

## ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." A panel will select recipients for grants of up to \$5,000 largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or ministry will be considered per year. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions.

1. General Information:

Organization Name First Chinese Baptist Church

Affiliation with ABCUSA We are an American Baptist Church

Address 6080 N Angus

Fresno, California 93710

Phone 559-438-0303 Federal Tax ID# 13-55-63018

Contact person Danny Jack email djack26@comcast.net

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

Your mission statement

**OUR MISSION:** We are a fellowship created and belonging to God through faith in Jesus for Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim God's love and plan for salvation to our specific community in Fresno and to be a diverse congregation that brings purpose and hope where cultures meet.

Financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY

In 2014 the Matthew 25 Grant Committee provided us with \$3,000 in seed money to provide bread and other essentials to the immigrant, migrant, non-documented and hundreds of inner city children. We were able to take that \$3,000 and provide for more than 7,000 individuals and families. (Let me say that again 7,000).

We currently have narrowed our outreach down to seven specific areas in the city and outlying areas to make the most impact with the resources we've been given. That money was spent strictly on food, water, and transportation in obtaining the items.

- Savemart one of the local grocers is providing bread and pastries
- Entenmanns is providing bread
- One of our local Chinese bakeries and grocer is providing food and breads every other week.
- Panera Sandwich company is looking at adding us to their list of recipients for bakery items in 2015

Attached you will find a report that I sent to the committee on our outreach for 2014. You will see God has blessed the ministry and as a result of your seed money lives have been changed and saved for Christ. This is why we are requesting for funds once more.

We are requesting	\$2,000 to be used for gas/mileage and storage of perishables.
	\$2,000 to be used as seed money to feed the migrant children that have have little to eat when school is not in session. (We discovered that when the supplemented lunch and breakfast programs are

not available when school is out the children are not eating.). Such resource would allow us to purchase peanut butter, rice, top ramen and eggs.

\$1,000 for diapers and formula. The migrant families are not able to afford disposable diapers and have no way of washing them if they did. They are using disposable diapers over and over. So we would like Matthew 25 to provide during the holidays and summer months).

The people have started asking for worship services in the fields. So, we are in the process of finding space and a pastor that speaks the appropriate language to have a more constant presence through worship and service. Thank you Matthew 25 your resources and making a huge impact here in Fresno helping us to team with other churches and ministries to take back ground for our Savior.

3. Total cost of the project \$10,000
4. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5,000
5. Your other funding source(s) First Chinese Baptist Church, Sanger Baptist Church, Savemart Grocers, California Motoring Company

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 within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) *Danny L. Jack*

Date 8-24-2014

Printed Name/Title Danny L. Jack Senior Pastor

**Please note:**

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to [beth.fogg@abc-usa.org](mailto:beth.fogg@abc-usa.org). Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



## Cupcakes Really?

Dear Grant Committee ,

In my years as a pastor, counselor and director of three home mission projects I've been a part of many food pantries, clothing drives and grass roots projects to lift those up who fall through the cracks in our society. But I have never been a part of a ministry that has the opportunity to distribute pastries, breads and cookies to the hungry. Subsequently I discovered that I had to confront myself with some personal bias about this program. Let me explain...

As you well know In Matthew 25: 35-36 we read, *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."* All of which means you and I need to get out of our comfort zones and "go" make a difference in a person's life and as we do so we are demonstrating God's love and care. Which just might result in the recipients asking the question "why" are you doing this and we will then have the opportunity to tell the good news of a risen Savior.

Makes for really good evangelism but what kept hitting me, even though I was in favor of trying this outreach to be honest I just didn't feel God would bless the ministry. (Boy was I wrong!!) Those cupcakes and breads just hit me in the moral, ethical and theological stomach. Let me explain sure we were following God's direction and feeding the poor, giving a cup of cold water but in the back of my mind I was thinking but it needs to be beans, rice and other staples right? I mean if they are going to eat shouldn't it be on our terms and obviously we know what's best for the poor right? (Did I honestly say that? Yep I think I really did).

Then I started talking to the people doing the work, those handing out the breads and the cups of cold water. They started telling me about the looks of pleasure, the smiles and how the pastries are helping to increase their numbers at Bible study and worship. That the people are coming because not only is the Gospel life changing but it can **sweeten** your life today as well.

So, I want to report on how the funds, you graciously granted from the Matthew 25 project, are being used and amplified. But, I have some difficulty in doing so because God has just exploded this outreach and I'm conscious that I might forget some of the blessings that have taken place because of your generosity.

Our Matthew 25 Project of picking up free bakery items and then distributing the pastries and breads to various faith based organizations has become a phenomenal witness to our Savior. Of course we had to narrow the recipients down to six specific ministries in order to have the maximum impact with our outreach here they are:

- **Bethany Inner City Church** which uses our donations for a community meal each week for the homeless.
- **Butler Church** uses our donations to feed Khmu refugees in their Sunday worship

- **Live Again Fresno** uses our donations to feed children and minister to gangs out of the Parkland Motel which is donating space for the ministry and the food distributions because of the food.
- **Hope Now for Youth** uses the donations for inner city children and to reach out to gangs in the area.
- **Mana Zoe Ministries** is using our food donations to reach the inner city families and because of our donation they have reported the children have been coming to worship and Bible study. The result has been again donated space from an apartment complex for worship again because of the food.
- **Kings View** this is an apartment complex the houses migrant worker families in the middle of fruit orchards.
- Of course the neighborhood has been watching our loading and unloading of donations and so we have started helping a low income apartment complex in our own neighborhood.

As the outreach has grown we have become involved personally with each ministry resulting in outreach such as a school supply drive so each child from the various ministries could have backpack, crayons, pencils and pads of paper.

As we got to know the individuals at the Kings View apartments, where migrant families are housed, we thought it would be a great idea to have a birthday party each month for the children who have a birthday that month ( we get a lot of cakes). None of them had ever experienced that before and the questions came, "Why are you doing this for us?" Answer, "We are Christians." Response "Can we know more about this Jesus?"

As we got to know the community better we discovered the children were not eating especially during the summer months. When going to school they receive a state subsidized breakfast and lunch but during the vacation months and holidays they were not eating. So we have started including bread, a dozen eggs, Top Ramen along with peanut and butter. We then felt a barbeque would just be fun and so a member of our church donated all the fixings and we had a community summer barbeque for all the families.

Then we noticed that the mothers in the various locations do not have diapers and were reusing disposable diapers. Would be great if they had facilities or the money to use cloth diapers but not an option so we are now including boxes of diapers as well.

A Christian Camp in the Sierras, Camp Sugar Pine, learned what we have been doing and they had received a grant to bring 50 inner-city children to a week of camp free of charge. The grant paid for their fee, included transportation, and even gave them each \$20 spending money for the camp store. One of the children said, "I have been learning God is good but no one told me how great He is!"

Of course during the holidays some local grocers are helping us out by providing turkeys and all the fixings so each family in all the ministries is not denied one holiday celebration.

As I write all of this I have to say I'm totally amazed at what God has done with some donuts, cakes and a few loaves of bread. Of course that shouldn't surprise me because of what our Savior did with some fish and loaves. All I can say to the Matthew 25 committee is thank you for giving us the \$3,000 to get this ministry started. I do hope you will consider us once--again for another such grant to continue feeding and distributing the sweetness of our Savior to hundreds.

One Really Humble Pastor,

Rev. Danny Jack