

QuickLinks

■ Visit www.abhms.org to learn which Judson Press-published book is excerpted on a wall at Washington, D.C.'s new National Museum of African American History and Culture.



■ At www.abhms.org > **Mission Stories**, learn about China Christian Council's visit to ABHMS.

■ ABHMS has gifted \$15,000 to Murrow Indian Children's Home, Muskogee, Okla., on behalf of the American Baptist family. Read more at www.abhms.org > **NewsRoom**.



Mission in America
Copyright © 2017
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Unless otherwise noted, information in Mission in America may be copied without permission. Printed on recycled paper.

Executive Director
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray

Editor
Susan Gottshall

Writer
Nadine Hasenecz

Art Director
Danny Ellison

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2017



American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating spiritually dynamic Christian leaders who exhibit cultural competency and keep their fingers on the pulse of churches and communities as they passionately carry out their ministry to help people.

It's fitting, then, that ABHMS' America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme is "Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities."

However, 21st-century leadership can present challenges. We, therefore, ask you to walk alongside us, as we seek to develop and walk alongside Christ-honoring leaders called to rise to the challenge of steadfastly advancing the mission of peace, hope and love with proficiency and resiliency across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Facing this challenge, we stand on Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (NRSV).

Your partnership and generous gifts to AFC allow us to address the question: *What do leaders need to continue growing and developing?* The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ's church and that our American Baptist family is called to cultivate Christ-centered leadership.

Help ABHMS to cultivate highly developed Christian leaders by making a generous gift to this year's AFC Offering!

ABHMS board seeks nominations for 12 ministry awards

ABHMS' board of directors seeks nominations for ABHMS ministry awards to be announced in conjunction with the American Baptist Mission Summit June 30-July 2, 2017, in Portland, Ore.

Nominations are sought for the following 12 awards that honor American Baptist individuals, churches and organizations for exceptional faithfulness in ministry: Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award, Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award, Rosa O. Hall Rural and Small Town Award, Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award, Richard Hoiland Local Christian Education Award, Luther Wesley Smith Education Award, Kenneth L. Cober Regional Discipleship Award, Newton C. Fetter Higher Education and Campus Ministry Award, Suzan Johnson Cook Religious Freedom Award, Institutional Chaplaincy Award, Military Chaplaincy Award and Pastoral Counseling Award.

Nominations must include a complete nomination application form and two letters of reference of 200-300 words each, including details of the nominee's accomplishments and a statement about the reason he/she or the church/organization is deserving of the award.

Nominations must be postmarked or date stamped by midnight on Jan. 17, 2017.

The application is available online at www.abhms.org > Resources > "ABHMS 2017 Ministry Awards nomination information." To receive a hard-copy application by mail, contact Nadine Hasenecz at nadine.hasenecz@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3872, x2041.



ABHMS has presented a \$60,000 One Great Hour of Sharing Domestic Development



Grant to Weirton (W.Va.) Christian Center, one of its 16 Neighborhood Action Program Christian centers.

Families in Weirton are struggling because high-income steel manufacturing jobs have been replaced with minimum-wage jobs, and the area is known for high rates of heroin overdose.

The center is constructing a large building with a USDA-approved kitchen to expand the feeding program for the approximately 300 children it serves yearly.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

3584

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Southeastern, PA
Permit No. 167

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission in America

ABHMS joins Christian leaders supporting nonviolent protest at Standing Rock

In keeping with its historic commitments to racial justice, the rights of indigenous peoples and care for creation, ABHMS joins with other Christian leaders in support of those gathered at Standing Rock to protect native lands and waterways.

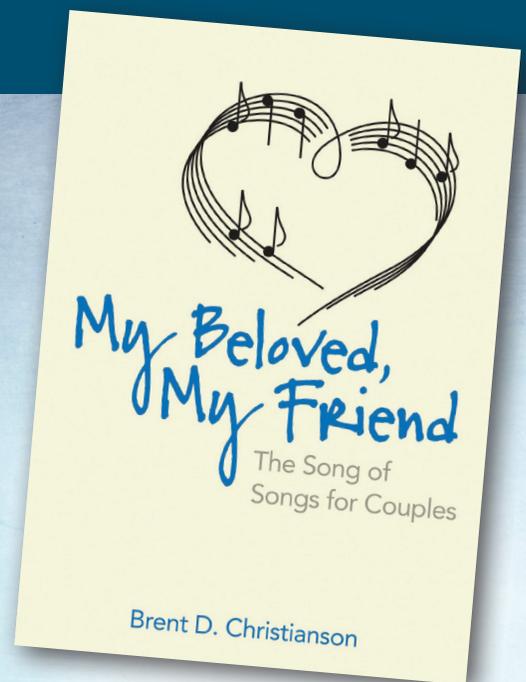
In April, several prayer camps were established near Cannon Ball, N.D., to halt construction of the 1,170-mile Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) designed to move crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in western North Dakota to refinery facilities in Illinois. Members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe have opposed the pipeline since 2014, citing risks to sacred sites on ancestral lands and to the Missouri River, which is the sole source of water for the Standing Rock Reservation and supplies drinking and irrigation water to millions of others.

Concerns about the process of approval for the pipeline have fueled opposition. The approval relied on the Nationwide Permit No. 12 process, which grants exemption from environmental reviews required by the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act by treating the pipeline as a series of small construction sites. The current planned route one-half mile from the

reservation border was selected as an alternative when Energy Transfer Partners' initial environmental assessment noted the original route's threat to the drinking water of Bismarck residents. Concerns about the process were echoed in a joint statement by The Department of Justice, the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior regarding *Standing Rock Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*.

DAPL opposition was established as a peaceful protest focused on prayer and included rules prohibiting weapons, alcohol, drugs and violence. As word has spread, thousands of Native peoples, environmental activists and religious leaders have traveled to Cannon Ball to join the effort. The North Dakota protest site has grown into the largest gathering of Native Americans in more than 100 years.

Book for couples inspired by Bible's Song of Songs



A collection of 26 devotions inspired by the Bible's beautiful Song of Songs, "My Beloved, My Friend: The Song of Songs for Couples" is designed to strengthen and enrich relationships. Perfect for couples both new and seasoned, this volume includes prose and original poetry, as well as questions, activities and journal prompts to share and explore together.

Available for pre-order for just \$9.59 on www.judsonpress.com, it makes a great Valentine's Day gift.

JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824