prayer for the community."

DBC Office to Share Building with Hills of Grace



Volunteers painting new DBC office space

Effective on November 1, the DBC office has moved to an office suite at the Hills of Grace Church, 330 E. Anamosa Street, in Rapid City.

The move is part of a plan that was announced at the annual meeting last month to respond to recent funding changes for the state and to become a state convention that is able to support itself. This change will save \$13,000 in the 2021 DBC budget.

Hills of Grace Church rented this space for several years to a Rapid City community-based organization called "NeighborWorks." The congregation is nearing completion of a renovation of their basement, which was made necessary by flooding. This renovation will enable them to make the space available to the Convention office.

The new street address for the DBC will be:
330 E. Anamosa St., Suite 2
Rapid City, SD 57701

The mailing address will remain the same at:
P.O. Box 549

2020 Dakota Baptist Convention ^{Re}Gathering Carrying on the Work of Christ in the Dakotas



October 8-9



[View pictures from the 2020 DBC ReGathering in Rapid City](#)

Dakota Baptists Elect New Officers

The messengers of the Dakota Baptist Convention elected the following officers for the 2020-2021 year:

President, Paul Young	Dakota Baptist Church: Ft. Totten, ND
Vice President, Jeffrey Mueller	Restore Church: Yankton, SD
Recording Secretary, Karen Holmes	First Baptist Church: Wolsey, SD
Asst. Rec. Secretary, Debbie Flowers	Living Hope Baptist Ch: W. Fargo, ND



Executive Board Holds Organizational Meeting

The DBC Executive Board held their organizational meeting after the conclusion of the Dakota Baptist ReGathering on October 9. The Board reelected Dude Garrett from Temple Baptist in Fargo to serve as chairman for the coming year and elected Scott Ristau from Sovereign Grace Church in Aberdeen to serve as vice-chairman. They also welcomed new Board member, Rob Greywater, a member at Dakota Baptist Church in Fort Totten, ND.

The Board had two items of business to take care of during the meeting. In their first item they voted unanimously to use net proceeds from the recent sale of a building in Wakonda to establish a new work fund in the southeast part of South Dakota. In the other decision the Board approved the executive director's housing allowance recommendation for the 2021 budget year.

The next Board meeting will be in March and will be conducted on the online meeting site, Zoom.



Greetings from GuideStone®. We hope this email finds you well in the midst of a trying year.

For us, the fall is normally filled with familiar faces and warm welcomes as we attend state conventions. But — like most things in 2020 — it's different this time.

Please know we are greatly missing the opportunity to be with you in person. Our mission is to serve you as you serve the Lord by providing values-based employee benefits and investments to your church. **Please let us know how we can help.**

For more information on GuideStone resources, don't forget to visit our **Learning Library.**

Will Graham Launches Preparation for South Dakota Crusade

Will Graham, grandson of evangelist Billy Graham and son of Franklin Graham,

was in Rapid City on Wednesday, October 28 to help launch the preparation for the 2021 Black Hills/Paha Sapa Celebration. The crusade will take place September 24-26, 2021 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

Graham spoke to a room full of area pastors and church leaders to share his heart that many would be saved. He encouraged the churches of the area to come together and work together for the sake of the gospel. Preaching from Romans 16:22, he said, "We are not called to be famous. We are called to be faithful; faithfully doing the King's work."



Event organizers said that all are invited to this, "free family-friendly event with live music from award-winning Christian artists and powerful messages of hope from evangelist Will Graham." Next year's celebration will consist of four services: 1) Friday, Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m. for adults and families, 2) Saturday, Sept. 25, a KidzFest for elementary age children, 3) Saturday, Sept. 25 at 7:00 p.m. for adults and families, and 4) Sunday, Sept. 26, at 6:00 p.m. for students.

Graham also shared that his association was working on details to conduct evangelistic efforts on the Pine Ridge reservation during the week.

Area Dakota Baptist Convention churches are already getting involved in the leadership and hosting training for the event. Bob Fisher, a member of South Canyon Baptist Church in Rapid City, is serving as co-chairman for the event. Fisher spoke at the launch event and introduced the local team members.

Connection Church in Spearfish is hosting one of the early evangelism and follow-up seminars that will be held this month. There will be other preparation events over the next several months leading up to the Celebration.

Here is the schedule for the upcoming evangelism and follow-up seminars. Each session will last an hour and a half and will be led by experienced Billy Graham Evangelistic Association instructors:

Monday, November 16	6:30 pm	Countryside Church - Spearfish
	6:30 pm	First Assembly- Rapid City

Tuesday, November 17	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Rimrock Church - Rapid City United Churches - Hot Springs
Wednesday, November 18	10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Calvary Chapel - Rapid City Connection Church - Spearfish Landmark Community - Rapid City
Thursday, November 19	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	First Wesleyan - Rapid City Hands of Faith Warrior Center - ...White Clay, NE



TEN PERCENT: A Call to Biblical Stewardship A FREE Resource for You and Your Church

Americans gave 3.02 percent of their income to the church in 1968. By 2017, it had declined to 2.13 percent. If this trend is not reversed, by 2050 it is projected to decline to 1.66 percent.

This money does not belong to people to keep in their pockets, because all money belongs to God. We are called to honor God with at least the first ten percent of all God has entrusted to us in life. This practice is to be ongoing weekly, not weakly.

The greatest financial security for all Christ-followers is to practice God's financial plan by following a biblical pattern to carry out personal stewardship.

Your personal financial posture and your church's financial posture does not improve by keeping money and hoarding what you may think is yours. Conversely, your personal financial security and your church's financial security

is more certain when you follow God's financial plan found in the Bible.

A Six-Week Sermon Series and Curriculum Series

That is why I have written a Bible-based, theologically sound stewardship emphasis which is designed to include two resources every church can use regardless of size or location:

- A six-week sermon series
- A six-week curriculum for Sunday School or small groups

While the pastor preaches in the worship service that "God Is the Owner of Everything," each of your small groups, Bible study classes and Sunday school classes teach the same.

Your team of laypersons or staff can easily transfer these principles so they can be simultaneously taught to all of your students, children, and preschoolers. If you do not teach them, no one will. Everyone, at all stages of life, needs to be called to biblical stewardship.

Six Biblical Principles

The six principles I am encouraging you to teach your people are proven. They are biblical, strategic and practical.

1. God Is the Owner of Everything
2. We Own Absolutely Nothing
3. Honor God with at Least the First Ten Percent
4. Bring the Full Ten Percent to the Church
5. Practice Over and Above Giving
6. Focus on the Great Commission Always

These six principles are steps to giving your church members a biblical way to look at their entire lives, including the finances that God alone has entrusted to them. Each church can and should do the same.

A Digital Church Kit is Now Available for FREE

There is no cost to you or your church for this resource. Everything is downloadable at: SBC.net/stewardship.

To enable congregations and pastors to better use this resource in the local church, we have created a digital church kit. This kit includes:

- A PDF copy of the book which you can distribute to all in your church
- Promotional graphics for use in your church
- Bulletin inserts for use in your church
- PowerPoint slides for your sermon series
- Social media graphics to use

[You can request this free digital church kit here .](#)

Why Six Weeks?

You may question why you would focus six weeks on a series like this. I believe we need to stop making excuses for not teaching stewardship because of fear or worry about what someone thinks. Why would you not teach about this subject? Given the infrequency of church attendance today, your best church members may be in church only two or three weeks over a six-week period of time.

This Is How You Can Help People and Your Church

Pastor and church leader, let's emphasize the biblical principles of stewardship, standing upon the Bible's authority in the name of Jesus, teaching them to give to your church in the power of the Holy Spirit. Laypersons and church leaders must echo these Scriptural teachings and loudly proclaim a hearty "Amen!" with the way they give of the resources that God alone has entrusted to them.

If a pastor and his church leaders do not teach principles of stewardship to the entire church in an ongoing manner, then we are not helping people and families, nor discipling them to be all God wants them to be in their lives. This needs to change and change now.

TEN PERCENT: A Call to Biblical Stewardship is provided to help you personally and your church collectively. In addition to the digital download, we have a limited number of physical copies available. [They may be ordered here .](#) However, with this limited number, [I encourage you to utilize the digital download](#) if you are able.

Get this resource now and begin utilizing it to encourage your church to live biblically with the financial resources given to them by God.

Now is the time to lead,

Ronnie Floyd

