

Merry Christmas

from

Dakota Family Solutions

Tonight's the Night

There is a line in a Christmas song from a well-known pop rock group that reminds me of the work of Dakota Family Solutions (DFS). The lead singer, a recovering alcoholic, portrays the hope that comes from this season when he sings, "...and tonight's the night the world begins again!" Through the love of Jesus, also called Immanuel - God with us, many of us have had that *night* when our world began again! And more often than not, God used others in our lives to be *God with us*, those willing to be there to love us unconditionally, in a time of need.

The pulse of DFS is to take the love of God that was freely given to us and pass it on freely to others that cross our paths. Our staff sincerely feels that it is an honor and a privilege to be able to interact with so many wonderful people: those who participate in our programs, those who volunteer with us, and those who give faithfully to allow this work to continue. Through this community effort, we pray that we may be able to share Jesus' coming to others in a way that helps their world to begin again!

~ DFS Staff



EMBER
Encourage Mentally Bless Empower Refresh

Passing on Blessings

It is awesome to see the moms who have been involved with our EMBER Program generate a way to pay some blessings forward! Recently, a couple of these moms approached us with an idea to creatively fill a basket for our teen moms who have a new baby. Many of them have *been there* and desire to show love and encouragement to these young moms with tangible gifts. They put out a call for others to join them in adding items to give.

Thank you to those who anonymously donated items to put into this first beautiful baby girl basket. It was given to a sweet new teen mom and she was incredibly grateful!



God Intervenes

I was raised to believe that I must learn all the right things I should do to please God, instead of all the right things Jesus did to rescue me from myself and my own sin. That led to a confusing time where nothing made sense and I decided to throw out the whole idea of God completely.

Years later, after an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a marriage, and a mortgage, my husband and I had to figure out how to raise our daughter. He had his own issues with God and had walked away from Him as well. We were in the midst of a spiritual crisis.

At this time I was attending the EMBER Young Moms group through Dakota Family Solutions. There, I met the leader who became a life-long friend and mentor. She was a key person God placed in my life at such a critical time.

You see, the day the door of my spiritual eyes opened, my heart softened, and hope bloomed, was a terrible day. We had lost a baby. It was a Monday, and God put this leader in my path. She prayed for me often, but this time I wept. I didn't know if there was a God, but more than anything, in that moment I wanted it to be true.

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Two giving options:
by mail or online

 **Dakota Family Solutions**
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Williston, ND 58803
A charitable, nonprofit organization
Tax ID: 45-4508610



SCAN ME

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JOY

God Intervenes Continued

That evening I came home to my unbelieving husband and asked, "What do you think about prayer?" His answer was, "I guess it's nice, but it doesn't do anything. If there is a God He doesn't intervene." And I have to believe God heard that because, oh boy, does He intervene!

While I was warming up to the idea of God, my marriage found itself in ruin. And on that rock-bottom day, my unbelieving husband chose to get on his knees and pray for me. He prayed for my soul. He prayed for his soul. He prayed for our child and our marriage. And God answered!

I now understand that it is only through Jesus, my Savior, and His grace that I am saved. I no longer feel as though I cannot carry my part to meet grace, and my relationship with God has blossomed.

God has been so good to me. He has changed my heart. He has worked miracles in my marriage. He has blessed us with another baby. And He has never abandoned me.

There is power in prayer. You see, since that rock-bottom day, my husband has prayed over me every single night. He prays for my soul. He prays for his soul. He prays for our children and our marriage. And today, God still intervenes!

~EMBER Mom

For to us
a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor,
MIGHTY GOD,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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A Frozen Autism Christmas Party



Families of children or adults with Autism are invited to our DFS Autism Christmas Party! It will be Thursday, December 8th, 6:30 PM—8:00 PM at the Williston ARC.

This annual event is one of our favorites to plan and prepare for! This year we are going with a Frozen theme. Youth Education on Stage has graciously granted us the use of their costumes so we can have Frozen characters present at the party. We have also invited a few community organizations to join us:

- * **Milestone Health Partners**
Will 'build snowmen' with the kids
- * **Natasha's Canvas**
Will offer face-painting
- * **Williston Wonders**
Will have games to play
- * **WIC**
Will offer healthy snacks

As always, we will have several sensory friendly stations set up for all to enjoy. We are grateful for faithful volunteers who love to serve with us for this special evening.

Prayer Requests

- ◆ For people to know the perfect love of the Father
- ◆ For wisdom and guidance as we move into a new year of ministry
- ◆ That God will resource DFS with all that is needed to continue serving people



Bethel Giving

This is our sixth year of connecting community members with the wonderful opportunity to provide Christmas gifts and needed items to bless residents at the Bethel Lutheran Home. We are pleased to work with the staff at Bethel to learn what is needed for residents and to organize and present these items as giving options to the public. If you are interested in participating this year, simply scan this QR Code to sign up to purchase an item and drop it off unwrapped in the holiday box at the Williston ARC (by the pool windows) OR at the Williston Community Library by Friday, December 16th. Thank you for helping to brighten this Christmas season for the beautiful souls at Bethel!



Sometimes a small
thing you do can mean
everything in another
person's life.

THANK YOU

Dakota Family Solutions could not do what we do without others joining us! We want to thank everyone who has participated in any way over the last year to help impact our community with the love of God. To those who serve on our board, host meetings, plan and implement events, provide meals, help lead groups, donate items for Bethel and the Baby Steps Boutique, volunteer their time, give generously, and pray for this ministry—we appreciate all of you more than we can express! Thank you!

