



January 2019

We just finished our centennial celebration year at GuideStone but 2018 also marked another milestone for us — the 10th anniversary of the name Mission:Dignity.

Prior to 2008, our benevolence ministry was called Adopt An Annuitant. At one time, we actually had a one-to-one adoption between our donors and recipients with monthly gifts being specifically designated for an individual or couple. But as the program grew and the former Southern Baptist Annuity Board became GuideStone Financial Resources, we needed a new name for the ministry. One that captured who we are and what we do in an easy-to-understand way.

We looked at a lot of names. (More than 150, to be honest!) However, none seemed to fit until we saw a note from one of our widows on her assistance application. She said, “I’m not asking for much. I just want to be able to pay my bills and live with dignity in my remaining years.”

As they say, the light bulb turned on. Since 1918, we have been on a Mission to provide Dignity to pastors and their families at the crossroads. And so, our current name was born. Even our logo tells the story as the encircling arms illustrate not only the loving embrace of a gracious God but also the care and compassion of our people just like you who make this ministry possible.

There’s no greater reminder of our mission of dignity than the letters of gratitude we get from the individuals and couples who are blessed by the ministry.

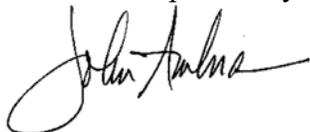
Bobby and Sue Hood of Mississippi are just one of those couples whose hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the goodness that is extended to them every month. For almost 50 years, they served in church and associational ministry in four different states with a period of time overseas as foreign missionaries.

Their ministry bore fruit for decades and your ministry to them is bearing fruit today. You can read their letter below and see just how much of a difference you are making in their lives and 1,700 others who sacrificed much for Kingdom work in years past.

As we step in to 2019 and a new century for GuideStone this month, thank you for sharing your generous gift to help retired pastors, workers and their widows and for joining us on mission as we bring comfort, security — *and dignity* — to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God's best blessings and favor to you throughout the year ahead. I appreciate you!

Grace and peace to you,



John Ambra
Director of Development

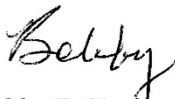
Dear Mission Dignity,

I wish it were possible for me to put into words my gratitude for what you have done for me and Sue this past year. Your gift each month along with those of others who have loved us and supported us has enabled us to keep the minimum amount in the bank for free checking account services each month, pay all our bills, and save enough for annual property taxes, as well as monies for property and car insurance.

There are things I would love to do, places I would love to go, and perhaps a newer car to drive, but when I look at how blessed we are, I'm totally satisfied and thoroughly blessed. It is, however, embarrassing to reveal I did not save enough during those years of paid ministry to cover expenses today. To now accept help from others in order to stay sound financially is not something I ever envisioned that I would need to do.

Thus, we are indebted to Mission Dignity! Thank you so much for helping us!!!

Sincerely,



Bobby T. Hood

P.S. I still preach each Sunday morning at St Catherine's Retirement Village here in Madison, Mississippi. Around 45 people attend each Sunday morning, and I hold a Bible Study/Prayer Meeting there on Wednesday evenings with a small group.