**ABHMS Encourages Reflection, Prayer on ‘Martin Luther King Jr. Day’**

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 1/15/15)**—On Monday, Jan. 19, the nation collectively observes “Martin Luther King Jr. Day” in honor of slain Civil Rights leader and American Baptist the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) asks you to encourage others to view this day as more than a day away from the workplace. Instead, take time to reflect upon how far we’ve come, and pray earnestly regarding the strides we have yet to make.

Share with your congregation about King’s life and legacy. Volunteer in your community. Use Bible fellowship time or Sunday school to examine both historic and recent national and international social movements through the lens of Jesus Christ’s message of love and tolerance.

The following websites can help to spark contemplation, discussion and action:

* [Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America](http://www.bpfna.org/), including a free downloadable Martin Luther King Jr.-themed [Bible lesson](http://www.bpfna.org/about-us/news/2015/01/15/cbf-partner-offers-free-mlk-resource-for-youth-ministry.1315212) aimed at young adults;
* [The King Center](http://www.thekingcenter.org/king-holiday); and
* [Corporation for National & Community Service](http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/martin-luther-king-jr-day-service-0).

Since its inception, ABHMS has been committed to [Justice Ministries](http://www.abhms.org/justice_ministries/).

*American Baptist Home Mission Societies—the domestic mission arm of American Baptist Churches USA—ministers as the caring heart and serving hands of Jesus Christ across the United States and Puerto Rico through a multitude of initiatives that focus on discipleship, community and justice.*

*American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with over 5,200 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God’s mission around the world.*