

MNA Thanksgiving Offering

Mentoring Leaders for Our Diverse Communities

Throughout the US and Canada, God is calling people into ministry. Each year, the MNA Thanksgiving Offering provides valuable financial support to men and women who are training for ministry leadership among the many people groups who are largely unreached by the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). The Offering is supported by PCA churches and individual members. Through the Thanksgiving Offering, you have the opportunity to invest in future leaders of the denomination – and the opportunity to provide valuable resources for the advancement of the Gospel.

As the population of North America continues to grow in diversity, the need for leaders from the many different people groups represented in our neighborhoods has never been more critical. Your gifts through the Thanksgiving Offering support these future pastors and lay ministry leaders. Featured in this brochure are several individuals who have received grants from the Offering for their training in leadership. They are just a sampling of the impact the Offering can have on our communities, with your support.

Please prayerfully consider being a part of God's work – through tomorrow's leaders – as you give to this year's Thanksgiving Offering.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.
~ Mark 10:45



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MNA serves PCA churches and presbyteries as they advance God's Kingdom in North America by planting, growing, and multiplying biblically healthy churches through the development of intentional evangelism and outreach ministries. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at www.pca-mna.org.

Multicultural Ministry Leaders Make an Impact



Mission Vida Nueva works among first and second generation Hispanic people in the lowest income neighborhood of Escondido CA to help alleviate the negative results of poverty, domestic violence and

single motherhood. A grant from the Thanksgiving Offering helped support Westminster Seminary student Nathaniel Gutierrez while serving as worship leader and youth pastor, and also Martha Garzon, who provides leadership for a women's support group and Bible study. "We have a small budget, but with the gift of the Thanksgiving Offering, God has allowed us to do great things," says Pastor Juan Arjona.

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– Pastor Juan Arjona, Mission Vida Nueva, Escondido CA



Vineville Presbyterian in downtown Macon GA began over 100 years ago but by the year 2000 had lost most of its members, who were moving to the suburbs. In 2009, First Presbyterian of Macon

launched Strong Tower Church in the Vineville building with the goal of becoming a church that reflected its surrounding multiracial community. Strong Tower is working to break the cycle of generational poverty within the city with the help of leaders like Tony Lowden, who is supported in part by a grant from the Thanksgiving Offering. Tony serves as Executive Director of Campus Clubs, after-school clubs providing tutoring for junior and senior high students. "Our congregants would not be able to financially support men like Tony," stresses Pastor Tom Anderson. "We sometimes think that people could do better if they only wanted to, but often they don't know how. People like Tony teach them how."

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– Pastor Tom Anderson, Strong Tower, Macon GA



MERCY MINISTRIES *thanksgiving* OFFERING



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PLEASE JOIN US

in continuing these fruitful endeavors by prayerfully considering a generous gift to the 2010 Thanksgiving Offering.

Your gift has a significant role in training those who will minister among ethnic groups not currently well reached by the PCA.

Please enclose your gift in this envelope and place it in the offering plate, or mail your gift to Mission to North America. You may also make a donation online at: pca-mna.org.

THANK YOU for participating in the **Advancement of the Gospel in North America!**

Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr. Rev.

NAME

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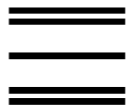
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Thanksgiving Offering
in support of MNA Mercy Ministries

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For more information about MNA, visit www.pca-mna.org.

Sharing the Gospel Through Inner-City Service



The face of North America is rapidly changing. Although Caucasians continue to make up the largest percentage of people across North America, other ethnic groups now outnumber them in many places. The face of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) is changing as well. Grants given to minority leaders through the MNA Thanksgiving Offering provide on-the-job training that will equip them to meet the needs of our ever-diversifying communities and churches. As you read the stories below, please prayerfully consider contributing to the Thanksgiving Offering – helping PCA churches minister among the many people groups of North America.

Being the third-poorest zip code in the US means the Clayborne-Foote neighborhood of Memphis TN faces particularly difficult challenges – people there often struggle just to get enough food to eat. Kids deal daily with peer pressure to join gangs, steal or sell drugs. New Beginnings Community Church was established to combat the multiple challenges of Clayborne-Foote by focusing on its children, fostering their development in life skills and giving them hope through the Gospel. But as with many churches that serve impoverished communities, New Beginnings did not have the resources to fund a Youth Director.

“The inner city has shown me how I, too, am devastated by sin – and that Christ is our uniting factor, giving hope to us all.”

Below: Pastor J.B. Watkins with his wife, Stephanie (left), and Ms. Valerie (center), a short term volunteer from New City Fellowship in Chattanooga TN, at a neighborhood block party.



Above: Pastor J.B. Watkins prays with members of a wedding party before the ceremony.

“My training served me well in my new role as pastor at St. Roch.”

Grants from the MNA Thanksgiving Offering allowed New Beginnings to call J.B. Watkins as their Youth Director, providing his salary and funding a number of youth programs. And J.B. gained valuable experience shepherding kids like 13-year-old Duke, who made a decision for Christ one day as J.B. dropped him off at his home. “I could tell that his desire was a result of what God was doing in his life,” remembers J.B. “By being around the church on an almost daily basis, Duke benefited both physically and spiritually.”

Right after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, J.B. was called to plant St. Roch Community Church in the Eighth Ward. There he has encountered many of the same challenges he did in Memphis – drug trafficking, heavy crime and children who need role models. Once again, J.B. is working to meet the physical and spiritual needs of a devastated community. “My training at New Beginnings has served me well in my new role,” he says.

Many of us find it difficult to identify with people and places that are different from us. We might wonder just how far our support can go to help people deep in sinful patterns, or whose circumstances offer limited options. But people like J.B. see wonderful opportunities in the inner city. “Pastor Julian Russell at New Beginnings once told me, ‘The Gospel made us all poor’ – we are all sinners in need of a Savior.” He continues, “It’s much more than me helping the poor and disadvantaged. The inner city has shown me how I, too, am devastated by sin – and that Christ is our uniting factor, giving hope to us all.”

Multicultural Ministry Leaders Make an Impact



When Phil Edwards was 10, his father was shot to death outside an Atlanta nightclub. Through God’s grace, Phil found Christ and today is sharing the Gospel with other inner-city youth. Grants from the

Thanksgiving Offering helped provide for his work as Director of Summerhill Community Ministry in Atlanta and Director of Outreach at New City Fellowship Church in Chattanooga. Now Executive Director of Hope for Indianapolis, Phil has used Offering grants to support interns who work with him to provide inner-city youth with job skills, offer personal development opportunities and, most importantly, share the grace of the Gospel.



Isaac Jiménez Liébana had recently arrived in the US from Spain when he met Ernesto Fernández, pastor of Iglesia del Redentor (Church of the Redeemer), a church plant in Monroe NC. While developing an Hispanic

outreach, the church was in need of a worship leader who spoke Spanish. They called Isaac but were unable to afford to adequately support him. Isaac had little previous worship leadership experience when he joined their staff, but he was talented and connected instantly with the congregation. “We’re always on a tight budget,” says Ernesto, “so to be able to keep Isaac on staff and develop his worship leadership skills meant a lot.”



Vicente Alberto is working with City School, a ministry of Redeemer Presbyterian in Austin TX, to share Christ with its growing Hispanic immigrant community. “We’re training the next generation of

servant leaders for God’s Kingdom,” says City School Executive Director Chris Fisher, “and Vicente has become a vital part of our ministry.” Grants from the Thanksgiving Offering have supported Vicente as the school’s main recruiter of Hispanic families and have helped support his training for pastoral leadership at Iglesia Cristiana Verbo, a Guatemala-based independent church that has launched three churches in Austin.