

Short Term Mission Opportunity Black Hills of South Dakota – August 8-15, 2026

The Departments of Evangelism of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and the Dakotas have teamed up in each of the last 25 years to minister at the annual gathering of over 400,000 people in Sturgis, South Dakota for Bike Week. (Attendance in 2015 was 739,000.)

The original strategy the first year was to stage a barbecue and concert on the Thursday evening of Bike Week. This plan was scuttled when the venue selected became unavailable at the last minute. Under the direction of Steve Bils, then Minister of Outreach at First Baptist Church of Omaha, and Pat McBride, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the Northern Hills in Deadwood, the project was redesigned.

The **ABC Emergency Services Center** was created in the basement of the First Baptist Church of the Northern Hills in Deadwood to help those who became stranded due to injury, abandonment, or mechanical breakdown.

The local law enforcement and social services agencies were encouraged to contact our workers when they ran across people in need. The distribution of thousands of posters and brochures helped others find the ESC on their own. (NOTE: Since 2011 we have been based at First Baptist Church of Rapid City.)

Volunteers from around the world spend all or part of the week helping, feeding, transporting, and counseling the dozens of individuals who come to the ABCESC for assistance. Throughout the week calls come in at all hours of the day and night from churches, police and rescue workers, and individuals wanting us to help men, women, and children in need. Rapid City has become a strategic base of operations as transportation to the hospitals, rescue mission, bus station, and airport is provided.

In addition to the two regions and their churches, the Christian Motorcyclists Association, the Hellfighters Mission at the Cross, the Bond Slaves Cycle Club, the Cornerstone Mission in Rapid City, and the Artemis House in Spearfish provide invaluable assistance in a genuine spirit of ecumenical cooperation.

At this year's 86th Anniversary Rally we expect a rally attendance number to approach last year's count of 537,000. This is a great short-term, cross-cultural mission opportunity for individuals and church groups.

Volunteers don't need to be motorcyclists, but ought to have a heart for evangelism and a willingness to serve. Women volunteers are especially needed due to the large percentage of women and children that we end up assisting. If you can come for all or part of the week we can find a job for you!

Interested in Sturgis Rally Ministry 2026? Here are more details . . .

- ♦ The ABC Emergency Services Center will be open August 8-15. Volunteers wishing to help set up can plan on arriving as early as August 7.
- ♦ Housing is provided. Most volunteers bring an air mattress or a cot.
- ♦ RVers will be provided with space to set up camp.
- ♦ This mission project is designed for adults. High school students will be permitted when accompanied by a parent.
- ♦ Routes to Sturgis will be planned for bikers who wish to ride to the event in a group.
- ♦ Follow-up on those ministered to will be coordinated by contacts in ABC regions around the country.
- ♦ Each participant is asked to contribute \$100 toward the cost of this project. Local churches are encouraged to assist their participating members in raising this amount. Churches and individuals may also make contributions to this project through their regional office.

For more information contact . . .

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**American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and the Dakotas
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Short-Term Mission Project
Volunteer Staff Registration**



Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Home Church _____ Pastor _____

Address City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

If you have participated in any other missionary service, please describe.

Please provide name and contact information for the person to be notified in case of emergency:

Name _____

Address _____ City, ST Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Volunteers are expected to carry their own medical insurance. Please provide:

Plan name _____

Name and address of insurer _____

Policy number _____

Will you be available to work the entire week? _____

What days will you be available? _____

Do you need information about RV space? _____

Do you have any special needs or handicaps that need to be accommodated? _____

Do you have any specific questions? _____

Please complete and return by mail, fax or email to: American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
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