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AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2018

■ A pastor and regional executive minister share how a county-wide collaboration among nonprofits, businesses and volunteers ensured success for an Indiana church's ABHMS-inspired youth feeding ministry. Read more at abhms.org > Mission Stories.



Mission in America

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American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is seeking volunteers to help rebuild, restore, renew and bring God's healing love to families and communities across the United States mainland and Puerto Rico.

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico: Ongoing

Join ABHMS and Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico for ongoing volunteer service, as we seek



to rebuild, restore and renew the hurricanes Maria- and Irma-ravaged island. Your gifts of time, energy and hands-on

work are greatly needed and appreciated in restoring Corporación Milagros del Amor, Seminario Evangélico de Puerto, churches, schools and missions.

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing . . . Texas: March 4-11; March 11-18; March 18-25; June 17-24; and June 24-30

When Category 4 Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast in 2017, it brought with it 130-mph winds and torrential rain. The result was flooding, power outages, major property damage, displaced residents, injuries and fatalities.

Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done: July 29-Aug. 4

Thirteen years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast, residents continue restoration efforts. Members of the faith community were first responders in New Orleans, and we will continue to be there until the work is done.

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing . . . Muskogee, Okla.: June 17-23

Murrow Indian Children's Home is a residential home for Native American children in crisis. Bacone College, with strong ties to American Baptist Churches USA, is the oldest continuously running institution in the state. Both need volunteers for general construction, office work and grounds maintenance.

Coming Together for New Jersey...Rebuild, Restore, Renew: July 14-21

Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey when it hit the East Coast in October 2012. Join ABHMS and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey in hands-on efforts to rebuild homes, communities and lives.

Neither construction skills nor training is required. For additional information and to register for one or more of these volunteer opportunities, visit abhms.org > Ministries > Mobilizing Volunteers, or phone Victoria Goff, ABHMS national coordinator, Volunteer Mobilization Ministries, at 800-222-3872, x2449.

American Baptists visit Puerto Rico on pastoral, mission fact-finding trip

A delegation of American Baptists and partners led by American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) and ABHMS traveled to Puerto Rico Jan. 26-29 to meet with pastoral and lay leaders to survey damage from last year's hurricanes Irma and Maria. The delegation, invited by ABCUSA General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, brought together members of a Puerto Rico roundtable on the pastoral and mission fact-finding trip.

Leaders of the region Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico met with the delegation throughout the four-day visit, coordinated by Victoria Goff, ABHMS associate director of Mission Advancement and Passionary Movement and director of Disaster Recovery for Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico, and the Rev. Salvador Orellana, ABHMS

national coordinator of Latino Ministries and deputy director of Logistics and Relationships for the Puerto Rico initiative.

Spitzer underscored ABCUSA's support for ABHMS' multi-year "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative that has raised \$1,012,946 toward its \$1 million goal to support rebuilding efforts.

As ABHMS moves into Phase II of the effort, skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed for a variety of repairing and rebuilding projects.

Spitzer shared his vision of a "Sister Church Initiative" that will offer mainland churches the opportunity to express solidarity with American Baptist congregations in Puerto Rico.

■ For more information, visit abhms.org.

Enrich your congregation's Sunday experience with ABHMS' free, new resource that features a decidedly American Baptist perspective. March's "Discipleship Matters"

DISCIPLESHIP | MATTERS

bulletin insert tells how to teach spiritual disciplines to

children, while April discusses children and nature. Download them at abhms.org > Publications & Resources > Discipleship Matters.

Save the date

Space for Grace 2018: "Thy Will Be Done"
Nov. 14-16, 2018 | Loews Hotel, Philadelphia

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES
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Asian Women's Conference attendees donate to Puerto Rico

When convening in October, each attendee of the 2017 Asian Women's Conference anticipated that she would be supported in her own ministry. By the end of the three-day event, the group emerged as a blessing to others—namely, survivors of hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

When they learned of ABHMS' multi-year "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative, the conference's approximately 30 attendees decided to take up a collection, via One Great Hour of Sharing, to be donated to the island's restoration.

The group donated a total of \$2,610—\$1,610 from individual conference-goers and \$1,000 from Karen Christian Fellowship Church, Oakland, Calif.

"They understand how massive the destruction of Hurricane Maria was and felt that it's important to help American Baptist brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico," says the Rev. Florence Li, ABHMS national coordinator of Asian Ministries and conference planning team member. "They empathized with families who lost their homes, electricity and water. Many of the women are pastoral leaders and mothers themselves, so they find it difficult to see families suffer."

Held in partnership with ABHMS, Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches and American Baptist Women in Ministry, the conference took place at Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, North Andover, Mass.

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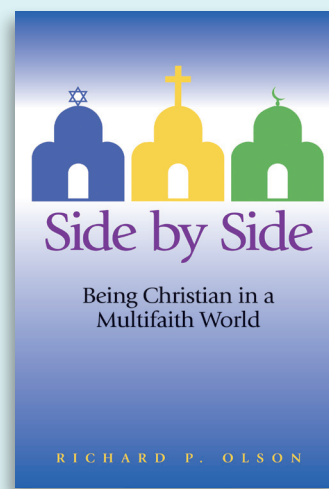
Book examines Christianity in new multifaith context

"The twenty-first century may well be defined by interfaith relationships," Charles Kimball observes in the foreword to "Side by Side: Being Christian in a Multifaith World," the newly released book by retired Central Baptist Seminary professor and pastor Richard P. Olson.

In only a few decades, the United States has transformed from a largely Christian nation to the most

religiously diverse country in the world. In his new book, Olson reflects on Christian discipleship in this new interreligious scenario.

Reading the Gospels in this changing context, Olson invites readers to live out their faith with respect, love and regard for those who follow a different religious path.



In a conversational style, the author shares a personal journey of encounters, experiences and readings, focusing on Christian relations with Jews, Muslims and the "spiritual but not religious," as well as on navigating disagreements and conflict among Christian traditions.

The book (192 pp., \$16.99) is available now at judsonpress.com.

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