



### **BUILDING A CHRISTIAN CULTURE OF GRATITUDE**

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you as  
I remember you in my prayers."*

—Ephesians 1:16

In this familiar passage, Paul shows his gratitude to the church at Ephesus for the love and devotion they displayed as he ministered to them. This culture of gratitude — where spiritual leaders give thanks for the church's fellowship, and God's followers give thanks for ministers' and missionaries' spiritual guidance — is deeply ingrained in the Christian faith.

Today, RMMO is a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say "Thank you for ..." the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers and missionaries. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in their times of need and a Thank You check at the end of each year. In 2011, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 recipients. This year's national RMMO campaign goal is \$1.2 million.

Join us in saying "Thank you for ..." the countless ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

We will receive RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.



### **BUILDING A CHRISTIAN CULTURE OF GRATITUDE**

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you as  
I remember you in my prayers."*

—Ephesians 1:16

In this familiar passage, Paul shows his gratitude to the church at Ephesus for the love and devotion they displayed as he ministered to them. This culture of gratitude — where spiritual leaders give thanks for the church's fellowship, and God's followers give thanks for ministers' and missionaries' spiritual guidance — is deeply ingrained in the Christian faith.

Today, RMMO is a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say "Thank you for ..." the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers and missionaries. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in their times of need and a Thank You check at the end of each year. In 2011, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 recipients. This year's national RMMO campaign goal is \$1.2 million.

Join us in saying "Thank you for ..." the countless ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

We will receive RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.

BUILDING A CHRISTIAN CULTURE OF GRATITUDE

Giving to RMMO is one way to say "Thank you for ..." all the ways ministers and missionaries have helped guide you along your spiritual journey. Sharing a personal Story of Thanks is another way to remember and recognize the important role these leaders have played in your life.

Thank You For...

Devoting your life to God's work.

"I remember a friend who spent 25 years as a missionary in Africa and a pastor who supported my friend during the loss of a child. This work is so important, but there is a tendency to forget these people's service when they are no longer in the field or the pulpit. I think that is a real shame. RMMO is a way to say thank you, not just to one individual, but to everyone who has served."

—Dr. Andrew K. Palmer, Eastham, MA



Thank You For...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

If you share with us your Story of Thanks, we will use it to help highlight all of the ways retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregation.

BUILDING A CHRISTIAN CULTURE OF GRATITUDE

Giving to RMMO is one way to say "Thank you for ..." all the ways ministers and missionaries have helped guide you along your spiritual journey. Sharing a personal Story of Thanks is another way to remember and recognize the important role these leaders have played in your life.

Thank You For...

Devoting your life to God's work.

"I remember a friend who spent 25 years as a missionary in Africa and a pastor who supported my friend during the loss of a child. This work is so important, but there is a tendency to forget these people's service when they are no longer in the field or the pulpit. I think that is a real shame. RMMO is a way to say thank you, not just to one individual, but to everyone who has served."

—Dr. Andrew K. Palmer, Eastham, MA



Thank You For...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

If you share with us your Story of Thanks, we will use it to help highlight all of the ways retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregation.



### A TRADITION OF THANKFULNESS

#### *Thank You For...*

The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1948, churches began donating to the November Communion Fellowship Offering, providing financial assistance to the denomination's elderly ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. In 1977 American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this tradition of thankfulness.

Today RMMO is a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say "Thank you for ..." the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in their times of need and a Thank You check at the end of each year. In 2011, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 people.

Recipients of emergency financial assistance and the Thank You checks provided by RMMO consistently express their thanks for your generosity. Read some of their Stories of Thanks on the back.



### A TRADITION OF THANKFULNESS

#### *Thank You For...*

The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1948, churches began donating to the November Communion Fellowship Offering, providing financial assistance to the denomination's elderly ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. In 1977 American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this tradition of thankfulness.

Today RMMO is a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say "Thank you for ..." the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in their times of need and a Thank You check at the end of each year. In 2011, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 people.

Recipients of emergency financial assistance and the Thank You checks provided by RMMO consistently express their thanks for your generosity. Read some of their Stories of Thanks on the back.

## A TRADITION OF THANKFULNESS

Those who receive emergency assistance and Thank You checks through RMMO continually express their gratitude. See how your gift helps real people.

*Thank You For... Helping my friend see the doctor he needed.*

"A former colleague of mine had put off an eye exam for months because his family couldn't afford it. The check from RMMO came right in time for him to see the doctor and get the glasses he needed. This special gift not only helps recipients during their time of need, it helps us all feel the gratitude and support of our Christian family."

—Rev. Dr. Dan MacDonald, Ronks, PA  
RMMO recipient



## A TRADITION OF THANKFULNESS

Those who receive emergency assistance and Thank You checks through RMMO continually express their gratitude. See how your gift helps real people.

*Thank You For... Helping my friend see the doctor he needed.*

"A former colleague of mine had put off an eye exam for months because his family couldn't afford it. The check from RMMO came right in time for him to see the doctor and get the glasses he needed. This special gift not only helps recipients during their time of need, it helps us all feel the gratitude and support of our Christian family."

—Rev. Dr. Dan MacDonald, Ronks, PA  
RMMO recipient



*Thank You For...  
Giving my family the security  
we needed to follow God's call.*

"Missionaries are notorious for not planning for the future. It is very comforting to know that somebody has our back if emergencies come up. If it weren't for something like this, it would be very difficult for many pastors to choose a life of service."

—Missionary Fred Downs,  
served in India for 40 years, Dennis, MA  
RMMO recipient



*Thank You For...  
Giving my family the security  
we needed to follow God's call.*

"Missionaries are notorious for not planning for the future. It is very comforting to know that somebody has our back if emergencies come up. If it weren't for something like this, it would be very difficult for many pastors to choose a life of service."

—Missionary Fred Downs,  
served in India for 40 years, Dennis, MA  
RMMO recipient



Join us in saying "Thank you for ..." the many ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

We will receive RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.

Join us in saying "Thank you for ..." the many ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

We will receive RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF RMMO

Following God's call does not come without certain sacrifices. Retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited options for adequately planning for the future. Medical problems, moves or the death of a spouse can also cause these leaders to find themselves far from the church family that once supported them.

The assistance provided by RMMO restores that lifeline and ongoing connection to the ABC family. Like anyone else, retired ministers and missionaries experience stress and worry when unexpected expenses arise. RMMO exists to alleviate stress, worry and the hardship of unexpected expenses — and also to say “Thank you for ...” the sacrifices our retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have made in order to serve the church.

RMMO recipients have used their funds:

- To cover medical expenses for hearing aids, dental services and vision care, which are not typically covered by Medicare
- To cover emergency medical procedures for themselves and their families
- To purchase prescription medication not covered under health insurance
- To make emergency home repairs

Join us to say “Thank you for ...” the countless ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

We will receive RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF RMMO

Following God's call does not come without certain sacrifices. Retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited options for adequately planning for the future. Medical problems, moves or the death of a spouse can also cause these leaders to find themselves far from the church family that once supported them.

The assistance provided by RMMO restores that lifeline and ongoing connection to the ABC family. Like anyone else, retired ministers and missionaries experience stress and worry when unexpected expenses arise. RMMO exists to alleviate stress, worry and the hardship of unexpected expenses — and also to say “Thank you for ...” the sacrifices our retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have made in order to serve the church.

RMMO recipients have used their funds:

- To cover medical expenses for hearing aids, dental services and vision care, which are not typically covered by Medicare
- To cover emergency medical procedures for themselves and their families
- To purchase prescription medication not covered under health insurance
- To make emergency home repairs

Join us to say “Thank you for ...” the countless ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

We will receive RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RMMO

In 2011, thanks to your generosity, contributions to RMMO totaled more than \$1.2 million. RMMO recipients often tell us about the difference your gift makes in their lives. Sometimes your gift is the answer to an urgent prayer. Other times it is a heartwarming reminder that the American Baptist Churches still love and support those who gave so much to the church. But every time they receive emergency assistance or a Thank You check, the retired ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses pause to say

*Thank You For...*

*...Providing in my time of need.*

"At our age, there seem to be more and more dental and medical emergencies. These unexpected expenses can really put a drain on our resources. Thank you for your generous support. It is encouraging to know that we have a place to turn when these unexpected financial situations arise."

—Retired minister in VT

*...Helping me to carry on.*

"In every way I am benefited. I wouldn't be able to carry on without it."

—Rev. Dr. Paul M. Nagano, Atherton, CA  
RMMO Recipient

*...Getting me back on the road.*

"My husband and I appreciate so very much the help you gave us. We were able to pay our car insurance, so now I am free to drive. I don't know how many of us need your help, but I am sure we are not the only ones to feel so grateful."

—Retired Minister in FL

Your gift to RMMO makes a tangible difference in the lives of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses.

We will collect our RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RMMO

In 2011, thanks to your generosity, contributions to RMMO totaled more than \$1.2 million. RMMO recipients often tell us about the difference your gift makes in their lives. Sometimes your gift is the answer to an urgent prayer. Other times it is a heartwarming reminder that the American Baptist Churches still love and support those who gave so much to the church. But every time they receive emergency assistance or a Thank You check, the retired ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses pause to say

*Thank You For...*

*...Providing in my time of need.*

"At our age, there seem to be more and more dental and medical emergencies. These unexpected expenses can really put a drain on our resources. Thank you for your generous support. It is encouraging to know that we have a place to turn when these unexpected financial situations arise."

—Retired minister in VT

*...Helping me to carry on.*

"In every way I am benefited. I wouldn't be able to carry on without it."

—Rev. Dr. Paul M. Nagano, Atherton, CA  
RMMO Recipient

*...Getting me back on the road.*

"My husband and I appreciate so very much the help you gave us. We were able to pay our car insurance, so now I am free to drive. I don't know how many of us need your help, but I am sure we are not the only ones to feel so grateful."

—Retired Minister in FL

Your gift to RMMO makes a tangible difference in the lives of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses.

We will collect our RMMO on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please help us reach our goal of \_\_\_\_\_ this year.