



## *How can you help?*

Support RMMO by placing an expression of gratitude in the offering envelope available in the pews or donate online at [abc-usa.org/RMMO](http://abc-usa.org/RMMO).

Please support the RMMO by contributing whatever amount you can to say “Thank You” to those who serve. Even small gifts make a difference and contribute to our collective gratitude.



Retired  
Ministers &  
Missionaries  
Offering  
2021

# Transformed by Generosity

*“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*

2 Corinthians 3:18

Say “thank you” to retired pastors and missionaries who have served American Baptist churches and ministries for 15 years or more through your gift to the 2021 RMMO.

There are pastors who have likely supported you and those you love directly in seeking Jesus Christ, while all missionaries serve as our collective hands and hearts in projects throughout the country and around the world.

The American Baptist denomination is strong today because of those who have devoted themselves to serving our more than 1.2 million members in prior decades.



## *Widow's Mite Award 2020 Recipients*

ABCUSA and MMBB have chosen to highlight two churches for their extraordinary efforts in 2020. The Widow's Mite Award commemorates 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 speaks about in Luke 21: 1-4.

*Parkchester Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York*  
Rev. Dr. Felecia Smith , Executive Pastor

*First Baptist Church in Mattoon, Illinois*  
Rev. Dennis Strawn , Senior Pastor

Although miles apart, Parkchester Baptist Church, Bronx, NY and First Baptist Church, Mattoon, IL share a commitment and generosity to the RMMO, as well as other ABCUSA offerings—and extensive and thoughtful community outreach that transcends the challenges of the pandemic.



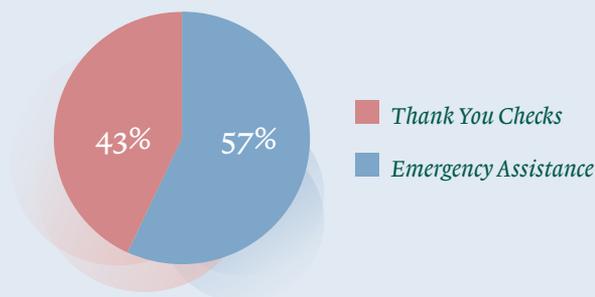
Following God's call does not come without certain sacrifices. Retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses are often faced with the stress and hardship of unexpected expenses. Medical problems, relocating, or the death of a spouse can also cause these leaders to find themselves far from the church family that once supported them.

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

*"You sent a check to say 'Thank You' for my many years of service. No, thank you. I am so grateful to my God for using you as a special vessel in my life. Nobody but God could do that. You have helped me in many situations and for that I will be forever grateful."*

Retired Female Pastor

## *How Your Giving in 2020 Helped Those Dedicated to Our Denomination*



\$893,215 Total collected from generous ABCUSA congregations

57% for thank you checks

— 3,371 pastors and missionaries thanked

— average thank you check amount: \$170

43% for direct emergency assistance to retired pastors, missionaries, and surviving spouses