

## QuickLinks

- Beginning in January, find America for Christ materials in your postal mailbox and at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > America for Christ.

AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2019

- November's "Discipleship Matters" bulletin insert focuses on stewardship with children, while December's offers tips on making Christmas meaningful. Download them at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Publications & Resources.
- ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray has been elected to the board of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Read more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom.
- The Judson Press Legacy Award was presented to renowned American Baptist preacher, pastor, author and scholar Dr. Henry H. Mitchell. Learn more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom.



## Space for Grace to offer renewal, art, take-home skills

American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) "Space for Grace: Thy Will Be Done" urban retreat Nov. 14-16 in Philadelphia promises a variety of ways for participants to experience grace, reflection, refreshment and renewal in addition to faith-inspired art and performances as well as take-home skills to be applied in local contexts.

Each daily worship experience will focus on its own "Thy Will Be Done" theme based on the Lord's Prayer. Participants in Friday evening's intercultural Communion will be invited to come forward to receive the Bread and Cup in distinctly unique ways.

A chapel/quiet room will be hosted by the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that provides resources for contemplative and prayerful living.

Live performances will include Christian singer/songwriters, Christian hip-hop, a live podcast and a multidisciplinary act (poetry, song, dance, storytelling and music). Exhibits will include weavers from Myanmar (formerly known as Burma); abstract, acrylic and water color paintings; black-and-white landscape photographs; pencil, pen and ink drawings; wood working; The Christian Citizen magazine; "Game & Word" (youth Bible study meets Xbox); and "Design & Word" (youth Bible study paired with fashion design).

A diverse array of learning experiences will include the following: "Leadership Lessons for the Good: Realizing Transformation from Oppression," "Sacred Resistance: Creating and Supporting Spiritual Changemakers," "When Life Doesn't Seem Worth Living: Congregations' Role in Suicide Prevention," "Preparing Congregations for Ministries of Advocacy and Social Action," "Drama, Intimacy & Vulnerability: Spiritual Challenges of Digital Culture" and "Music that Makes Community: Singing Together Heals the World."



The "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" panel discussion will apprise listeners of ABHMS' ongoing hurricane-relief efforts on the island.

For additional information and to register, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Space for Grace.

## ABHMS announces new 'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico' fundraising goal

As its ongoing "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative enters its second year, ABHMS announces a new \$1 million One Great Hour of Sharing 2018-2019 fundraising goal in partnership with American Baptist Churches USA. The initiative ultimately seeks to raise \$5 million over five years.

Thanks to generous contributions of those in and outside the American Baptist family, \$1,367,944.30 was raised as of Sept. 20. By Feb. 9, \$1,012,946.04 had been collected, surpassing the initial \$1 million fundraising goal.

Approximately \$404,500 was provided to entities in Puerto Rico, including the American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico region; churches; Corporación Milagros del Amor; schools; Centro de Retiro Genesaret; and missionaries. Included in the total are funds

REBUILDING, RESTORING, RENEWING  
Puerto Rico

that were provided for community grants; purchase of supplies; and renovations at Centro de Retiro Ruth Maldonado, which provides volunteer housing.

From Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 30 teams and nine individuals—totaling 370 volunteers—served in churches and other facilities. Eleven more teams are slated to volunteer through December. Seventeen volunteer teams have registered for 2019.

To donate, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Give Now.  
To volunteer, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Ministries > Mobilizing Volunteers.



### Mission in America

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In response to Hurricane Florence, ABHMS has released \$20,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing Emergency Disaster-response funds to American Baptist



Churches of the South, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA. Karen Baptist Churches USA (KBCUSA) will receive \$5,000.

According to KBCUSA, 35 Karen homes in New Bern, N.C., and 30 Karen homes in Wilmington, N.C., were damaged. KBCUSA has been donating to Karen families taken in by Karen churches in other states.

Read more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom.  
To donate, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Give Now.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES  
**Mission in America**

## ABHMS addresses spiritual, psychological needs in Texas

ABHMS' Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy and Rev. Florence Li visited Texas to minister to clergy and other residents who have continued to feel abandoned one year after Hurricane Harvey.

Murphy represented her role as ABHMS national coordinator of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries. Li brought to bear her experience with displaced people from her



The Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, ABHMS national coordinator of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries, meets with pastors.

ABHMS Intercultural Ministries role with immigrants and refugees. Both used skills in healing trauma.

At New St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Port Arthur, and at Borden Chapel, Beaumont, the pair engaged pastoral leaders who have been struggling themselves while

striving to minister to suffering parishioners. Those experiencing depression were uplifted with prayers and reminded of the need for spiritual self-care.

Later the same day, Murphy and Li returned to New St. John Missionary Baptist to facilitate a meeting of neighborhood residents, many of whom had been displaced by the hurricane. Already reeling from the storm, some homeowners were repeatedly wounded when the Federal Emergency Management Agency rejected their claims and when they fell prey to contractor scams.

"People left the meeting saying they were going to give up, but now they have hope," Murphy says. "It was good to bring people together to encourage them to navigate like the first-century church, where everything was done in community."

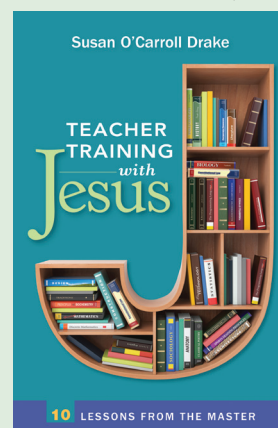
Read more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Mission Stories.

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## Judson Press book makes great gift for teachers

A great Christmas gift idea for Christian educators, Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders and even public school teachers, "Teacher Training with Jesus: 10 Lessons from the Master" presents teaching strategies that will take any teacher from good to great.

Educator and author Susan O'Carroll Drake streamlines the learning process and highlights 10 short lessons based on Jesus' model of teaching that include a Bible study, real-life inspirational vignettes



and practical suggestions to help teachers become more effective.

Using Jesus' examples, the book provides lessons and tips about preparation, delegation, demonstration, empathy, audience, focus and perspective.

"Drake has hit the mark of truly inspiring the reader to a higher commitment of daily living the Christlike life in the classroom," notes Sheila Rogers Gloer, Ed.D., professor at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Author of "Morning Meetings with Jesus: 180 Devotions for Teachers," Drake was a long-time public high school teacher. She is an Access Excellence Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellow.

Available from [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) / 800-458-3766  
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