

Legacy



FALL/WINTER 2022

American Baptist
FOUNDATION

*Plans fall apart without proper advice,
But with the right guidance, they come together nicely*

Proverbs 15:22

Greetings

3

Letter from the Executive Director

The Dona & Perry Laten Legacy Endowment

5

Building a Bridge for the Future

Year-End Legacy Giving

11

Ways To Give

Strengthening Your Financial Future Program

12

Custom Planned Giving Solutions for Ministries & Missions

American Baptist Foundation

13

Board & Staff Recognition

Dear Foundation Family and Friends,

Great is God's Faithfulness! 🎵 *Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest....* 🎵

In every season we can celebrate in song God's great faithfulness. Such celebration has actually gone beyond well-known music to thoughtful deeds. For over thirty-six years, the American Baptist Foundation has encouraged generosity in both lifetime and legacy giving decisions. The seeds of generosity, planted decades ago are bringing forth fruit in this legacy harvest season. Many in our Foundation family from thousands of churches have been generous in growing communities of faith in response to the grace of God. As all of us have unique fingerprints, so we celebrate those who have carefully planned their distinctive legacy. Through their estate plans each has left a unique "life-print" for generations to come.

Within these pages, you will find pictures and a story of those who served well, not only during their lifetimes, but also as they planted legacy seeds that will produce a harvest for ministry and mission to continue. We will all leave a legacy. Good planning requires a balance between our lifetime needs and our legacy desires. Through careful planning, we become faithful stewards as we manage the present, anticipate the future, and provide for the transfer of our possessions before we complete our earthly journeys. As you consider your part in God's plan, when will you begin to plant seeds that will harvest your legacy?

***"Plans fall apart without proper advice,
But with the right guidance, they come together nicely."***

Proverbs 15:22 (The Voice)

We invite you to share in the joy of generosity and giving by planning your legacy "life-print." The American Baptist Foundation is here to help you plant the seeds and tell your story.



Yours in Christ,

Linda Cassel

Interim Executive Director

We would like to thank Linda Cassel
for “flying the plane”, while providing
us with leadership and guidance as
Interim Executive Director.

We look forward to her continued
work as Associate Director of
Development with the ABF.

- ABF Staff & Board -



The Laten Legacy Endowment

The desire to continue fulfilling God's call on one's life beyond the years of that life is desirable. It can be seen as providing a bridge that connects the present with the future. Perry and Dona Laten of Fremont, Nebraska, were such bridge builders. This couple, who were married in 1966, put their Christian faith into action using their God-given skills and interests throughout their 53 years together. Moreover, to ensure that their dedication to support ministries and mission did not end at the close of their earthly journeys, they established an endowment with the ***American Baptist Foundation (ABF)***.

Through this decision, the Latens ensured that future outreach would be strengthened by the ***American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), International Ministries (IM), American Baptist Churches of Nebraska,*** and the congregation where they were members.

The endowment reflects how they used their time in building God's kingdom. For instance, Dona, who had earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Omaha University in 1967, became a volunteer camp



nurse for a children's summer camp at the Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. At the same time Perry performed any needed building and repair projects there using his carpentry skills.



As members of the First Baptist Church of Fremont, they participated at a high level in its worship services and ministries. Included among Dona's many activities were her being a faithful choir member, active in the women's group and a Bible study and prayer group, and being the Sunday school superintendent. Perry, who was a source of wisdom and support for many congregants, was an integral part of the men's group, a member of the trustee board, and taught Sunday school—first for youth and later as he got older, for adults. One of those adult attendees says,

“He could explain the Bible in laymen’s terms and had vast biblical knowledge that he shared as a supplement to the quarterlies. He taught right up until the time when he was no longer physically able to do so.”

The Latens deeply believed in the urgency and importance of helping others come to experience the salvation in Christ that they knew. This focus on a future home in heaven was demonstrated by their desire to see young people grow in their faith. That aspiration went beyond teaching and personal encouragement to their once taking a group to the American Baptist National Youth Conference in Colorado.



A home for peoples' earthly future was also a priority for them. It is said that the Latens worked on every Habitat for Humanity house that was built in the Fremont area. Their dedication for mission beyond their locality is illustrated by what Perry once said to a friend when they were talking about a possible second trip to the Holy Land:

"Perry stated that he would like to go again. I asked him why he didn't go. He said something like 'If I do, some missionaries will not have that money that I would have spent on that trip to do their work.'"

At each of their memorial services—Perry's in 2020 and Dona's a year and a-half later—members of their church celebrated the Latens' faithful journey with Christ and each other. Their pastor, Rev. Richard Crooks, observed:

"Their devotion to one another was striking. You can hardly talk about one without mentioning the other. What did Dona like to do? She liked to be with Perry. Whether it was fishing together in Minnesota, tending the flowers and vegetables in their yard or over at the community garden space, and so much more, they were always together. Can't you still see the admiration and fondness in their eyes as they gazed at one another?"

One of Perry's hobbies at home was to use his woodworking skills to build bridges—musical bridges. Actually, more than that. He was known for his refurbishing and refinishing whole violins, even though he didn't play one. He never charged the owners for his labors. And there are reports that when he discovered some used violins, he would purchase them, beautifully restore them, and then donate them to a school or directly give them to excited children. But his greatest labor at home came when Dona began developing Alzheimer's. Perry let it be known that it was his job, not anyone else's, to take care of her because of their wedding vows.



Although both Perry and Dona sought to serve God without drawing attention to themselves, their faithful dedication to minister made that difficult. In 1997, for example, Perry was named the Layman of the Year by the American Baptist Men of Nebraska.

Perry was employed for 35 years by the George A. Hormel Company as a hog buyer. Seeing the business on a first-hand basis, he regularly bought stock in the company, which helped create a legacy. As the Latens prayerfully contemplated how they could build a bridge to provide for future mission work using their financial resources, they had contact with the American Baptist Foundation (ABF). Perry particularly spoke on many occasions with Paul Weers, ABF's representative in their area. Paul states:

"I saw Perry often at various American Baptist regional meetings and in their home. I found him to be an astute man with a great sense of humor. His warm personality was especially revealed when he boasted about the Nebraska Cornhuskers college football team. His dedication to them was exceeded only by his commitment to Christ, to his wife, and to ensuring their resources would support mission outreach for decades to come. That's why they rejoiced when they signed the papers that created the Dona and Perry Laten Legacy Endowment with the American Baptist Foundation."

The source of the Latens' inspiration can best be summarized by a poem, *The Bridge Builder*, by Will Allen Dromgoole, that Perry quoted from memory on occasion and which describes how they lived their lives:



*An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.*

*The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim, near,
“You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way;
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide—
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?”*

*The builder lifted his old gray head:
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.*

*This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”*

As 2022 comes to an end, consider the many ways you can help support American Baptist ministries and missions while enjoying tax and income benefits. Here are a few end of the year gift suggestions:

Charitable IRA Rollover

Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and may qualify for your required minimum distribution.

Gifts of Stock

An outright gift of stock or other appreciated marketable securities is an excellent way to contribute to ministry while receiving attractive tax benefits. Stocks can also be used to create an income paying gift, such as a CGA or charitable trust.

This option works best for individuals who:

- Have investments that have grown over time
- Are concerned with paying capital gain taxes

There are many planned giving options available to you. Whether it be a gift of life insurance, a bequest through your will, or a gift of real estate, ABF can work with you and your advisors to establish a gift plan that works best for you, your loved ones and the ministries you hold dear.

For your convenience, ABF will work with your financial advisor or institution to facilitate your desired gift.

Strengthening Your Financial Future

Custom Planned Giving Solutions for Ministry & Mission

American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is committed to improving the long-term financial health of our American Baptist partners in ministry and mission. As such, we provide a variety of services and resources aimed at growing resources and encouraging greater stewardship over time. ABF's Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF) program provides customized solutions to support each ministry's vision while breaking down barriers that inhibit stewardship.

VISION

- Helps break down barriers that inhibit stewardship
- Begins with a conversation between ABF and key leaders of your ministry
- Ultimate goal is the development of a customized planned giving program that is tailored to your ministry

COMMUNICATION

Delivering your stewardship message

- Clear, concise messaging is critical to realizing success
- ABF assists developing marketing materials

Planned Giving Education

- Creative giving to better understand how to give by: Bequests (wills), stock and marketable securities, real estate, life insurance and through other planned giving options

Gift Cultivation

- As interested supporters are identified, ABF has planned giving expertise to work with individuals, families, and their advisors, to help ensure that appropriate and effective planned giving options are explored - allowing your ministry to focus on what is most important - communicating your vision

CELEBRATION

- Successful programs increase ministry awareness and provide greater assurance that your organization will be fruitful for generations to come, share each story
- ABF provides creative ways to celebrate and encourage your members and supporters

BOARD*

Nichole Tillman
Board Chairman

Jacqueline Saxon
Board Vice Chair

Marcus Pereira
Treasurer

Ken Ellison
Secretary

Michaele Birdsall

Jesse Brown

Gene Crume Jr.

Mark Click

Vincent Dent

Zofia Dripps

Michelle Holmes

James Kelsey

Sharon Koh

Donald Ng

Steve Van Ostran

Debra Schill

Jeff Woods

Robert Cochran

STAFF*



Linda Cassel, CSA, CAP®
*Interim Executive Director &
Associate Executive Director of
Development Advisory Services*



Magda Amargos, CGPA
Development Advisor



Laura Miraz, Ph.D., SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Human Resources Consultant



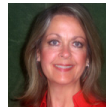
Stacy Bjorhus
Accounting & Compliance Officer



Rev. Rick Barlow
Development Advisor



Muriel Contreras
*Marketing &
Communications Manager*



Kristine Lutton, CGPA
Development Advisor



Nicole Harper
*Office Manager &
Grants Administrator*



Paul Weers, CFP®, RICP®
Development Consultant



Lon Krise
Operations Specialist



Rev. James Layton
Communications Consultant



Nicole Mustacchio
Operations Manager

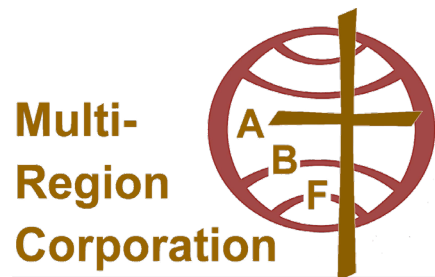


Mitch Rohrbach
Controller Consultant

* All names and titles for Board Members and Staff as of 09/01/2022

Thank you to our partners, American Baptist Regions (Multi-Region Corporation), American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), and American Baptist International Ministries (IM).

The Foundation encourages the support of these ministries.



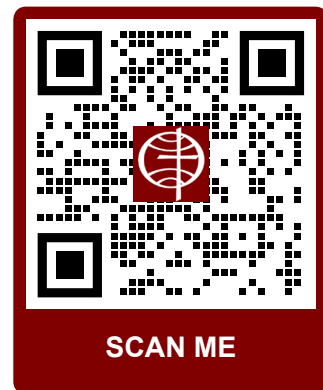
EASY STEPS TO STAY CONNECTED TO ABF ONLINE:

1. Follow and Like us on Facebook and/or Instagram
2. Share our Post with your donors, ministry leaders, friends, family, etc.
3. Visit our website and Subscribe to our eNewsletter



For easy access to the following, scan this QR Code using the camera on your mobile device and/or tablet:

- Our website
- Estate Planning Guide
- eNewsletter sign-up
- More resources



American Baptist



420 W. Germantown Pike, East Norriton, PA 19403