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**Thanksgiving**



**November 28, 2002**



**December 25, 2002**

**2002  
VOL. 5  
No. 3**

**SPECIAL THANKS**

It is a joy to greet each of you who serves as a Mission Advocate for American Baptist missions in your congregation.

Now more than ever, it is necessary that we join together to promote American Baptist Mission Support.

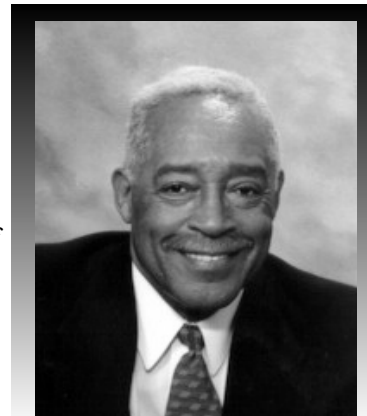
This is a crucial time in the life of American Baptist Churches USA and World Mission Support. We are facing financial shortfalls, Budget Covenant agreement changes, possible denominational restructuring, and uncertain world conditions, all of which confirm the need to continue in our ministry of service to our local congregations, communities and all the world.

In a time when peace is threatened at home and

abroad, it is mandatory that faithful, committed servants of God support the spread of the "Good News of Jesus Christ." It remains the mandate of the church to proclaim the story of God's love for us, to serve God through the support of our United Mission efforts, and to give thanks for all that God has done.

In the midst of support for the World Mission Offering this fall and our ongoing support of United Mission, we are grateful for all of your contributions on behalf of American Baptist Mission Support.

We need to finish this year with the support of *every* American Baptist church so that the work can be continued. With your efforts and God's blessings, **we can do it!**



**Thank you for what you have done!**

**Thank you for what you are doing!**

**Thank you for what you will do!**

Dr. Albert Paul Brinson  
Interim Associate General  
Secretary for World Mission  
Support

**THE ORIGIN OF PHONE-A-MISSIONARY**

In 1965 a pastor out in the plains of Colorado and unable to get missionary speakers heard about telecommunication and thought this would be the answer for them. He contacted his executive minister, who agreed it might just work and suggested he contact his minister of mission support at the annual

meeting. The two agreed to work on setting up three missionaries for three Sunday nights during school of missions. It worked well. *Crusader Magazine* covered the event in the April 1966 copy of the magazine. After this great event it became a World Mission Support program that pays for the call with United Mission Dollars.





*Your gift will provide a  
Thank You check for  
years of service and  
emergency aid to those  
experiencing financial  
hardship.*



## GRATITUDE FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS

### THE 2002 RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

During these difficult economic times, many retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses have a hard time making ends meet. After receiving a Thank You check last November, a retired minister wrote: "Our limited income is just enough for us to live on, so every little bit helps. We are grateful for what the Lord provides."

Since 1935 American Baptists have contributed to special offerings received in their churches for retired ABC ministers and missionaries. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977.

The theme of the 2002 RMMO is *Gratitude for Their Faithfulness*. The offering, which will be taken by most churches on Sunday, December 1, 2002, is a tangible way by which American Baptists can thank retired ABC ministers and missionaries for their service to the denomination. Thank You checks are sent to over 3,000 recipients, including the widowed spouses of retired ministers and missionaries. Last year the average Thank You check was \$299.87. Emergency assistance is also available for those with special financial need.

Here is what you can do as a Mission Advocate in your church to promote this very important offering:

**1. READ** each of the RMMO promotional pieces that are being shipped to your church in mid-October. These materials illustrate what is distinct about the RMMO. Also, watch for and read *ABC People* magazine, which will be mailed to pastors and RMMO coordinators. The magazine is a good source of personal stories about retired ABC ministers and missionaries.

**2. ASK** other people to help you with the promotion. One person might prepare a short mission message or children's message for a Sunday morning worship service. Another person could make a bulletin board display from the promotional materials and *ABC People* magazine. Another could oversee



the RMMO mailing to the church membership. Yet another could make sure that offering envelopes are in the pew racks for Offering Sunday.

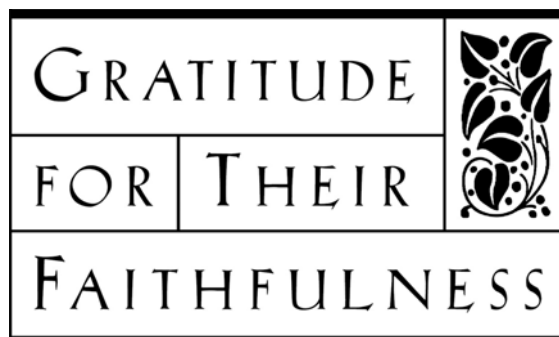
**3. SET** a goal. Some churches will do this by increasing the previous year's offering total by a percentage. Others might establish their goal as the amount of a certain number of Thank You checks. Churches that have never participated might want to consider setting a goal of \$300 (last year's average Thank You check was \$299.87).

**4. PERSONALIZE** your promotion. Include in the promotion former ministers or their widowed spouses who have served your church. Invite them to send a personal message that can be read to the congregation. Use the stories in *ABC People* magazine. Each of these persons receives a Thank You check.

**5. CALL** 1-800-458-3766 to order additional RMMO promotional materials from Judson Press. Call 1-800-986-6222 to order additional copies of *ABC People*.

Your church's gift to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering will be an expression of *GRATITUDE FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS*.

*The RMMO is administered by  
The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1700  
New York, NY 10115-0049  
Tel: 1-800-986-6222  
Fax: 1-800-986-6782  
Web: [www.mmbb.org](http://www.mmbb.org)*



***"I AM  
GRATEFUL TO  
CHRIST JESUS OUR  
LORD, WHO HAS  
STRENGTHENED  
ME, BECAUSE HE  
JUDGED ME  
FAITHFUL AND  
APPOINTED ME TO  
HIS SERVICE."***

***1 Timothy 1:12***





## EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES: CLARIFYING THE MISSION AND VISION

In looking to the future and the needs of the ABCUSA, Educational Ministries recently clarified both its mission and vision.

**The Mission of Educational Ministries:** Support, learn from, equip and challenge the diverse congregations of the American Baptist Churches to be disciple-making communities of Jesus Christ fully engaging their ministry contexts.

**Our Vision for Educational Ministries:** Every ABC congregation a disciple-making community.

To communicate this thinking, Educational Ministries recently produced a new Discipleship Matters brochure. Now available from Judson Press, the brochure details what is involved with discipleship, including Deepening, Equipping, and Ministering. The piece also describes the characteristics of a disciple-making congregation, and outlines Educational Ministries core values in ministry and organization.

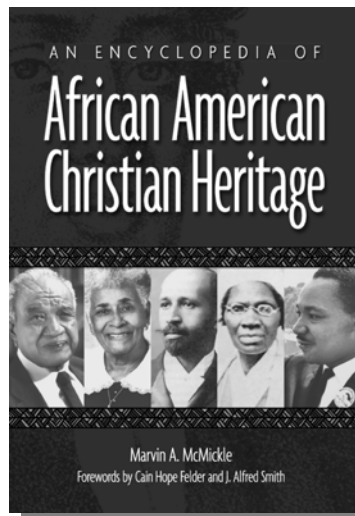
Judson Press recently has published a number of titles that exemplify EM's mission.

### The Encyclopedia of African American Heritage

Marvin A. McMickle with Forewords by Cain Hope Felder and J. Alfred Smith, Sr. McMickle's book has received widespread accolades. *Publishers Weekly* called it "...a valuable historical resource.

One especially welcome feature that distinguishes this from other reference books on African American Christianity is its up-to-date inclusion of current leaders such as Cornel West, T.D. Jakes, and Katie Cannon."

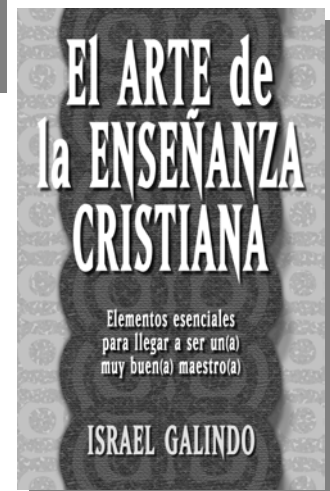
ENAFAM, \$30.00



**JUDSON  
Press®**

### El Arte de la Ensenanza Cristiana Israel Galindo

In response to the growth of the Hispanic community, Galindo brings us the Spanish edition of the popular *The Craft of Christian Teaching*. For all who understand the vital role played by Christian teachers, this book is a must. ARENCR, \$16.00

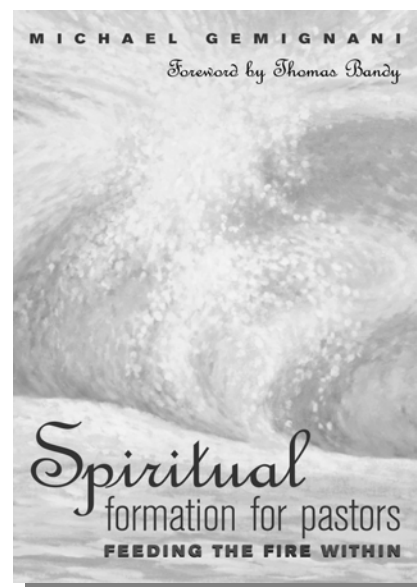
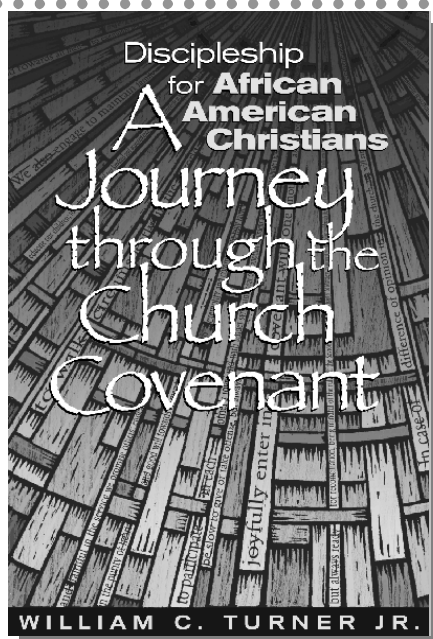


**Discipleship for  
African American  
Christians:  
A Journey through  
the Church  
Covenant.**

*William C. Turner Jr.*

Turner uses the Church Covenant as a vehicle for teaching Baptist faith. It is an ideal resource for new church members or others who want to understand more about the nature of their faith.

DIAFAM, \$15.00



**Spiritual Formation for Pastors**

*Michael Gemignani*

A well-grounded spirituality is essential for those in Christian leadership. This guide takes pastors on a journey to develop their own spirituality based on their calling, interests, and ministry gifts.

SPFOPA, \$14.00



**Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of  
Baptist Faith**

*Everett C. Goodwin*

A short, digestible read, *Down by the Riverside* is an ideal primer for Sunday school classes where students are learning the history of their faith.

DOBYRI, \$13.00

To order the new Educational Ministries brochure or any of these new Judson Press titles, call 800-4-JUDSON, or order online at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).



...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8



*Rev. Carol Sutton  
National Movement  
Director  
NEW LIFE 2010*

***Transforming  
American Baptist  
congregations for  
the new  
millennium.***

## THE STORY BEHIND NEW LIFE 2010

*NEW LIFE 2010 is a vision set forth in 1998 for American Baptists to reach 1,000,010 new disciples, plant 1,010 new churches, vitalize a multitude of caring ministries—and so transform our congregations by the year 2010.*

The NEW LIFE 2010 vision calls for a strong mission partnership that includes American Baptist congregations, 34 regions, and the national mission organizations.

This summer the NEW LIFE 2010 page on National Ministries' Website carried a question for visitors: "Which area of NEW LIFE 2010 interests you most?"

The Rev. Carol Sutton, National Ministries' national movement director for NEW LIFE 2010, reports that 39 percent of those responding chose *new church planting*. One stated that "new church planting holds potential for involving the other three categories."

*Congregational transformation* was number two in the poll. As another person wrote, "It is discouraging to be doing things only to survive, rather than new things to introduce others to Christ."

Twenty percent of respondents selected *evangelism* as their major area of interest. Two comments: "It's a tangible goal" and "Spreading God's word is an awesome task."

*Caring ministries* ran a close race with evangelism, garnering 17 percent. "Caring ministries are the way the church ministers to the needs of the world," said one American Baptist.

Sutton believes that NEW LIFE 2010 begins within individual Christians who claim the power of the Spirit and follow the Spirit's leading: "Each believer who wants to can be part of NEW LIFE 2010 in whatever way God desires to use his or her gifts."

How is your church involved with NEW LIFE 2010? Sutton is interested in your stories. Contact her at [carol.sutton@abc-usa.org](mailto:carol.sutton@abc-usa.org) or 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2425.





New church with a caring ministry:  
Members of River of Life Community Church in Zanesville, Ohio, build a fence for Transitions, a nearby women's shelter.

### ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Visit **[www.newlife2010.org](http://www.newlife2010.org)** for updates and helpful links:
  - Community-Based Ministries
  - Congregational Transformation
  - Evangelism
  - Lideres Juveniles
  - New Church Planting
  - Talleres en Espanol ya Preparados (Educational Ministries)
- Order colorful, FREE bulletin covers with NEW LIFE 2010 litany at 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2464.
- Sign up for the "NEW LIFE Network" newsletter at 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2407.





International  
Ministries

## WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE

### AUGUST 2-9, 2003

*Experience*

*Evangelism &*

*Discipleship*

***E-van-ge-lism (n):***  
*the winning or revival*  
*of personal*  
*commitments to*  
*Christ*

***Dis-ci-ple-ship (n):***  
*the ongoing*  
*commitment to follow*  
*Jesus Christ as Lord*

The 2003 World Mission Conference theme is Evangelism and Discipleship, one of the mission priorities in IM's *Go Global* strategic plan.

How do we here in the US and Puerto Rico cross cultural barriers to proclaim the gospel? How can we partner with immigrant churches to enrich our ministry efforts overseas? Why is evangelism

growing so rapidly outside the USA? What can we learn from our Baptist partners and their methods? What does discipleship look like in our own local churches, nationally and around the world? Come, catch the vision!

Bible study leader will be Dr. Molly Marshall, Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas.

Commissioning speaker will be Dr. Billy Kim, President of the Baptist World Alliance and pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Suwon, Korea.

Contemporary Missiology will be taught by Dr. Samuel Escobar, missionary to Spain and Instructor at Baptist Seminary of Madrid.

What do we hope you will gain by attending the conference?

- Meet and interact with Baptist leaders from around the world as they share stories of success, failure and the importance of persevering in their efforts to share the Good News;
- Spend some time with more than 2 dozen missionaries and their families;
- Hear firsthand what God is doing in the areas of evangelism and discipleship from our Baptist partners and missionaries;
- Learn more about the missiology of International Ministries and our vision for the future;
- Meet with other MAPs through formal times and informal sharing;
- Gain first hand knowledge of the conference to share with folks in your region.

*...MAY GOD'S GLORY FILL THE WHOLE EARTH.*  
**go+global**  
*PSALM 72:19*





In addition to all the great international music, teaching and programs, there will be some fun times too! The Korean Children's Choir will be singing, there's an outdoor International Marketplace where you can learn more about others cultures, daily devotions lead by the missionaries, a new late night café, and the highlight of the week the commissioning service for the new missionaries!

Visit IM's website at **www.internationalministries.org**. You can view the conference schedule, read about the leadership, learn about special features like programs for youth and young adults, and even register to attend online!

Two easy steps to attend:

1. Starting January 2, 2003 make your room and meal reservation with Green Lake. Call 800-558-8898.
2. Then go to IM's website to register online, or print out the form & mail it in with your payment. You may request a form by calling 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2176.

Pre-registration is open until July 11, 2003. Program fee is \$100 for adults, \$60 for youth (12-17). Registration after July 11 will be \$110 for adults, and \$70 for youth.

## Share Jesus 2002 World Mission Offering



**Revs. Carvalho & Lima from Brazil visit with Miss Cofre Sanchez of Chile.**



**Two conferees visit with Say Plan from Burma**





## Mission Advocates in *Partnership*

### ADVOCATE ACTIONS:

- Read 1 Chronicles 28-29 to discover the ways in which God worked with David, Solomon, and leaders of Israel to conduct a stewardship oriented capital campaign.
- Encourage your congregation to give to American Baptist missions through your church or online at [www.ABCUSAMISSEIONS.org](http://www.ABCUSAMISSEIONS.org)

### A Key Resource for Lifting up Missions in your Church!

When it comes to understanding United Mission, one of your best resources is your regional minister of mission support! Ask him or her to visit your church and share about United Mission, the four offerings, your role as a Mission Advocate, stewardship programs, and many other aspects of mission.

Through United Mission you effectively contribute to all of our American Baptist mission efforts and also underwrite the greater activity of the denomination, including the General Board and ABC Mission Center at Valley Forge.

If you ask others to evaluate the mission work of ABCUSA, they will tell you that we have one of the best mission programs in the world. ***I want to be part of the best. Don't you?***

As a Mission Advocate you represent a vital component in sharing the story of United Mission with your congregation. Thank you for continuing to share the story our American Baptist mission.

### Have you seen the new Mission Advocate Tool Box?

Your minister of mission support has one. It contains many hands-on ideas for what you might consider doing in your role as a Mission Advocate, such as ways of saying Thank You, mentoring, youth involvement, tailgate parties, etc. We hope to add at least one new way activity to the toolbox every year. You might have a great idea to add yourself. If so, please forward it via e-mail to us at [Lorie.Smith@abc-usa.org](mailto:Lorie.Smith@abc-usa.org).

### ABCUSA Biennial – Richmond, Virginia, June 2003

Mark your calendar for our third Mission Advocates Breakfast at the ABCUSA Biennial Meeting on Monday, June 20, 2003.

Our past two Mission Advocates breakfasts have been wonderfully successful and attended by hundreds of Mission Advocates. If you have been to one of these events, you want to be at the next one. You will receive updates, meet other Mission Advocates, share stories, and experience a unique event!

### A snapshot on giving...

*USA Today Snapshots – June 12, 2000*

People were interviewed and indicated that “I’d give more, but...” Obstacles adults encounter that prevent their participation in charitable activities to the extent they would like:

- Not confident donation put to good use – 84%
- Not enough time due to job commitments – 80%
- Not enough discretionary income – 79%
- Not enough time due to family commitments – 77%



*Do you have a  
natural enthusiasm  
for the cause of  
Christ and the  
Gospel?*

What do you think? Do any of these reasons fit your church? Maybe you could conduct your own survey to see what the people of your church would say.

### *From the Christian Stewardship Association*

- 10% of churches have active programs to teach biblical financial and stewardship principles.
- 15% of pastors feel they have been equipped by their denomination or seminary to teach biblical financial and stewardship principles.
- 1-2% of Christian colleges and universities offer courses, seminars or Bible studies to teach their students biblical financial principles.
- 10% of denominations actively seek to equip their pastors and churches to teach biblical financial and stewardship principles.
- During this time of stewardship silence there has been over 25 years of decline in the percentage of income that Christians give.

### *From The Empty Tomb*

- 1.5-3.5% is the percentage of income that Christians give to church and religious causes (contingent on their denomination).

### *From George Barna Research*

- 17% of Christians say they tithe (give 10% or more).
- 3% of Christians actually tithe (give 10% or more).

## **Another thought from Consultant Arthur Frantzreb...**

The Biblical widow (Luke 21) who donated her only possession one “mite” to the temple has been called the greatest unrecognized philanthropist in history.

Never heard of a “mite?” An Israeli mite is no golden nugget basically, it looks like a piece of asphalt about two-thirds the size of a dime. Sounds worthless, but...

If the temple had invested the widow’s mite in a Bank of Jerusalem savings account at 4% interest compounded semi-annually, it would be worth over a hundred trillion dollars today!

## ***Mission Advocate Question***

“The pastor doesn’t like to disrupt worship services. How can I do stewardship education outside of worship? Here are several ideas that help answer this question.

- (1) Does the church have regular mailings to members’ homes? Consider including educational information as part of the mailings.
  - (2) Consider distributing a one-page handout to everyone as they enter or leave the worship service. This could also be inserted into the bulletin.
  - (3) Ask for 3-5 minutes in every Sunday school class or group meeting to present important information and organize a small group to help you with these presentations.
  - (4) If you have fellowship or potluck dinners, ask for 3-5 minutes for mission.
  - (5) Ask about the possibility of presenting information to the children of the church. Put items in a format that is interesting to children. This can be very effective and often the children will share the information with their parents.
  - (6) You might even consider standing in the church parking lot with a billboard, dressed as a missionary or in a costume, with handouts, a skit or drama, etc.
- If you really want to spread the word, you’ll find a way!

*Would you like to  
know how  
American Baptists  
“do mission” in  
your community,  
your region, our  
country, and other  
countries around  
the world?*



*We can Make a Difference!*





IGLESIAS BAUTISTAS  
AMERICANAS EUA

### *A few quotes...*

“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.” (Hebrews 3; 4 – NKJV)

“True giving knows no season.” (Florence E. King, 1888-1983)

“The purest giving has no other motive but to give. It seeks pleasure rather than gratitude, fun rather than sacrifice, sharing rather than barter.” (Bel Kaufman, c.1914)

“It’s not your blood, your pedigree, or your college degree that matters. It’s what you do with your life that counts.” (Millard Fuller, 1936- )

“Giving is more a dictate of the heart than a command of the brain.” (Henry A. Rosso, 1917–2000)

“Wealth, like happiness, is never attained when sought after directly. It always comes as a by-product of providing a useful service.” (Henry Ford, 1863-1947)

“We’d all like the reputation for generosity, but we’d all like to buy it cheap.” (Michael Gates, 1963- )

“People think that if they were rich, they would contribute to charities. My experience has been if you don’t start giving away your money when you have very little, you won’t do it when you get a lot.” (Robert Barnum, 1925- )

“The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things.” (Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887)

### *Stewardship Development Team - The Ten Assignments*

- (1) Be sure that mission and vision statements are in place and well understood by the congregation.
- (2) Be sure that a 2-3 year strategic plan is in place to accomplish the mission and vision statements.
- (3) Design an ongoing strategy of communication to members regarding what is being accomplished by the giving that is taking place, and how these accomplishments enable the strategic plan.
- (4) Design and carry out annually a ministry plan (budget), development, and promotion emphasis that ties into the strategic plan, mission and vision statements.
- (5) Give members training in life skills: gift discovery and development, money management, career guidance and estate conversation.
- (6) Create designated giving (special projects) opportunities for those persons who give only once per year or are short-term givers.
- (7) Teach tithing as a goal, a standard and a springboard. Introduce the concept of “the giving path.” Regularly invite people to move along the path.
- (8) Promote deferred gifts through bequests and beneficiary designations. Adopt policies on how to handle bequests.
- (9) Decide on the development of endowment funds through current or deferred gifts. Limit the number of endowment choices to areas consistent with mission and vision.
- (10) Evaluate the need and timing of capital campaigns for large projects. Consider various approaches to campaigns, from self-led to full consultant service. Remember to undergird all of this in prayer and to lift it up as you do it as an offering of praise and adoration to God.

*Would you like to  
help your pastor  
develop your  
church’s mission  
potential?*



***Taken from... "Developing Faith and Generous Donors: The Ideals and the Challenges"*** by Dr. Thomas H. Jeavons and Dr. Rebekah Burch Basinger (1025-26, 2001)

"Over the past decade or so we watched with some concern as a wide range of Christian organizations, from small congregations to very large service organizations, have become more deeply involved in intensive fund-raising efforts. We do not think it is problematic that these organizations should seek funds (or more funds) to support their programs. We do not believe that the spiritual and the material cannot co-exist. Quite the contrary, we believe that putting Mammon (money) at the service of God (see Matthew 6:24) and learning to relate to the material and economic world from a basic stance of gratitude and generosity is both a requirement for and a fruit of growing deeper in faith.

"We are, however, concerned by the methods employed by many Christian organizations in seeking funds. When they use fund-raising strategies and techniques that are rooted more in a market-exchange model than in a vision of genuine altruism, as is typical of some secular non-profits, religious organizations encourage donors to understand giving in terms of calculated self-interest instead of selfless service, a commitment to community, and personal compassion. Such an approach is not in keeping with the teachings of these faith traditions.

"In addition, and perhaps most importantly, religious organizations that are not reflective in choosing the fund-raising methods they employ may be missing a great opportunity to help donors experience or deepen their faith through the practice of giving. Why? Because, as one insightful commentator has noted, 'In fundraising, as in any other pastoral activity, we are subtly, yet powerfully, sharing people's images of God, themselves, the Church, and their world' (Raschko, "Theology of Stewardship" in *Stewardship: Disciples Respond*. 1997. page 54)."

Jeavons and Basinger have written a book worth reading entitled: *Growing Givers' Hearts: Treating Fund Raising as Ministry*.

*Talk to your pastor  
and regional  
minister of mission  
support about  
becoming a Mission  
Advocate in  
Partnership.*

## ***Worth Getting...***

If you haven't yet seen a copy of the new material entitled, *In Our Time Faithful to the Call*, we encourage you to contact National Ministries for a copy. National Ministries, incorporated as The American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, assisted by the American Baptist Historical Society, made this material possible. This booklet is a tremendous gift to us as a church family as it shows our history in a timeline format interspersed with living stories. There is also a shorter piece called *Pilgrimage of Faith*, which is available from the the American Baptist Historical Society.

## ***The Gift... (by Robert J. Crandall)***

Most of us start thinking about buying the best gift we can find for our loved ones long before the Christmas season is upon us. My wife and I actually start in January. Every time we see something that would make a great gift for one of our loved ones at Christmas, we buy it! Sometimes it simply means saving the catalog with the item in it and ordering later. We enjoy thinking about our loved ones and what might be pleasing to them all year long.

I realize that my Savior Jesus Christ was the *perfect* gift for me, not just the best gift. God enjoys thinking about the impact of that perfect gift on me all year long and for eternity. What is my response to this perfect gift?



...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

## Teaching Your Children...

What are you teaching and modeling for your children in terms of using their resources for God's ministry? For many parents they decide on their gift to ministry without any conversation or thought about how to communicate this with their children.

Try this after your child turns age 5, put him or her in charge of deciding where part of your giving for God's ministry will go. Consider an amount between \$50 and \$500 dollars that you would ask them to give away to what they care about. Then mentor them through the process of deciding where the gift will go and why. They will need to know possible choices and what these ministries do for the mission of Christ. It will educate you and your children to make an informed decision. If you pray about it together, you will learn that God will direct and lead.

This is one idea. If you have more, let us know! Contact us at [Lorie.Smith@abc-usa.org](mailto:Lorie.Smith@abc-usa.org)



The needs  
in America  
are greater  
than ever  
before.

Please  
respond  
as never  
before.

*Give*  
to the

**AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2003**



**AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2003**

**WE  
SEE  
YOU!**

MATTHEW 25:37



**AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2003**

