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Leader's Guide for  
2010 World Mission Offering DVD  
"In Haiti and in the World"

About the Video

This DVD tells how American Baptist missionaries have been ministering in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake there, illustrative of the kinds of ministries IM has also been carrying out with partners in other countries over many years. There are two versions: 7 minutes and 3:55 minutes. Preview both of them to determine which to use in your selected setting.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

*Scripture:* Psalm 23

*Related hymns:* "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

"The King of Love My  
Shepherd Is"

"Savior, Like a  
Shepherd Lead Us."

*Introductory words:* The Twenty-third Psalm is familiar to most of us. It is often quoted when

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people face life's most challenging crises – funerals, at hospital bedsides, coping with illness or natural disasters. The video we are about to see opens with a woman in Haiti reciting the psalm as she faces an unknown future in the wake of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in January. (Refer to the bulletin insert telling of this woman.) The video shows that her needs are being met by the dedicated efforts of American Baptist missionaries and volunteers, whose support comes in a major way through the World Mission Offering. (Show the 7-minute version.)

*Following the Showing:* As the video states, through our gifts to the World Mission Offering we can help people in need not only in Haiti but in many countries worldwide. We bring to them the message of love and hope which Jesus, the Good Shepherd offers to all who come to him.

*If Time Is Limited:* Instead of using the 7-minute featured story, use the shorter 3:55-minute version. This does not begin with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. It does, however, lift up the assurance that God walks with us through life's most difficult times. Offer a prayer for our American Baptist missionaries and volunteers working in Haiti and around the world, that God will empower and support them as they minister in Jesus' name.

#### CHURCH SCHOOL AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

*Scripture and hymns:* Use the suggestions for the morning worship service.

*Preparing to See the Video:* Referring to the Twenty-third Psalm (perhaps asking your group to recite it with you), ask what the psalm means to them. Would some share their feelings about the psalm? Was there a special time when this psalm

lifted their spirits or helped them cope with a difficult situation? You might be prepared to share an experience of your own. Then indicate that the video they will be seeing opens with a woman in Haiti reciting the psalm as she copes with the devastation brought about the January earthquake in Haiti. As they view the video, ask them to think about how the needs of this woman, and of others, are being met by American Baptists in Haiti. (Use the 7-minute version of the video.)

*Following the Showing:* Have your group members share their reactions to the video. How do they feel about the work of Kristy Engel and the volunteers working in Haiti? Indicate that American Baptists have been ministering in Haiti for over 85 years. Our long-term commitment there continues. As Kristy mentions, after the initial relief endeavors had taken place, many aid workers began leaving. But she and her helpers have remained to carry on their ministry of rehabilitation and love. Mention that WMO giving supports the ongoing ministry of Kristy and our other IM missionaries. One Great Hour of Sharing giving focuses mainly on relief efforts.

#### MIDWEEK SERVICE

During this time usually set aside for Bible study and prayer, you might focus on the Twenty-third Psalm as highlighted in the suggestions above. Have your group share their feelings about the psalm, and then do a brief study of it. One way is to look at the needs our Good Shepherd meets (and are being met through the efforts of our IM missionaries):

- Physical needs (vv. 1-2)
- Emotional needs (vv. 3-4)

- Security needs (v. 5)
- Spiritual needs (v. 6)

Use this illustration before showing the video: The story is told of a retired minister who was invited back to his former church. His Scripture text was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The current pastor, wanting to make a good impression on his visitor and the congregation, recited the familiar verses from memory in a deep, dramatic voice. Then the old, white-haired former pastor, stooped with age, approached the pulpit and began to speak softly. His voice seemed thin and his breath short. But as he repeated the words of that beloved psalm, new life flowed in him. His body seemed to straighten, his voice grew stronger, and the congregation listened with rapt attention to his message. When the old pastor had finished, the young pastor stood up to announce the closing hymn. Before he did, however, he turned to the elderly man and said, "Sir, I know the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, but you know the Shepherd!"

As we will see, Maxine, the Haitian woman reciting the psalm as the video opens, knows not only the psalm, but through our missionaries also knows the Shepherd of the psalm. (Use the 7-minute version. Maxine's story is told in the bulletin insert in the WMO code box.)

*After the Showing:* Have a time of prayer for our missionaries and volunteers serving in Haiti. In addition to Kristy Engel, who is based in the Dominican Republic but travels regularly to Haiti, there are six others who are ministering there: Madeline Flores-Lopez, Ketly and Vital Pierre, Steve and Nancy James, Deliris Carrion Rosa. Lift these in prayer, as well as the World Mission

Offering, that God will inspire us all to support our worldwide mission endeavors.

#### COFFEE HOUR OR FELLOWSHIP TIME AFTER A SERVICE

Set up a mission display in the room with a laptop computer on a table to play the video, either the long or short version. If available, have a map of Haiti displayed, along with prayer cards of the missionaries serving in Haiti and selected bulletin inserts from the WMO code box. (The cards may be ordered by phoning Judson at 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2038.) At an appropriate time, invite those present to view the video and take time to read about the work of International Ministries around the world. You might have offering envelopes and/or offering boxes on the table also.

*Prepared by Rev. Ron Schlosser, IM special assistant for communications*