



Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering
2017

Generous Congregations

“But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.”

— Isaiah 32:8 NLT

The roots of Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (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 and their widowed spouses within their churches. In 1977, RMMO was formally established to continue in this long-standing tradition.

The offering commemorates the 1981 gift of a Vietnamese refugee woman who, not knowing the full intent of the offering, but understanding the words “thank you” printed on the RMMO offering envelope, slipped off her only possession of value—her wristwatch—and placed it in the envelope. The anonymous gift reflects the spirit of thankfulness and generosity of the widow’s offering that Jesus spoke of in Luke 21.1-4.



“We are motivated to be generous, knowing that these people gave themselves to the work, to the Lord, they still continue to serve, they still give, they are still ready to be called when needed. We have a responsibility on the part of the Lord to attend to their needs.”

— Rev. Carmen Cecilia Adames Vázquez,
Lead Pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista de Carolina
(Recipient of the 2015 Widow’s Mite Award)

We will receive RMMO on _____.

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

R969



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“Being able to receive a check annually means a lot to retired ministers and missionaries because so often they have served congregations and communities, but have not been able to obtain the salaries they would have been able to get had they entered other fields or worked with for-profit organizations. I think RMMO is just a wonderful way to give back to them and to say ‘thank you, we recognize your sacrifice.’ And even though this one check is not covering your true commitment and what you’ve done. It’s just a small thank you.”

— Church administrator in Phoenix, AZ

Have you been touched or inspired by a spiritual leader? 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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The Importance of RMMO



**Why we give
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“Linda and I have made visits among retirees for several years in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. There are a significant number of retirees who are living a substandard life. Many times, it is the RMMO gift that allows them to obtain a hearing aid, eyeglasses, replace an appliance, or just purchase a new outfit.”

— Rev. Robert and Linda Box, chaplain for the Benton County Sheriff’s Office and Bella Vista Fire Department, Bella Vista, AR

Retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited resources to adequately plan for the future. RMMO recipients have used their funds to pay for unexpected expenses or medical costs. The death of a spouse or relocation can also cause retirees to find themselves far from the church family that once supported them.

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Please provide support to those who have worked and prayed with you over the years. RMMO restores the lifeline and ongoing connection to the American Baptist family. Hear from those who have served:

“For over 40 years I’ve been promoting the annual RMMO offering in churches. And now to be on the receiving end is gratifying to say the least.”

— Retired pastor in Mineral Wells, WV

“I found it tough financially going through ministry. MMBB has been very supportive of my wife and I in these years of retirement. When we get the *Thank You* check, yes, we have some bills to pay but I always remember to take some and pay it back because I feel very grateful for what our denomination has done in this way.”

— Retired pastor from Phoenix, AZ

“All the years that our church participated I never thought that one year I would be the recipient. I feel very happy, blessed and grateful for the unassuming behind-the-scenes work of MMBB.”

— Retired pastor from Somerset, MA

“The *Thank You* check is more than a check; it sends love. This year the check arrived at a time when I was faced with many bills, and I applied the check to those expenses. Thank you for remembering me.”

— Retired widow from Albion, NY

RMMO exists to alleviate the stress and hardship of unexpected expenses. Your generosity makes this possible and is an example of the thankfulness that flows from our abiding faith in God.

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Your Generosity Inspires Others



“When you become more immersed in your faith you come to understand that we can’t do anything without God and that God is in control and that God is the one who gives us everything that we have. Then you begin to understand that God is the original giver, and we are the original receivers. As we have received, then we can pass it to the next person and to the next person. And that’s all part of how your faith can be and should be lived. I think that by understanding how God is the source of everything, we are better able to understand why we are generous. We’re generous because God is generous to us.”

— Rev. Beverly Lowell, United Baptist Church, Saco, ME

Your congregation’s offering makes it possible to continue to provide emergency assistance and a *Thank You* check to all who are eligible. The offering supports those who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to God’s service.

It is a privilege to report that in 2016, we raised **\$1,059,444** and distributed a total of **3,443** checks to American Baptist ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. Our goal for 2017 is **\$1.1 million**.

Recipients have used these checks in a variety of ways; see the reverse side to read first-hand accounts of how your gift touches the lives of so many.

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R971



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“You do so much for us throughout the year that we are surprised when this check comes, too. We really do appreciate it because it means we can do something for our six grandchildren for Christmas and that makes us happy even if we can’t be there with them.”

— Retired Couple in Claremont, CA

“I am 87 years old and used it to get a call button around my neck because I live alone. Thank you for my Christmas gift.”

— Retired Widow in Bradenton, FL

“MMBB has been our financial life line for the last 12 years. We are so grateful for any extra that you send especially at this time of year.”

— Retired Couple in Lititz, PA

“My wife and I appreciate the check and the expression of thanks it represents. We have used it to keep up with our living expenses and some needed car repairs.”

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