

Guided Giving

[Making life better for God's retired servants]

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A time to Give and a time to Receive

By Polly House

"Neat as a pin" is the phrase that comes to mind seeing Patricia McGehee's home in Lewisburg, Tenn.

The yard is well kept, the landscape is tidy and the house is in good repair.

Upon meeting her, a guest in her home is not surprised to see that she, too, is neat and attractive. Every hair is in place. Her makeup is tasteful. Her pink sweater is soft and comfortable.

McGehee is the widow of Joseph McGehee, a Tennessee pastor who died of leukemia at age 43 in 1981. Since then, she has lived in the home they bought together. Thanks to GuideStone's Mission:Dignity, McGehee doesn't have to worry about being able to stay there.

"My husband and I had lived in parsonages until a few years

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Years ago, it was common to tell someone "tie a string around your finger" to remember to do something very important.



Presumably, having something in front of us, and maybe even bothering us a bit, would keep us from overlooking an important task. Today, the string has been replaced by calendar reminders that automatically pop up on our computers or the smart phones in our pockets with a bell, whistle or buzzer that moves us to action.

The Apostle Paul didn't have a cell phone or computer. He probably didn't even have a string in his pocket. But the word of trusted friends and a promise in his heart were all he needed to keep his mind focused on a crucial task.

The book of Galatians records a pivotal time in the life of the early church. Paul had just been given the blessings of the Jerusalem church leaders as they affirmed his call to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. As they prepared to say farewell and embark on journeys that would separate them geographically, they made a covenant that would bond them together in ministry. Paul recorded it this way:

They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do (Gal. 2:10, NKJV).

Caring for the poor was a priority for those early Christians and it's a priority for us today. Through Mission:Dignity, we as Southern Baptists are remembering aged pastors and their widows who served well through the years but now face critical financial needs. The stories in this issue of *Guided Giving* attest to the difference your gifts make in their lives.

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*“I’ve never been one to take anything I don’t deserve.
But Tim reminded me ... all of us have*



before he got sick,” McGehee said. “That was just fine and we appreciated it, but he decided it would make more financial sense if we bought our own home. That was a wise decision for us then and especially for me since he passed away.”

After her husband’s death, McGehee decided to stay in Lewisburg.

“Our two sons were teenagers at the time. I didn’t want to have to move them from their school where they were happy and involved. They had been through so much with their father’s death that I wanted to keep their lives as stable as I could. We also had such wonderful support from our church. I couldn’t leave.”

McGehee graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., in 1960, with a degree in elementary education. She taught school in Fort Worth, Texas, while her husband attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

“I loved teaching,” she said. “I love children and helping them learn was such a joy.”

Following seminary, her husband received a call from Ewing Drive Baptist Church in Nashville. They were happy to be returning home to Tennessee. Seven years later, he accepted the call to pastor First Baptist Church in Lewisburg, the town she still calls home.

“I didn’t go back into the classroom after Joseph became a pastor,” she said. “He didn’t want me to work; just be a pastor’s wife.”

But, like any pastor’s wife, McGehee did work!

“I was still a teacher,” she said with a laugh. “I taught Sunday school, Bible Drill and anything else I needed to teach. I just didn’t get paid for it. But, I did love it.”

After her husband’s death, McGehee managed to financially get by, but it was a struggle.

“I took care of Joseph while he was sick, and then after his death, I continued to be a caregiver,” McGehee said. “My mother was sick. I took care of her until her

death. Then my mother-in-law became ill, and I cared for her until her death.”

Caregiving continued to be a thread through McGehee’s life.

“One of the young mothers in our church called me one day to ask a favor,” McGehee said. “Her regular babysitter was sick, and she asked if I would be willing to take care of her preschooler for a few days.

“I was delighted,” she said. “I had a wonderful time with her those few days. The mother said her daughter had such a good time with me and asked if I would be willing to keep her full time. I said I would love to.”

McGehee turned her large den into an in-home preschool. She kept a few children at a time and enjoyed every minute of it.

“Those children were so sweet,” she said. “It was good for me to have something so fulfilling to do. I know it helped the children with their (preschool) education, but it helped their parents, too.”

She continued her preschool until her last granddaughter started school.

“My husband was pastor of small churches here in Tennessee and, like many pastors, didn’t make a large



Patricia McGehee

a time to give and a time to receive.”

salary,” she said. “My widow’s benefit is small, but with that and my in-home preschool business I managed.”

When she retired from her preschool business, her income dropped considerably. Despite living very modestly, it was a struggle to keep up.

“It seemed like every time a bill came, it was higher than the last one,” she said. “Electricity and gas kept going up, insurance, everything.”

Her son Tim, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn., told her about GuideStone’s Mission:Dignity ministry and asked her if he could help her apply for a grant.

“I had not heard of Mission:Dignity before,” McGehee said. “I thought it sounded like an answer to prayer. Tim told me about other retirees who received help and how it was meeting needs in their lives.”

McGehee was not accustomed to receiving help. She had always been one to help others.

“I’ve never been one to take anything I don’t deserve,” she said. “But Tim reminded me that the people who donate to the Mission:Dignity ministry want to help retired ministers and ministers’ wives. He reminded me all of us have a time to give and a time to receive.”

McGehee has been receiving help through the Mission:Dignity ministry since 2010. The extra income from the program has been a blessing to her, allowing her the opportunity to remain in her home and keep her independence.

“Because of Mission:Dignity, I have been able to do some things I wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise,” she said. “I don’t have to worry about paying my bills. Getting the extra Mission:Dignity funds each month has made such a difference in my life. GuideStone has been wonderful to me.”

McGehee is still an active member at First Baptist Church in Lewisburg.

“I love my church,” she said. “For some pastor’s widows, it might be hard to stay at the same church where her husband pastored, but I’m glad I stayed.”

Her church and her family mean everything to McGehee.

Her son Tim and his family live less than an hour away. Her other son, Kevin, is on staff at East Commerce Baptist Church in Lewisburg and is the athletic director at Marshall County High School.

“I’m so proud of my sons and their wives and children,” McGehee said. “All of them are wonderful Christians. God has blessed my family richly.” 🌿





... I SEE MY MOM AND DAD

HE WHO HAS PITY ON THE
POOR LENDS TO THE LORD,
AND HE WILL PAY BACK
WHAT HE HAS GIVEN.

Prov. 19:17, NKJV

Truett and Opal Hawley have given to Mission:Dignity since 1992, but their love for pastors and their widows actually began nearly a century ago.

“My dad was already a pastor when I was born in 1919,” Truett noted, “and was serving four churches at a time back then. That’s the way it was in the country. The preacher would go to one church each Sunday of the month. On those other Sundays, the people would just attend Sunday school and then go home. When there was a fifth Sunday, he’d contact a church that didn’t have a preacher. If they liked him, they’d call him back.”

“Growing up, we were very poor,” Truett continued. “Normally, our breakfast was biscuits and gravy and the evening meal was cornbread and beans. We never had roast beef, and because we raised chickens, we’d be able to eat one now and then. We had plenty of eggs.”

Truett’s father, the Rev. A.M. Hawley, pastored in the western Kentucky town of Hazel for several years. He recalled one of the homes they rented.

"It was the smallest house in town. One room for the whole family except that it had a loft area in the ceiling where my brothers and I could sleep. It was cold in the winter and hot in the summer; the only heat for the house was in the fireplace."

Later, the family moved out to the country. A neighbor gave them a Jersey cow. They would skim the cream from the milk and sell it for cash or trade for coffee, sugar, flour and other food. During that time, someone stole their 30 chickens, and the local paper ran a story about it.

"Everyone in the county started bringing us chickens. We had every breed and model of chicken that you ever heard of."

While that story brings a chuckle now, it also brings tears to Truett's eyes.

"Those were some hard times. Dad was only serving one church at the time. And more than once, we were completely out of food."

Truett later joined the Navy and eventually took a job in the oil industry in southeast Texas. Seeing Opal in a parking lot, he asked his soon-to-be brother-in-law to get him a date with her. He was told that Opal was engaged but that didn't stop Truett. He still wanted a date. On May 29, they will have been married for 70 years.

Opal remembered a particular visit to the Hawley family in Kentucky shortly after she and Truett married. "While we were there, Papa Hawley prayed for shoes, and I thought that's the weirdest thing I ever heard in my life. I've never heard anyone pray for shoes, and he prayed for everything that he needed. My own family had plenty and I had never heard of anyone asking God for personal needs."

God provided shoes in answer to those prayers as well as something else – some help in retirement.

Truett pulled out an old hardcover ledger book, turned a couple pages and pointed to the entries.

"None of the churches my dad preached in contributed to an account for him at (what was then) the Annuity Board. Dad never had a church where they had a parsonage, and all the years he served he had to pay rent someplace," Truett said.

"I found out firsthand from my mother and father, when he was 75, that dad had applied for help from the Annuity Board and started drawing \$29.62 a month. That was nearly a dollar a day in 1950, and it was the difference between going hungry or not. Only two of us eight children were able to help support them at the time, and it was a lifesaver to us as well as to them. They were able to make it with that \$29.62, a little savings and a roadside stand they sold food from. And once in a while, someone would ask my dad to preach.

"He drew that help for about five years until he died right before turning 80. Mama lived to be 82."

The Hawleys remain active at North Orange Baptist Church where they are long-time members. They have shared about Mission:Dignity with their church family and Sunday school class. And for more than two decades, they've generously assisted aged pastors and their widows in need.

"We gave and it just became a habit," Truett noted. "Several years ago, we doubled our giving, and it has been such a blessing."

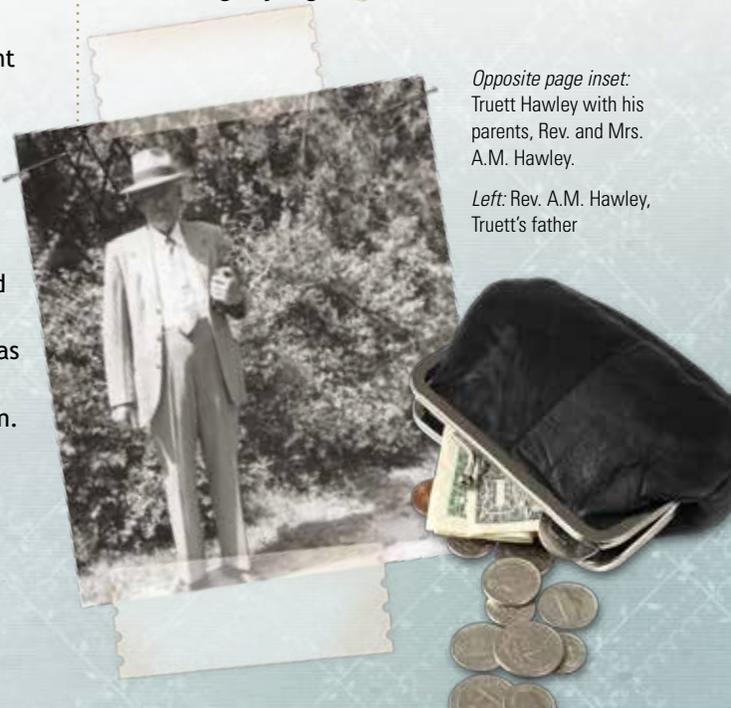
Opal added, "We never missed the money. The Bible tells us to give and it will be given to you."

One of Truett's favorite verses is Proverbs 19:17: *He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.*

But the Hawleys don't give to receive money back. They simply enjoy the privilege of helping God's servants.

"It's a joy and a blessing to give to Mission:Dignity," Truett said with a tear in his eye. "Every month when I get that thank-you letter, I see my mom and dad."

Read more of the Hawleys' story at MissionDignity.org. 🌱



Opposite page inset:
Truett Hawley with his
parents, Rev. and Mrs.
A.M. Hawley.

Left: Rev. A.M. Hawley,
Truett's father

CONSIDER A GIFT OF STOCK



**WITH THE STOCK MARKET HITTING RECORD HIGHS RECENTLY,
CHARITABLE-MINDED DONORS SHOULD CONSIDER
A GIFT OF COMMON STOCK.**

If you have held the stock for more than one year, you can avoid the capital gains taxes associated with sale of the stock. You also may obtain a charitable deduction for up to the full fair market value of the stock. (Value of the gift is computed by taking the average of the high and low selling prices of the stock on the day of transfer and multiplying by the number of shares transferred.)

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO MAKE A STOCK GIFT:

1 The safest and easiest way to give stock is to contact your broker and ask to have the shares transferred to GuideStone's account. The information your broker needs is as follows:

Account Manager: Merrill Lynch
Attention: Holli Glass
110 N College Ave, Ste 1600
Tyler, TX 75702-7246
Telephone: (903) 534-4766
Email: holli.f.glass@ML.com

Account Number: 549-04123

Merrill Lynch's DTC #: 5198

GuideStone's Federal ID: 75-0939949

Be sure to call or write GuideStone's Mission:Dignity to advise us of the transfer. You may also send an email to MissionDignity@GuideStone.org.

2 If you hold a certificate of stock, you may arrange for endorsement and transfer of the shares to GuideStone. The process is a bit more detailed, but not complicated. Just contact us for instructions on how to complete the transaction.

By the way, stock can also be used to fund Charitable Gift Annuity arrangements, Donor Advised Funds, Charitable Remainder Trusts and a variety of other gift options. You may even be able to get a higher payout than you are currently receiving in dividends by converting your stock into another Life Income Gift plan. We will be glad to discuss these opportunities with you at any time.

You can reach Mission:Dignity through our toll-free number, **1-888-98-GUIDE** (1-888-984-8433) or our mailing address:

Mission:Dignity
GuideStone Financial Resources
2401 Cedar Springs Rd.
Dallas, TX 75201



SAVE THE DATE:
Mission:Dignity
Sunday
JUNE 28TH

Order free materials TODAY to celebrate Mission:Dignity Sunday in your church!

Southern Baptist churches across the nation will celebrate Mission:Dignity Sunday on June 28. This day is set aside by the Southern Baptist Convention to remember the thousands of aged ministers and their widows who dedicated their lives to the Gospel ministry but are now facing their retirement years without the financial resources to meet their basic daily needs.

Help us spread the word by encouraging your church, Sunday school class or missions organization to participate in Mission:Dignity Sunday.

Your church can help to make life better for God's retired servants. **Order free bulletin inserts and a short video** for use in worship services, Sunday school departments or mission-oriented organizations online at MissionDignity.org/order or by calling **1-888-98-GUIDE** (1-888-984-8433).

Materials are undated and can be used on any date you choose.



Mission:Dignity
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses



100%
of your gift

**Helps Someone
in Need**

Years ago, an endowment was established that funds the operating expenses of Mission:Dignity. This covers staff salaries, printing, postage and other expenses.

Every dollar of current Mission:Dignity annual gifts is used for monthly distributions to retired pastors and their widows in need.



Mission:Dignity
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses

UNLOCK THE CODE

Grow in faith AND support Mission:Dignity with these devotional books.



The Joshua Code: 52 Scripture Verses Every Believer Should Know

The Jesus Code: 52 Scripture Questions Every Believer Should Answer
— by O.S. Hawkins

Learn more at OSHawkins.com

Available at LifeWay Christian Stores and other fine retailers.

All author's royalties and net proceeds from sales will be distributed to GuideStone's Mission:Dignity ministry.

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As a reminder, Mission:Dignity Sunday is coming up on June 28, and this is a great time to let your Sunday school class, small group or your entire church family know about this important ministry. We want to send you free brochures and our latest DVD so you can join us in this day of celebration and remembrance. Details are inside on page 7; order your kit today!

On behalf of nearly 2,000 pastors and their widows who are assisted each month through your care and compassion, thank you for being part of our Mission:Dignity family and for remembering the poor among us.

As one old preacher told us, "It's like receiving a hug from the Savior and hearing a small voice say, 'You are loved and not forgotten, my son.'"

Blessings,



O.S. Hawkins
President and CEO

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