

Your **Bridges of Hope** 2010 Offering Makes A World of Difference...



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

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20 Al Akhawayn University | Ifrane, Morocco | \$2,800
... to this woman and her children whose lives have been touched by Karen Thomas Smith, an Al Akhawayn University chaplain meeting needs, responding to crises and facilitating interfaith dialogue and service experiences among Muslims, Christians and Jews.
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21 Alliance of Baptists of Brazil | \$10,000
... to the growing population in the favelas in the northeast region of Brazil where Alianca de Batistas de Brasil, a developing organization of Baptist churches much akin to our own, reaches out in dynamic ways to meet spiritual, social and physical needs.
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22 AMOS Health and Hope | Managua, Nicaragua \$3,000
... to this sick child and his mother living in a rural area of Nicaragua where visionary medical missionaries from American Baptist Churches International Ministries offer resources and empower rural communities to run and manage their own health care clinics. www.amoshealthandhope.org
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23 Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe | \$7,500
... to Mrs. Chiconza and her son who are being served by Sanyati Baptist Hospital – one of the agencies of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe. Allison Hampton, who is assisting the boy, is a member of Alliance-affiliated Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.
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24 Baptist Theological Seminary of Zimbabwe Gweru, Zimbabwe | \$10,000
... to this seminary which “might not survive without it” - according to BTSZ Principal Henry Mugabe. Alliance support of free theological education always has been one of our hallmarks.
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25 Baptist Seminary of Mexico | Mexico City, Mexico | \$4,000
... to students in this “seminary without walls” who are preparing to minister among some 40 indigenous congregations on the outskirts of Mexico City and in the states of Puebla and Oaxaca.
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26 Bright Stars of Bethlehem | \$8,000
... to this girl who participated in the 2009 four week summer academy focused on helping children discover their talents and actively use their skills to improve their lives at school, at home and in their community. www.brightstarsbethlehem.org
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27 Cielo Azul Fund (formerly Orantes Fund) El Salvador | \$3,000
... to the youth of Iglesia Bautista Shekina, who are here receiving a key to the gates of a community center committed to being a safe place for young people to grow, to learn and to develop in order to improve their living conditions. www.cieloazulfund.blogspot.com
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28 Evangelical Baptist Church of the Republic of Georgia \$5,000
... to students at the School of Elijah some of whom are pictured here with Archbishop Malkhaz Songulashvili. The School brings together Christians from East and West for dialogue, education, training, contemplative prayer, iconography and liturgy. www.ebcgeorgia.org
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29 Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba | \$20,000
... to these children in Piedrecitas and others like them who are members of the 38 churches and 60 missions of the Fraternidad Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba. The children are accompanied by members of Alliance-affiliated Mars Hill Baptist Church – one of the numerous sister-church relationships fostered by the partnership between the Alliance and the Fraternidad.
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30 Council of Churches of Cuba | Women and Gender Program | Havana, Cuba | \$1,000
... to the women and pastoral leaders who attended a conference on gender which drew hundreds of participants to the Ecumenical Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba. Conference leaders included Dr. Mariela Castro (front and center in photo), a sexologist and psychologist and daughter of Cuban president Raul Castro.
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31 Institute of Higher Biblical and Theological Studies Havana, Cuba | \$1,000
... to the laity seeking a degree in the classical theological disciplines who enroll in classes that meet on Saturdays. The Institute, housed in the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Havana, employs some of its faculty from among members of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba – one of whom is Daylins Rufin pictured here.
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32 Shalom Children's Center | Ghana \$4,000
... to the 250 children, most of whom are younger than 6, who receive a basic education, a nutritious lunch, safety and nurture at the center in the remote village of Twifu-Hemang, Ghana. www.lakeshorewaco.org/ShalomChildren.html

DOMESTIC PARTNERS

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1 Advent Spirituality Center | Mars Hill, N.C. | \$2,500
... to theological students who attend the annual Gathering – a retreat that nurtures the quest for a deepening life in God. www.adventcenter.org
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2 Andrew P. Stewart Center | Atlanta, Ga. | \$2,000
... to 80 kindergartners through fifth-graders in the Reynoldstown section of Atlanta attending an after-school program addressing academics, enrichment and character development. www.stewartcenter.org
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3 Bridge of Life | Charlotte, N.C. | \$2,500
... through a non-judgmental program of education, compassion, and spiritual enrichment for those challenged by HIV/AIDS.
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4 Calvary Baptist Church Latino Community Outreach Washington, D.C. | \$3,500
... to the Latino families in this inner-city community touched by Pastor Edgar Palacios and the families he serves. www.calvarydc.org
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5 Edna Martin Christian Center | Indianapolis, Ind. \$2,000
... to Stacie Miller, who participates in the STEPS job training program to increase her skills and find a living wage job, and her daughters who are developing as youth leaders in the after-school and summer programs. www.ednamartinc.org
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6 Emmaus House | Raleigh, N.C. | \$1,500
... to this man who worked his way out of homelessness back into society. The new connections with other residents, God and within the community provide a trust-worthy map.
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7 Farley Community House | Richmond, Va. | \$1,000
... to those who benefit from the hospitality of this community that focuses on promoting collegiality among various religious affiliations.
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8 Hope Center at Pullen | Raleigh, N.C. \$2,000
... to Elijah who is giving a “thumbs up” after completing the Hope Center’s Job Readiness program. Now substance free, he has held a steady job since March 2009. www.HopeCenterAtPullen.org
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9 Hyaetts | Charlotte, N.C. | \$2,000
... to the children who shed their shoes before entering this inner-city house of hospitality located in one of Charlotte’s toughest neighborhoods. This community of five middle-class adults and their children has opened their lives and homes to the homeless for shelter, the hungry for food and the lonely for companionship. www.hyaetts.org
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10 JourneyPartners | Franklinton, N.C. | \$4,000
... to a new mother in Zimbabwe, pictured here with a local nurse and Audra Jordan, a nursing student at Carson Newman College, Tenn., who participated in Journey Partners’ program to bring clean water, enriched education and enhanced health-care services to impoverished villages. www.journeypartners.net
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11 Oakhurst Recovery Program | Decatur, Ga. \$4,000
... to single men with addictions in the residential recovery program begun as a mission of Oakhurst Baptist Church and located on the church property. This long-term program addresses the emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical needs of the men.
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12 Prodigals | Winston-Salem, N.C. | \$1,000
... to Lee McKeithan, a graduate of the 15-month residential program at Prodigals Community who has remained sober for two years and now serves on the staff there.
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13 Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries New York City | \$2,200
... to elementary school children from a community once described as Hell’s Kitchen who participate in Page Turners – an afterschool program addressing literacy development needs. www.metrobaptistchurchnyc.org/rauschenbusch/rauschenbusch.html
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14 Reconciliation Ministries Nashville, Tenn. | \$1,500
... to families of residents of the Tennessee prison system served by Reconciliation, the only non-profit advocating for these families in the state. www.reconciliation84.org
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15 Sabbath House | Bryson City, N.C. | \$1,000
... to church leaders – lay and clergy – who find rest, renewal, relationship and reflection at this retreat house in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina. www.sabbathhouse.com
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16 Safe Places: The Center for Healing and Hope Little Rock, Ark. | \$3,000
... to children, adolescents and their families who enroll in the violence prevention and intervention programs that include instruction on bullying prevention, anger management and dating violence. www.safeplaceslr.org
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17 Seeds of Hope Publishers | Waco, Texas | \$1,000
... by equipping church leaders to educate, motivate and empower their congregations to respond to people who are hungry. The resources may be downloaded from the Seeds Web site. www.seedspublishers.org
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18 STRIVE | Chicago, Ill. | \$3,000
... to the children who receive one-on-one tutoring, special classes and a month-long summer day camp in the Hyde Park/ South Kenwood neighborhoods of South Side Chicago.
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19 Vienna Young Adult Ministry | Vienna, Va. | \$1,000
... to Rajani and Anne, young adults involved in the ecumenical discipleship group formed by Vienna Baptist Church and Little River United Church of Christ in Annandale, Va. The group meets bi-monthly for study, prayer, fellowship and ministry. www.vbc-va.org

The Alliance Mission Offering is different and its very difference argues for its support. What we do, and do well, is to empower our partners in mission to do their work better – and on their terms, not ours.
~ Stan Hastey, *connections*, February 2007

Bridges of Hope Mission Offering Goal: \$120,000

The Alliance Philosophy of Missions

The Alliance formed around a covenant embodying distinctly Baptist principles. Not long after its inception, the Alliance responded to the guidance of the Spirit to bear witness to a God who has abundant compassion for those living in the margins — the poor, the oppressed, the disenfranchised. With a heart for missions, the Bridges of Hope Mission Offering was born. And with that new creation the Alliance set out to do global missions in partnership and in collaboration.

- No longer are we the experts on the mission field. Rather, we approach our mission partners knowing they have much to teach us about growing a vital and healthy church.
- No longer do we own the missions project; we network with others to provide the energies to meet the needs more fully.
- No longer are persons of other faiths targets for evangelism; they are persons whose spirituality and wisdom we value and with whom we seek to pray, serve and develop understanding.
- No longer do we do missions from a position of being the majority with power, but rather from a position of being in the margins and powerless.
- No longer is missions the work of select missionary personnel. All of us are missionaries.

The 2010 Bridges of Hope Missions Offering supports 32 organizations whose mission and ministry is consistent with the Covenant and Mission Statement of the Alliance of Baptists. The contributions we give them often make a world of difference in whether they can continue their ministry. The Alliance heart for missions is in response to our desire to be of service in and to the world around us. Our thinking globally allows others to proclaim the love of Jesus locally.



2010 Bridges of Hope Mission Offering

Two fish and five loaves of bread. Not much food given the size of the hungry crowd. But after Jesus blessed the bread and fish, it became enough food to make a world of difference for a multitude of hungry men, women and children.

Through a couple — just two individuals who were advanced in age — the people of God were blessed. Called by God, Abraham and Sarah's response made a world of difference.

Twelve timid and reluctant students. A small following. But after being born of water and Spirit, they carried the gospel to the corners of the Earth making a world of difference

A small bit of yeast served as leaven for enough dough to feed a crowd! The smallest thing that an eye could see — the mustard seed — when planted and nurtured became a towering tree! The biblical text calls us to have faith in the God who is at work in the smallest of settings making a world of difference.

You can make a world of difference in someone's life today. Give to the Bridges of Hope Missions Offering.

The Bridges of Hope Mission Offering may, in the larger scope of the world economy, be small, but it makes a world of difference for men, women and children from Nashville, Tenn., to the Republic of Georgia; from New York City to Gweru, Zimbabwe; from Little Rock, Ark. to Twifu-Hemang, Ghana. And that world of difference our financial support provides has given hope to the lost, health to the hurting, joy to those discouraged and love to the lonely.

Alan Neely, one of the founders of the Alliance and an inspiration for the Alliance approach to missions writes, "The world today, as much as any time in history, needs churches who understand and are committed to the work and the gospel of Jesus Christ." (Neely, *A New Call to Mission*, p. 190) Through the Bridges of Hope Mission Offering, the Alliance invites our congregations and individuals to join in the work of Jesus Christ in the world carried out in the ministries and agencies that are funded.

Baptists for a *changing* world.

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ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS



Why Give To the Bridges of Hope Mission Offering?

Each of our grantees expresses the values we celebrate in both our Alliance covenant and hymn. Our grantees

- create places of refuge and renewal for those wounded or ignored by the church
- side with those who are poor
- pursue justice with and for those who are oppressed
- honor lifelong learning
- foster relationships with other people of faith
- offer a place safe for hopes, where new dreams can be born.

Often our mission partners give flesh to these values in more economically challenging contexts than most of us could ever imagine, in locations where religious or political conflict are daily realities, and in circumstances that are risky and uncertain. Our grants provide much needed and much appreciated funding and support without a top-down model of governance or micro-management. Our giving enables our partners to prophetically live out their calling as the hands and feet of Christ.

~ Ana Karim, *Missions Committee member*



"If communicating the gospel involves nothing more than an auditory exercise, then traveling briefly to another land and 'preaching the gospel' through an interpreter may be enough. But communicating the gospel involves doing what Jesus did ... 'he became flesh and lived among us.'" (John 1:14)

~ Alan Neely, *A New Call to Mission*, p. 17

Bridges of Hope provides financial support for María Luisa Gómez, pastor of La Vid Veradera, The True Vine, in Corojo, Cuba.

Funding Guidelines: Bridges of Hope Mission Offering

- We seek a balance between U.S.-based and international projects and give preference to projects that take risks and reach out to the marginalized and forgotten.
- We give preference to projects with limited funding from other sources. Most of our grants are small, typically ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Amounts granted are determined upon review of applications received and available funds. By Alliance Board of Directors policy, if the Mission Offering goal is not reached in a given year available funds are granted on a pro-rated basis to all grantees. If the goal is surpassed, excess funds flow into the following year's offering.
- Alliance Mission Offering grants are made to organizations, not to individuals and are not made for educational scholarships. Grants for pastoral support are limited to no more than three years, and follow a decreasing scale from \$3,000 to \$1,000.