



May 2019

*“Your mission, Jim, should you decide to accept it...”*

That’s perhaps the most memorable line from *Mission: Impossible*, the popular TV drama that ran from 1996 through 1973. Peter Graves portrayed agent James Phelps, who led a covert operations unit on daring assignments each week. Whether it was capturing criminals, subverting spies or rescuing hostages, the work was carried out with the latest technology and creative thinking — and it had to be done in absolute secrecy. Needless to say, there was a lot of breath-holding and nail-biting to see if the team really could accomplish its seemingly impossible mission.

Here at GuideStone, we accepted an urgent assignment over a century ago and we have been on a mission to provide dignity to retired ministers, workers and their widows in need. While we use modern technology and put a lot of creative thought into our work, the last thing we ever do is keep it a secret. To the contrary, we share our story openly with people like you and churches like yours, and it’s your generous response as part of our team that ultimately gets the job done.

On the back, you can read a short, but powerful, letter of gratitude from Mitchell and Rayna Michaels. With no Social Security and just a modest salary from Mitchell continuing to preach in his 80s, the monthly grant you provide makes a tremendous difference. As you’ll see, it truly is “mission accomplished.”

Thanks so much for your gift this month and for joining us on this important, Christ-honoring mission. Your care and compassion make these joyful endings possible!

Grace and peace,

John Ambra  
Director of Development

To the blessed of God,

My name is Mitchell Michaels, and let me begin by asking you to forgive me for typing this letter. But having a slight case of old age tremors has caused my handwriting to become a bit sloppy at best.

Now, let me thank you for approving the monthly grant for another 24 months. But I believe the donors need to be aware of more than my personal gratitude.

They obviously need to know that it allows my wife and I to live with dignity; mission accomplished.

But it also allows me to continue to do God's work in our little hilltop community. Our average attendance for Sunday morning service 10-15. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening it is 4-6.

Although I have never tried to figure it out, I believe the average age of the congregation is 70-75. All but 3 members are on fixed incomes and the health of some would be rated as "poor." But I praise God that they faithfully attend whenever they can and they are cheerful givers. The church's bills are paid, they pay me what I reported to you, and there is even a little money in the bank.

So please tell all who will listen, God is good and Mission Dignity is truly mission accomplished.

Thank you and may God greatly bless what you do for Him.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell Michaels', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mitchell Michaels