



Fall/Winter 2021

# Legacy

*In His hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to Him.*

*Psalm 95:4 NIV*



American Baptist

**FOUNDATION**

Connecting People Who Care to Ministries That Matter

# *Greetings from ABF Interim Executive Director*

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Dear American Baptist Family,

*In His hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to Him.*

**Psalm 95:4**

In Psalm 95, we are reassured that from the depths of the earth to the highest mountain peaks, we are in God's hands. God promises to sustain us in our life journey and help us climb our next mountain.

What does your view look like and what mountains are still waiting for you to climb? For many, it is a view that looks new and promising. For some, the view is a challenging new chapter that needs the sustaining power and goodness of God. The next mountain in our lives may be a steep climb or a small hill to ascend.

In scripture, we read of many mountaintop stories. Jesus enjoyed getting away from the crowds and going into the mountains. One day he climbed a mountain and delivered what some say was his greatest sermon, the Sermon on the Mount. The commandments given to Moses by God, were etched in stone from atop a mountain. The wooden ark that kept Noah and his family safe during the great flood, landed safely on a mountain peak.

We, the American Baptist Foundation, are looking ahead to new mountain peaks and the excitement of visioning the future. Over our history, God has been faithful in helping us tell the life changing donor stories that have faithfully encouraged generosity. Those stories become mountaintop peaks that envision and support ministry and mission for generations to come.

Let me challenge you to share the goodness of God's faithfulness in your life and be a part of supporting the ministries of our member organizations. For instance, your generous year-end gifts to our partners— American Baptist Home Missions Society (ABHMS), International Ministries (IM), Multi-Region Corporation (MRC), and local American Baptist congregations—will support and strengthen God's work here and abroad. These sacrificial gifts can help you reach a mountain peak that looks over the work of God's kingdom until Christ returns.

Yours in Christ,

*Linda Cassel*

Linda Cassel

Interim Executive Director

## *ABF Helps ABC Rocky Mountains Empower Churches*

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The *American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountain's (ABCRM)* mission statement is "Empowered Churches," and the *American Baptist Foundation (ABF)* has helped us towards that goal throughout the years. Our relationship with ABF has been a long one, in part due to the leadership of Anne Mills, founding chair of ABF in 1985 and current member of the ABF Investment Committee as well as a long-term leader in ABCRM. Anne encouraged not only the Region's investment in ABF but also that of ABCRM churches and auxiliaries.

One such investment was by Colorado American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) whose scholarship funds are invested with ABF. The management of these endowed funds by ABF has helped Colorado's ABWM to provide multiple scholarships for young women for many years and will permit them to continue to grant these funds to deserving young women indefinitely.

ABCRM supports approximately 90% of its ministry from endowment funds' earnings. ABCRM's endowment was established with monies received from the sale of a camp. That sale created a great deal of dissension within the Region, but hindsight speaks to the wisdom of the sale and the wise investment and use of these funds. A portion of the funds used by the Region are set aside to provide a camping experience by renting a Christian camp for one week each year and subsidizing the cost so that ABCRM campers continue to pay relatively low rates to participate in a quality camp environment. The remainder of the money subsidizes the expense of maintaining regional ministry in a geographically large and constitutently small region so that the Region provides quality services to our churches, sustaining their ministries in ever-changing economies.

Because of this, ABCRM has worked with ABF to assist several congregations to consider planned giving and to establish endowments of their own that will help sustain their ministries. Through ABF's "Strengthening Your Financial Future" program, churches have been able to identify and establish endowment programs that target key ministries which are important to the vitality of the church and to which members are encouraged to give.

Similarly, ABF has helped churches who have come to the end of their life so that they can leave vibrant legacies. For instance, when the Church of the Master realized it was time to close its doors in 2009, the leadership worked with ABF and ABCRM staff to create an endowment that perpetuates a legacy of ministry for the church through annual grants to various American Baptist and ABCRM organizations.

One such endowment that was set up by a local church benefits two senior adult facilities in Denver that are managed by The American Baptist Homes of the Midwest. In addition, the endowment provides ABCRM with \$10,000 annually to use as scholarships for ABCRM pastors seeking continuing education and to experience cross-cultural mission opportunities. To date more than 60 grants have been awarded, totaling \$98,928.50.

ABCRM appreciates its partnership with ABF and the many ways it helps us to have "Empowered Churches."

- Steve VanOstran, *ABCRM Executive Minister/ ABF Board Member*

## *Continue Giving*

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As 2021 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.

# 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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