WHAT IS THE LUTHER RICE SOCIETY?

International Ministries (IM) started the Luther Rice Society in 2001 to encourage the support of global mission. Today the Luther Rice Society honors and recognizes those whose support is a powerful example for many others.

WHO WAS LUTHER RICE?
The Society is named after Luther Rice (1783-1836) who organized the first national Baptist Society in the United States. This Society supported the first wave of missionaries sent along with Adoniram Judson to India and later to Burma. Rice returned to the United States in 1812 and organized support for the work of the Judsons. He dedicated the rest of his life to promote and grow the financial support needed to sustain missionaries in their countries of service.

MISSION PURPOSE
International Ministries works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God’s reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

HERITAGE
We are the oldest Baptist international mission agency in North America, true to the gospel, faithfully innovating and sharing God’s love. Also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

“...Our Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program trains Latino/a leaders where they are in principles of Bible study, missions and mission mobilization, pastoral counseling, and Hispanic leadership for the church.”

—J.D. Reed, IM global servant in Bolivia, where MTS students are making a difference for the Kingdom of God because of Luther Rice Society support.

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It recognizes leadership in annual giving to International Ministries.

The gifts given by those in the Luther Rice Society are a major source of support for new or expanded programs and ministries.

WHAT GIVING IS RECOGNIZED BY THE LUTHER RICE SOCIETY?
Donors and donor churches whose gifts to International Ministries total $5,000 or more in a calendar year are recognized as part of the Luther Rice Society. All types of giving are included, whether support for IM’s global servants, the general fund, or projects.

HOW DOES THE LUTHER RICE SOCIETY RECOGNIZE SUPPORTERS?
You are recognized each year that you renew your giving. As part of the Luther Rice Society, you will receive personalized communications and Luther Rice Society mailings, including the IM annual report and our Guide to Global Servants book. You will access opportunities reserved only for those in the Luther Rice Society, with an invitation to the Luther Rice Society annual dinner as a special guest of Sharon Koh, Executive Director / CEO.

WHAT ARE THE KEY PRIORITIES FOR IM?
Since 1814, we have responded to God’s call to engage in international mission. The life-changing work that God is doing through IM with your prayer and financial support is reflected in our mission priorities:

- Invite people to become disciples of Christ through evangelism, discipleship, and theological education.
- Proclaim God’s reign of peace, justice, and abundant life by serving the needs of immigrants and refugees, abolishing global slavery, encouraging education and economic development, and promoting health.
- Equip the body of Christ to minister every where, engage in short-term mission, involve youth and young adults, and build capacity through training.
- Pursue excellence through faithful stewardship and financial accountability with the gifts you entrust to IM.

People are trained to recognize common problems which shorten life and can be treated inexpensively. Every gift is meaningful in saving a life.

—IM global servants Dr. Rick and Anita Gutierrez train local volunteers as health promoters, and with support from the Luther Rice Society this year hope to reach 5,000 people in South Africa with life-saving support for those with HIV, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

I don’t even know how to begin to thank IM and all of our donors who were willing to invest time, energy, and money to support the dream of the Congolese Baptist Community women. It’s a miracle!

—Jill Lowery, global servant in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where IM donors have helped to build a Christian school for six hundred vulnerable children.