

### Assistance Program helps retired minister continue to serve

After serving town and country congregations for 34 years, the Rev. Hal Schlobohm, Jr., retired in 1992. Due to complications from diabetes, however, he was declared legally blind in 1998.

It was a tremendous setback for Hal. Although he had taken interim pastor training, he could not accept invitations to do supply preaching. What's more, his wife Helen suffered from Alzheimer's. She needed him to check medicine labels, read letters and pay bills.

***"We found equipment that would help compensate for his vision loss,"*** says Alyson Janke, Hal's daughter. ***"But the total package cost several thousand dollars."*** Having lived on a modest salary and put two daughters through college, Hal and Helen simply didn't have the money.

Fortunately, Hal's presbytery came to know of his need and arranged for a shared grant through the Board of Pensions Assistance Program. ***"He was so excited when he got the reading machine,"*** recalls Alyson. A camcorder enlarged small print and displayed it on Hal's television, while special print-enlarging goggles enabled him to read in church. Hal passed away in June 2000, but he was able to spend the last months of his life supply preaching and serving the Church he loved so much.

***"My father had already started a family when he went to seminary,"*** says Alyson. ***"Finances were always tight, but we knew the Church would take care of us."*** Through the Board of Pensions Assistance Program, it did.

*Interview conducted in February 2001.*

### ***About the Assistance Program***

When the needs of church workers or their families exceed the bounds of the Benefits Plan, personal resources, or other means, the Financial Assistance and Retirement Housing Programs provide an important safety net. Available forms of assistance include:

- Shared Grants
- Emergency Assistance Grants
- Income Supplements
- Retirement Housing
- Housing Supplements
- Seminary Debt Assistance Program

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) oversees benefits programs for church workers and their families, while being guided by the Biblical principles of community and stewardship.

For information on applying for assistance, call 800-773-7752 or 800-PRESPLAN. Or visit the Board's Web site at [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).