



Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering
2018

Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

— Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

In this passage, Paul lifts up how humility prompts us to serve others. It leads us to give our own personal interests a lower priority than the concerns and needs of others—this is what the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is all about.

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

The 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, but connecting with the words of gratefulness suggested on the offering envelope, she slipped off her wristwatch, her only possession of value, and placed it in the envelope. The selfless gift reflects the spirit of the widow’s offering that Jesus spoke of in Luke 21.1-4.

We will receive RMMO on _____.

Please help us reach this year’s goal of _____.



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(Photos left to right: Rev. Dr. Dan MacDonald, Rev. Leon Grant and Rev. Dr. Laura Sinclair)

Share your stories of spiritual leaders who have been a source of God's self-less giving. The church will use your story to highlight the ways retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to their congregations.

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Why is RMMO Important?

Retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited resources to adequately plan for the future. RMMO provides financial support to those who have helped build our churches. *Thank You* checks, as well as emergency financial assistance, are made possible by the contributions of American Baptist congregations to the annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

The assistance provided by RMMO restores that lifeline and ongoing connection to the ABC family.

This offering is rooted in thankfulness and honors the individual acts of support and faith that recipients have shown to their congregations and communities.



“This annual offering is a reminder that the work God has called us to do is remembered in the churches we have served over the years and just as we supported the offering every year, now to become the recipient is truly a blessing. Many pastors influenced me in my younger years, and I’ll always be indebted to them. May this legacy continue as God’s people remain faithful and generous.”

— Pastor from Springfield, OH

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Why is RMMO Important?

Your gift does make a difference. These heartfelt wishes of appreciation for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering reiterates the importance of sustaining this mission. Hear from those who have served.

“Thank you for the RMMO *Thank You* Check. It could not have come at a better time! Hurricane Irma destroyed 25% of my 14-year-old roof and the insurance adjustor said it must be replaced. God is good all the time.”

— Retired Pastor from Leesburg, FL

“Every year of our ministry, and in fact also in 24 years of retirement, we presented the RMMO to our church. Also we always contributed each year and still do. I realized that help would be available should I become financially stressed in the future.”

— Retired Pastor from Edmeston, NY

“It is so good to know that retired pastors are not forgotten- even after many years of retirement from active ministry, even though many of us are still involved in the Lord’s work. These generous gifts are a source of real encouragement to us to continue to use our talents, even though in a lesser way.”

— Retired Pastor from Abilene, KS

These kinds of stories are common at many ABC churches around the country. Your gift sustains the women and men who tirelessly carried forth God’s work.

Recipients of *Thank You* checks express gratitude not only for the gift but for less tangible benefits, such as evidence of God’s providential care, encouragement, hope and assurance that they have not been forgotten by their ABC family.

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Together We Are Stronger

We are grateful for congregations like yours that make it possible to continue in the RMMO 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 2017 we provided \$1,024,706 in assistance and *Thank You* checks to over 3,457 people. Our goal for 2018 is \$1.2 million in contributions.



“God teaches us to live by being generous. Giving is not a debt we owe, it’s a seed we sow.”

— Rev. Dr. Tom Lipsey, South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Recipient of the 2016 Widow's Mite Award)

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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 their spiritual journey. Those who have been touched by RMMO share their thoughts:

“I retired earlier this year and quite frankly was surprised and appreciative to receive it. I spent over 28 years as a pastor and the churches I served were always very supportive of MMBB and this Thank You offering. It is just a little different to be on the receiving end. Thank you again for your ongoing support.”

— Retired Pastor from Elmira, NY

“We just received our very first Thank You Check from the RMMO! Thank you so much for remembering our service in the Central Region churches. We truly appreciate it.”

— Retired Couple from Newton, KS

“It is always very heartwarming to be remembered by your faith family after the years of service we were blessed to give. Thank you to all who remembered and contributed.”

— Retired Couple from Jeffersonville, IN

“I am grateful for all who have given in support and remembering my husband and I in our journey of faith and service through the American Baptist Church.”

— Retired Widow in Ann Arbor, MI

Your generosity makes this possible and is an example of the strength and graciousness that flows from our abiding faith in God.

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