



GUIDED GIVING

[Making life better for God's retired servants]
a publication of GuideStone® 

In Death and Life: God is Faithful



Mabel just knew she was meant to marry a minister.

"I told everybody I was going to marry a minister. And I went to a rural church, so I had opportunities to meet young ministers that were not married," she says.

Growing up on a farm in Missouri, not much exciting ever happened to Mabel, but when a new preacher came to town, she told the Lord, "I'd sure like to iron that man's shirts!"

Henry Addison had been serving in pastoral ministry for three years when he and Mabel first met. "The first thing we knew, we were dating, that was in February 1959. We were married in June," recalls Mabel.

Their union as man and wife was just the beginning of a life-long adventure in serving Christ. Through thick and thin, they moved to Kansas City for Henry to attend Midwestern Baptist Seminary, served in rural churches all over two states and raised three wonderful daughters.

Despite spending time in the big city during seminary, Henry pastored in mostly rural areas. "We interviewed at a city church one time, and Henry and I laughed about it afterward because the city folks didn't even know some of the terminology we used.

So, we decided the city wasn't for us," recalls Mabel.

Like many who served the Lord, the Addisons were bivocational — using their skills in antique furniture restoration and upholstery as well as making handmade draperies to make ends meet.

"During seminary, I worked as a secretary for several of the professors, but the main thing we did to make ends meet during our ministry was upholstery and draperies. Henry was very handy, woodworking-wise. We never advertised, so we knew it was from God. And he provided us with a much-needed secondary income," said Mabel.

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Mission:Dignity

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our ministry?**

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information and recipient stories!



A Letter from Our President

D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr.

A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (CSB)

Faithfulness is a key component of the Christian walk. It's a fruit of the Spirit. It's a word the psalmist uses to describe the Lord (Psalm 36:5). Jesus himself talks about the "faithful and sensible manager" in Luke 12:42.

The pages of this edition of the Guided Giving newsletter are full of men and women who were faithful to the calling the Lord had placed on their lives. They went where there was a need; they did not worry about their future. They trusted the Lord to provide as only he can. They were faithful. They didn't have large buildings or budgets, but they carried out their mission with integrity, with heart and with a commitment to the Lord's call.

They were faithful.

Your financial support to Mission:Dignity ensures that these retirement-aged Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows can have a measure of dignity in their declining years. Because of their

faithfulness, churches in often-forgotten places were served and because of your faithfulness, these servants of the Lord won't be forgotten in their declining years. I wish you could see every thank you note that crosses my desk. Without fail, they talk about what it means to be remembered that their service, or their husband's service, is not forgotten; it was meaningful. They were faithful, and they were remembered.

David writes in Psalm 37:25, *"I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread."* (CSB)

Thanks to you, our retirement-aged Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows needn't choose between food and fuel or between medicine and meat. They have not been abandoned.

On behalf of those we serve through Mission:Dignity, thank you for your faithfulness.

D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr.
GuideStone President

“More Thanks from Mission:Dignity Widows and Widowers”



"Thank you all for being so nice to me and to my wife while she was living. It would be hard to get along without you all. It's hard for a man to live alone — but I have God to talk to; I'm OK."
Dewey Briscoe, a widower, served the Lord in pastoral ministry for 50 years.



"I want to thank you for my gift each month. I wouldn't be able to eat the last two weeks of the month without it." Deloris Wilson, pastor's widow.



"Thank you for providing financial assistance at this pivotal time in my life. I am grateful for the ministry of Mission:Dignity to those of us who have retired from full-time ministry."
Douglas Williams, a widower, served the Lord in pastoral ministry for 24 years.

(continued from page 1)

Together, Mabel and Henry served the people of Missouri and Kansas for 57 years in ministry, but in his 50s, Henry's heart began to show signs of wear. He soon had his first open heart surgery and, 10 years later, underwent bypass surgery. As he grew older, his health and heart deteriorated. "He finally had to take resignation because physically he wasn't able to pastor anymore," said Mabel.

When Henry finally passed, Mabel struggled with "just being able to be by yourself and take care of yourself. Just overcoming loneliness." She continues, "I miss his presence, but I've found there's no better way to overcome loneliness than with the Lord. He's a friend that cares at all times. And he's always been there for me."

Shortly after Henry's death, the Addison family learned about Mission:Dignity through a Mission:Dignity Sunday presentation at church. The girls decided that all tributes given in Henry's honor should go to the ministry.

Mabel also soon received a packet with an application for Mission:Dignity, as a local pastor had referred her to the very ministry that the family had supported.

"Because of Mission:Dignity," says Mabel, "I've been able to stay in my own home, pay my utility bills and stay active in the local church — helping missionaries and any others that may need it."

"The ministry is not easy, especially when you're trying to serve the Lord and live your life as an example for others to see. But it's very rewarding," she says.

God is faithful to those he calls, and one way he does this is through the gifts and prayers of those who give to Mission:Dignity.

As Mabel says, "I praise him because I never, ever felt alone. And I still don't." **Praise the Lord.**



2024 Fundraising Update: Yet Another Banner Year

Mission:Dignity had another record-breaking year of giving in 2024:

- Total giving: **\$13,799,756** — the second-largest fundraising year in Mission:Dignity history!
- **48,271** gifts were processed in 2024.
- **9,446** donors gave during 2024.
- More than **\$10,208,028** was distributed to 2,101 households consisting of 2,819 brothers and sisters in need.

100% of your gifts aid retirement-aged ministers, workers and widows in need. Your generosity resulted in another extraordinary year of helping our recipients. Thank you!



Mission:Dignity®

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REFER SOMEONE IN NEED

Help Honor Retirement-Aged Servants of the Lord

1 Timothy 5:17 tells us, *"The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."* (CSB)

With a desire to serve those worthy of double honor, Mission:Dignity is seeking more retirement-aged Southern Baptist ministers, workers and their widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs, and we need your help!

Recipients of Mission:Dignity funds must:

- Be 65 years of age or older
- Have 10 or more years of paid service with a Southern Baptist church, agency, or institution, or he or she must have been married to someone who would have met age and service requirements
- Meet monthly income limits (income limits change annually — call the Mission:Dignity office for the latest)
- Have less than \$45,000 in assets, excluding home

If someone you know meets or comes close to meeting the qualifications above, you can help in one of three ways:

- **Call 1-877-888-9409 or email MissionDignity@GuideStone.org** and provide us with the candidate's contact information, including name, address and phone number.
- **Submit an application online** at GuideStone.org/Assistance.
- **Download a PDF version of the application** at GuideStone.org/Assistance, take it to the person you know, and help him or her complete it.



Applications can be emailed to MissionDignity@GuideStone.org or mailed to:

Mission:Dignity, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Ste. 2200, Dallas, TX 75244-6152
Applications are available in Spanish, Korean and Chinese.



MISSION:DIGNITY SUNDAY

is June 22, 2025 

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (CSB).

Join us in supporting retirement-aged ministers, workers and their widows on Mission:Dignity Sunday 2025.

Gifts from people like you and churches like yours provide monthly financial assistance to more than 2,800 faithful servants like Michael and Sandra Dowling:

Michael and Sandra Dowling have served the Lord for more than 15 years — and they are still going! Today, they serve in a low-income housing community near Birmingham, Alabama.

“People say, ‘What’s your wife going to do? If God calls you home?’ Guess what? There’s Mission:Dignity. They’re going to provide her with this same check if I die. Isn’t that wonderful? There are no words to describe what a difference Mission:Dignity has made in our lives.”

► Order or download free materials online at MDSunday.org.

Promotional materials include:

- Bulletin inserts
- Posters
- Videos of recipient stories

Materials are not dated and can be used at any time of the year.



Mission:Dignity does not receive SBC Cooperative Program funding.

To learn more about Mission:Dignity Sunday 2025, contact our office at 1-877-888-9409 and select “Option 2”.





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We believe the advisor relationship is more than a financial conversation. It's a sharing of values.

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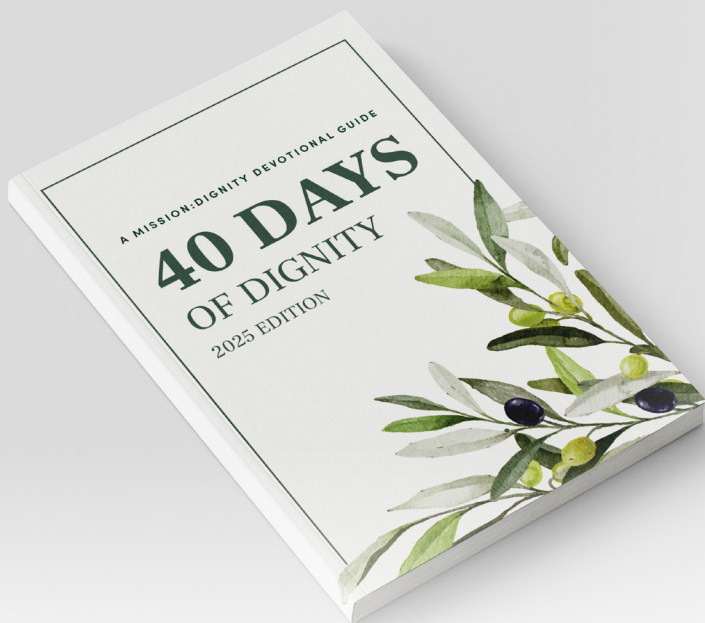
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GuideStone, its affiliates, and financial advisors do not provide legal, tax, or accounting advice. You should consult your legal and/or tax advisors before making any financial decisions.



40 Days of Dignity: Sneak Peek

This year, Mission:Dignity will again release a 40-day devotional book highlighting devotionals written by our very own recipients. This devotional will be available to anyone. A donation is suggested. We pray this book will bless you as it has blessed us!

For more information, contact us or visit MissionDignity.org/Devotional to sign up and be notified when the 2025 version becomes available.

Please enjoy an excerpt from this year's upcoming release.

Let Your Light Shine **Matthew 5:16**



Larry Fackler served the Lord alongside his late wife, Mary Ann, for 34 years Mission:Dignity recipient since 2018.

A Christian has a relationship with the Light — namely Jesus Christ. Jesus takes up residence in the saved person and a radiance emits. The Lord expounded on this truth in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:14 (CSB) says, “*You are the light of the world.*” Notice that Jesus said, “You are,” not “You will become.”

Because we have Christ in our lives, we are a witness of the Light to others. Therefore, we need to commit to sharing our faith more effectively. Some facets of the Light:

- **The Light is needed in a dark world.** The world lives in darkness. God chose his people to be, as it says in Isaiah 49:6 (CSB), “*a light for the nations.*” People search for a light. Without it, life does not make sense to them. They become bored with the darkness, without any light. Think about how difficult it is to live in a house or drive a car at night without lights. It is infinitely worse to live a life without the light of Christ.
- **The Christian light is a borne light.** In John 8:12 (CSB), Jesus says, “*I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.*” The Christian light comes from Christ. Christians may be compared to the moon as it has no light of itself. Its light comes from reflecting the sun. Likewise, the Christian has a borne light. A Christian gets his illumination from the Son; he gives the light!
- **The Christian light cannot be hidden.** In Matthew 5:14, 16 (CSB), Jesus said: “*A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*” A Christian cannot escape observation. The world sees the Christian's light. Therefore, we are to share that light with others.
- **The Christian light is costly.** Allowing a light to shine costs. Wherever there is light, there will be sacrifice. Energy is expensive. When a candle burns, it gives of itself. John the Baptist was a light for Christ, but even he said, “*I must decrease,*” John 3:30 (CSB). It cost him his life to shine for Jesus. Allowing Christ to shine through us will not only cost us our lives but also our time, talents and treasures.

Do you know people who are living in darkness? You have the Light. They need the Light. Would you resolve to share the Light of the world with them this week?



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