

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR AMERICAN BAPTIST SPECIAL INTEREST MISSIONARIES

American Baptist Home Mission Societies and International Ministries

Get everyone involved! Knowing about the ministries of your Special Interest Missionaries enables pastors, adults, youth and children to get involved.

Keep up to date. You can find biographical information and journals or newsletters from your Special Interest Missionaries on the Web:

www.abhms.org – American Baptist Home Mission Societies missionaries serve in the United States and Puerto Rico.

www.internationalministries.org – International Ministries missionaries serve in countries around the world.

If you are unable to access the Internet yourself, talk with others in your church (perhaps a young person) about help in printing out information. Publish journals and newsletters in your church and region newsletters and church bulletins.

You may subscribe to receive journals and newsletters via e-mail. Visit the above Web sites or call 800-222-3872, ext. 2140, for International Ministries or ext. 2449, for American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

Read. Learn about the challenges, successes, failures and concerns your missionaries face. Journals and newsletters are excellent sources for sermon ideas, children's stories, devotional topics, Moments for Mission, Bible studies and small group discussions.

Write. Every missionary loves to get mail, especially missionary kids! Send an e-mail! Mail a birthday or holiday card. Involve a Sunday school class, youth group or Bible study group in writing a round robin letter, where everyone can include a word of greeting and support. Please understand that missionaries always welcome correspondence, but are not always able to send a personal response.

- Stress that ALL correspondence should be mailed DIRECTLY to the missionary.
- For security reasons, please call International Ministries at 800-222-3872, ext. 2323, to confirm addresses for International Ministries missionaries.
- To send mail overseas, check with your U.S. Post Office for current postal rates.

Pray. Prayer is the MOST important way you can support your Special Interest Missionaries. Consider adding them to your church or region's regular prayer line. Journals and newsletters will tell you about issues they are facing, struggles in their ministries, and situations unique to where they live that impact their work. Global prayer needs are posted weekly on the International Ministries Web site (see above). You may subscribe either online or by calling 800-222-3872, ext. 2140, to receive these postings via e-mail.

Projects. Your Special Interest Missionary may have a mission service project that could use your help or support! For a current list of ideas, request a copy of the American Baptist Mission Service Projects book by calling 1-800-4-JUDSON. This resource is free!

Sign up! Both American Baptist Home Mission Societies and International Ministries have a variety of resources that relate to the ministries of your Special Interest Missionaries. "On Location" provides information about missionaries and their kids and is available in print or via e-mail. Sign up for American Baptist Home Mission Societies' publication, "Mission in America," for the latest information about American Baptist mission in the United States and Puerto Rico. Stay connected by subscribing to American Baptist Home Mission Societies' monthly e-newsletter—"Home Mission News & Notes"—on the home page at abhms.org.

Promotion. Keep your Special Interest Missionaries visible! Make a display or bulletin board with a map of where they work. Add photos, letters or journals, news articles about that area; post prayer needs or cards you want folks to sign. Plan a mission dinner or fair featuring the ministry of your Special Interest Missionary. Use decorative items native to the region of the country (Montana, Arizona, Puerto Rico) or to the region of the world (Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, India) where they work. Add flags or street signs, serve local dishes, play music and learn a song they use in their ministry. It's a great time to show a video and photos, or to work on a special mission project.

Your church or region Web site. Post recent information, photos and prayer reminders on your church or region Web site. Add hyperlinks directly to International Ministries profiles and journals. You can also add hyperlinks to American Baptist Home Mission Societies Web page for home mission news and missionary information.

Gifts. Doesn't matter if you're a kid or not—everyone likes a birthday gift. Ask your Special Interest Missionaries what they would like to receive. (For those living overseas, check first to see what is allowed through customs and if missionaries have to pay to receive packages.)

Financial Support. Include ongoing financial support for your Special Interest Missionaries in your church's annual budget. This should be noted on the Monthly Report of Mission Support that is sent to your region office. Please call 800-222-3872, ext. 2311, to learn how to provide the ongoing support necessary for each International Ministries missionary.

Personal gifts of money.

- American Baptist Home Mission Societies and International Ministries Missionaries: Personal monetary gifts may be included by your church treasurer with the monthly remittance of other mission funds. The amount should be noted on the Monthly Report of Mission Support that is sent to your region office. Use Miscellaneous Objectives (MO) and put the name of the missionary and location of service in the detail section of the form. These gifts are considered to be over and above your regular mission giving.
- American Baptist Home Mission Societies Missionaries: You may send personal gift checks directly to American Baptist Home Mission Societies missionaries.
- International Ministries Missionaries: Send personal gift checks to International Ministries for deposit into a missionary's personal account. Mark "Personal gift for ___(name)___," and send to Treasurer, International Ministries, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851. **Please DO NOT send personal gift checks OR cash directly to IM missionaries who serve in other countries. They should be sent to International Ministries in Valley Forge, However, ALL CARDS GO DIRECTLY TO THE MISSIONARY.**

Visit! Why not plan to visit your Special Interest Missionary? What a great way to get young and old interested in mission work! If you alternate national and international visits, your church can learn about the vast scope of American Baptist mission.

Invite. Ask the missionary to visit your church or region. Contact the Minister of Mission Support in your region to request one of your Special Interest Missionaries for a mission fair, to meet with your youth group, be a special guest at Vacation Bible School, do workshops at an annual meeting, etc. You can learn who your Minister of Mission Support is by visiting this Web site: <http://www.abc-usa.org/RegionalMinistries/RegionMap.aspx>.

Additional Questions? Please contact:

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