

mna

Mission to North America
Presbyterian Church in America

MERCY MINISTRIES

thanksgiving

OFFERING





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Presbyterian Church in America

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

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.

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Mission to North America exists to celebrate the gospel of Jesus in the US and Canada by coming alongside the local and regional church in church planting, missional partnerships and church renewal.

CROSS-CULTURAL PLANTERS

The Thanksgiving Offering is one tool we have to support new church planting efforts in multi-ethnic or economically challenged neighborhoods. Through grants, Mission to North America can encourage the training of interns for ministry in those neighborhoods or provide grants for church planters to have benevolence funds at their disposal.

Over the last few years we have had a few church planters seek training in cross-cultural ministry, especially in African American communities. In the PCA we obviously have more white pastors than black pastors, and many of them have no cross cultural training. We need effective ways to train our pastors who wish to plant churches in a cross-cultural context. In this year's brochure we highlight three church planters who have pursued being trained by established black churches and black pastors from outside the PCA to prepare them to go out and plant new PCA congregations.

Some of our wealthier PCA churches and church planting networks have helped sponsor the training and planting of non-PCA works, as long as they were church planters who preached a biblical Gospel. The PCA Church Planters highlighted in this brochure came into relationships with some wonderful and gracious African American pastors from other denominations who were willing to help them.



Caleb Long with Crossover Bible Church



Pastors Abode and Long (left) join in prayer

CALEB LONG

Caleb Long launched New City Fellowship, a new PCA congregation on the north side of Tulsa OK, a historic African American neighborhood infamous for a terrible race massacre back in the 1920s in which hundreds of black people were killed. The community was even bombed. In that neighborhood, Pastor Philip Abode leads Crossover Bible Church and has created Crossover Community Impact. Crossover was attempting to live out principles from the Christian Community Development Association and had joined the New City Network (which works under MNA Urban & Mercy Ministries).

Pastor Abode was asked if he would take the chance on bringing a white PCA church planter on staff for a couple of years, mentor him, and then send him out to start a new church plant. He wonderfully answered, “Yes!” Even though Pastor Abode’s church was only 12 years old they decided to invest in a new work.

Caleb Long reflects that this opportunity gave him a great introduction to the neighborhood and community, helped keep them from simply being a “gentrification” church, and gave him both the opportunity and the credibility that comes from working under black leadership. It also gave him a perspective of the PCA from the outside, giving him both an appreciation of our own denomination while learning how to love the community. Pastor Long says, concerning finding men like Pastor Abode who have enough vision to see the Kingdom of God beyond their own congregation, “If we don’t look for them, we won’t find them.”

CHRIS MANLEY

Chris Manley came to Chattanooga desiring to work under and be mentored by African American leadership. In God’s providence he came into friendship with the Rev. Ternaé Jordon,



Sr., pastor of Mt. Canaan Baptist Church. Chris has been a Church Planting Apprentice under the Tennessee Valley Presbytery and sees Rev. Jordon now as one of his spiritual fathers. As a white man he is in the minority in a black church, and has been humbled and blessed by how the congregation have welcomed him. As

with Caleb Long in Oklahoma, Chris has acquired a broader view of the Kingdom of God while appreciating his Reformed and Presbyterian affiliation.



Chattanooga

Chris Manley had a small group meeting in his house as he prepared to plant a cross-cultural church in the PCA.

PARKER JAMES

Parker James was a PCA pastor in Athens GA serving out-of-bounds in an independent congregation. Parker and his wife had experienced the richness of cross-cultural unity in Christ as members of New City Fellowship Saint Louis while studying at Covenant Seminary for five years. They both felt a strong calling to reach out to the African American population in





Lord of Glory Fellowship's Solomon Smothers and Parker James

Athens and to plant a new congregation, Lord of Glory Fellowship. They approached a black Baptist church and sought to learn through relationship and partnership how to minister across the race boundary in Athens. God led them to Hill Chapel Baptist Church, an historic black church in west Athens. In 2016, Pastor Benjamin E.V. Lett and the church leadership welcomed Parker, Adelle and their children into fellowship, also providing a location for Bible study and offices. In 2017, the Lord brought Solomon Smothers to Lord of Glory Fellowship. Solomon and Lora Smothers had been one of the first black families to attend the Bible studies. They had come because they shared Lord of Glory Fellowship's vision of bringing diverse people together through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Solomon had served as a campus pastor and had been ordained in a non PCA church. He's now completing his training at Reformed Seminary in Atlanta GA, and has begun steps toward ordination in the PCA under the care of the PCA Georgia Foothills Presbytery.

Lord of Glory Fellowship launched worship services in January 2019, meeting on Sunday evenings in the main sanctuary of Hill Chapel Baptist. The two congregations are on mission together and affirm each other as an extended spiritual family. Pastor James is excited to see new people visiting their church this last year, especially some people who connected through direct outreach in the neighborhood. It is always a joy to see people awakening to faith who had been unfamiliar with the truth of the gospel. As with all of our church plants in poor urban communities, they struggle for the resources to bring on more staff and to extend their outreach. Pray for God's blessing on them to raise up new leaders and provide resources for ministry.

PLEASE JOIN US

in continuing these fruitful endeavors by prayerfully considering a generous gift to the 2020 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: pcamna.org

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

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Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Dr. Rev.

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For more information about MNA, visit www.pcamna.org



Thanksgiving Offering

in support of MNA Mercy Ministries



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