

Retired
Ministers +
Missionaries
Offering
2016

Faith through Gratitude

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

— 1 Thessalonians 1: 2–3

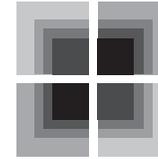
The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God’s service.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering honors the anonymous gift in 1981 of a Vietnamese woman worshipping with the First Chinese Baptist Church of Fresno, CA. Having no prior knowledge of the meaning of the offering, she slipped off her wristwatch, her only possession of value, and placed it in the envelope. This act of gratitude reflects the spirit of thankfulness and generosity Jesus talks about in Luke 21: 1–4. This sacrifice inspires us all to remember those who faithfully labor in the Lord at churches and faith-based organizations.

We will receive RMMO on _____.

Please help us reach our goal of _____ this year.

R969



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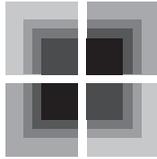
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The Importance of RMMMO

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

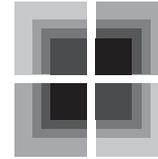
RMMMO provides financial support for the retired ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses who have helped build our churches. This assistance restores the lifeline and ongoing connection to the ABC family. Like anyone else, retired ministers and missionaries experience anxiety and worry when unforeseen costs arise. RMMMO exists to alleviate the stress and hardship of unexpected expenses.

RMMMO recipients have used their funds to:

- Pay for medical expenses not typically covered by Medicare — including hearing aids, dental services and vision care
- Pay for renovations to make their home wheelchair accessible
- Purchase prescription medication not covered under health insurance
- Make emergency home repairs

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“Over and over again we heard words of gratitude expressed to MMBB for their faithfulness in support of the ministry.”

Through MMBB’s Visitation ministry, recently retired clergy volunteer to conduct pastoral visits to longtime annuitants. The Visitation ministry helps us to stay connected to annuitants, listen to their concerns, and provide support and assistance where possible.

“We discovered retirees who used RMMMO money for prescription medicines, necessary home repair, help with medical expenses, winter fuel costs, rent and automotive expenses.

Recently, I was explaining the work of MMBB to a friend from another denomination. He was amazed that American Baptists take such good care of their retirees. Faithful support of the RMMMO offering makes that care possible. Carolyn and I urge each congregation to give generously to the 2016 RMMMO.”

— Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. and Carolyn Phelps, Aroostook Resource Minister,
Retired MMBB Visitor, Presque Isle, ME

Your generosity is a source of inspiration and an example of the gratitude that flows from our abiding faith in God.

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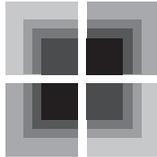
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Inspired by Hope

“My gratitude is to the Lord, and all the churches who kindly have collaborated to make this offering available to us retired pastors and also to you who faithfully distribute it.”

— Retired Pastor in Encinitas, CA

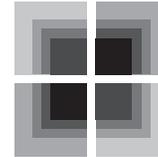
Since the 1930's, American Baptist congregations have contributed to a special offering to provide financial support to retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses. In 1977, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering was formally established to continue this time-honored tradition.

Your church's offering makes it possible to provide emergency assistance in times of crisis and to send a *Thank You* check to those who are eligible. Through your generous giving in 2015 we raised \$1,105,147. Of that amount, 57% was distributed to 3,436 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The average check was \$182.41. Our goal for 2016 is \$1.1 million.

Over the years recipients have used these funds to pay for home repairs, and pay for an array of medical, dental and prescription expenses. Read the moving testimonials on the reverse side to hear first-hand how your gift makes a difference.

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“I was a preacher’s son, my dad died very young, I was 22 and had an eight-year-old brother. MMBB’s outreach helped my mother and our family through the rough times. As a pastor, the gift that comes from the offering is an extension of that kind of love and help to pastors in a significant way. My mother, brother and myself felt the importance then and now I see the way MMBB continues to touch you.”

— Rev. Mark Jervis, Retired MMBB Visitor, Littleton, CO

“Our family has served the ABCUSA for three generations. My father and I each served for over 50 years, my son, 25 years. Thank you for your generous gift in the season of Thanksgiving. It will enable me to help continue my generosity to others. One gift always deserves another.”

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These testimonies illustrate generations of the continuing cycle of gratitude and generosity expressed through our faith.

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