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*Dr. Mac's Minute* 

## The Heart of God

What gets you excited? You can learn what is truly important to someone by listening to them talk. That which is closest to someone's heart gets them fired up. Passion wells up in their voice. Their eyes dance with excitement. It might be grandchildren. For most men it is their job or a sports team. Grown men will paint their faces with psychedelic colors and chant over a football game. So, where is your heart?

If you are going to serve Jesus, it would be good to know where His heart is. If you could listen to Him speak, what would make His eyes light up? Paul told Timothy, his young apprentice of the faith, that God wants us to lift up, "*petitions*,

*prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings*" for everyone (1 Tim. 2:1). Why? The apostle continued, *"This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (vv. 3-4). God's heart breaks for the lost.

I have this image in my mind of God pulling out a wallet and saying, "Let Me show you My kids!" His eyes light up and excitement pulses in His voice as He, one by one, describes how each became part of the family. Then, a stillness comes over Him. Tears form in His eyes. His voice quivers as He says, "There are more out there, though. Not everyone has been brought in from the darkness of sin. Will you pray for them? Will you pray that they, *"come to the knowledge of truth"*?"

God grieves over the condition of the lost. He actively desires that they come to Him in faith. When was the last time your heart broke over someone you know who has not yet come to Jesus? When was the last time tears fell over those wandering in darkness? Not only must we understand God's heart . . . we must share it.

Sunday, October 4 is Personal Evangelism Commitment Day in the Southern Baptist Convention. As believers it is a time to remember the day that we, *"passed from death to life"* (John 5:24). It is also a time to commit ourselves to fulfill the challenge from our Savior to, *"make disciples of all nations"* (Matt. 28:20). And, as pastors, it is a day to renew our own commitment to personal soulwinning. It provides a reminder and opportunity to, *"equip the saints for the work of ministry"* (Eph. 4:12) by teaching God's people to share the heart of God by sharing the message of the gospel.

Ask God to open your eyes to the lostness of those around you. Plead with Him to fill you with His compassion for their souls. Then, pray for them, love them, and share your story of how Jesus saved you with them. Tell them of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Finally, invite them to become part of God's forever family by inviting them to repent and believe.

All it takes is heart . . . God's heart.

### **Dr. MacDonald's Tentative October & November Schedule:**

Oct. 4 - Calvary Baptist: Blunt, SD  
11 - Unavailable  
18 - OPEN  
25 - OPEN

Nov. 1 - OPEN  
8 - OPEN  
15 - OPEN  
22 - OPEN  
29 - Capitol Heights: Pierre, SD



## Around the Dakotas



### Chris Collier Accepts Call to First - Langdon



Pastor Chris Collier began serving as the new pastor at First Baptist in Langdon, ND, on Sunday, August 16. Collier and his wife Erin moved to Langdon with their daughter Livia and son Jacob from Cotton Center, TX.

They have another daughter, Christina, who is a student at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, TX.

### Bob Hower Announces Retirement

Bob Hower has served as pastor at Foothills Church in Piedmont for nearly eleven years. On Sunday, September 20, Bob and his wife Cindi announced his retirement to the congregation. His last service will be February 28, 2021.



Bob came to Piedmont after serving for 16 years as the Minister of Education and Administration at Westside Baptist in Rapid City. Prior to that Bob served in the U.S. Air Force. His final station before retiring from the military was Ellsworth AFB. He is well known in the Rapid City community for his tireless chaplain work.

Cindi recently retired as a teacher with a private preschool in Rapid City. The Howers plan to stay in the Black Hills where Bob will be available for supply preaching and work as an interim pastor.

### Living Hope - West Fargo Ordains Tanner Olson

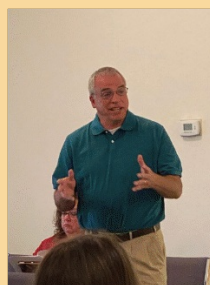
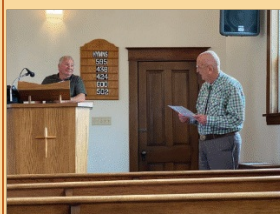
Living Hope Baptist Church in West Fargo, ND ordained Tanner Olson to the gospel ministry on Sunday, September 27. Olson serves as Living Hope's associate

pastor. Tanner and his wife Jeshanah have two children. Pastor John Flowers led the ordination service which included several of the men from Living Hope reading Scripture as a charge to Olson.



### It's Association Annual Meeting Time!

The six associations of the Dakotas are having their annual meetings. Meetings were held in September for Badlands and Prairie Partners Associations in North Dakota. Black Hills and Heartland Associations in South Dakota also met in September. South Valley in the Fargo, ND area will meet on Sunday, October 4. The final meeting will be the Siouxland Association on Saturday, November 14.



### "A Deacon on Purpose"

Hills of Grace Church in Rapid City is hosting a deacon training called, "A Deacon on Purpose." The training is on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. It will be led by DBC

Executive Director, Fred MacDonald. Lunch will be provided by the DBC. All participants will receive a copy of the book, "A Deacon on Purpose," by Tony Wolfe. Tony serves with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

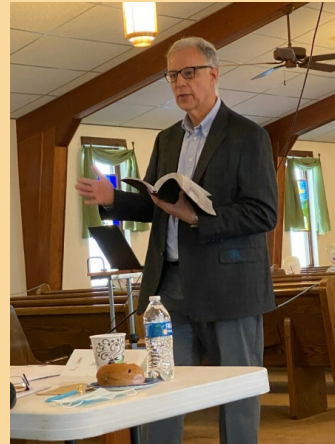
The training is free and open to all pastors and deacons, but we need to know how many are coming. Let Paul O'Dell know by Wednesday, October 21, at [paul@dakotabaptist.com](mailto:paul@dakotabaptist.com) how many deacons from your church will participate.

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## DBC Hosts Spiritual Coaching Workshop

The DBC hosted its third Blackaby Spiritual Leadership Coaching Workshop last month. A total of 13 Dakotans participated in the training, which is the first step in equipping believers to serve as a spiritual coach for others. The workshop uses the principles of Henry Blackaby's classic work, "Experiencing God." The workshop was led by Bob Royall and Brett Pyle from the Blackaby Ministries organization.

Blackaby's son, Richard Blackaby, spent a day with the participants. He spoke several times throughout the day. Richard challenged them to consider how much they actually believed Jesus' observation, "*apart from Me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). Blackaby said, "When a pastor says they've been ignoring their spiritual life because they're so busy with church work, does he really believe this? God will never burn you out. You burn out when you do His will your way."



Royall and Pyle laid out a biblical foundation for coaching and then shared principles and guidelines for effective coaching. They shared that coaching is different from mentoring. In mentoring the mentor pours his or her life into the one they are helping. Spiritual coaches, on the other hand, use powerful questions to help others discover how God is at work around

them and how to respond to that work. The duo said that, “spiritual leadership coaching is a ‘come-alongside,’ peer-to-peer relationship, not a ‘standing over’ relationship.” Participants were given opportunities to put the principles learned into practical application in small groups.

Coaching is a key part of the DBC strategy to help pastors and other church leaders develop and grow. Vermillion pastor Steve Ford led a session on the nature and value of group coaching networks. Several peer coaching networks have been established around the Dakotas. Ford shared the history of these groups and how they function.



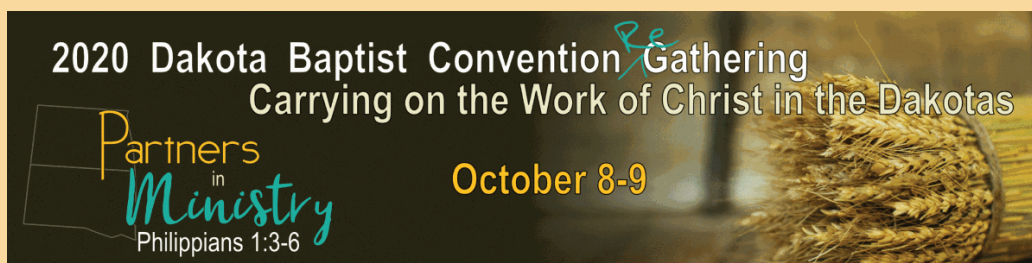
*Don't forget . . .*

### **October is Pastor Appreciation Month.**

Find a creative way to let your pastor know how much he is appreciated. And, don't forget his wife, too.

## **Dakota Baptist "ReGathering" to be Held in Rapid City on October 8-9**

The Dakota Baptist Convention will hold their annual meeting at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Rapid City on Thursday and Friday, October 8-9. The theme is “Partners in Ministry: Carrying on the Work of Christ in the Dakotas.”



The annual meeting has become known over the past few years as the Dakota Gathering. In light of the challenges created by the coronavirus and to highlight the celebration of churches as they began to “regather,” this year’s event has been dubbed the “ReGathering.”

The event will open with a “Partnering Together” conference on

Thursday afternoon. Several Dakotans will share testimonies and messages on the blessings of partnership. For the second year in a row, there will also be a women's coffee and prayer fellowship time. The featured speaker on Thursday afternoon will be Tar Henderson, the small church evangelism director from the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.

There will be two business sessions, the first on Thursday evening and the second on Friday morning. The centerpiece will be a report from the State Staff Study Task Force. This team has been working for two years in response to trends within the SBC over the past ten years. Their task was to recommend changes that would position the DBC to continue its mission of partnering with churches to reach the Dakotas for Christ. The task force presented their report and proposal to the Executive Board in August. The Board unanimously adopted the proposal to restructure the staff in a way that will strengthen fellowship and improve partnership.

At the ReGathering, the task force will share details from their report and the changes that the Executive Board approved. Related to this report will be the 2021 budget that the Board will recommend. The budget will be presented to the messengers for their approval.

The budget was developed with this new staff structure in mind and after the DBC received word that partnership funds from SBC agencies would be dramatically change next year. LifeWay announced that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they would need to permanently eliminate what they have been providing in 2021. Similarly, the North American Mission Board announced that their administrative support to the DBC would be cut in half in 2021 and permanently eliminated in 2022. NAMB will continue to serve as a valued partner in the areas of evangelism and church planting.

After the Executive Board report, DBC president Sean Donnelly and Board chairman Dude Garrett will lead in an installation of new DBC Executive Director, Fred MacDonald. Afterwards, MacDonald will give his annual message and recognize new and retiring pastors.

Friday morning's session will feature a Bible study by Henderson, messages from Lincoln, ND pastor George Crawley and DBC president Donnelly, committee reports, and the election of new officers. Two Board members, Anne-Marie Caldwell (Rapid City-Calvary) and Nick Geray (Fargo-Northland), will be recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve a second three-year term. Rob Greywater (Ft. Totten-

Dakota) will be recommended to begin his first term on the Board.

After the meeting, the DBC Executive Board will hold their organizational meeting and elect officers for the new year.

### **Books for Pastors**

For those pastors who were not able to attend the 2020 Ministry Leaders Retreat, we have three great books that were given out at the retreat. You can pick up your books at the Registration Table.

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## **IMB Trustees Appoint 80 New Missionaries, Approve 2020-21 Budget**

International Mission Board trustees unanimously approved the appointment of 80 full-time, fully funded personnel during their Sept. 29-30 meeting. The new missionaries will be sent to eight of IMB's nine global affinities. A virtual Sending Celebration in November will publicly recognize the new field personnel and their appointments.

This was the second trustee meeting of 2020 held virtually, due to continued caution surrounding the spread of COVID-19. January's meeting was held in person in Riverside, California.

The plenary session on Sept. 30 included greetings from Ray Gentry, president/CEO of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders, who expressed his commitment to partnership with IMB. During the meeting, trustees approved a balanced budget of \$255.3 million. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, no new trustees were approved, and IMB's trustee board will remain the same for the coming year.

Another recommendation unanimously approved was a Resolution of Appreciation for three missionaries who died this year in active service. A time of prayer for their families and work to reach the nations followed the presentation of the recommendation.

Dr. Seth Polk, trustee chairman and lead pastor of Cross Lanes Baptist Church, Cross Lanes, West Virginia, presided over the meeting. He emphasized the faithfulness of God and churches' commitment to kingdom purposes.



“I am amazed by and grateful for the sacrificial generosity of our Southern Baptist family of churches,” Polk said. “Covid-19 could have been accompanied by catastrophic financial impact on our work. While we have real challenges ahead, the people of God have remained steadfast in support of the missionary heart of our collective efforts.”

In his plenary address, IMB President Paul Chitwood listed challenges that the IMB has faced in its 175-year history and remarked that COVID-19 certainly wasn't the first unforeseen circumstance through which the IMB has endured.

“How has the IMB survived, and why do I think we are beginning to thrive, even in the midst of a global pandemic?” Chitwood asked. “Because Southern Baptists have not stopped believing in nor lost sight of the vision God has given us of a vast multitude from every nation, all tribes, peoples, and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb. IMB is more focused on that vision than perhaps at any time in our recent history.”

Chitwood reported that he remains optimistic about IMB's future because of several factors, including the quality of the team in the Richmond home office, nearly 1,000 candidates who are in the application process to be missionaries, and the ways current missionaries are embracing initiatives “designed to equip and empower them to make contact and build relationships with all 47,000 Southern Baptist churches over the next two years,” he said.

“Many of our missionaries have worked hard to stay connected with churches, but IMB has not effectively trained and equipped them, and there are literally thousands upon thousands of our churches that never hear from our missionaries,” said Chitwood. “We have worked across the organization to create a connecting strategy to remedy that. And I believe it will prove to be a Great Commission gamechanger as Southern Baptists have the opportunity to more deeply connect to their workers and the work around the world.”



Chitwood and Price Jett, IMB's treasurer and vice president of logistics, finance, travel and technology, introduced the 2020-21 proposed budget, both reporting that the recent financial recovery that God

has provided for IMB is another reason for optimism about the organization's future.

“Today is the last day of the fiscal year, and I can confidently state that Southern Baptists' giving has exceeded our budget” Chitwood reported. “Factoring in our investment earnings, we believe that we will end the year more than 5% ahead in revenue. We praise God for what He has done. And, on behalf of 3,620 missionaries, their 2,880 children, and our stateside staff and their families, we say thank you to Southern Baptists for your generosity and your love for the lost around the world.”

Jett added, “By the grace of God, and the consistent, generous giving of Southern Baptist Churches through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®, we are pleased to present for the trustees' approval a balanced budget of \$255.3 million.”

Chitwood closed his address with the following updates:

- IMB's Send Relief partnership with the North American Mission Board is up and running as the avenue for Southern Baptists to meet needs at home and around the world.
- An online Sending Celebration has been planned in partnership with the Alabama Baptist Convention on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. EST, to be streamed on IMB's Facebook and Vimeo
- IMB trustees currently plan to conduct their February 2021 board meeting in person.

At the conclusion of his address, Chitwood reminded trustees of the “154,937 people who will die today, lost, and spend eternity separated from God in hell.”

“That's why the IMB exists,” he said. “Not for ourselves, but for them. They are why Christ has left his Bride, the Church, here and not yet welcomed her into His eternal Kingdom. For, as the Scriptures state, He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

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**Two Free Bounce Houses Available  
to Give Away**



Cornerstone Community Church in Mobridge, SD, has two bounce houses to give away to a good church home. If anyone is interested in them or would like more information, please contact Pastor Everett Hornbostel at [everett@cornerstonemobridge.org](mailto:everett@cornerstonemobridge.org).

