

Matthew-25-Grant-Application\_2016

***Matthew 25: 35 “For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”***

***General Information Church or Region:*** First Baptist Church, Hastings, Nebraska

***Region Affiliation with ABCUSA:*** Nebraska Region

***Ministry or Group receiving these funds:*** **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** ministry fund

***Mailing Address:*** 401 N. Lincoln Ave, Hastings, NE 68901

***Church Phone:*** 402-462-5624 (message phone only)      Mark Harvey cell: 308-380-5560

***Federal Tax ID#:*** 470383719

***Contact person:*** Mark W. Harvey

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***- Your mission statement (Include as an attachment a copy of the church or ministry’s mission statement.)***

“The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this objective through the public worship of God, the preaching of the gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, missionary endeavor and practical missional love of our neighbors.”

***- A financial statement for this ministry (This budget or projected budget must include specific expenses and income for the ministry applying for the Matthew 25 grant funding. Church budgets are not acceptable.)***

**Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** (“Matthew 25 exponent”) is a ministry program designed to help poor or underprivileged people improve their lives through education, legal aid, and assistance transitioning out of incarceration or a halfway-house into private housing. Additionally, recipients of the funds give 10% of the amount to help another person in need, thus increasing the impact exponentially.

**Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** is a fund managed by the Diaconate board of First Baptist Church of Hastings, Nebraska.

To obtain **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** funds, applicants will fill out a simple application, included here:

Application for **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** (exponent) funds.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

What do you plan to use the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** funds for? This could be job-training, tuition, books, or living expenses while taking classes. If you are transitioning out of incarceration, **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** funds may be used for living expenses, household items, clothing, food, or education expenses. Please write at least a paragraph:

Part of the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** project is to provide you with money to help other people. As you receive financial assistance for yourself, you also need to find ways to help other people. 10% of the money that you receive is for you to spend on someone else who is in need. You can buy food for someone, or donate it to a charity that you care about. You just can't spend it on yourself. If you receive \$90, then you will also receive \$10 to spend on someone else. Please write a few sentences about who or what you will spend the "exponential" money on:

In three months, you will be asked to write a paragraph describing what you did with the money, and how it has impacted your life.

Your application will be read by the Diaconate Board of First Baptist Church, Hastings, NE.

Currently the Diaconate Board includes Mark Harvey, Bev Dack, Lyle Cowden, and Pastor Larry Harvey.

**3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds? Briefly describe what will be purchased with the grant funds if awarded. Be specific with the expected use of these funds. Please note that grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions and salaries, for capital improvements to church facilities, or to maintain a "Rainy Day fund."**

There are three focus areas of **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** that serve to assist poor and underprivileged people to improve their lives.

A. Education expenses.

Very few people who attend First Baptist Church (FBC) in Hastings, Nebraska have attended post-high school education or training. Many of them are unemployed or under-employed, and unable to procure the funds to start taking classes. There are several job training programs available locally, such as Certified Nurse's Aide classes at the community college. However, even the lowest tuition prices prove to be a formidable barrier for the poor in this community. The **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** funds will be used for any

expenses related to furthering education. Examples include tuition, books, fees, living expenses while taking classes, travel expenses, uniforms, etc.

#### B. Legal aid.

In today's climate of mass-incarceration and institutionalized racism against minorities and immigrants, our church shines as a beacon of hope to Hastings Nebraska. There are several halfway houses in town, and FBC attracts a steady influx of people who have recently been incarcerated and are now trying to set up life again on the outside. Due to institutionalized racism, a for-profit prison system, and mass-incarceration of African-American, Native-American, and Hispanic men, people who attend our church frequently find themselves harassed by authorities. On several occasions, the diaconate board has provided money to pay a sympathetic attorney to help resolve legal matters.

The application for Legal Aid money from the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** fund will not require a written application from the individual. Instead, the need will simply be made known to the Pastor, or a Diaconate Board member, who will then ask the Diaconate Board if they will approve funds to hire an attorney. Once the legal crisis is resolved, we will ask the person who received assistance to write a paragraph testimonial about how they hope to assist other people who are in need. This testimonial is only for the Diaconate Board, will not include any information about the legal situation, and they are not expected to even mention that they received Legal Aid funds.

#### C. Transition out of incarceration or half-way house.

As a church in Hastings, Nebraska, we are called to provide a home for those struggling on the fringes of society. As we welcome people from the local halfway houses (our church provides rides, and we sign notes for the parole officers demonstrating that their parolees were indeed visiting our church), we plan to use **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** funds to assist their attempt to rebuild life.

Frequently, they have no resources. For example, once they move into an apartment, they do not have any furniture or necessary household items. They have trouble buying groceries, or new clothes for their job.

**Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** funds may be used for any of these necessary life expenses. As with educational assistance, the participant would fill out the brief application for the diaconate board.

#### ***4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? Describe how the Matthew 25 grant funds will benefit those less fortunate. What effect and impact do you hope to have on individuals battling poverty?***

As described above, since recipients also give 10% of the amount awarded, this fosters a spirit of generosity and allows the recipients to share the blessing.

**5. Total cost of the project (List the total amount of this project or ministry need.)**

The needs in our community are always greater than the amount of funds, so we want to ensure that the entire amount of the funds received will be used to directly help those in need. The diaconate board members and pastor who administer **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** are all volunteer, and the program does not have any overhead expenses. **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** applicants may apply for dollar amounts in \$100 increments, up to a maximum individual amount of \$1,000. An example of a maximum disbursement would be \$900 to be used for education expenses, and \$100 to be used to help someone else who is in need.

**6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant. One application per church or regional office will be considered per 12 month period. The maximum amount awarded is \$5,000. If you have previously been a Matthew 25 grant recipient, you must have submitted a follow-up report in order to be eligible to reapply.**

We are requesting \$5,000 for the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** fund.

The budget for the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** ministry will be determined by the applicants who apply for funds. Beyond the initial grant seed money for the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** ministry, the church will attempt to replenish the fund through specified giving, and an annual fundraiser.

<b>Matthew 25<sup>x</sup> Ministry Budget</b>	
<i>Income</i> -\$5,000 grant seed money -Designated giving -Fundraiser	<i>Expense (estimated)</i> -\$3,000 Education expenses -\$1,000 Legal aid -\$1,000 Transition out of incarceration or half-way house

**7. Your other funding source(s). List all other sources providing funding for this ministry.**

First Baptist Church of Hastings, Nebraska is a completely volunteer organization, with no paid staff. No money from the church operating budget will go into this program. There is a completely separate "Diaconate Fund" (a fellowship fund) that has done some of this kind of ministry and it will no doubt continue to do so. This Matthew 25 Grant would be administered by the Diaconate, which also oversees disbursements from that existing fellowship fund.

It is hoped that the **Matthew 25<sup>x</sup>** fund will become a self-perpetuating, revolving ministry. As people living in poverty are able to find housing and becoming gainfully employed, they will hopefully be eager to give to others in need. The excitement and energy of an exponential giving program, sparked by the Holy Spirit and energized by careful teaching about the importance of serving the poor, will cause the fund to be replenished through giving and specific fundraisers put on by the church family.

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by: Mark W. Harvey

Date: 2/29/16