



Invitation to Give

We are blessed to be part of the American Baptist family. Like all families, we occasionally struggle with differences of opinions, ideas and theology. However, when one of us is hurting, we effortlessly put our differences aside—we come together.

Through our denominational relationships, we have built a network. We might not know each of them by name, but we trust that God has called them and gifted them. And, with that gifting, they are now actively engaged in responding to the needs of those who have been affected by these terrible storms.

This morning, as we take up this offering, we give thanks for our American Baptist family.

We give thanks for the women and men at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, who've already engaged to help in the days, weeks, months and years to come.

We give thanks for the American Baptist Men, who have heard the call before and will, once again, go to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

We give thanks for all who have given and will give in the future to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that allows the deployment of financial capital immediately when a crisis occurs.

We give thanks, O Lord, that this morning, your Spirit is at work, planting the seed within some of us to go and serve in devastated communities. May we be brave enough to respond to that call.

So, now, may we be moved by compassion to share willingly and generously for the sake of your ministry in this world.

—*The Rev. Erica Van Brakle, pastor, First Baptist Church, La Grange, Ill.*

Blessing for the Offering of our Gifts

God, may these offerings be used to rebuild and restore. May our resources be stretched to cover the needs of so many. May our hearts be broken open to the pain and suffering of others. May our minds be open to your calling, to share what we have with others. God, may your wisdom and guidance be with those leading in the aftermath of the storms, to help all of those in need. May your wisdom and guidance be with us, to open us to give, as we are able, of our time, talent and finances—to do your work where it is needed most. Amen.

—*The Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, pastor, Queen Anne Baptist Church, Seattle, Wash.*



Connect. Cultivate. Change.
www.abhms.org