

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

MINUTE FOR MISSION: A RARE BLESSING



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Income Supplements distributed by
the Board of Pensions in 2012.



Jackie McCain met her husband while a member of the Presbyterian Church in Marion, Virginia. He was about to be ordained as a minister and, she remembers the first words she said to him.

"We were in line greeting him, and I said 'The Lord bless you.' I didn't know then that I'd later marry him," she said with a laugh.

Meeting at church turned out to be prophetic for the pair, who married several years later in 1953 and spent 32 years together following Ray's call to serve in churches both large and small. They raised five children and had a happy, faith-filled life together.

"Our home was filled with joy, music, and God," Jackie remembers. "The children and Ray played the piano a lot and sang at home. It was a happy time. Ray gave the children catechism, and they went to Sunday school. On Christmas, we even had the kids pick out presents for Jesus."

But, in 1985, Ray suffered a serious heart attack and passed away a few months later. It left Jackie with children still at home and barely scraping by.

"Ministers didn't get paid a lot in the '70s and '80s," Jackie says. "Even when working, he was stressed a lot about bills and debt and college. After he died, I was barely making ends meet."

Seven years after Ray passed away, Jackie came across an article in a General Assembly publication. In it, she learned about the Board of Pensions' Income Supplement Program. She called the hotline and found the help she needed.

Jackie remembers telling the man on the phone that she could never pay the money back. His response was simply that it was going to be okay.

"I nearly fainted! My mind went back to years earlier when we gave to that fund," she told us. "I had no idea about this income supplement part. And I had no idea that it would someday help me. I was amazed at God's work."

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help others like Jackie who depend on the income supplement and other Board of Pensions programs in their retirement.

"The Presbyterian Church helps those who have served. We go beyond other churches," Jackie says of the programs. "I know in my heart that God was in it. The Board of Pensions and the Assistance Program are a rare blessing for me. My kids can see it in my face—I'm not worried anymore. Due to the Christmas Joy blessing, I can breathe easier and life is happier."

Please give generously.