

The Baptist Home Foundation

"Our Field is **Global**...
Because **Aging is Universal**."

NEWSLETTER

November 2017

No Other Way: The Compelling Value of Partnerships

The earliest documents of The Baptist Home Foundation's Global Aging Missions' emphasis find the term "partnership." Synonyms include cooperation, association, collaboration, relationship, connection and even more. The placement of that word in our documents was intentional.

The spirit of Global Aging Missions is that of The Baptist Home working together with a group of believers outside the United States. We want to raise awareness of Christian aging ministries as well as collaborate to take next steps. Our hope is that the steps they choose will move them toward a sustainable goal that will benefit the aging in their midst and those who care for them.

Our goal is not about governance, ownership or management of people or capital assets overseas. It is about helping national aging leaders determine what is best for them to do to move forward. We help them know how to secure local resources to support those goals as resources can be available. When necessary, The Baptist Home Foundation steps in with additional resources, not to create dependency but to

foster entrepreneurship. The three areas of support available for all of us to do our ministries include people, materials and finances.

We have just returned from a September event in the Eastern European country of Moldova. This has been in the works since late 2015 when a request came from the Baptist Union of Moldova to help the Christian-based Emanuel Clinic, which has served thousands of Moldovans in the name of Christ. The Emanuel Clinic completed the Partnership Request which identifies who is going to do what and what resources each will provide.

The Baptist Home Foundation took its lead from Emanuel Clinic to "fill in the blanks" that Emanuel could not provide given its resources. Goals were established and support materials of medical equipment and supplies were identified. The Americans brought over 1,000 reader eyeglasses for the rural elderly who cannot obtain them anywhere in country except from churches and clinics that have been gifted with those from outside the country.

Emanuel Clinic then set up its partnerships with local churches and their own medical teams who

would join the Americans in conducting the clinics in the rural areas. The churches would choose the location for the clinic and the logistics for their day. Some were community centers and some were schools. The host church would provide a lunch for the medical team and ensure that everything was going smoothly each day.

The Baptist Home Foundation partnered with some local churches and individuals in Missouri to contribute to the ongoing budget for items needed from the states and with many others for reader glasses for these people. The sewing groups of two other churches together made eyeglass cases for the clinics and lap robes for the only Baptist nursing home in the entire country.

The key concept of The Baptist Home Foundation's Global Aging Missions' partnerships was in full blossom with this event as in all events Global Aging Missions conducts. Partnerships are time-consuming. Partners have hard work to do both to understand exactly what its goals are and then how to share those with other partners. Partners must identify their own limits and who else needs to become a partner to help meet the agreed-on goals. We often say at The Baptist Home Foundation that Global Aging Missions' goals must be God-given and God-driven in order to follow His leadership in this ministry.

Information provided by Dr. Roger Hatfield who serves as the Global Aging Missions Specialist for The Baptist Home.



Moldova leadership discuss plans for future aging ministry projects.

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