

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Thank You For...

A TRADITION OF THANKFULNESS

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. Finally, in 1977 American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this tradition of thankfulness.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is a personal offering, one rooted in thanks for the countless ways ministers and missionaries guide each member of the church along his or her spiritual journey. It provides 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, for those eligible, a “Thank You” check at the end of each year. In 2012, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 recipients.

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... Remembering us

“Please accept our thanks and our appreciation for the unexpected gift from the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. As an American Baptist pastor, I remember collecting this offering for many years in our churches and now we are the happy recipients.”

— Pastor Roger Jump

Thank You For... Helping me help others

“Thank you to RMMO for the check I received this year. I was able to write a check for our church’s offering. This year it went to help a young man in college. Thank you for enabling me to share with others.”

— Millie Zediker

Thank You For...

Helping me save for a rainy day

“We placed it [our RMMO gift] in our savings so that we could keep it for a rainy day. We truly appreciate all who contribute to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering as an expression of thanks to retired pastors and missionaries for the sacrificial service they gave to the Lord. May God bless them.”

— Pastor Len and Shirley Lewis

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.

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Thank You For...

THE IMPORTANCE OF RMMO

Following God’s call does not come without sacrifice. 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 you provide through a contribution to RMMO restores that lifeline and maintains an ongoing connection to the ABC family. Like anyone else, retired ministers and missionaries experience stress and worry when faced with unexpected expenses. RMMO exists to alleviate that stress, worry and the hardship — and also to say “Thank you for ...” the sacrifices our retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have made in order to serve us and God.

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 by health insurance
- To make emergency home repairs
- To serve God and their community, even in retirement

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 2012, thanks to your generosity, contributions to RMMO totaled nearly \$700,000. 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.”

Thank You For...

...Giving to people you've never met.

“I used to visit one retired minister who had cheap hearing aids and really couldn't hear-- I passed the information along to MMBB —the next time I visited, he told us he was able to get hearing aids.

I visited a widow in Texas one summer, and she was talking about her electric bills—she was having difficulty paying them because of the heat wave. The next year when I visited, she had received RMMO funds. “I don't even know how they found out.” I didn't tell her, but it's part of the way we do things.

Before I retired, I met an American Baptist minister in the hospital, who mentioned he was having difficulty with his expenses. As a result, he was able to get assistance for paying his hospital bills from RMMO.

The beauty of it all was that each one of these people had no idea how MMBB discovered their needs and didn't know the thousands of people who gave gifts that would change their lives. It's a beautiful experience.”

— Recipient & Donor Walter G. Griffith

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

We will collect our RMMO on _____.

Please help us reach our goal of _____ this year.

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Thank You For...

EXTENDING OUR 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 2012, 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.

EXTENDING OUR 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 and devoted servants of God have played in your life. Share a story of how the men and woman who serve so faithfully as ministers and missionaries have changed your life.

Thank You For... your Legacy

“Legacy is something that is very strong for us. To support and care for our elders is very natural for us. Most of us care for our parents. We stand on the broad shoulders of those who came before us and have gotten our church to where it is. RMMO is a natural, simple way to communicate our gratitude.”

— Pastor Jonathan Wu

Thank You For...

Share with us your story of thanks, so we can highlight all of the ways retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our spiritual lives. Thank you for sharing.