

## **A Call for Justice within the Ministry**

At his inauguration, President Barack Obama asked all Americans to reflect on the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. He praised the “men and women, obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom” throughout the nation’s history. President Obama’s message continues to apply to ministry leaders within the nation’s churches, the men and women who serve our community faithfully.

A century ago, many pastors experienced tremendous neglect. Those who could no longer work due to illness, injury or old age were often cast aside along with their families.

Alternatively, many pastors continued to work when their energy began to wane and they wanted to retire. The church, respectful and appreciative of the many contributions the pastor made, continued to renew the call. This arrangement served neither the shepherd nor the flock.

Times have changed, yet the struggle to provide essential benefits and compensation that reflects the demanding work of the ministry continues. This surprises many. After all, the fearless sacrifices of church leaders often serve as the fulcrum that sets social change in motion. Unfortunately, those who courageously claim justice for others may not have time or inclination to advocate for their own financial wellbeing.

Fortunately, we're blessed with an organization that grows out of the church, that recognizes the needs of our servants of God, and that works with individual churches to provide essential retirement, life insurance and disability benefits to every eligible pastor, missionary, and lay church worker. Eligible organizations are those whose decision-making authority lies with the local church or employer.

Pioneering Baptists founded The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) in 1911 to address and help relieve the poverty suffered by many pastors of the day, especially in rural and Western communities. Based on the Biblical principle that those who preach the gospel were entitled to live by the gospel, MMBB was established “for the better maintenance of the ministry.”

Today MMBB eases economic burdens and enhances financial security for those who dedicate their lives to the Lord. MMBB offers income protection in the form of disability and life insurance during the working years as well as lifetime income in retirement. Pre-tax savings plans and health insurance programs are also available.

Freed from fear about the future, church workers can focus on their callings and fulfilling the work of the church. If your church supports fair pay and essential benefits, support a movement that is critical not only for the individuals who serve the church, but also for future generations. Today is your opportunity to continue writing history and pursuing justice and equality for those within the ministry.

MMBB stands ready to partner with you. We understand the unique blessings and challenges of the ministry and have tailored our benefit programs to meet those needs. We are solely committed to the welfare of those in Christian service.

We invite you to obtain an overview about us and our plans at [www.mmbb.org](http://www.mmbb.org) and about the medical and dental plans at [www.benplan.com/mmbbmedical/](http://www.benplan.com/mmbbmedical/). For information more tailored to your situation, to request enrollment materials or to schedule a meeting for your church and others in your area, please call Rev. William Key at 866.257.6622 or send him an email at [william.key@mmbb.org](mailto:william.key@mmbb.org).