

# 2015 ANNUAL SUMMARY

*Celebrating 30 Years!*



*Connecting People Who Care To Ministries That Matter*

*“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.”*

**2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)**

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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.



## from the Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2015 *American Baptist Foundation (ABF)* turned thirty (30) years — old or young — depending on an observer's perspective. For a young child, thirty years may seem like an eternity. For a historian, thirty years may closely resemble a water droplet in the middle of an ocean. For ABF, both perspectives apply.

What does thirty years of experience mean? For ABF, it means thirty years of being faithful to ministry. It means thirty years of growing in wisdom and stature. We have been blessed to work with the most generous donors. We have been privileged to partner with our supported Members and other American Baptist partners in ministry and mission. We are humbled with the realization that our ministry has increased in relevance and value.

At this point, what will be revealed over the next thirty years remains uncertain. However, as long as we remain faithful to the Lord while serving our American Baptist members, partners, and donors, our ministry will continue to make a difference in Christ's kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

*Perkin*

Rev. Perkin Simpson

Executive Director

## VISION

***“Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF) helped us focus on our mission and gave us hope that putting these future ministry objectives into Endowment Fund opportunities would be a blessing to future generations.”***

*- Rev. Larry Poelma, Pastor, First Baptist Church Cuba, NY*

## COMMUNICATION

***“ABF is a wonderful partner for churches in our Region as they work to maximize their resources in order to multiply their ministry. ABF representatives are knowledgeable of local church culture and sensitive to the particularities of each congregation.”***

*- Rev. James Kelsey, Executive Minister, ABC of New York State*

## CELEBRATION

***“Your investment is more than just an account – it accomplishes ministry. The power to inspire others to contribute to your investment in meaningful ways is often underutilized.”***

*- Rev. Perkin Simpson, Executive Director, American Baptist Foundation*

***Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF) begins with a conversation between ABF and your leadership team. A few steps, and commitment to the process, will help transform your ministry's vision into a powerful stewardship resource. For more information contact the ABF office.***

## Member Spotlight

Rev. Dr. Lawrence O. Swain 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)*.



### **The Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)**

The *Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)* is composed of 28 American Baptist regional organizations across the United States. These regions assist local congregations by providing such services as conferences and workshops, conflict resolution, camping ministries, new church planting, and ministerial guidance and support. Along with *American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)* and *American Baptist International Ministries (IM)*, MRC functions as one of ABF's three supported members.

Explaining the vital link between regional ministries and the Foundation, Larry says, "The Foundation is the vehicle that enables the important stewardship issue of planned giving to be communicated and delivered to local congregations. This means that ABF allows regions to provide estate planning services and instruments to churches without having to establish their own offices, which saves regional mission dollars." For instance, the software that manages trusts and annuities on the donors' behalf can cost approximately \$35,000 per year. This multiplied by the 28 regions clearly demonstrates good financial stewardship provided through regions being part of the MRC." ABF's existence allows this and other economics of scale to be realized, resulting in substantial savings for each member.

As a consequence of retiring as the Executive Minister for *ABC of Ohio*, Larry also concluded his tenure as President of the MRC. "I've appreciated my tenure as president of the *Multi-Region Corporation* because I've had the opportunity to see first-hand how ministries near and far are supported through the ways the Foundation purposely and dependably administers funds entrusted to its care. I've also developed a growing appreciation for planned giving. Individuals and congregations, understandably, often focus on immediate needs. However, 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."



### **2015 Multi-Region Corporation, Food Pantry Expansion of Services, First Baptist Churches Council Bluffs, IA.**

With God's favor and devotion to ministry, the food pantry for First Baptist Church in Council Bluffs, IA has blossomed from a small ministry capable of feeding a few people monthly to become the largest food pantry in their area. This ministry now serves over 8,000 people each year, providing both physical and spiritual food to individuals and families in need. Pastor David Bender and Teresa Hildreth, the food pantry coordinators for the past 15 years, have witnessed the positive impact the program has had on the community; however, they recognized that much more still needed to be accomplished.

As part of their partnership with the Mid-American Region, where Dr. Marshall E. Peters serves as Executive Minister, the church submitted an application for a Palmer Grant in 2015. They received an award to assist in the following areas:

- **Volunteer and client training**
- **Communication – literature and website**
- **Fundraising efforts**

Advancements in these areas will provide greater sustainability and allow improved coordination of services with other community organizations. "Our goal is to see our clients better their lives," Hildreth says, "so perhaps at some point they will no longer need our services." Funding American Baptist programs such as these is what Virginia and Gordon Palmer had in mind when they established this granting program through American Baptist Foundation. We look forward to seeing how God will continue to bless this ministry and all the lives that are blessed due to their outreach.

## 2015 Financial Summary Pre-audit

During our thirty years of ministry, *American Baptist Foundation (ABF)* has managed charitable trusts, gift annuities, endowments, donor advised funds, investment accounts, and other planned giving assets. A long tenure of prudent administration and investment management continues to help ensure that the needs of our donors, members, and other American Baptist (AB) partners in ministry and mission are met. Note the following financial highlights for 2015.

\$124.2 million in **total assets under management**

\$7.1 million in **income distributions to our donors and income beneficiaries**

\$3.3 million in **final distributions to ministries**

### Life Income Agreements

Life income agreements allow donors to establish gifts that also produce income for themselves or designated individuals, usually for life. At the end of 2015, ABF managed agreements included:

**Charitable Trusts** – 96 trusts managed totaling \$23.7 million

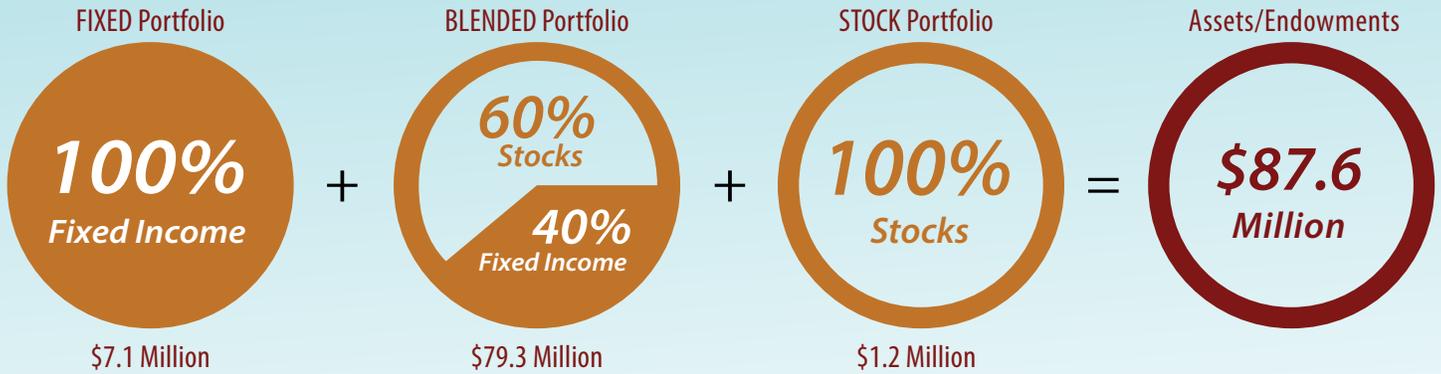
**Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)**– 413 CGAs managed with \$8 million held in reserves

**Other Agreements Managed for AB Partners** – 56 accounts totaling \$817,753



**Investments and Endowments**

ABF’s investment and endowment platform consists of three active and professionally managed investment options. Total investment and endowment assets managed as of December 31, 2015 were \$92.5 million, including \$87.6 million specific to the investment and endowment platform.



During the year, 17 new accounts were added to the investment and endowment platform. A total of \$3.8 million in new contributions were received for new and existing accounts. In a challenging investment climate, the 2015 Fixed, Blended and Stock portfolio returns were 0.72%, -2.19% and -2.82%, respectively — finishing below their respective benchmarks of 1.07%, -0.79%, and -2.27%. For additional information on ABF’s investment and endowment services, please feel free to contact the office.



## Mission Spotlight



### 2015 International Ministries: Youth Leadership Development Project (YLDP)

In 2015, the **Ethiopian Addis Kidan Baptist Church** received a Palmer Grant to expand the *Youth Leadership Development Project (YLDP)* into Ethiopia. Despite having an abundance of natural resources, millions of Ethiopians are suppressed by extreme poverty and illiteracy. In addition to environmental challenges — poor governance, corruption, and political instability are contributing factors to the country’s hardships. Leadership needs to be addressed at all levels and YLDP aims to nurture the holistic development of future leaders. Rev. Beletew Kebede, General Secretary of the church, stated that *“as Christians, we must be the light of the world. In our case, our youth must be the light of our communities across our nation.”*

YLDP aims to refresh Ethiopia’s youth by instilling Biblical standards through leadership training. Secularism is dominating the youth in Ethiopia, therefore the church must play an active role to counteract this reality. Through YLDP, six training centers will be established throughout the country, including capital city of Addis Ababa. Multi-day training sessions will be held. Areas of training will include:

- **Leadership skills and character development**
- **Christian ethics**
- **Stewardship**
- **Self-discipline**



YLDP’s initial goal is to train 112 youth potential leaders-- 56 male and 56 female. Accomplishments will be evident when the young people transition from passive observers, to active participants and decision makers in the life of the church, their communities and the nation at large. YLDP hopes that funding from this ABF grant award will help to establish a foundation that will transform this vision into a reality.

## Palmer Grant Awardees

The *Virginia & Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust (VGPT) of the American Baptist Foundation* seeks to support priority ministries in partnership with our members: *American Baptist Home Missions Societies (ABHMS)*, the *Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)*, and *International Ministries (IM)*. The *Virginia and Gordon Palmer, Jr. Trust* was created in 1999 as a permanent endowment to the *American Baptist Foundation*. The Trust is to be administered by the Foundation in accordance with established guidelines and principles. For 2015, the Foundation administered two grant cycles: International Ministries (IM) and the Multi-Region Corporation (MRC). Awardees are listed below:

### **International Ministries (IM) 2015 Cycle Awardees**

Asian Baptist Women's Union (ABWU)  
Leadership Training for Young Baptist Women Across Asia

International Ministries (IM)  
Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers (TCTT)

Free Baptist Church of Angola  
Farming of Maize and Cassava

Evangelical Free Baptist Church of Burundi  
To Finish the Construction and Equipment of a Church

Native Baptist Church of Camroon  
Hen Raising Project in Logbajeck

International Ministries (IM) & Unión Femenil Bautista de América Latina  
Leadership Conference and Training

Ministerio Juvenil (Youth Ministry), IM & Convención Bautista de Cuba Oriental (CBCO)  
Connection MJ (Ministerio Juvenil) Youth Ministry

International Ministries East Asia and India Desk  
Expand Human Capacity for Global Missions

Ethiopian Addis Kidan Baptist Church  
Youth Leadership Development Project (YLDP)

Seminario Bautista de México, & de Mexicali, IM & Palmer Theological Seminary  
Training Pastors and Lay Leaders in Latin America (Mexico) Online Master of Theological Studies (MTS) Degree Program in Spanish Language

Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Gereja Kalimantan Evangelis (STT GKE) - Theological College of Kalimantan Evangelical Church  
STT GKE Construction of a New Library

American Baptist International Ministries (IM)  
Providing Christian Education to Rural Christian Leaders

American Baptist International Ministries (IM)  
Supporting Rural Pastors/Evangelists as They Become Self-Sustaining

Baptist Union of Poland/Word of Truth Publishing House  
Building a Multi-Media Center

Slowo Prawdy Publishing House  
Printing the Polish Version of Baptist Ways

New Life Center Foundation  
Anti-Trafficking Educational Campaigns in the Mekong Sub Region

American Baptist International Ministries (IM)  
Plant New Churches in Mango Area

### **Multi-Region Corporation (MRC) 2015 Cycle Awardees**

ABCCONN/ABCORI  
Project Renewal for Bi-vocational Pastors

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Partners to Reach & Minister the Immigrants Among Us

D.C. Baptist Convention  
Equipping Leaders Spiritual Practices of Baptists

American Baptist Churches of Metro New York  
An Oasis from the City: Transformed for Urban Ministry

American Baptist Churches of Indiana/Kentucky  
Together on God's Abundant Journey: Discerning New Paths

American Baptist Churches of Ohio  
A Leadership Academy Partnership for Cleveland and Ohio

American Baptist Churches RGR  
Following the Spirit – Matching Mini-Grant Program

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches  
Understanding One Another

Mid- American Baptist Churches  
Developing Leadership for the Future

Fire Fighter Ministry  
Fire Fighter Ministry

American Baptist Churches New Jersey  
ABCNJ @LIVE

American Baptist Churches Nebraska  
South American Mission Study Project

American Baptist Churches Michigan  
LAY Ministry Leadership Institute

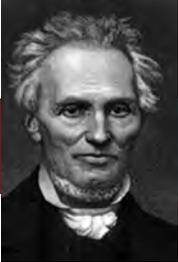
First Baptist Council Bluffs, IA  
Food Pantry Expansion of Services

First Baptist Church of Chicago  
Discipleship, Leadership and Community Development

Aurora Hills Church  
Multi-Cultural Evangelism

American Baptist Churches of Maine  
No Church Left Behind

American Baptist Churches GI  
Building Cross-Cultural Bridges within ABCGI



## John Mason Peck Society

The *John Mason Peck Society* was established in 1996 as a way to acknowledge all those —past and present— who have worked with the Foundation to remember American Baptist ministry and mission in their charitable estate plans. Total membership now exceeds 690.

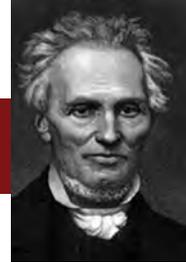
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