

Sowing Seeds of Ministry

by Erin Bartels



Spring is a time when many of us in Michigan carefully sow seeds in little pots on the windowsill, hoping to get a jump on the short growing season. We dutifully water little seedlings of tomatoes, herbs, or flowers, waiting for the day when we can put them in the ground and watch them grow. Come summer and fall, if we've put some hard work and love into our gardens, they reward us with bountiful blossoms and tasty vegetables.

Our ministries at the American Baptist Churches of Michigan are the same way. As plants need light, water, and soil to grow, so our ministries need a variety of things to thrive: dedicated people, prayer, and funding. Because we all want to see a plentiful harvest of changed lives, we need to be careful gardeners.

One of the ways ABC-MI is doing just that is through a new annual Region offering: **Sowing Seeds of Ministry**. Starting this spring, our churches will have a chance to contribute to our Region to support the many worthy ministries that ABC-MI provides. Money given to this offering will help support efforts to grow healthy churches, cultivate health in our pastors, and sow seeds of the Gospel in Michigan. Over the next few weeks, you will hear about some of those ministries through E-Link Online.

The Sowing Seeds of Ministry offering will be kicking off in May 2008. Advertising and support materials will begin to arrive at your church in early April. Please take the time to read the wonderful personal stories in the 24-page booklet that accompanies the promotional materials you receive. We hope that you will see yourself and your church in some of those success stories.

ABC-MI is proud to stand in partnership with your church, providing the ministries you need when you need them. Now you have a chance to directly impact those ministries through your generous giving. You have a chance to sow seeds of ministry in our state.

Remember: as in bringing forth fruit from the earth, bringing in the harvest of the Kingdom takes time, dedication, prayer, and patience. It also takes financial support. Thank you in advance for yours.