

“Every gift to the Ministry Resource Fund is directly supporting the incarnational ministries of pastors and leaders throughout the NAB.”

The NAB International Office seeks to provide every NAB pastor and leader who desires it with the resources and training to equip their people to be representatives of God incarnate in their neighborhoods. One of the main sources of funding for this kind of missional training is the Ministry Resource Fund.

The missional movement has come a long way within the NAB, but there is still much more to be done. Your gift of \$100, \$200, \$500, or more to the Ministry Resource

Fund supports the continuation and further expansion of the missional efforts within our conference. Your gift will also go beyond the missional movement to play a part in supporting church multiplication, pastor and board development, leadership formation training, the establishment of long-term partnerships between churches in North America and their sister churches around the world, and many other ministry efforts.

Above all, every gift to the Ministry Resource Fund is directly supporting the incarnational ministries of pastors and leaders throughout the NAB. Thank you for choosing to take part in this missional movement with us.



NORTH AMERICAN

BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14 ESV



THE WORD BECAME
FLESH AND DWELT
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NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE CHRISTMAS 2019

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Christmas is the season we celebrate the incarnational God, when “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14 ESV). Jesus invites us to also be incarnational, living as His representatives in our neighborhoods. Churches like Colonial Village Baptist are beginning to understand that this kind of incarnational living is an outgrowth of a missional life. Because they are living as people who have been sent by God into their neighborhoods, people like Ryan are finding refuge in these churches.

Ryan is a veteran diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, so being in a new space full of strangers can be overwhelming. To assist him during stressful times, Ryan has a service dog, Slugger, who goes everywhere with him. When Ryan and Slugger began visiting Colonial Village in Lansing, Michigan, veterans within the congregation rallied around him to show that the entire church welcomes both him and Slugger with open arms. Through this love, care, and support he was shown by members of the church, Ryan recently chose to be baptized by both pastors, Reverend Randy Morgan and Bryon Morgan. It is not unusual to see Ryan worshiping during a Sunday service while Slugger stands up on a pew next him, wagging his tail as the congregation sings.



“When a church undergoes a shift to understand the Gospel as missional and incarnational, they can’t help but manifest that change in how they treat everyone around them .”

All across the North American Baptist Conference, churches and leaders like Colonial Village and its pastors are recognizing that they will not grow or thrive if they continue to do church the way it has been done for the past fifty years. Instead, in an effort to be Christ’s representatives in their neighborhood, they have been attempting to put into practice some of the suggestions from Cam Roxburgh, NAB’s VP of Missional Initiatives.

When a church undergoes a shift to understand the Gospel as missional and incarnational, they can’t help but manifest that change in how they treat everyone around them. Thomas returned to Colonial Village after three years in prison. During his incarceration, he was often in solitary confinement to protect him from some of the other men who continually attempted to pick fights with him. Once he was released, he was only allowed to attend church while wearing a GPS tracker. Yet, that first Sunday back he was greeted with tears of joy and hugs all around. He couldn’t even hold back his own tears when singing to our God who is able to redeem all things.



Through the continued support of the church, which Thomas calls his lifeline, he now has his own apartment and is no longer required to wear the GPS tracker. Thomas’s transition back to freedom was made easier because of the open arms of the church, who has loved him without reservation. This is the kind of incarnational love that is central to the missional movement because it calls for life to be lived together in community, regardless of how difficult it may be.

Your financial support today of the Ministry Resource Fund will help provide for missional endeavors like Blue Ocean, Discovery Project, Ethos, and more. It is resources just like these that assist churches and leaders in discovering what it looks like to be missional in every facet of their ministry.

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE:

www.nabconference.org/christmas

TEXT TO GIVE:

Text gift amount followed by “CHRISTMAS” to (204) 400-2238 for Canadian giving or to (916) 249-0534 for US giving.

CREDIT CARD by PHONE:

Contact Lisa Meinschock (916) 797-6222 ext. 235

CHECK/CHEQUE:

Make payable to “North American Baptists, Inc.”

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Contact Betty Buchholz (916) 797-6222 ext 223