

GUIDED GIVING

[Making life better for God's retired servants]

a publication of GuideStone®



AN 11-YEAR FRIENDSHIP

BY JOEL MOSIER

In July 2012, God called my wife and me to Cypress, Texas, to pastor Grace Life Baptist Church, an independent Baptist church. We only had 11 members, so I started going door to door, inviting people to our revitalization.

My very first week, I knocked on the door of a retired couple who had just completed an interim pastor assignment at a church in Houston. They were looking for their new church home. Although they had never been members of an independent Baptist church, God knit my wife's heart and my heart to Oscar and Terri Gonzales.

That initial knock at the door began an 11-year friendship that continues to this day. Oscar and Terri became our biggest supporters, cheerleaders and prayer warriors. Even though Terri would say to me from time to time, "You know the Convention has so many positive benefits! Missions. Missions. Missions. The sense of encouragement from fellow pastors and churches who are trying to accomplish the same task: preaching the Gospel and making disciples."

Over our many conversations, I learned of a ministry that Oscar and Terri had come to support and also receive support from: Mission:Dignity®. On more than one occasion, Oscar would say to me, "Brother Joel, God is so good and so faithful to us. I received my monthly support check from Mission:Dignity." Or "I received an unexpected check this month or more was given to us through Mission:Dignity. Isn't God good to us!"

As I look back over the past 11 years, I can identify at least three or four occasions early on in Grace Life Church's revitalization that I wanted to

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Mission:Dignity

A ministry of GuideStone®

Want to learn more about our ministry?

Visit: MissionDignity.org

Email: MissionDignity@GuideStone.org

Call: 1-877-888-9409

Like, connect and follow
@MissionDignity for up-to-date
information and recipient stories!



A Letter from Our President

D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr.



Dear Mission:Dignity Friend,

Resilience.

These three syllables have captured my attention over the past 18 months. At GuideStone® and Mission:Dignity®, we define resilience as:

“The capacity to persevere through or bounce back from adversity, unexpected loss or challenges. Resilience requires margin throughout life.”

Thanks to your generous support, you help ensure that every one of the more than 2,800 people we serve through Mission:Dignity can have a measure of resilience in their declining years.

I served as a pastor for 25 years before serving one of our Baptist state conventions and then coming to GuideStone®. No pastor I’ve ever known – and I have talked to hundreds if not thousands through the years – expected to become wealthy serving the Lord. They serve because of the calling of God on their lives; they trust him to

provide for their needs. Every one of our Mission:Dignity recipients can tell you story after story of how God met his or her needs at just the right time. 100% of every dollar you give goes to help one of these “soldiers of the cross.” That gift ensures these blessed servants have the resilience to bounce back, persevere and even thrive. In a time of expensive fuel and food, Mission:Dignity can come alongside these men and women and serve as a reminder that the Lord and his church have not forgotten them.

On behalf of our Mission:Dignity team, thank you for your support. You are a blessing to so many, and we give thanks to the Lord that you are on mission with us.

In Christ,

D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr.

President – Chief Executive Officer
GuideStone

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quit. Even though Oscar and Terri were retired, they never retired from prayerful support. They have held my hands up on more than one occasion. If you had to point to one tangible reason as to why I'm still a pastor, other than my dear wife, it's because of the support of Oscar and Terri. He regularly called me his pastor, and I would gently correct him and say, "No, you are my pastor." Because of the tangible support that my dearest mentors receive every month, my wife and I are monthly supporters of Mission:Dignity.

Because of Oscar and Terri's influence, Grace Life Baptist Church became a Southern Baptist church in 2018. In May 2023, I presided over the homegoing of Oscar, my dearest mentor. I continue to make visits to Terri. I thank God for the ministry of Mission:Dignity! 🙏



Pastor Joel Mosier is the lead pastor at Grace Life Church in Cypress, Texas. He and his wife, Tara, have five children, ranging from elementary school through college. He recently earned an M.Div. at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Fort Worth).



Fast Facts About Emergency Grants



\$1.5M in emergency grants was disbursed in 2022



Medicare or Medicaid **does not cover** most dental care and vision care costs



Average age of emergency grant recipients: **82**



100% of your designated gift will go towards emergency grant needs



This year, Mission:Dignity released a 40-day devotional book highlighting devotionals written by recipients. This publication is available to anyone. A donation is suggested.

If interested in receiving a copy, please contact our office at **1-877-888-9409** or **MissionDignity@GuideStone.org**.

A sneak peek of the devotionals included is available to read on page 6 of this newsletter. We pray this book will bless you as it has blessed us!

GIVE TODAY!

Save the Date:

GI ING TUESDAY

November 28, 2023



One of the most fun charitable events of the year is almost here — **#GivingTuesday is November 28, 2023**. Mark your calendars for this once-a-year opportunity to join with countless others to support the ministry of Mission:Dignity.

Plus, we are excited to share that this year, due to a few gracious donors, gifts will be matched — up to at least \$700,000 (maybe more!) — on #GivingTuesday!

Where does your donation go?

\$150 supplies five days of groceries
\$400 covers a month of utilities or medications
\$1,200 provides three months of housing expenses
\$4,800 fully underwrites a year of assistance

To make your gift go further on #GivingTuesday:

- Give online at *MissionDignity.org* on Tuesday, November 28
- Call the Mission:Dignity office at **1-877-888-9409** for more information
- Use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code above and learn more about how you can participate

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDER

#GivingTuesday is a great way to get a head start on year-end giving.

As 2023 comes to a close, please remember Mission:Dignity and the soldiers of the cross our ministry serves.



100% of every donation goes to improve the lives of retired SBC ministers, workers and their widows in financial need.

Your year-end donation directly affects the ability of these faithful servants to buy groceries, pay utility bills and renew daily prescriptions. We could not do this work without you!

To ensure that your gift arrives by year's end, please consider giving online at *MissionDignity.org* or sending your donation to our address before December 31, 2023:

MISSION DIGNITY
PO Box 673001
Dallas, TX 75267-9734

To serve you and our recipients better, please note that our PO Box for donations has changed as of 9/1/23.

Give to the O.S. and Susie Hawkins Emergency Grant Fund



The Hawkins Fund was established to perpetually provide for the emergency needs of Mission:Dignity recipients with the highest financial need. Today, Mission:Dignity recipients at this income level earn an average of \$1,033 monthly. The Hawkins Emergency Grant Fund is in addition to gifts given that provide monthly grants to more than 2,800 retired pastors and their widows.

Qualifying emergency needs include:

-  **Eyeglasses**
-  **Hearing aids**
-  **Hospital stays**
-  **Home repairs**
-  **Medical bills**
-  **Natural disasters**
-  **Dental work**
-  **And much more!**

This year, Mission:Dignity launched an initiative to raise money specifically for this fund. As the costs of medical procedures, home repairs and assistance devices rise, we hope to meet these needs head-on with generous giving from the Hawkins Fund. 



If you are interested in designating a gift directly to fund emergency grants for Mission:Dignity recipients:

• Visit MissionDignity.org



• Or write "Emergency Grant Fund" in the note line of your check.

For more information, please contact our office at 1-877-888-9409 or MissionDignity@GuideStone.org.

Believing in Miracles



Deuteronomy 10:21

We often find ourselves on our knees praying for a miracle, trying to have faith that the Lord will provide, but it can be difficult to keep our eyes open to see the miracles God performs. I have been blessed to be on the receiving end of several miracles myself, none greater than in my youngest son's life. In 1967, when I was only two months pregnant with our youngest son, my appendix burst. The doctors who prepared me for emergency surgery informed us there was little they would be able to do to save the baby while saving my life. Having previously lost a child, this news was devastating. But my husband and I believed in the power of prayer and knew God had the power to save us both.

We hit our knees and put our lives in the Lord's hands.

During surgery, while the doctors worked to clean out the infected tissues, a pediatrician held my uterus in a warm towel to keep the baby safe before placing it back in my body. Five days later, I was cleared to go home to my husband and son, with a baby still growing in my womb. That very night, I was rushed back to the hospital with a severe gallbladder attack they could do nothing about until the baby was born. I spent my days drinking bottle after bottle of milk of magnesia. As the baby grew and moved, I became more ill, and my 4-year-old son had to learn how to care for me, frequently wiping my brow with a cool cloth. But God performed a miracle, and our baby was born full term. Unfortunately, he had lungs full of amniotic fluid, and it was 24 hours before he was able to breathe on his own. But he pulled through, and God granted him his health.



Claudia Joslin

Served the Lord alongside late husband, Lee Roy, for 28 years

Mission:Dignity recipient since 2021

Soon after, my gallbladder was removed, and that surgery helped to restore my health.

Four years later, the Lord would save our youngest son's life once more when a severe case of chicken pox turned inward, and his fever rose so high that he fell into a coma. When his fever broke, I cried in relief. We truly thought we would lose him. It is so hard to see your children go through so much, especially in their young lives. But God is always good and always provides peace and guidance.

When it feels like it is all falling apart, we need to remember that God is still a miracle worker.

Deuteronomy 10:21 says, *"He alone is your God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes."*



“ ”

“In our fondest dreams, we could have never realized how much your appreciation and encouragement have meant to us. Our motive has been to share Christ, never dreaming of a reward other than to have his smile and presence. We have been sent to 15 churches over 60 years with this message of love. He has always provided and ‘picked up the tab.’”

Gary and Martha Ramer, Ajo

Mission:Dignity Recipients since 2018.



“ ”

“Since my stroke, wow, I miss preaching and teaching his Word. My ministry now is more one on one. Please continue your prayers for me and my wife (my caregiver). God bless this ministry.”

Wayne and Dianne Cornelius

Mission:Dignity recipients since 2016.



“ ”

“Gratitude is one of the motifs of my life. And I am more grateful than I can say to Baptists and to Mission:Dignity for the way you continue to enrich and bless my life. May God continue to bless you in the excellent ministry you are doing.”

Bob Buckner

Mission:Dignity recipient since 2021.

Dear God's people at Mission Dignity,
I am so grateful to you and to the Companionate donors who support Mission Dignity.

I was delighted when I received your kind letter telling me that I am approved for the unbelievably generous grant for 24 months!

I feel "rich" to receive the blessing of such generous financial help, and to know that it comes from Godly people who don't even know me!

I thank God for Mission Dignity and I promise to spend the money carefully.

I have a few trees that threaten to fall toward my house, in a storm. I will use some of the grant money to have these removed. Thank you!!

With old appliances, it is comforting to know that I have resources to fix or replace them as they give out.

I may have my daughter in law to take me to buy a new pair of shoes + clothes

-☺ Gratefully, Rebecca

Rebecca Allison

Mission:Dignity recipient since 2019.



Mission: Dignity

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Slow Mail?

Give Online Instead!

Due to the widespread and ongoing mail delays many are experiencing, we recommend giving online via credit, debit or electronic funds transfer (EFT).



Visit MissionDignity.org and click the **Donate Now** button to get started today.

