



IT'S TIME TO SHARE

photo by Craig Thompson

2023 OFFERING

Planning and
Resource Guide



One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

abc-oghs.org

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IT'S TIME TO SHARE

A LETTER FROM YOUR WORLD RELIEF OFFICER

Dear American Baptist Leaders,

This scripture held special meaning for me in the past year. Quite possibly it did for you too. War in Ukraine persists, communities from Kentucky to Puerto Rico are in the throes of long-term recovery from tornadoes, floods, and hurricanes, while wildfires continue to imperil western U.S. states. And those are just a few of the life-changing hardships people faced in 2022. In the midst of it all, American Baptists have responded through One Great Hour of Sharing, and we are seeing the harvest indeed.

American Baptists have given generously to OGHS – Ukraine Relief – \$1,366,000 in the past 11 months. Those funds have been used to provide relief for the people of Ukraine—those that have remained within the country and those that have sought refuge in neighboring nations. During a recent call with Rev. Igor Bandura, Vice President of International Ministries' Baptist partner in Ukraine, Rev. Bandura shared about the continued hardships the Ukrainian people face. And he also shared these thoughts/glimpses into the life of the Baptist churches in Ukraine today.

- Most churches are full on Sundays despite the fact that half of their members have left.
- There have been 3,000 baptisms in the last 6 months of 2022; 25,000 new people are attending churches.
- On seeing God in the midst of war...“It is hard to go through a war. Really hard. And it's the best time for people to see the power of God.”
- On the future of the Baptist Union...“We continue to think about, dream about, and plan for our future.”
- On the transformation of the local church...“This war has brought a real chance to reform our churches. Our churches were good before the war. But we've become better.”
- On the Union's own transformation...Before the war, this Baptist Union, made up of 2,300 churches, had an organizational capacity that

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up...

— Galatians 6:9

was huge, but did no projects on a national level. Now they are coordinated to deliver a multimillion-dollar humanitarian relief program across their country. They never had to do anything like this. Now they not only know they can do it, they are doing it—and they developed this capacity under all the pressures of war.

- On compassion...“Before the war, when we heard about war or hard things in another part of the world, we prayed. Yes, we prayed. But this war has allowed us to truly understand compassion. Ukraine as a country will emerge from this war a more compassionate people.”

Does any of that surprise you? It surprised me. What a harvest indeed! As I write this letter, two massive earthquakes have rocked Turkey and Syria. Within days of the earthquake, Rev. Bandura shared that the Baptist churches in Ukraine are taking up offerings to help their brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria. In the midst of their continued hardships, they are not fatigued doing good—they are responding to “a time to share” for others in need.

It is our time to share again, as you so faithfully have for so many years! Your giving provides hope and healing—and as we are witnessing in Ukraine, it can be the catalyst God uses to bring forth change within the church and within a nation. Let us not be fatigued, for we are witnessing this gospel truth: “At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit.”

Thank you for your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.



In grateful partnership,



Lisa Rothenberger-Winter
World Relief Officer

GUIDE TO YOUR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Your box of resources includes the following items.

If you need additional quantities, call Claudia Wong at 610-768-2304 or email cwong@internationalministries.org.



2023 Planning and Resource Guide

Inside you will find great content to help you promote the offering. Each page is perforated to be removed and distributed to those who can help build enthusiasm for the offering—the pastor, worship team, teachers, etc.

Video

There are two new videos:

The primary video is “Hunger: It’s Time to Share.” This video unpacks how OGHS seeks to address not only the short-term needs of hunger, but also the longer-term solutions. Runtime is 1:13.

The secondary video features Church Community Services in Elkhart, IN, an ecumenical partner. We share this video in the hopes that it may inspire your congregations own thoughts of how they might participate in a local food growing initiative. Runtime is 2:32.

Visit <http://abc-oghs.org/resources/media-videos> to download the new videos and videos from prior years.

One Great Hour of Sharing Poster (available in English and Spanish)

Create a prominent display with the poster. Call attention to the poster each week through announcements in worship and Sunday school hours and in newsletters.

Printed Bulletin Insert

Use this fold-over bulletin insert as an educational resource in worship, in your newsletter, and at meals and meetings.

Offering Envelopes (available in English & Spanish)

Distribute envelopes generously. Include them in a letter from your pastor to all members and friends, in pews and Sunday bulletins. Put envelopes in several places to make it easy for people to give when it is most convenient.

Coin Boxes

Children and adults can use them. More than simply coin boxes, use the boxes to collect folded paper money and even checks! Announce the date when offering boxes should be returned and dedicate the monies received during Sunday school or worship.

PROMOTION CHECKLIST

Thanks for saying “Yes!” to coordinating the One Great Hour of Sharing offering for your congregation.

Here are some tips that we hope are helpful to you.

PREPARE! (During April)

Review all promotion resources; order additional quantities if needed by calling Claudia Wong at 610-768-2304 or email cwong@internationalministries.org.

- Involve others! Share the individual resources found in the 2023 Planning and Resource Guide with the pastor, the worship team, teachers, etc. as appropriate.
- Choose a leadership team if you need one.
- With your leadership team, set a realistic, but challenging, offering goal. Challenge your congregation to reflect on Galatians 6:9-10.
- Set a date(s) when you will receive the offering. Put this date on your church calendar.
- Be creative! Plan promotional activities to involve people of all ages. Ask teachers to use the materials in the weeks leading up to the offering.
- Familiarize yourself with each of the promotional pieces:
 - 2023 Planning and Resource Guide
 - Two new videos “Hunger: It’s Time to Share” (Runtime of 1:13) and “Church Community Services” (Runtime of 2:32) can be found at <http://abc-oghs.org/resources/media-videos>
 - Poster
 - Printed bulletin inserts
 - Offering coin boxes
 - Offering envelopes

EDUCATE AND PROCLAIM! (During May)

- Know what the offering is and what it provides. Yes, OGHS is a tangible way American Baptists provide for the human needs of our world. The offering provides:
 - **Emergency relief** available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for urgent or acute needs brought about by disasters of natural or human origin;
 - **Development projects** focused on meeting chronic human need by enabling individuals or groups to establish or maintain a more adequate quality of life; and
 - **Ministries to displaced persons** focused on holistic ministry to immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants—those within the U.S. and around the world who find themselves someplace other than what they have known to be home.
- Include announcements and mission stories in your newsletter.
- Make sure offering envelopes are in the pew racks each week.
- Display the offering poster in a prominent place. Set up a visual display to track the offering. Update your display each week.
- Enclose bulletin inserts in weekly bulletins. Create additional bulletin inserts by photocopying the Mission Stories found in this guide.
- Distribute coin boxes to children or the entire congregation.



WORSHIP! (During June)

- Personalize the offering with a testimony from a church member or guest about why giving to this offering is important to them. Many people have been personally impacted by natural disasters—hurricanes, fires, mudslides, etc. Others have personal testimonies about helping to resettle refugees in their community—invite them to share.
- Read Mission Stories during worship services as “Mission Moments.”
- Have a One Great Hour of Sharing sermon and children’s chat prior to the week you receive the offering.
- Use the worship resources during worship services and in small groups.

CELEBRATE! (During June)

- Announce to the congregation the final result of their gifts and celebrate their generosity. Offer thanks and announce the gift total in your newsletter and worship bulletin. (If you did not meet your goal, celebrate what you have received and announce that you have set aside one or two more Sundays for people to give.)

FOLLOW-UP

- Keep a record of promotional activities and what worked well for your church. Archive resources for future years.
- Forward offering receipts to either your Regional Office or the ABCUSA, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482.**

Alternative schedule

Does your worship attendance drop in June? Does your Sunday school “shut down”? Consider receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in May—before people get into summer mode. Receiving the offering on a Sunday with maximum attendance can make a big difference.



So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up...
— Galatians 6:9



Photo by Craig Thompson

MEET YOUR WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

Have you ever wondered how the gifts that you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering get to the places where they make a difference? This is the responsibility of the World Relief Committee (WRC or “Committee”). The Committee’s purpose is to support, enable and encourage emergency relief and disaster rehabilitation, development assistance, and ministry to displaced persons. The source of funds for this work is the gifts you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing annual offering.

The WRC is made up of people from different parts of our American Baptist life:

- 7 voting members elected as follows:
 - 2 from the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society;
 - 2 from the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies;
 - 2 from the Board of General Ministries; and
 - 1 from the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Women’s Ministries.
- 4 staff members: a representative each from the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (International Ministries), the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, the American Baptist Churches USA, and the American Baptist Women’s Ministries.
- The World Relief Officer serves as staff to the committee.

The Committee meets face-to-face two days a year to consider development grant applications. Each individual project proposal is submitted via a completed application that is presented by the appropriate staff representative and then considered by the Committee. A formal vote is taken on each application. Although only the voting members vote on final decisions, all members can give input on each of the grant applications prior to the decision being made. The approval process is followed by a time of prayer for the partners who will receive the funding and for the people whose lives will be made better in some way by the project.

The Committee also receives and reviews the annual financial report of the income and use of all One Great Hour of Sharing monies.

Your committee members are as follows:

Mrs. Janice Fletcher (Chair), North Kingstown, RI

Rev. Mia Chang, Princeton Junction, NJ

Rev. Corey Fields, Wilmington, DE

Mr. Bill Poland, Ellis, KS

Rev. Susan Rice, Cincinnati, OH

Rev. Dr. Christina Smith, Shaker Heights, OH

One vacancy—to be filled by Spring 2023



WHERE YOUR GIFTS MADE A DIFFERENCE

2022

When you take a global view of our world, natural disasters occur every week. When you add war, civil wars and a pandemic, slower-moving disasters continue to fester each day. The larger disasters are captured by our news media, and word of these tragedies is brought into our homes. It is difficult to imagine the suffering of those whose lives are forever changed. However, many needs of our world—whether in a neighboring state or half the world away—remain uncovered by our news media. With our extensive network of international and domestic partners, American Baptists can—and do—make a difference wherever and whenever disaster strikes.

Here's where your gifts made a difference in 2022.

EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS

Around the World

COUNTRY	SITUATION CALLING FOR A RESPONSE
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Convention of Baptist Churches of Western Congo - Tribal Violence
Dominican Republic.....	Mission Marantha - Hurricane Fiona
Hong Kong	New Life Church Hong Kong & Moming Society - COVID-19 Resurgence
Myanmar.....	Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Churches - Civil Unrest
Nicaragua	CEPAD - Hurricane Fiona
Philippines.....	Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches - Typhoon Odette
South Africa	Baptist Mission of South Africa - Flooding
Ukraine.....	European Baptist Federation - Russian Invasion

Here at Home

STATE	SITUATION CALLING FOR A RESPONSE
Arizona.....	Monte Vista Cross Cultural Church, Phoenix - Good Samaritan Program
Indiana	First Baptist Church, New Plymouth - Building Fire
Indiana & Kentucky	ABC of Indiana & Kentucky, Greenwood - Tornado Relief
Indiana & Kentucky.....	ABC of Indiana & Kentucky, Greenwood - Flood Relief
Indiana	Disciples of Christ, Indianapolis - Hurricane Fiona
Pennsylvania.....	American Baptist Home Mission Societies, King of Prussia - Hurricane Fiona
Puerto Rico.....	Iglesia Bautistas de Puerto Rico, Carolina - Hurricane Fiona
Puerto Rico.....	Primera Iglesia Bautista de Rio Piedras, San Juan - Hurricane Fiona

In addition to emergency relief, One Great Hour of Sharing also provided funds for development projects – projects which address chronic needs – in the following countries and states listed below and highlighted on the next page.

GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT & MINISTRY TO DISPLACED PERSONS

Around the World

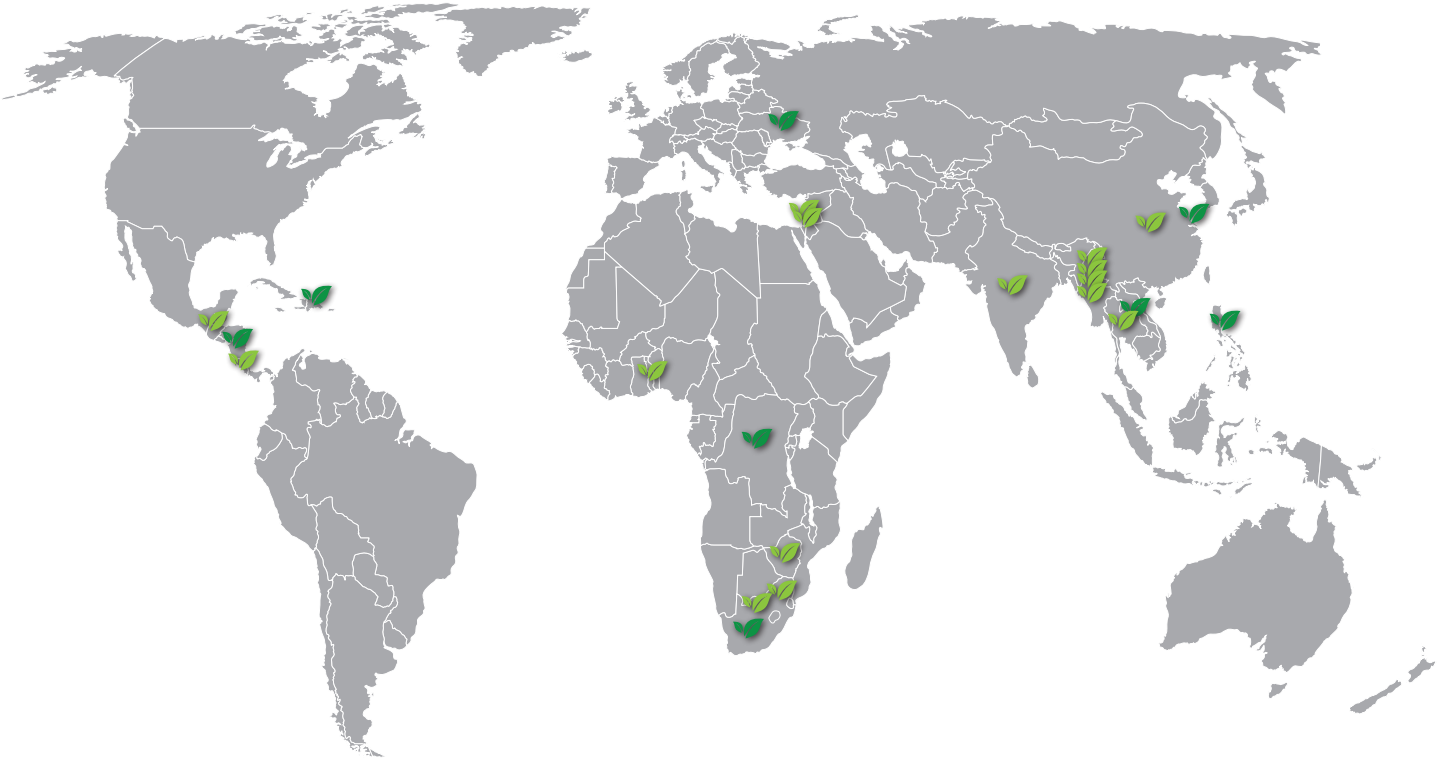
COUNTRY	MINISTRY
China	China Christian Council - Employment for Recovering Drug Addicts
India.....	North East India Christian University (NECU) - Capacity Training Center
Latin America.....	Christian Ecumenical Council of Guatemala - RECONPAZ Human Observatory to Defend God's Creation
Latin America.....	Talita Cumi Girls Club Program
Lebanon.....	Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development - Tuition Assistance for Beirut Baptist School (BBS)
Lebanon.....	Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development - Ministry Support
Myanmar.....	Myanmar Baptist Convention - Community Managed Development Program
Myanmar.....	LOGOS Myanmar - Teacher Training
Myanmar.....	Kachin Light - Shapan Orphanage
Myanmar.....	Max Help - Education for the Next Generation (E4NG) Project
South Africa	Bethel Health Builders - Medical Equipment
South Africa	Baptist Mission of South Africa - Poultry Project
Thailand	Integrated Ministries for Ethnic Minorities Foundation (IMEMF)
Togo.....	Good News Soldiers - Good News Farm Project

Here at Home

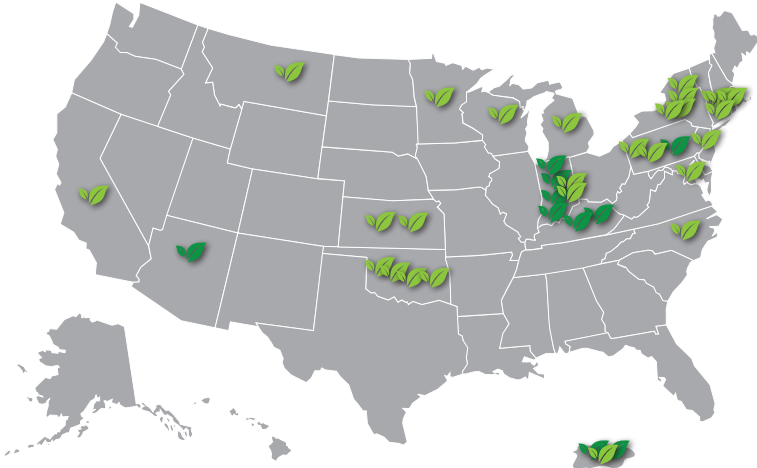
STATE	MINISTRY
California	First Baptist Church, Maywood: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
Connecticut	Creation Justice Network, Windsor - Growing the Congregational Network
District of Columbia	Invested Faith, Washington DC - Invested Faith Fellows Program
Indiana	Iglesia Bautista Betesda, Indianapolis - Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
Indiana	Hope for Tomorrow, Indianapolis - Hope After-School Program
Kansas.....	Stitching Change, Kansas City - Helping Refugee Women Empower Themselves
Kansas.....	Chin Community Church of Kansas, Kansas City - Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
Massachusetts.....	Christ the King Deaf Church, Groton - Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
Massachusetts.....	Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries Inc. (MBMM), Lowell - Advocating for New Americans
Massachusetts.....	Refugee Immigration Ministries, Malden - Strengthening and Rebuilding RIM's Cluster Network
Michigan	Detroit Friendship House, Hamtramck - Bridging the Communication Gap with Bengali Clientele
Minnesota.....	University Baptist Church, Minneapolis - Food and Shelter Grant
Montana.....	Friendship House of Christian Service, Billings - Food and Shelter Grant
North Carolina.....	Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Charlotte - Cultivating the Next Generation of Peacemakers
New Jersey	Stelton Baptist Church, Edison - Church Van
New York	Iglise Baptiste de la Communion Fraternelle, Inc., Brooklyn - Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
New York	Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain - Food and Shelter Grant
New York	The Alliance of Haitian Baptist Churches of NY Region & ABC of Metro New York, New York - Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
New York	Trinity Church of Northborough, White Plains - Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
Oklahoma	Wichita Community Baptist Church, Anadarko - Food and Shelter Grant
Oklahoma	All Tribes Baptist Church, Geary - Food and Shelter Grant
Oklahoma	Redstone Community Baptist Church, Redstone - Food and Shelter Grant
Oklahoma	Watonga Baptist Church, Watonga - Food and Shelter Grant
Pennsylvania.....	American Baptist Women's Ministries, King of Prussia - Equipping Faith Leaders & Laity to Address & Prevent Domestic Violence
Pennsylvania.....	American Baptist Women's Ministries, King of Prussia - Be Strong, Be Courageous: Leadership Training for Women and Girls
Puerto Rico.....	Corporacion Milagros del Amor, Caguas - Assisting Homeless in Times of Crisis
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Christian Center, Milwaukee - Food and Shelter Grant



Around the World



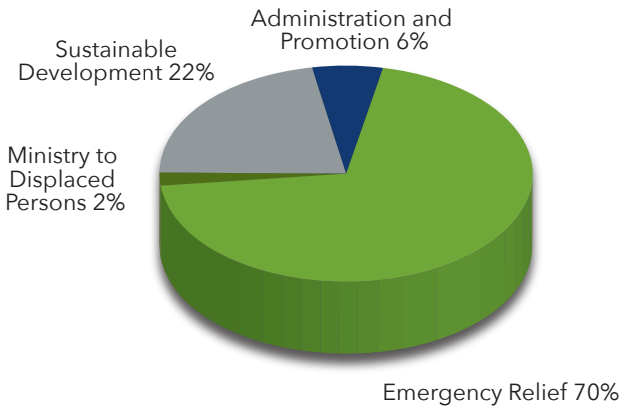
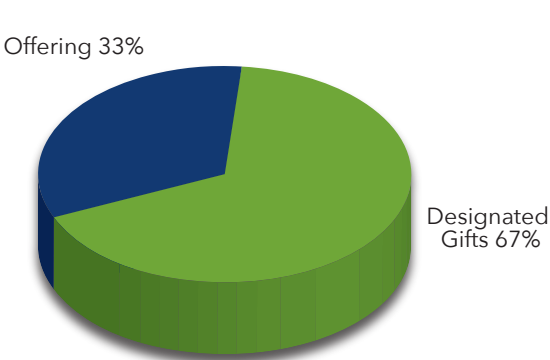
Here at Home



Development grants: 
Emergency Relief grants: 

2022 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FINANCIAL REPORT

HOW YOU SHARED IN 2022



OGHS giving from churches and individuals

Offering	\$ 934,787
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,865,690
Total	\$2,800,477

Changing lives through the offering

Emergency Relief	\$ 2,060,955
Ministry to Displaced Persons	\$ 65,000
Sustainable Development	\$ 625,581
Administration and Promotion	\$ 185,822
Total	\$2,937,358

For a complete listing of how gifts were disbursed in 2022, call or e-mail Lisa Rothenberger-Winter, World Relief Officer. 610-768-2156; lisa.rothenberger@internationalministries.org. Figures are unaudited.

DID YOU KNOW?



One Great Hour of Sharing began seventy-four years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. On Saturday evening, March 26, 1949, a national broadcast titled "One Great Hour" featured a remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities. The 33rd U.S. President, Harry S. Truman's, radio address during the broadcast included the following:

"There are thousands of children in foreign lands today who have no memory of their parents, no knowledge of the meaning of the words "home" and "family," and who have forgotten what it feels like to have enough to eat. There are hopeless thousands who wander among the shattered towns seeking a place to rest, seeking security and a chance to begin their lives anew. There are many who pray to God only in secret, fearing persecution if they profess their beliefs openly.

It is hard for us to comprehend grief and distress such as this because we in America are so much more fortunate. Our country has been blessed with material riches. Our homes are secure. We can go to our churches and worship God as we desire.

We know that we enjoy these great blessings not because of any special merit on our part, but because of the bounty of God. It is to His Providence that we owe the richness of our country and our heritage of freedom. Since these good things come to us from Him, we know that we must use them for the good of others in accordance with His will."

The broadcast concluded by asking Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. More than 75,000 churches responded.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing serves people in over 80 countries around the world. Sponsored by five Christian U.S. denominations and Church World Service, One Great Hour of Sharing makes sure that we can respond to needs as soon as they happen and that tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief, rehabilitation, and development.

The World Relief Committee of the American Baptist Board of General Ministries reviews each development project request funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering received from American Baptists. Gifts reach the ministries and people in need through a network of regional and international partnerships with the following:

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (International Ministries)

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Baptist World Aid - the compassionate arm of the Baptist World Alliance, supporting three areas of ministry: relief, development, and support of national partners.

Church World Service - Founded in 1946, Church World Service is a relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry supported by 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Church World Service transforms communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster.



Harry S. Truman, 33rd U.S. President

Photo: Public Domain, trumanlibrary.gov