

How One Church Has Used Extra Funds to Support the Global Church of the Brethren

Adapted from an Invitation to Give by Bob Kettering, Lancaster COB, 8/9/26

Usually, the Invitation to Give during our worship services at Lancaster Church of the Brethren focuses on the importance of giving of our money: namely our tithes and offerings toward our church budget, or Plan of Ministry. Obviously, this is an important challenge for us to hear and to be reminded of. The New Testament encourages us to be cheerful givers.

The last time I shared an Invitation to Give back in November, I suggested we also consider bequests to the church through our wills and contributing through an endowment as a living legacy.

This time I would like to highlight how these endowment funds have helped the Global Church of the Brethren. I asked the chair of the Outreach Team if he could give me an account of how our congregation has aided the Church of the Brethren beyond the United States with specific needs through our endowment funds.

These funds met specific needs beyond what our denominational Global Mission office budget could afford to support. With the blessing of the denominational Global Mission office, our congregation has been extremely generous with the resources of our extra funds.

Since 2022 our congregation has helped the Haiti medical project; the COB in Venezuela purchase land; purchase vehicles for the COB in Burundi and Venezuela; congregations in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Uganda, the Great Lakes Bible School in Rwanda, the COB in Ukraine.

The total of these allocations is \$90,172. Praise God! All of this is possible through extra funds of our church. Truly this is something to celebrate. I have been involved in supporting the Global Church of the Brethren and am thankful for the generosity of the Lancaster COB.

We have often heard about the growing one million-plus member Church of the Brethren in Nigeria but there are 15 other countries, many of which are experiencing significant growth, but they need resources to grow and spread the gospel. I am so glad our church can be a partner with Church of the Brethren congregations throughout the world with our finances.

While financial giving is a blessing that can make a wonderful impact, there are also other ways to be united in mission with the Global Church of the Brethren! ENGAGE, an event being held on Sept. 20 at the Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren at 6:30pm, is an opportunity to hear directly from Brethren leaders about what's happening in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Nigeria—and learn more about the relationships that connect our global church. Free and open to the public.

More information: www.brethren.org/global