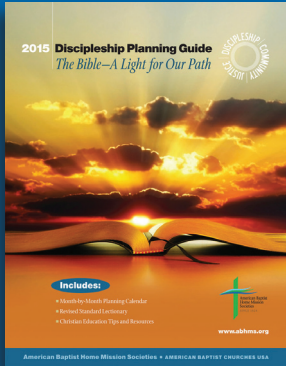


QuickLinks

■ The 2015 Discipleship Planning Guide, featuring the theme “The Bible—A Light for Our Path,” is available online at www.abhms.org > **Ministries & Programs** > **Discipleship & Christian Education** > **Resources**.



■ The Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director and chief executive officer of ABHMS and Judson Press, will retire on Oct. 30. To read more, visit www.abhms.org > **About Us** > **News Room**.

■ Plans are underway for the Biennial/Mission Summit 2015 to be held June 26-28 in Overland Park/Kansas City, Kan. For more information, see www.abc-usa.org and click the Mission Summit logo.

America for Christ Offering **2015****Discipleship: A Journey of Grace**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13, NRSV).

The America for Christ Offering 2015 theme—“Discipleship: A Journey of Grace,” based on Titus 2:11-13—is a wonderful



reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about connecting with and caring for people in need. As we attempt to come alongside individuals struggling with today’s complex challenges, we may question our ability to make a difference. Yet the grace of Christ can inspire us in transformative ways to change our awareness

of ourselves, our potential as human beings and our awareness of God’s gracious purpose for us—and through us—for all creation.

This changed awareness recognizes a still more specialized form of grace—that of grace extended to those who serve God’s hope for all in Christ. This is the journey of grace available as spiritual power for the sake of others. Jesus exhibited this kind of power and challenges us to do so as well.

Just as we may refer to Jesus as *Grace himself*, as *Grace in the flesh*, as *Grace walking around*, so, too, are we called to carry others’ burdens as the transformed hands, feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ in our neighborhoods and communities.

“The wonderful transforming ministry that takes place in our churches and communities is a reflection of the partnership between ABHMS and those that support the America for Christ Offering,” says the Rev. Eddie Cruz, ABHMS director for Mission Advancement. “This generosity makes impactful home mission a reality.”

Together, we can make a difference by supporting impactful home mission through the America for Christ Offering 2015. For more information and to donate, visit www.abhms.org and click on the AFC logo.

ABHMS board member installed at historic church

The Rev. Dr. Amy K. Butler, a member of ABHMS’ board of directors, was officially installed on Oct. 5 as senior minister of the historic Riverside Church, New York City. Elected to the position on June 8, she is the church’s first female pastor.

Existing for 84 years in its current location, the church is known for its diversity and



political activism—a fact unlikely to worry Butler.

“The [Christian] Church has the challenge and opportunity of prophetically speaking to the issues of our day and the shortcomings of our society—all the while resisting the pull to be defined by them. We become a people reflecting radical gospel when our ‘activism’ blossoms out of a commitment to love our neighbors,” Butler writes on Riverside’s

website. “When we live in the way Jesus taught us, we can’t help but become agents of transformation in the world.”

Butler writes a “Talk with the Preacher” blog that appears in Baptist News Global.

Previously, Butler was the first female pastor at another historic church—Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. She also served at Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, and St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans. In addition, Butler ran a women’s shelter in New Orleans.

She earned a Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.; a master’s degree at Baylor University, Waco; and bachelor’s degrees from the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland, as well as Baylor.

Butler has three children. The eldest of five siblings, Butler was raised in Hawaii.



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A national conference about transforming communities and congregations by setting a place for all people at God's table

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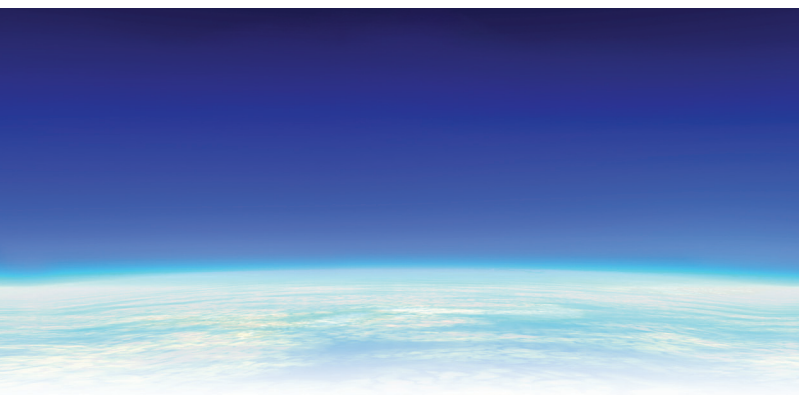
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ABHMS represented at climate march

As a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) was represented at the People's Climate March in September in New York City.

Held in conjunction with a landmark U.N. Climate Summit that drew world leaders to New York City, the march was part of an international event in which millions of people gathered in 162 countries to stress the importance of addressing climate change.

"The Climate March was an incredible event. More than 400,000 people showed up in the streets of New York City to voice the loudest, strongest, clearest call for action on climate change the world has ever seen. There's never been a march for climate justice close to that size before," says march participant Dave L. Moore Jr., ABHMS director of investments. "When the heads of state gathered to talk about the climate crisis, they did so with the knowledge

that more people than ever are demanding action—not just words—to protect the future of our planet."

In addition, a number of American Baptist congregations participated.

ABHMS is a founding member of ICCR.



For more information about ABHMS' socially responsible investing practices and involvement with ICCR, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries & Programs > Justice Ministries > Socially Responsible Investing.

New Judson Press series guides caregivers in delivering hope, healing, wholeness

"The Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook" is a new four-volume series edited by John J. Gleason, a former ABHMS staff member, retired ordained American Baptist minister, clinical pastoral educator, chaplain and commissioned missionary.

Each volume features a collection of ministry encounters and critical reflections by practitioners. Categorized and formatted for reference ease, cases include a central issue identifier, circumstance and spiritual care approach, approach analysis, background information and citations.



Releasing in March are "The Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook, Volume 1: Ministry in Relationships"—featuring ministry encounters focused on relationships with self, others and God—and "The Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook, Volume 2: Ministry in Crises," including both physical and psycho-spiritual crises.

Releasing in fall are "The Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook, Volume 3: Ministry in Health" and "The Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook, Volume 4: Ministry in Specialized Settings."

All Judson Press resources can be ordered by calling 800-458-3766 or visiting www.judsonpress.com.

Books are 20% off when ordered online!

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