



September 2018

Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Waxahachie is just a 15-minute drive from my house and I stopped by there last weekend to visit a friend of mine who was recovering from surgery. The relatively new, six-story, 129-bed facility opened in 2014 and replaced the old downtown location that began as the Waxahachie Sanitorium a century earlier. It's no secret that 100 years can make a big difference!

While walking down the hall past the nurses' station, I noticed something interesting. On each of the patient-room doors was a metal plate with an inscription that said, "Given generously by..." That phrase was followed by the name of a donor and many of the plates also included a tribute or memorial notation.

Unless someone is super duper rich, it would be hard for any one person to underwrite the cost of a new hospital. However, it's much easier if some of the funding can be spread out among many contributors. A lot of people, each doing a little, adds up to a big impact in the end.

That's how things work here at Mission:Dignity. With more than \$7 million a year being distributed to our retired pastors and their widows in need, it takes all of us working together, with gifts large and small, to make that happen. On the back of this letter, you can read about the impact your giving has on Duane and Roberta McClure following more than half a century in music and pastoral ministry.

Thank you for being part of our Mission:Dignity family and for making room in your stewardship for an old preacher or his widow. "Given generously by" is not just an inscription on a door but a commitment that is engraved on your heart.

Grace and peace,

John Ambra
Director of Development

August 22, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

Fifty-two years ago I quit planting cotton seed and wheat seed and began planting the Word of God through music. I needed to go to college to learn more about music and it was not easy even with a loving wife and three daughters.

God was so gracious to me in that after two part-time churches I began a fulltime position of minister of music, youth and education. I was not qualified for either, but God gave me a pastor who was a great mentor to me.

In 1970 I started putting \$33.34 a month in my Annuity Fund. In 1984 I began putting more but it still was not enough to help in retirement. When I was 60 years old God opened the door for me to pastor a small country church. I have now pastored three such churches and the last was not able to pay much.

In 1999 I used my Annuity Fund to purchase a home. With my last church I had to draw the remaining funds to supplement my living expenses, so now that fund is no longer available.

My wife and I and also my church have given to Mission:Dignity for a few years. Recently I made application for support from Mission:Dignity and got a favorable report. I have now received my first check and how God has blessed me and my wife.

I praise God for all His blessings. Through these 52 years we have had multiple surgeries with my having five back surgeries, quadruple heart surgery, along with shoulder surgery. My wife of 60 years has played the piano for over 60 years with several surgeries herself.

GOD IS SO GOOD!!

Duane & Roberta McClure