

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS Justin Coburn American Baptist Association PO Box 1050, Texarkana, TX 75504-1050

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Monthly Mission Report December 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE:		\$2	,573,561.91
RECEIPTS: Interstate Salaries Foreign & National Salaries Designated Undesignated TOTAL RECEIPTS: BALANCE FOR SALARY/EXPENSE		\$ 10 \$ 3 <u>\$ 1</u> \$ 25	5,802.79 3,643.52 0,833.39 <u>1,417.68</u> 1,697.38 ,825,259.29
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DISBURSEMENTS: Interstate Salaries Foreign Salaries National Salaries Designated Sal/Exp of Sec-Treas Office Office Salaries General Office Sec/Treas of Missions-Expense Automobile Expense Fall News & Views Postage	\$	\$ 3 \$ 2 \$ 3 15,038 4,206 751 1,193 4,222 492	.93 .06 .78 .51
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		\$	176,402.50
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:	\$ 2,648,856.79		
SURPLUS FOR DECEMBER		\$	75,294.88
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Michael Jordan Laxamana, missionary in the Philippines, baptizing a new brother.

Dear Churches of the American Baptist Association,

There is something about entering a new year that brings anticipation, excitement and maybe even a little anxiety. As Paul said in Philippians 3:14, may we reach out and press toward the mark and move forward in the will and work of God. The unsettling thing about this new year is that we do not know what it holds but we know Who holds all our tomorrows. There will be highs and lows, good and bad, joy and sadness. May we resolve to trust in the Lord will all our hearts, lean not to our own understanding but lean into the One who never fails.

What a joy it is this month to share the great reports of the missionaries. For the month of December, the missionaries report **408 professions of faith and 24 baptisms**. That brings our totals for this associational year to **2,926 professions of faith and 339 baptisms**. Praise the Lord!

Again, I am in awe of what God has done through the generous giving of His people. Because of the sacrificial giving and great effort of the churches of the ABA, we have reached our goal for the Thanksgiving Missions Offering. As of the writing of this report we have received **\$337,869.83**! Praise the Lord!

On a sad note, I would like to share an urgent need with you all. Bro. James Shields, missionary serving in Alaska, lost a son this past weekend. His death was a complete shock, and the family is devastated. They will need some financial help with funeral costs and a possible relocation. If you would like to help with this need you may send offerings to Faith MBC. Make checks payable to Faith MBC and memo them for James Shields. Mail your offerings to 3615 Eagles Nest Street, Round Rock, TX 78665.

It is our intention to send out the 2024 Missionary Recommendation Forms by the end of January. If you and your missionary have not received that by then or if you have questions, please feel free to contact us. Those forms will be due to our office by April 18, 2024.

Keep on Keeping on, Justin Coburn