

## QuickLinks

- Visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Mission Stories to discover how an ABHMS staff member serves as a shining example of the resiliency of Puerto Rico's people.



- Help immigrant families in a variety of ways, including One Great Hour of Sharing. Learn more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Newsroom.

- September's "Discipleship Matters" bulletin insert focuses on learning, while October's edition discusses tutoring. Download them at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Publications & Resources.

DISCIPLESHIP  
MATTERS

## 'It's an impactful event that will shape you,' says Space for Grace attendee

With the highly anticipated Space for Grace 2018: "Thy Will Be Done" urban retreat to take place in Philadelphia soon—Nov. 14 to 16—American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) recently asked the Rev. Nikita McCalister to share about her experience at ABHMS' premier Space for Grace national event in Los Angeles in 2015.

The event celebrated diversity, allowing for profound, healing conversations about the often-difficult subjects of race, religion, culture



The Rev. Nikita McCalister

and class at a time in which continuing divisiveness, polarization and violence were exploding.

"It was done in a way that didn't ostracize. Everybody was invited to the table," says McCalister, associate executive minister for Administration, American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. "The conference lent itself to

taking time to understand the 'other' and figuring out how you are the 'other.'"

McCalister was impressed, she says, by powerful learning opportunities, informative Bible studies and world-class inspirational speakers, all offering real-world take-home skills. Attendees were invited to encounter a limitless God in various ways, including prayer rooms and quiet spaces for reflection as well as Innovators Hall, which showcased a variety of faith-influenced art and performances. The offerings caused McCalister to resonate, she says, with the concept of "taking off the lid," or worshiping in a liberated manner and freeing God from confinement within the self.

She recalls two 60-plus participants saying, "In all my years of attending ABC conferences, this is the best I've ever been to."

McCalister says she is planning to attend the upcoming Space for Grace, and she encourages others to attend, too.

"It's one of those lasting, impactful events that will shape you," she says. "You will become a Space for Grace conduit, creating spaces for people to experience and encounter God wherever they are, as a way that we can receive and accept ourselves as sacred beings."

For additional information about and to register for Space for Grace 2018, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).

## American Baptist Home Mission Societies and partners to relocate offices

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)—including its publishing ministry Judson Press—will relocate its King of Prussia, Pa., operations from the American Baptist Mission Center at 588 N. Gulph Road to 1075 First Avenue this fall, along with partners The American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC) and American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM).

"Since 1962, the ABC Mission Center at 588 North Gulph Road has served as basecamp for multiple national partners; we will move into a new space with no less dedication and commitment to mission in America than those who journeyed before us," says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray.

The new offices will be filled with the traditional work of meetings and daily practice, ABEC Executive Director Valoria Cheek acknowledges, "but it will also afford our staff



the opportunity to rub shoulders with colleagues across organizations, so we can collaborate to enhance ABEC's ministry."

This "historic and exciting" move, agrees the Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain, ABWM executive director, will provide more opportunities to "collaborate with denominational partners and initiate new relationships with the local community as we maximize the use of our new space and technology."



### Mission in America

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# Connect 2018

American Baptist clergy and seminarians in their 20s through early 40s participated in “Connect 2018,” the first gathering of ABHMS’ American Baptist Young Adult Clergy Network in Illinois in June.

“Many participants arrived feeling isolated and unsure of their identity within the American Baptist family,” says ABHMS’ Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi. “By the end of our time together, we were connected as colleagues and friends, we had cultivated skills, and we began to identify opportunities for transformation.”

■ [Read more at abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > [Newsroom](#).

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

## Mission in America

## Three California churches become one in mission to Puerto Rico

When volunteers from various churches combine efforts as part of ABHMS’ “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” initiative, they not only aid residents of the hurricane-ravaged island but also benefit themselves as they become united in faith.

That’s just what happened when 24 members of three churches in California’s Bay Area—New Life Christian Fellowship,

Castro Valley; Iu-Mienh Friendship Baptist Church, Richmond; and First Baptist Church, Alameda—served side by side for a week in July at Iglesia Bautista de Barranquitas.

The multi-ethnic and multigenerational group—including Hispanic, Chinese, Mienh, Filipino, Naga and Caucasian individuals aged 10 to 53—scraped, painted and repaired walls, completing the large sanctuary, two

baptistries, the balcony, a stairwell, electronics room, two classrooms, two nurseries, and the main hallway to the fellowship hall.

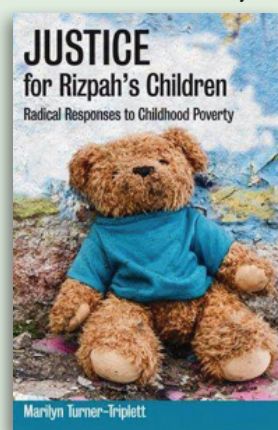
“At the end, we all agreed that it wasn’t just three churches on a mission trip but three churches working together to rebuild, restore and renew Puerto Rico,” says trip organizer the Rev. Karen Yee, who is both associate pastor at New Life Christian Fellowship and English-speaking pastor at Iu-Mienh Friendship Baptist Church. “We arrived in Puerto Rico as three separate churches but returned as one family of God.”

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

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## Children in poverty: Moving from awareness to engagement

Coming this fall from ABHMS’ own Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett is the new Judson Press book, “Justice for Rizpah’s Children: Radical Responses to Childhood Poverty.” Move beyond awareness to



intentional engagement in effecting justice in response to the challenge of childhood poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico. Inaccurate perspectives about childhood poverty can become a barrier to action because the issues seem so complex. Grounded in Turner’s critically acclaimed sermon “Rizpah’s Children,” this book provides

concerned readers with more accurate information and a nuanced understanding of the situations and the human beings involved, as well as a biblically based roadmap for taking practical action. Featuring the voices of those who are working at the grassroots, including the children and their families, each chapter highlights community organizations whose diverse efforts are focused on alleviating the impact of poverty in this nation.

**Available November 2018 from**

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