

Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi REVOLVING LOAN FUND Dept.

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

PURPOSE: The Revolving Loan Fund is designed as an **in-house financial resource church ministry** to aid missions and churches seeking financing. The concept of the Revolving Loan Fund evolved at a time when the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi mission projects suffered greatly due to a lack of finances or collateral to buy properties and/or construction of buildings for worship, etc. **This RLF ministry is not a commercial lending institution and does not seek** (does not solicit, but will accept under certain circumstances) **investments from outside the realm of individuals, churches, and local Associations that make up the Baptist Missionary Associational work.**

ORIGIN: In 1955-56 the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi Missions Department under Bro. Vern D. Holifield, Director of Missions, was challenged with the task of how and where to secure financing to establish missions throughout the state.

METHOD: The idea of an **in-house method of financing funded by individuals, churches, and associations** who would lend to the RLF personal money interest free was initiated into action. This money would be used by the RLF trustees to buy property and construct a building for certain mission project. As soon as the mission project was completed, the mission would then seek permanent financing and return the money borrowed from the RLF. The RLF would then return the money to the lenders, or, if the lenders so desired the RLF would use it to finance another mission project. Realizing the importance of the RLF to the BMA of Mississippi Mission Department the churches, local associations, and individuals were asked to promote the RLF and include it in their regular monthly budget and special giving. After many miles and hours of promotion among the BMA churches of Mississippi by Bros. Vern Holifield, Eugene Murphy, Arnold Knight, Stephen Howell, and Rayburn Freeman the RLF has grown to realize a considerable increase in net assets and investments to be used as operational funding for missions projects.

RESULT: God's people seeing great financial success of the Revolving Loan Fund began to understand better the real meaning and strength of Baptist Churches associating together. By associating together bilateral blessings began to flow. The association of churches reached out with a helping hand and built a more effective mission program. Through the involvement of individuals, churches, and associations prompted by this program a greater interest in missions has been realized among BMA churches. Over the years, a number who have made interest free loans to the RLF have been encouraged to the point of making their loan a donation.

Serving Christ Together,

Rayburn Freeman,
Director of Missions and Revolving Loan Fund Dept.