



Fall/Winter 2019

Legacy



American Baptist
FOUNDATION
www.abcofgiving.org

Connecting People Who Care to Ministries That Matter

Greetings from ABF Executive Director

Dear American Baptist Family,

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

As American Baptist Foundation (ABF) continues to settle into our new home, I am reminded how the decisions we make in the present create the building blocks for the future, often for many years to come. In describing the cost of discipleship Jesus once used the illustration of planning to build a tower and determining if there were enough funds to do the whole job (Luke 14:28-30). ABF was established to help you plan to do just that—making sound decisions that will provide benefits to you now and fulfill your dreams for funding future ministries as well.

As a tower provides an opportunity for a panoramic perspective beyond what can be seen from ground level, so having a view of the vista of your life leads to making wise estate plans. ABF is available to assist you in reviewing the parameters of your present needs, remembering how God has touched your life through American Baptist ministries in the past and present, and discovering ways for you to give thanks to God by supporting those same ministries through planned giving so that future generations can also grow in their faith.

As I grow in grace, I recall how swiftly the days, months, and even years go by. It is a reminder that even though you may be able to calculate the finances you have for "building your tower," none of us knows the time available to do that. I encourage you to celebrate now the mission of American Baptists, including this vision of each of our Member organizations—American Baptist Multi-Region Corporation (MRC), American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), and International Ministries (IM)—and to evaluate opportunities to strengthen their ministries in the future.

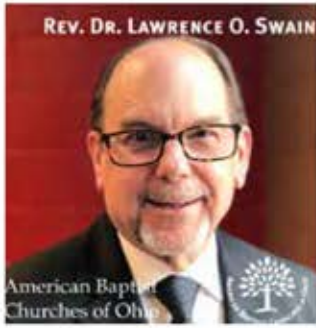
Blessings to you all as you continue to "building your tower".

Yours in Christ,

Perkin

Rev. Perkin Simpson
Executive Director

In Honor of Rev. Larry O. Swain



Rev. Dr. Lawrence O. Swain, an important member of our ABF family was recently called home by our creator. We are honored for this opportunity to spotlight Larry's legacy serving as the hands and feet of Christ. Larry began as an area minister for the Pittsburgh Baptist Association in 1995. Larry then served as the region's Executive Minister from 1998 to 2004. He accepted the position of Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio in 2004 and functioned in this role until his retirement in 2015. As part of his responsibilities, Larry also served on the ABF Board of Directors as the President of the Multi-Region Corporation (MRC) - one of ABF's three supported members. In highlighting the importance of his work with the Foundation, in 2015, Larry shared the following:

"ABF serves as a unique platform to remind us to go beyond the here and now — to seriously plan for the long-term future of God's kingdom." Larry was a humble servant and ABF was blessed to have Larry's Christ-centered commitment guide us along our journey.



ABF Disaster Relief Efforts

There is little doubt that around the world environmental shocks with particularly devastating effects for vulnerable communities are increasing. This includes the recent Amazonian fires and Hurricane Dorian. ABF takes this opportunity to encourage all of American Baptists to consider reaching out to our member and partner organizations and ministries to find out how you can support and assist in recovery efforts.

ABF continues to do our part. For example, we have contributed to the “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” partnership between our member American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and American Baptist Churches USA (ABC-USA). This multi-year initiative seeks to raise funds through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to support rebuilding the homes, churches and lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For those who wish to establish a planned gift to support this, and other disaster initiatives, contact our office for additional information.

Year End Giving

As 2019 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 Gift Annuities (CGA)

A CGA offers an excellent opportunity to make a gift while creating a dependable stream of lifetime income. Benefits include:

- An income tax deduction for those who itemize their deductions.
- Regular fixed payments for life based on attractive rates.
- Tax-free income. A portion of each annuity payment may be tax-free.

A CGA is a deferred gift. When the CGA matures, the remainder value gets added to the fund.

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.

A Special Thank You to Our Contributing Partners:



Since 1985, the mission of the American Baptist Foundation is to support and strengthen the Christian witness fulfilled by the Foundation's partners in ministry and mission. The Foundation encourages individuals to support the endeavors of these partners through what is known as planned giving— establishing wills and other charitable estate plans.

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