



Our love offering to the world.

**2026 OFFERING**

Planning and  
Resource Guide



**One Great  
HOUR**  
OF SHARING

[abc-oghs.org](http://abc-oghs.org)

# Contents

1	Our Love Offering To The World: A Letter from Your World Relief Officer
3	Guide to Your Promotional Materials
4	Promotion Checklist
6	Bulletin Insert Mission Stories
8	Meet Your World Relief Committee
9	Where Your Gifts Made a Difference
12	2025 One Great Hour of Sharing Financial Report
13	Did You Know?
14	Theme Development and Scriptural Exegesis: Our Love Offering To The World
16	Scripture Commentary and Sermon Starter: Give a Love Offering with Cheer
18	Children's Moment
19	Offering Reminder
20	Order of Worship
20	Call to Worship
20	Prayer of Invocation
20	Litany of Responsive Reading
21	Invitation to the Offering
21	Prayer of Dedication
21	Charge & Benediction
21	Hymn Suggestions
22	Children's Activity: Cheerful Giving
24	Youth Activity: DARE to Be Generous
26	Intergenerational Activity: An Art Offering to the World
28	Worship Resources for Any Season
28	Call to Worship
28	Pastoral Prayer
28	Offering Invitation

# OUR LOVE OFFERING TO THE WORLD: A Letter from Your World Relief Officer

Dear American Baptist Leaders,

Each year, as your donations join with those of other American Baptist congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico, One Great Hour of Sharing becomes **OUR LOVE OFFERING TO THE WORLD!**

Is the practice of receiving “love offerings” familiar to your church? You might be familiar with love offerings, like when your congregation receives an offering to show appreciation for a beloved pastor, a guest preacher, or special speaker; to support a specific occasion, like an anniversary or commemoration; or, to support a particular church or community program, or project. And each year you receive OGHS, you are indeed taking up a **LOVE OFFERING**—one that is shared around the world!

OGHS has been an offering of love to the world for over 77 years. Each year you are invited to give for the sake of sisters and brothers around the globe. Our collective giving to OGHS shows up around the world in tangible acts of love, compassion, and care:

- comfort and hands to help rebuild after natural disasters;
- shelter, nourishment, and safety in places where war rages and poverty prevails;
- tools and expertise to establish sustainable agriculture, clean water, and livelihoods; and
- advocacy for the dignity of those who are marginalized and most vulnerable.

Simply put, OGHS shows up when immediate and long-term help is needed. We may never personally witness the results of our help—but that’s what a love offering is: giving from the heart, believing that our gifts make a difference, trusting that our gifts bear hope and light and love in the lives of those to whom we are connected.

We give generously for the sake of others. We give cheerfully because we care. We give enthusiastically because we love. We give to OGHS—**OUR LOVE OFFERING TO THE WORLD!**



In grateful partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Rothenberger-Winter".

Lisa Rothenberger-Winter  
World Relief Officer

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
(2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)



photo: Paul Jeffrey



# Guide to Your Promotional Materials

Your box of resources includes the following items.

If you need additional quantities, call Lara McQue at 610-768-2011 or email [Lmcque@internationalministries.org](mailto:Lmcque@internationalministries.org)



## 2026 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

The 2026 video is “Our Love Offering to the World.” Runtime is 1:33. The video can be found at [www.abc-oghs.org](http://www.abc-oghs.org).

## 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.

# 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/May)

*Review all promotion resources; order additional quantities if needed by calling Lara McQue at 610-768-2011 or emailing [Lmcque@internationalministries.org](mailto:Lmcque@internationalministries.org).*

- Involve others! Share the individual resources found in the 2026 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 2 Corinthians 9:7
- 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:
  - 2026 Planning and Resource Guide
  - One new video “Our Love Offering to the World” (Runtime of 1:33) can be found at [www.abc-oghs.org](http://www.abc-oghs.org)
  - Poster
  - Printed bulletin inserts
  - Offering envelopes

## EDUCATE AND PROCLAIM! (During April/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.





### 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 Moment 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 result of their gifts and celebrate their generosity. Offer thanks and announce the offering 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.**

# Meet Your World Relief Committee

**H**ave you ever wondered how the gifts that you give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering get to the places where they are put to work? This is the responsibility of the World Relief Committee (“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 Committee 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 (International Ministries);
  - 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 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 two times a year. 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.

Your committee members are as follows:

**Rev. Dr. Tamara Scott (Chair)**, Kalamazoo, MI

**Rev. Yamina Apolaris**, Caguas, PR

**Mr. Roger Chamberlain**, Fairfield, OH

**Rev. Corey Fields**, Wilmington, DE

**Mrs. Miriam Noyes**, Keizer, OR

**Mrs. Lovena Van Haften**, Pella, IA

**Rev. Dwayne T. Williams**, Huron, SD



# Where Your Gifts Made a Difference

# 2025

When you take a global view of our world, natural disasters occur every week. When you add war, civil wars, and ethnic conflict, slower-moving disasters continue to fester each day. 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 when disaster strikes.

Here's where your gifts made a difference in 2025.

## EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS

### Around the World

COUNTRY	SITUATION CALLING FOR A RESPONSE
Burundi	Baptist Union of Burundi – Girls Dormitory Fire
Cuba	Fraternidad Iglesias Bautista de Cuba – Hurricane Melissa Relief
DR Congo	Heal Africa – Goma Relief
Indonesia	Rebana – Jakarta Flood Relief
Jamaica	Jamaica Baptist Union – Hurricane Melissa Relief
Mongolia	Real Hope Church – Measles Outbreak
Myanmar	Sant Khan Kaew Foundation – Refugee Relief
Myanmar	Mekong Minority Foundation – Earthquake Relief
Myanmar/ Thai Border	Nightlight Foundation – Myanmar Scam Center Repatriation
Nepal	Multipurpose Community Development Service – Flood Relief
Philippines	Capiznon Kasapulan Baptist Churches – Typhoon Relief
South Africa	Baptist Mission of South Africa – Civil Conflict
Vietnam	Baptist Convention of Vietnam – Typhoon Relief

### Here at Home

STATE	SITUATION CALLING FOR A RESPONSE
CA	First Baptist Church of Pasadena – Eaton Canyon Wildfire Relief & Recovery
CA	Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles – Eaton Canyon Wildfire Relief
IA	Hillsboro–Harrisburg Baptist Church – Post Storm Parsonage Repair
IL	American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region – Tornado Relief
MA	Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries: Emergency Assistance for Undocumented Asylum Seekers
MA	First Spanish Baptist Church: Ice Storm Damage to Church Steeple and Roof
NE	American Baptist Churches of Nebraska – Medical Emergency for Pastor's Family
OK	Rainy Mountain Kiowa Baptist Church – Church Fire Recovery
WV	Weirton Christian Center – Winter Pipe Freeze & Water Outage
WV	The Baptist Temple – Church Flood Relief

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

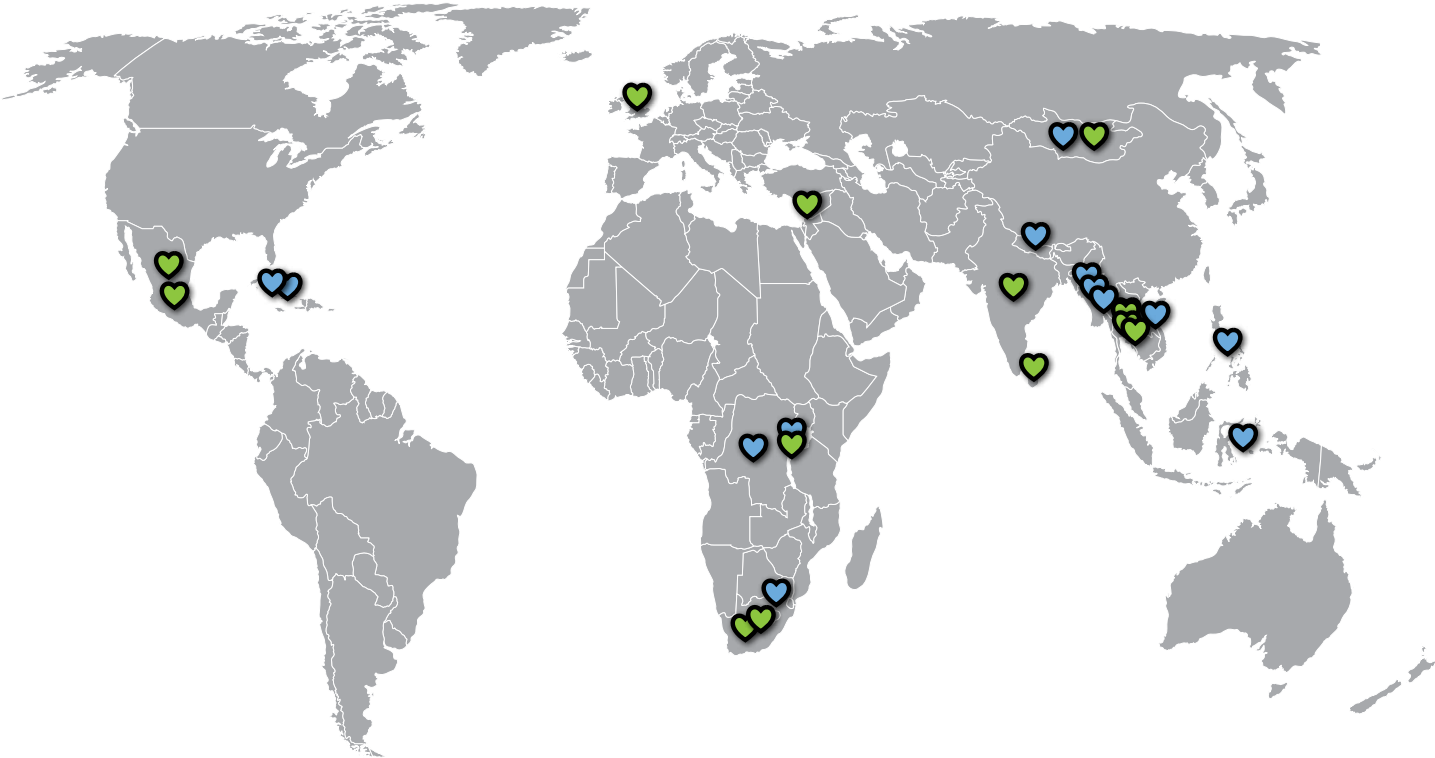
### Around the World

COUNTRY	MINISTRY
Burundi	Association pour la Mission Intégrée: Solar Power for the Kitabi School
England	Park Baptist Church: Community Outreach Hall Renovations
India	North East India Christian University (NECU): Furnishings for Women's Hostel
Lebanon	THIMAR: SMART and SKILD Programs for Children with Learning Differences
Mexico	Seminario Intercultural Mayense: Community Bathrooms
Mexico	JesuCristo Vive Church: Construction of a Multipurpose Center for Migrant Ministry
Mongolia	Real Hope Church: After School Program
South Africa	Baptist Union of Southern Africa: Women's Dept Standing Together Against GBV
South Africa	Bethel Health Builders: Cultivating Grey Oyster Mushrooms
Sri Lanka	Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service: Self-Reliance Through Livelihood Support
Thailand	Nightlight Foundation: Equipping the Outreach Team
Thailand	Christian Center for the Development of People with Disabilities: Cloth Dyeing Project
Thailand	Hope Theological Seminary: Water Projects

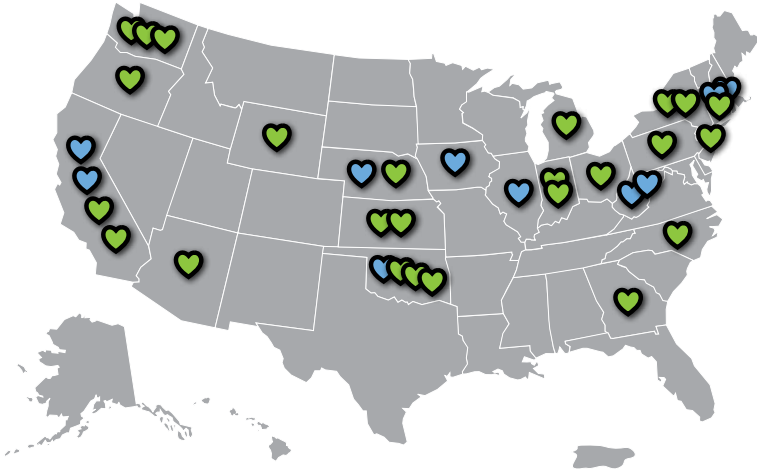
### Here at Home

STATE	MINISTRY
AZ	Monte Vista Cross Cultural Church: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
CA	Oakland Baptist Mission Baptist Church: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
CA	FBC Maywood: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
CT	First Baptist Church in New Haven: The Mika Project
IN	Iglesia Bautista Betesda: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
IN	Hope for Tomorrow: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
KS	Stitching Change: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
KS	FBC of Gardner: Food and Shelter Grant
MI	Milwaukee Community Crossroads: Building Opportunities for Young People Program
MT	First Crow Indian Baptist Church: Food and Shelter Grant
NC	Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church: Food and Shelter Grant
NE	FBC of Lincoln: Food and Shelter Grant
NJ	Bethel Haitian Baptist Church: ESL Program
NY	ABC of Metro New York- Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
NY	Faith in the City New York: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
OH	African Community Christian Center: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
OK	Redstone Baptist Church: Food and Shelter Grant
OK	All Tribes Baptist Church: Food and Shelter Grant
OK	Wichita Indian Baptist Church: Food and Shelter Grant
OR	FBC of Oregon City: Food and Shelter Grant
PA	Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church: Food and Shelter Grant
WA	Alliance of Asian American Baptists Churches: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
WA	First Baptist Comunidad Cristiana: Refugee and Immigration Ministry Grant
WA	First Baptist Christiana Comunidad: Housing for Disadvantaged and At-Risk Youth

# Around the World



# Here at Home

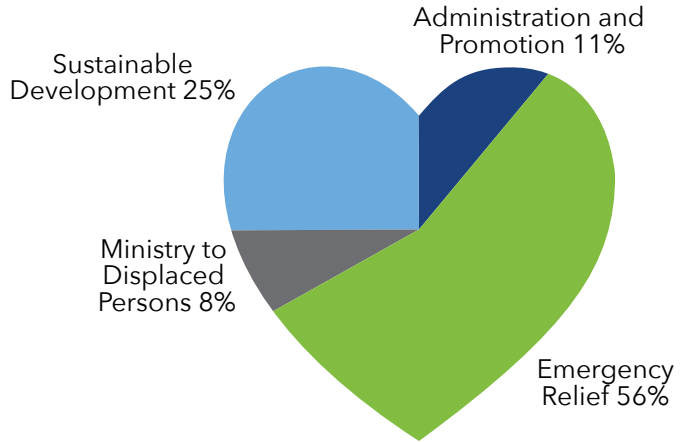
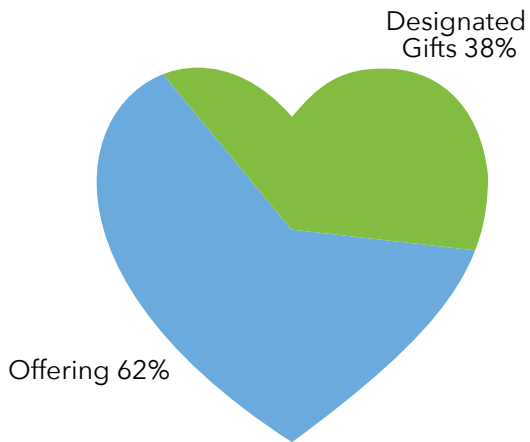


Development grants: 

Emergency Relief grants: 

# 2025 One Great Hour of Sharing Financial Report

## How you shared in 2025



### OGHS giving from churches and individuals

Offering	\$ 886,577
Designated Gifts	\$ 535,116
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,421,693</b>

### Changing lives through the offering

Emergency Relief	\$ 823,166
Ministry to Displaced Persons	\$ 110,370
Sustainable Development	\$ 363,058
Administration and Promotion	\$ 177,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,474,052</b>

# Did You Know?



Photo: Public Domain, trumanlibrary.gov

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

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering began seventy-seven 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. Church World Service transforms communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster.