

## QuickLinks

■ Go to [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) to follow ABHMS' first-hand accounts of damage assessment and connection with survivors of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in Louisiana, Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.



■ ABHMS has urged Congress to protect immigrants brought to the United States as children. Read more at [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > NewsRoom.



■ At [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > NewsRoom > Mission Stories, ABHMS staff members share reasons for participating in August's Ministers March for Justice in Washington, D.C.



## ABHMS launches 'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico' multi-year initiative

In response to the devastating one-two punch leveled at Puerto Rico by hurricanes Irma and Maria, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), in partnership



Photo: Rodrigo Velazquez

with American Baptist Churches USA, has launched "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico."

The multi-year initiative seeks to raise \$1 million through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to support rebuilding communities and lives. ABHMS has pledged \$25,000, matching OGHS funds already earmarked for Puerto Rico recovery.

"We will work with our American Baptist partners to restore all 114 churches and nine missions in Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico as well as Corporación Milagros del Amor and Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico," says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray.

The first phase will address Puerto Rico's pressing need for supplies, including bottled water; medicines; baby wipes, diapers and formula; canned milk; bedding; insect repellent; first-aid kits; and construction materials.

ABHMS maintains a longstanding relationship with American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. The American Baptist Home Mission Society, a forerunner of today's ABHMS, established the first Baptist church in Rio Piedras in 1899 and sponsored home missionaries from the mainland who ministered across the island.

Contributions of any size will make a big difference to our American Baptist family in Puerto Rico. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts. No dollars are retained for administrative costs.

Go to [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) and click "Give Now."

If making a donation via check, please make check payable to "OGHS-Puerto Rico" and mail to the attention of Kim Wilkins, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 85, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851. To ensure that your church receives credit for your gift, write the church name on your check or, if giving online, in the "comment" box.

To read more and to download free litanies and other resources related to post-disaster healing and restoration, visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org).

## Monthly bulletin inserts to feature American Baptist perspective

In response to requests for bulletin inserts aligned with American Baptist values, ABHMS will debut in January 2018 its new "Discipleship Matters" fee-free monthly inserts.

These practical, downloadable inserts are produced with low-ink black typeface and limited graphics for cost-effective, efficient and ecologically friendly printing and copying. The resource will benefit congregations by providing articles and tips about how to include youth in church life, help children grow in spiritual discipline and faith formation, incorporate meaningful rituals in worship, broach stewardship in a way that will be embraced, and much more.

"Discipleship Matters bulletin inserts provide an opportunity for ABHMS to share practical guidelines, tips and resource suggestions around a wide range of topics in Christian formation," says the Rev. Dr.

Cassandra Carkuff Williams, ABHMS director of Discipleship Ministries. "They also provide a venue for our partners to share ideas with one another."

To suggest a topic or share an activity or tip, contact Williams at [cassandra.williams@abhms.org](mailto:cassandra.williams@abhms.org). View a sample and learn more about the inserts at [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > Publications & Resources > Discipleship Matters.



### Mission in America

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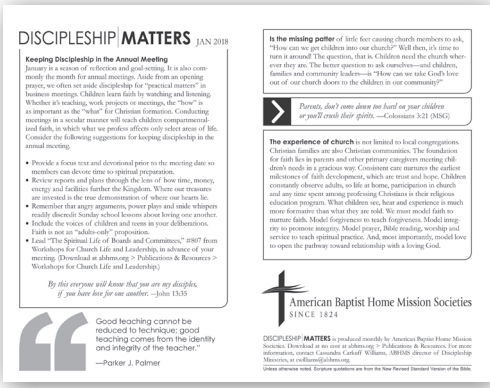
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**AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2018**

Watch for America for Christ Offering materials to arrive in postal mailboxes in January. The 2018 "Equipping Disciples" theme is informed by Ephesians 4:11-

13: "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (NRSV).

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

**Mission in America**

## National ministry awards presented in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island

At First Baptist Church, Lansdale, Pa., on Sept. 10, the Rev. Eric Kraihanzel was presented with American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) Luther Wesley Smith Education Award for faithful, effective leadership in strengthening Christian education at an American Baptist-related college or seminary. Kraihanzel is a professor in the Youth Ministry department at Eastern University, St. Davids, Pa.; regional pastor for Student Ministries with American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD); and director of Camp Ichthus, Palmerton, Pa. He has created a youth camp Summer Leadership Corps and Eastern's summer internship program. The award was presented by Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, ABHMS national coordinator of Evangelism and New Church Planting/ABCOPAD associate executive minister and regional pastor with congregations.

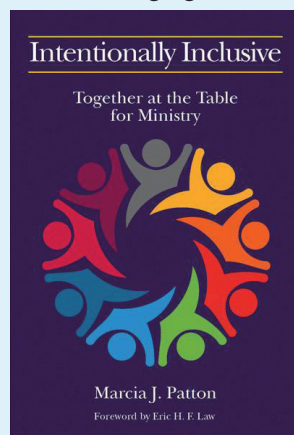
On Sept. 24, ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray presented the Rosa O. Hall Rural and Small Town Award for exceptional effectiveness in rural or small town ministry to the Rev. Darin Collins during American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island's annual gathering, hosted by Ebenezer Baptist Church, Providence, R.I. Pastor of Berean Baptist Church, Harrisville, R.I., Collins coordinates an annual event that provides 10,000 meals to area food banks; holds worship services outside the church; provides assistance with utility expenses; and offers counseling for drug addiction and identity acceptance. When a transgender teen recently came out to the congregation, Berean's Inclusion Team led the community in a series of conversations about transgender youth and held a "naming ceremony" for the congregant.



American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
SINCE 1824

## Book explores real-life experiment in inclusive ministry

At this time in U.S. history, differences in race and ethnicity, religious background and theological conviction, socioeconomic status and political perspectives too often become ground for hate-filled rhetoric and simmering violence. Now is the right time for local congregations and church leaders to embrace



"Intentionally Inclusive: Together at the Table for Ministry" by the Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton, executive minister of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.

This volume explores the broad dimensions of what it means to be a multicultural community of faith. Patton relates the powerful story of a group that chose to pursue intentional inclusion and faithful intercultural ministry through ethnic caucuses and consensus-based decision-making.

Grounded in biblical narrative as well as personal experience, the book offers an authentic and honest look into a real-life experiment in inclusive ministry. This practical resource features questions for personal reflection and ideas for small-group implementation.

**Retailing for \$16.99, "Intentionally Inclusive: Together at the Table for Ministry" is 20 percent off at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).**

**Order online or call 1-800-458-3766.**

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