

2016 ANNUAL SUMMARY

“In Him was life,
and the life was
the light of all”

(John 1:4)

Connecting People Who Care To Ministries That Matter

We who follow Jesus are dedicated to seek ways for putting his words into our actions. One of His commands is to:

*“Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*

(Matthew 5:16)

The American Baptist Foundation was founded over 32 years ago to help Christians do just that. Our planned giving resources enable all of us to support ministries and illuminate lives with the good news of Christ.

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From the Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What does it mean to endow your future?

It begins with an understanding that your ministry vision is worthy of perpetual support. What is your vision? What aspects of your ministry need to be endowed?

Endowing your future goes beyond establishing an account and relying on investment performance to provide financial support. Too often, the idea of being endowed predominantly relies on working with investment advisors and money managers to select investment choices, track performance history and maximize income yield. These are important, but the most significant aspect of any endowment is its testimony. Regardless of size, each endowment has a ministry message and it needs to be shared.

For our ministry partners who have endowments – what is your endowment ministry message and how is it celebrated to encourage further financial partnerships?

For those who are not yet endowed – what is standing in the way of establishing one of the most powerful resources to secure long-term financial well-being?

So, what does it mean to endow your future? For each ministry, the definition will be revealed in unique and distinct ways and for each it will related to your ministry vision and Christ's work that is being accomplished through each of you.

For American Baptist Foundation, we have been blessed to witness the true definition of what it means to be endowed as we see new life being breathed into existing endowments and the promise being lived out through new ones.

Yours in Christ,

Perkin

Rev. Perkin Simpson

Executive Director

VISION

✓ What drives your ministry?

COMMUNICATION

✓ Increased donor commitment

CELEBRATION

✓ A brighter future for your ministry

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



The Rev. John E. Simmons, who with his wife, Lisa, and their two children served from 1997 to 2002, with American Baptist International Ministries as missionaries in Thailand, became the Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, effective January 1, 2017. He succeeds the six-year tenure of the Rev. William A. Carlsen, former Executive Minister of the *American Baptist Churches of New York State*.

John first joined the Board as an at-large member in October 2015, bringing his experience in planned giving gained from his positions as Minister of Mission Support and Chief Financial Officer with the *West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC)*.

During his college years, John considered being a bi-vocational minister. Although that approach was never needed, his degree from the University of Louisville in Accounting and Business has been used by God in John's ministries as a *WVBC* staff member and now in his ABF leadership capacity.

After earning his Masters of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1984, John served for thirteen years as the pastor of *Calvary Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Indiana*, *First Baptist Church of Webster Springs, West Virginia*, and *First Baptist Church of Weston, West Virginia*. He applied his pastoral skills when he ministered with the Thailand Lahu Baptists in pastoral and evangelism training. He also taught at the Bible school and was an administrative consultant for the Thailand Lahu Baptist Convention's Executive team.

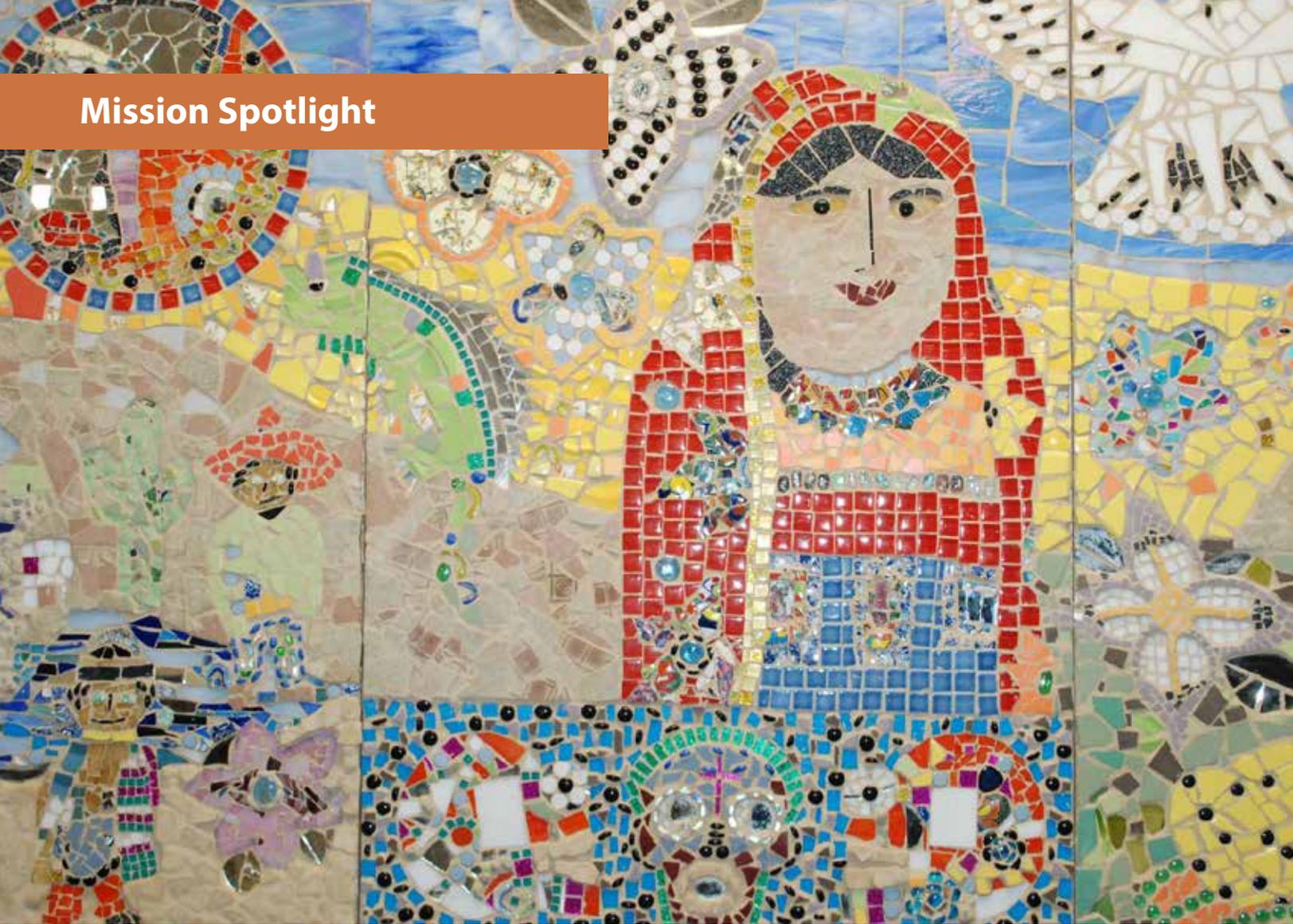
John began working for WVBC in 2002 as the Minister of Mission Support. He became the Chief Financial Officer in 2004 and was named Associate Executive Minister beginning in 2006. He is responsible for the financial and administrative functions of the WVBC and supervises communications and mission support promotion.

He brings this vast background and wide perspective to ABF's Board, believing that "a budget is simply a ministry plan written in the language of dollars." Celebrating the fact that "people can trust the Foundation to carry out their desires as they use planned gift instruments," John describes an estate plan as "a way donors can give in death as they have given in life."

John explains: "The protocols used by the Foundation are Christ-honoring, and it's never too early to talk to the Foundation because many people aren't aware of the good stewardship steps they can take. For instance, you can get a consistent return on your assets—a return you can't get with the stock market or certificates of deposit—and the remainder will go to the ministries you love. So it's a great way to stabilize your income, especially in retirement, from the assets you've accumulated, as well as bless the work of Christ that you care about."

This former missionary in Thailand feels called to strengthen the mission of ABF, wanting to emphasize that ABF serves not only individuals but also congregations and groups. One way is through the transformation program, Strengthening Your Financial Future (SYFF). In this program, Foundation staff members meet with ministry leaders to develop a plan based on the question, "What is something special you'd like to accomplish if you had the resources?" The answer identifies a specific ministry that can be funded by special gifts for that purpose. John says, "Some people are so enthusiastic about this approach that they've created separate funds to support specific causes which are close to their hearts. So ABF encourages estate plans that not only fund mission worldwide but also right here at home!"





2016 ABHMS Palmer Grant Awardee

Building Neighborhood Capacity Program – Milwaukee Christian Center

Situated in an economically challenged 1.5 square mile area on the South Side of Milwaukee—with 44% of residents living below the poverty line, 16% unemployed, and 46% without a high school diploma (American Community Survey 2013)—the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) was created by the Milwaukee Christian Center in 2015 as a platform to elevate the community. Grounded in the belief that sustained neighborhood change must come from within, BNCP’s methodology includes four components:

1. Building local teams of residents and partners,
2. Learning about neighborhood assets and challenges,
3. Developing resident-driven neighborhood revitalization initiatives, and
4. Implementing resident-driven “learn by doing” projects that address community needs and drive positive change.

BNCP’s initial work has highlighted the need for residents to learn fundamental leadership skills that can be applied to multiple aspects of their work. Consequently, in 2016, the Milwaukee Christian Center, Inc. received a Palmer Grant to expand these efforts. Specifically, the 2016 Palmer

Grant award will help provide:

- Leadership Coaching and Education
- Resource development and management
- Volunteer training and oversight

The Milwaukee Christian Center remains committed to “connecting neighbors, building strong families, and creating beautiful places and peaceful streets.” Along with their community, they have embarked on a transformational journey by initiating book clubs, hosting regular community dinners, clean-ups and block parties. They are also working on completing their first major “Learn by Doing” project this year—creating a communal green space where families can gather and play. The power of the Christian witness is indeed at work through BNCP. We thus take the opportunity to recognize them for their work and commitment to being a Christ-centered, servant model of change—affirming the capacity of all to increase safety, reduce and crime reverse the negative effects of poverty.



2016 Financial Summary

During our many 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 us 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 2016 (pre-audit).

\$137 million in **total assets under management**

\$8 million in **income distributions to our donors and income beneficiaries**

\$668 thousand 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:

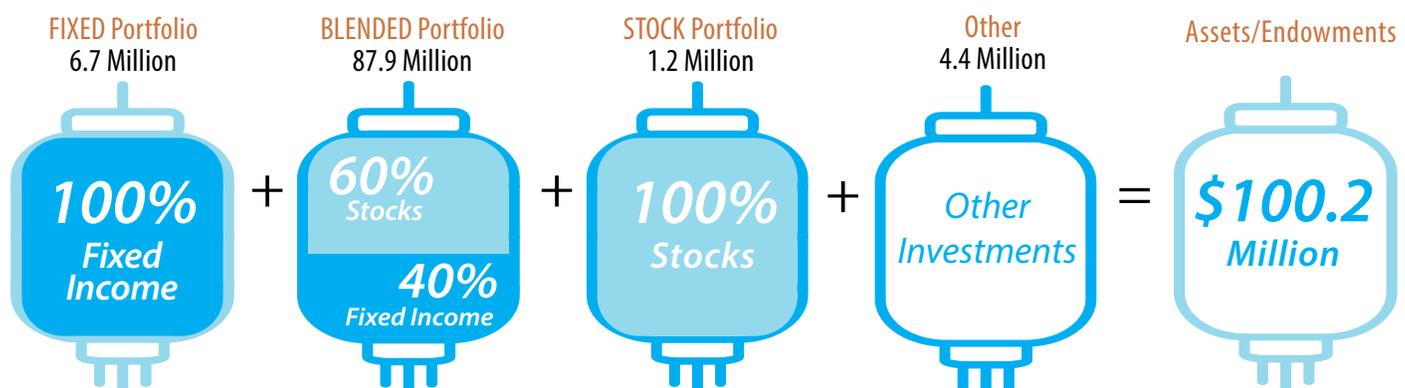
Charitable Trusts – 93 trusts managed totaling \$24.7 million

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)– 400+ CGAs managed with \$8 million held in reserves

Other Agreements Managed for AB Partners – 41 accounts totaling \$706,849

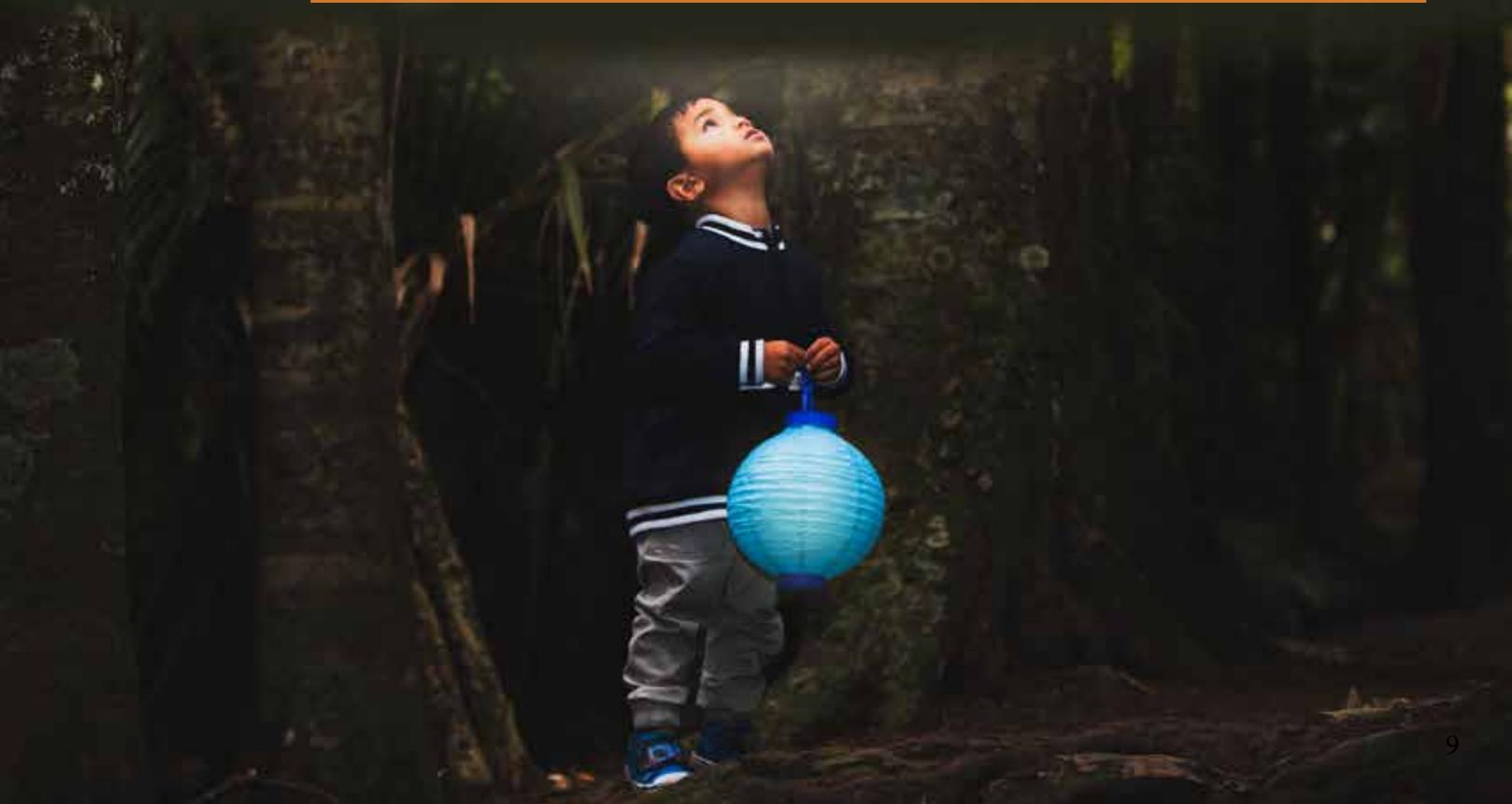
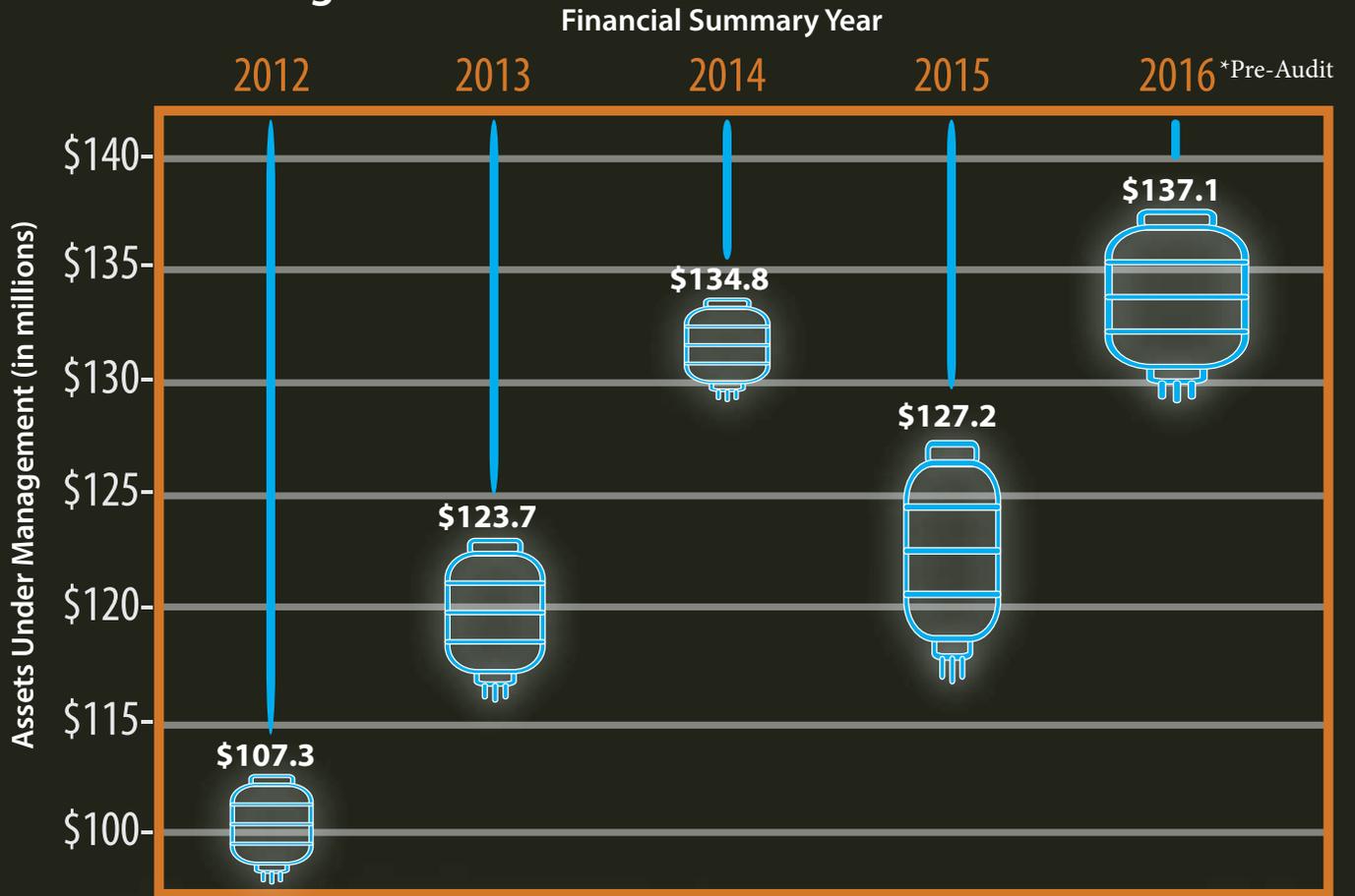
Investments and Endowments

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, 2016 were \$100.2 million, including \$96 million specific to the investment and endowment platform.



During the year, new accounts were added to the investment and endowment platform. A total of \$7.6 million in new contributions were received for new and existing accounts. In a challenging investment climate, the 2016 Fixed, Blended and Stock portfolio returns were 1.67%, 5.97% and 8.80%, respectively — finishing below their respective benchmarks of 2.08%, 7.26%, and 9.82%. For additional information on ABF's investment and endowment services, please feel free to contact the office.

Assets Under Management





2016 International Ministries Palmer Grant Awardee Equipping Pastors to Lead: Akha Churches of Thailand

The *Akha Churches of Thailand (ACT)* was created as a ministry to advance the Christian faith of the indigenous Akha tribe in the Northern Hills of Thailand and has been a long-time partner of IM under the guardianship of IM Missionary, Chuck Fox, since 1999.

Located in small isolated rural villages, the Akha tribe has been “trying on” Christianity; and in order for the community to truly wear the full armor of Christ, a need has been identified to train pastors in the Akha villages to become effective communicators of the gospel. The reality is that the Akha tribe are an agricultural people. As such, pastors are bi-vocational and work as farmers of coffee, corn, rice, tea, ginger, beans and pigs. Often these pastor/farmers have little formal education, except for a few who have a sixth grade education—only one pastor has been to Bible school.

Rev. Turley of ACT writes: “Pastors, whether female or male, are often not allowed to do funerals, weddings, baptisms and communions because they have not proven themselves. They also have not received enough education and often are not given the respect afforded to them in other cultures.” There is a hierarchical culture in Thailand which is highly oriented toward status of education, money, age and family background. These toilers of the earth and disciples of the gospel as such, are in need of upliftment.

Consequently, the mandate of **Equipping Pastors to Lead** is to provide these Akha pastors with the continual support, training and teaching they need to be effective ministerial leaders.

Funding from the 2016 IM-ABF Palmer Grant will help ACT train pastors to:

- Conduct weddings, funerals, and other ceremonial duties.
- Lead a congregation and work church leadership.
- Develop sermons, prayers, parables and spiritual messaging.

We take the opportunity to place the spotlight on ACT’s shepherding, because it is only through the power of the Christian witness that we can deepen understanding of the Bible and following Christ, to be able to effectively share the New Testament and grow in faith. As Rev. Turley of ACT said, “we have the story of Jesus in the Akha village: the miracle of worship and the change of hearts.”



2016 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 2016, the Foundation administered two grant cycles: International Ministries (IM) and the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS). Awardees are listed below:

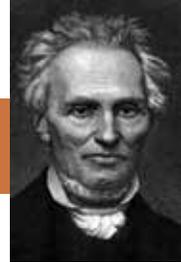
American Baptist Home Missions Society (ABHMS)

United Church of Granville
Creating Peacemakers and Leaders in Central Ohio
ABC of the Rocky Mountains
Diploma of Advanced Study in Church Leadership
NextGen Church
Grant Elementary School Tutoring Program of NJ
New Life Christian Fellowship
Entrepreneurial Faith Workers
ABC of New York State
Lay Study Program
First Baptist Church of Norfolk
Latino Leadership and Outreach Initiative
ABC of Rocky Mountains
Growing Effective Bivocational Leaders for Small Churches
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico
Eco-theological initiative of the Evangelical Seminary of PR
Latham Community Baptist Church
Integral Missional Leader
National Baptist Memorial Baptist Church
Project Uplift
ABC of Maine
Coaching for Leadership in Mission
Judson Memorial Church, NYC
Community Ministry Training Program
Milwaukee Christian Center Inc.
Building Neighborhood Capacity Program
Ottawa University
Faith-Revitalized Youth Ministry Planning Groups
Bethel Baptist Church of Leota
Growing Leaders through Volunt-Hearing
DC Baptist Convention
Metropolitan Ministry Internship
ABHMS
ABHMS Grantee Convene and Connect
Central Seminary
Foundations Judson Communities
ABC of Metro Chicago
A Collaborative Model for Regional Leadership
Asian American Leadership Center
Pathway to Ministry (Preparing Emergent Leaders)

West Virginia Baptist School of Christian Studies
School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative
ABC of Wisconsin
The Circuit and the POST: Expanding Regional Ministry
Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University
Maestria en Estudios Teologicos en Ministerios Latinos/as
Greater Bethesda M.B.C for Ommatidium
Ommatidium Faith-Based Strategic Change Program
ABC of the Northwest
Young Leaders Networks (Children, Youth & Innovators)
American Baptist Churches of Nebraska
Gathering Leaders for Kingdom Work
CHUM
Developing Congregational Leaders to Address and Dismantle Structural Racism
The Center for Career Development and Ministry
Coaching for Lay and Locally Ordained Pastors Serving Rural Congregations

International Ministries (IM)

Yunnan Christian Council/Three Self Patriotic Movement (YCC/TSPM)
Train Ethnic Minority Pastors and Bible School Teachers in Yunnan, China
European Baptist Federation (EBF)
Church Planting in Europe and the Middle East
SAT-7 International
Reaching MENA Through Satellite TV
Baptist Churches of Vietnam (BCV)
Providing Theological Education for Pastors in Vietnam
Akha Churches of Thailand (ACT)
Equipping Akha Pastors to Lead
Cambodian Baptist Union (CBU)
Equipping Leaders to Strengthen the Cambodian Church
Baptist Convention of Togo
Continue to Plant New Churches in Mango area
Evangelical Free Baptist Church of Burundi (EBLB)
Train leaders, leading newly planted churches
Native Baptist Church of Cameroon (NBC)
Training and equipping church leaders for better ministry work
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



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.

John Mason Peck Members (as of 2016)

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 Eugene and Ellen Allen
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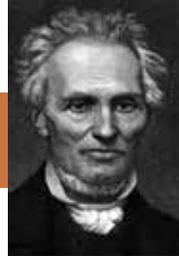
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