



Dakota Baptist

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Planting a Ministry in India

Five folks from our ABC of the Dakotas region traveled to India's northeastern state of Assam in January. Ruth Skar, Associate Executive minister and staff to the Department of Mission and Stewardship, led the trip. Our representatives met with leaders and lay persons from the Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention.

We have prayerfully identified the Karbi Anglong as an underserved group among our ABC International partners. Their convention has 290 churches and 17,000 members.

The trip was intended to begin our relationship with the Karbi Anglong and, in consultation with leaders, identify how ABC of the Dakotas and Karbi Anglong might work together to strengthen Christ Church. Our representative will be able to attend the annual Karbi Anglong convention. About 4,000 people are expected to attend.

In our previous contact with Karbi Anglong leaders, we learned about one of their projects. The convention has three elementary schools. The schools are currently operating on donations, but Karbi Anglong leaders want to help the school support itself. Their plan is to grow rubber trees, which will provide income over a number of years.



provided all the trees and worker salaries for two schools. The bearing life for rubber trees is about 20 years.

Please be in prayer for this ministry.



Many of our churches and individuals have contributed to this project.

We now have more than \$13,000 in donations. These funds will provide trees and a worker to tend the trees. Thanks to your generosity, we have

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2011 camping season approaching

2011 schedules for both of our ABC of the Dakotas camps are, or will be, up on their respective web pages. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and churches, camp scholarships are available to our younger campers. We seek to provide some scholarship relief for young people who haven't been to camp before or families who have financial need or multiple children going to camp. Kim Aalberg in our region office is your contact person for Camp Judson scholarships, and Sarah Dvirnak is Camp Bentley's contact person. We look forward to another wonderful camping season!

2011 CAMP JUDSON SCHEDULE

Project Camp:	June 5-9
SD Women's Conference:	June 10-12
Junior Camp:	July 10-16
Trail Camp:	July 10 -16
Junior High Camp:	July 17-23
High School Camp:	July 24 -30
Adult Bible Conference:	July 3-9
Family Camp I:	July 3-9
Family Camp II:	July 31-Aug 6
Men's Roundup:	August 26-28

2011 CAMP BENTLEY SCHEDULE

Work Camp:	May 30-June 3
ND Men's Roundup:	June 3-5
ND Women's Conference:	June 10-12
Senior High Camp:	June 12-18
Junior High Camp:	June 19-25
Junior Camp:	June 26-July 1
Family Camp:	July 8-10
Golf/Craft Camp:	July 15-17

Kim Aalberg at the ABC/Dakotas region office: 605-575-2071 or email abcd@abc-dakotas.org

Sarah Dvirnak, Camp Bentley contact person: 701-721-6357 or email sarahdvirnak@live.com

Many Hands Make Light Work



One of Camp Judson's cabins is getting a facelift, thanks to the talents and generosity of two eastern South Dakota congregations. Union Baptist Church in Burke and First Baptist Church in Lucas raised about \$15,000 to cover the cost of renovating Cabin No. 1. The churches additionally sent eight men in early January to gut and remodel the aging cabin.



Only about two dozen studs and the roof remained when the men finished gutting the cabin, which stands adjacent Cleveland Commons. The men framed up the cabin and completely shingled both sides of the new addition. They worked diligently in sub-zero weather. God blessed their labors later in the week, as plunging temperatures were replaced by 40-plus degree days.

When completed, Cabin No. 1 will boast a central living room, kitchenette and enlarged bedroom and bathroom facilities. The project is the first in a series of planned cabin improvements aimed at enhancing Camp Judson's camping program. Most of Judson's cabins have not seen any improvements since they were built in the 1950s.



North Dakota ABC Youth Converge in Fargo

This year's North Dakota ABY Convention was held at First Baptist Church in Fargo, N.D. A small group of kids came all the way over to the east side of the state, but the 28 youth that made the trip definitely made the best of it.



Even though we were in the big city of Fargo, we still decided to go for the personal option of staying in homes instead of in hotels. The people of First Baptist in Fargo were more than happy to open their homes to us, and we are very grateful to all of them for their hospitality.

Our speaker for the convention was Adam Sieff. Adam serves as a youth pastor in Sioux Falls and is currently attending seminary. He is also a Christian rapper and does some DJ work in Sioux Falls. Adam is an incredible speaker and had the kids' attention every time he was in front of them. Adam's message for the convention was "Love God. Love People."

We were also very blessed to be able to be a part of the community of Fargo in doing our service projects. A large group of us went to a homeless shelter for lunch on Thursday. Then we headed over to Great Plains Food Bank to sort and box up donated food. Another group had the privilege of going to Churches United for the Homeless in Moorhead, where they had the chance to make bag lunches for evening workers. Then the last group was sent out to Moorhead as well to sort clothes for the Salvation Army Thrift Store. I think it was very enlightening for all the kids to see how many homeless people there really are here in North Dakota.

Some other highlights from the Convention include going to Dakota Carriage Co. for a carriage ride. They also got to go through a corn maze, and then we had a bonfire. It was rather enjoyable to be able to bring some Camp Bentley songs to the cold weather of fall. After the Corn Maze we headed back to the Church, and Adam Sieff put on an absolutely stellar concert for the youth.

All in all, I believe we had a truly wonderful convention this year, even with the small number of kids who were able to come.

Sarah Dvirnak

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

I Timothy 4:12

ABM/SD Men's Roundup – another “whoopee” time at CJ!



The annual South Dakota American Baptist Men's Roundup gathered once again at Camp Judson on the warm and sunny weekend of August 27-29, 2010. The official “head count” for this year's gathering was 74 men and 8 boys – a nice increase in numbers over last year!

The weekend officially began Friday evening with a delicious meal, followed by our first evening session filled with fun and song, special music by Stan and Lena Angle, and our opening time with special guest and speaker for the weekend, the Rev. Dr. Joe Kutter, Executive Director of the Ministers Council ABC-USA. It didn't take long and we knew we were in for a stimulating treat for the weekend!

Saturday morning after the flag-raising and huge breakfast, we settled in for our notable morning sessions. We received reports from our Treasurer, Lyle Terveen, regarding our ABM/SD finances and support to our ABM/SD 1000 Club “calls” of this past year: a total of \$2,087 given last fall to help 4 ABCD-area seminary students, help to the Women's Prison Ministry in Pierre, and help to Hope Prison Ministry (for men) in Sioux Falls. \$2,615 was received through the spring “call” to help with special project needs at Camp Judson. As part of the morning sessions we also heard reports from the ABCD and University of Sioux Falls, a brief comment and prayer request from Rev. Sandy Aakre regarding his rewarding time and years as Chaplain with the SD National Guard and remembering the military men and women (especially from SD!) serving our country faithfully. Jack Kist shared his usual upbeat and challenging report about activities on the larger scope with ABM/USA ministry with men across our country. And then we wrapped up the morning with a second session with Dr. Kutter. Following another wonderful lunch, the afternoon was “free time” for all; so some guys did some hiking, some went sight-seeing by car, some rested and napped, etc.

Saturday evening brought us a special treat as we were all invited as guests of Camp Judson to a special “Holy Cow” Steak Fry dinner and “thank you” program. All the HC cow-keeping farmers and ranchers from around the state and region were also invited as special guests, and a good many were able to come. The Dining Hall area was full!! We enjoyed a delicious SD steak dinner followed by a “fun-filled” evening learning about the relative short history of the Holy Cow Project, officially begun in 1992 at Rev. Ron Cowles' affectionate urging. We got to see the cow-keepers and families, and some special individuals, acknowledged and introduced along with “hearty thanks” expressed to the Men's Roundup group and ABM/SD for their financial support to the project over the years. By our Lord's blessing in a relative short number of years, CJ has been the benefactor of over \$500,000 because of “Holy Cow” project support. And it was announced, in celebrations and thanks, that HC Project now has 100 cows placed around the state and region, actively “on feed” to ultimately benefit the ministry of CJ in their own way!

Sunday morning began with worship and communion at the Outdoor Vesper – led by Pastor Dwayne Williams and men of Friendship Baptist Church. Then we were off to our final breakfast gathering for the weekend, followed by our closing session of the weekend hearing one last time from Dr. Kutter, concluding with a friendship circle -- rejoicing in the blessing of fellowship, and then prayer sending us all off and “homeward bound”.

It is important and noteworthy to highlight the assistance of several men for their labors in putting the Roundup weekend together – Paul Cleveland, Lyle Terveen, especially the efforts and commitment of Chris Krogh who coordinated the AB Boys weekend activities, Jeff Shaffer at the keyboard, pastors who led us joyously in singing and devotional thoughts in our group sessions, and of course special thanks to Rich and Marilyn Kallander and crew for hosting us so graciously and lavishly.

Yes, once again it was a *special time* in a *special place*, challenged once again by Christ's Call to us as Christian men, while also celebrating our fellowship in the great family of God. So, if you couldn't attend this year, make plans NOW to attend next year, August 26-28, 2011. It'll be another weekend of fun, inspiration, and blessing.

**LARRY EVANS,
ABM/SD Men's Roundup Coordinator**

Minot, N.D. Teens Journey to Jamaica

The youth of Immanuel Baptist Church in Minot, N.D., experienced their first international mission trip last summer. Twelve high school students and six chaperones traveled down to Montego Bay, Jamaica, last July for an absolutely wonderful mission trip. We stayed at a hotel in Montego Bay but traveled out to Roehampton and Belmont to do our mission work every day. We worked mostly in Belmont and formed many relationships with the people of that community. We had the opportunity to experience many Jamaican worship services. We all noticed one very specific thing about Jamaican worship: Jamaicans sing loud and proud and do not care how they sound. They filled their small church buildings with so much praise for God. It put us all to shame.

We held a Vacation Bible School for the kids of Belmont. We also did home visits with some folks in Belmont, as well as a prayer walk through Belmont. Probably the most incredible experience of the trip was getting to visit the West Haven Children's Home. It was an orphanage of about 100 kids who all had some sort of mental disability. It took some of our kids a little while to understand how to connect with the kids at the orphanage since only a few of them could talk, but eventually they warmed up



to them. I don't think we will ever forget how it felt to love on these beautiful children in West Haven! We also did some work on the Belmont Baptist Church while we were in Jamaica. Some of our guys picked up pick axes and shovels and helped tear down their retaining wall behind the church. We also repainted the church. We were so blessed in the raising of funds for this trip that we were able to leave them with enough money to finish tearing down and rebuild a wall that will allow them to add on to their church and give them more room for Sunday School classrooms. What a blessing it is for us to have been able to bless the people of Belmont, Jamaica.

On our last day in Jamaica the kids were able to relax a little and take in the tourist side of Jamaica, which was very different from the Jamaica we worked with all week. They were able to lay on the beach, swim in the ocean and shop on a tourist strip in Montego Bay.

Those who went on the mission trip to Jamaica: Allen Lively, Amy Roberts, Ben Mayer, Caleb Albertson, Courtney Albertson, Dan Albertson, Emily Peterson, Kallie Holmen, Keenan Browne, Kelsey Aspaas, Lonna Jo Browne, Matthew Schimke, Miller Anne Lively, Quinn Renfandt, Rob Browne, Sarah Dvirnak, Stephanie Spencer and Tanya Albertson.

Sarah Dvirnak

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE DAKOTAS

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Mission/Stewardship	Wiebers, Cheryl	Owanka, SD
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Our region **Pastor's Conference is Oct. 12-14 at Camp Judson in Keystone, S.D.** This year we want to invite any church staff to this retreat. The cost for the retreat will be \$20 per person. The region will subsidize the remainder of the cost. This will be a time of fellowship, rest and spiritual renewal. Make plans to attend now!



ABC of the Dakotas Region Mission Conference is Sept. 16-18 at Camp Judson. The primary mission we will celebrate is our trip to Assam in North-east India. This is a time of wonderful spiritual challenge and celebration. Ruth Skar and Cheryl Wiebers will provide more information as the event nears.

ABC of the Dakotas Region Policy Board Spring Meeting

Our Region Policy Board will meet April 14-15 at Camp Judson. The board is the voice of our churches in ABC Dakotas. These committed folks engage with our churches in the ministry, resources and leadership they provide through the following three departments: Department of Leadership Development, Department of Mission and Stewardship, and Department of Professional Ministry and Evangelism. Your Policy Board works with region staff to oversee ministry priorities, budget and investment of endowments.

We welcome these new members to the ABCD

Joining by Baptism:

Rhonda Hanson, Aberdeen
Troy Anderson, Aberdeen
Gayle Anderson, Aberdeen
Debra Pigors, Aberdeen
Corey Reszler, Aberdeen
Tanya Reszler, Aberdeen
Emma Auch, Bismarck
Natalie Larson, Bismarck
Erica McKee, Bismarck
Alexia McKee, Bismarck
Kylee Utter, Bismarck
LaRae Utter, Bismarck
Sara Melom, Bismarck
Jennifer Melom, Bismarck
Jessica Melom, Bismarck
Ashley Melom, Bismarck
Kayla Rohrich, Bismarck
Jacy Rohrich, Bismarck
Jory Rohrich, Bismarck
Devon Lund, Bismarck
Brandon Martin, Bismarck
Breanna Van't Hof, SF Emmanuel

Joining by Letter or Christian Experience:

Jessica Luebeck, Aberdeen
James Breitling, Aberdeen
Regina Breitling, Aberdeen
Shirley McCullough, Aberdeen
Diane Ackerson, Aberdeen
Lois Armstrong, Aberdeen
Delores Dreesman, SF Emmanuel
Janet Graham, SF Emmanuel
Bob Sanborn, SF Emmanuel
Marge Sanborn, SF Emmanuel
Richard Thomason, SF Emmanuel

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David Wisthoff, Glenburn, ND
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Spencer Meeks, Fargo, ND
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Deb Greenup, Dickinson
Lloyd Gingery, Bismarck,
Ruth Skar, Berthold, ND
Riley Walker, Sioux Falls, SD

Camp Judson Committee Members

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David Knutson, Trent, SD
Rob Koskan, Wood, SD
Dennis Lengkeek, Burke, SD
Barb Lueth, Sioux Falls, SD
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Judy Waldman, Ipswich, SD
Cheryl Wiebers, Owanka, SD
Ken Wrede, Rapid City, SD
Rich Kallander, Keystone, SD
Tracy Koskan, Keystone, SD
Riley Walker, Sioux Falls, SD



Karen Youth Gathering, A New Wave of Leadership

One of the greatest challenges young people face is "fitting in." But that has begun to change for those who attended the Karen Youth Conference in summer 2010 at First Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minn.

More than 600 Karen young people from communities around the nation gathered to share their Christian faith and experiences in adjusting to U.S. life. Some of them had been in America for only three months before the conference.



The Rev. Florence Li, national Asian coordinator, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, led the youth in the Power Circle, an experiential learning exercise adapted from Eric Law's book *The Bush Was Blazing but Not Consumed*. Participants were instructed to link arms in a circle,

while two standing outside the circle were to find a creative way to get into it. Several used great force to break through, while others tried to crawl into the circle or push against it to find the weakest location.

Participants compared this exercise with their experience of trying to fit in, especially at school. "I tried very hard to get into the circle but it is not easy," says 15-year-old participant Aug Htoo. "I want to fit in with my friends."

After the exercise, participants suggested and discussed ways to fit in without compromising faith or using force.

Karen communities associate strongly with American Baptists because of the work of the Judsons in Burma more than 300 years ago. American Baptist Home Mission Societies has been actively resettling Karen and other refugees for over 150 years.

Through the America for Christ Offering, your support of the youth conference and other ministry with refugee communities demonstrates your commitment to continue our legacy of touching lives and transforming people. For more information about Asian Ministries, please contact the Rev. Florence Li at florence.li@abhms.org or visit www.abhms.org.

#F17



Haitian Ministries Supports ESL Literacy Program

By Vena Ulysse

This story of Dorencourt ("Dodo") Poteau started the afternoon of Jan. 12, 2010. He stepped out of a school building in Haiti, where he was substitute teaching for a friend, when pieces of blocks began to fall. While running away from the falling debris, he quickly realized that other buildings were also collapsing. People were



screaming and crying for help, but he had to get home quickly to check on his family. Dodo's life changed in an instant. Three days later, he was in the Dominican Republic on his way to the United States.

Since he arrived in Boston on Jan. 19, Dodo has been living with a cousin who brought him to church the following Sunday. At Eglise Evangelique De L'Union Chretienne in Brockton, Mass., Dodo has connected with new brothers and sisters for spiritual and emotional support. He received medical care and was able to connect with his family in Haiti through the Internet. Within the next two weeks, Dodo inspired my husband and me to begin an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, in which Dodo would be the first student. Three times weekly, for two hours, he would attend, ready to learn English.

It has been several months, and Dodo is still learning English. He is also volunteering to help others just like him to enroll; together, they can begin this new chapter of their life in America.

Through Dodo's contact with his loved ones in Haiti, he has learned that many of his students and fellow colleagues did not make it out of the school building. He is still mourning their loss, but he is grateful that God has given him a second chance in America.

Vena Ulysse is wife of Pastor Fred Ulysse, Eglise Evangelique De L'Union Chretienne.

The America for Christ Offering supports American Baptist Home Mission Societies' Ethnic Ministries Project Grant and outreach, such as the ESL program in Brockton. For more information about Haitian Ministries, please contact the Rev. Dr. Brenda Halliburton at bhalliburton@abhms.org or visit www.abhms.org.

#F18