

(4th Quarter)

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

Every day we are exposed to 3,000 advertisements; 1.2 million in a year. In 2007, that number was 600 a day. Its tough competition to keep us and our families focused on our blessings, so we share this thought:

Traveling to grandma and grandpa's house, we used to play the game of "Who can see the church first." The church was at the corner where we'd turn toward the farm. In the flat plains of North Dakota with rows and rows of shelter belts, it was hard for us as kids to know which would be the last row of trees so who'd be the first to see the church. It was anticipation, it was waiting, it was excitement, and ultimately it was an appearing.

As we enter the season of Advent we get ready by setting out the colors of Christmas, by burning candles in a wreath, by lighting our houses, by preparing gifts of food and finding presents for loved ones. Busily, we are preparing and anticipating a coming, an arrival.

It is our prayer that each of you will look beyond the routine and see that the ultimate sight is coming. It's just past the next row at the shopping center, it's just ahead of the next Christmas gathering, it's a bit further than the wrapping and carols, it's following the snow and the wind, and it's in all our hearts this season. It's our Lord, our Savior, our Messiah, and we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others. (Isaiah 42:6)

Dakotas United

Methodist Foundation

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Multiplying Your Gifts for the Kingdom of God

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