

# Mission in America

## QuickLinks

Resulting from last summer's Mental Health and Faith Community Partnership meeting sponsored by American Psychiatric Association (APA) and American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), "Mental Health: A Guide for Faith Leaders" and companion "Quick Reference on Mental Health for Faith Leaders" are available at [www.psychiatry.org/faith](http://www.psychiatry.org/faith). The resources were introduced at a recent APA annual meeting by Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, who serves as both managing director of Resource Development for ABHMS and director of Interfaith Engagement for AAPD's Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition.

Dr. Gardner C. Taylor—"America's preacher"—is remembered with the republication of a personal interview conducted by an ABHMS



staff member in his home prior to his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. To read it, visit the slideshow at [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org).



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**Executive Director**  
Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III

**Editor**  
Susan Gottshall

**Writer**  
Nadine Hasenecz

**Art Director**  
Danny Ellison

## National gathering to examine issues from diverse perspectives

Online registration is now available for Space for Grace—a national gathering inviting God's healing grace on the journey to justice—



Nov. 4-7, 2015, at Hilton Los Angeles Airport.

Sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission

Societies (ABHMS), the event will welcome intentionally diverse presenters and participants to foster myriad perspectives in the exploration of contemporary issues that affect congregations and communities across the United States. Opportunities will abound for memorable and meaningful worship, engagement and reflection on living faith in the midst of today's racial, religious and cultural dynamics.

Highlights will include daily Bible study led by nationally-known theologian Brian McLaren, as well as Learning Experiences focused on such topics as "Church Without

Borders: The Ministry of Reconfiguring Urban Life," "Extending Grace to Others in Tension-filled Moments" and "Ministering to Communities in Crisis."

For more information, call 1-800-222-3872, x2044, or email [space4grace@abhms.org](mailto:space4grace@abhms.org). To register, visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) and click on "Space for Grace."

Space for Grace will culminate in a gala banquet honoring the retiring Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III and his 24-year



ministry as executive director of ABHMS. Wright-Riggins' ABHMS legacy will be marked by such renowned speakers as the Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr., justice advocate and pastor emeritus of the historic Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, Calif. Music will be provided by exceptional, well-known artists, and recollections will be shared by longstanding friends and colleagues.

## ABHMS' YALE participants help to plan, coordinate HABCUSA Family Retreat

By Ketsia Angerville and Emmanuel Simeus

Attended by approximately 160 individuals, the Haitian Alliance Baptist Churches of USA's [HABCUSA] recent 27th annual Family Retreat at Camp Lebanon (N.J.) featured a "Kingdom Come" (Matthew 6:10) theme. Although the event is usually attended by individuals of various ages—from elders to young children—this year saw a majority of preteens, teenagers and young adults.

While serving on HABCUSA's Youth Federation Committee that helped to plan and coordinate the retreat, we drew upon the abilities—including those related to providing leadership and listening when God speaks—that were strengthened by our summer 2014 participation in ABHMS' Young Adult Leadership Experience (YALE). Although family retreat details—such as picking the guest speaker, obtaining the correct number of attendees, assigning rooms and cooking for a large group—sometimes grew frustrating, we tried to keep forefront in our minds the fact that we were doing it all for the glory of God.

Each year, the retreat spans almost four days, beginning on Friday evening and ending at noon on the Monday in which Memorial Day

is observed. Culinary student and Young Adult Leadership Experience participant Emmanuel ("Manno") Simeus served as head chef this year, offering an amazing retreat menu that, differing from that of prior years, included Italian and Mexican dishes. The event featured praise and worship as well as workshops and sports. Some attendees dedicated or rededicate their lives to Christ.

Both Ketsia Angerville, 28, and Emmanuel Simeus, 25, are members of Bethel Haitian Baptist Church, East Orange, N.J.



The pastor of First Baptist Church in rural Mahomet, Ill., shares about the church's annual mission trip to the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Ill., where congregation members volunteer with programs that have decreased teen pregnancy rates and increased high school graduation rates in the inner-city Olivette Park neighborhood. Read about it in the slideshow at [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org).



AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission in America



## ABHMS presents Dahlberg award

During the June 27 plenary worship at American Baptist Churches USA's (ABCUSA) Mission Summit in Overland Park, Kan., ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III and Dr. J. Alfred Smith Jr., pastor of the historic Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, Calif., presented the Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award to Rep. Barbara Lee of California's 13th Congressional District. A member of Allen Temple, Lee is donating the monetary portion of the award to the church's AIDS ministry.

"This is a very humbling award. Throughout his life—from his fight against the darkness of war to his work with ABCUSA—Dahlberg led a dedicated life to God," said Lee, adding that she is honored to be among the award's recipients, which include the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Children's Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman and former President Jimmy Carter.

"I can't explain how honored I am," Lee said, expressing her awe for American Baptist ministry. "Your mission—what you are doing in the church, what you are doing throughout the world—cannot be applauded enough."

**In addition, ABHMS presented other ministry awards during Mission Summit. For information about other ministry awards and recipients, visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > About Us > News Room.**



Wright-Riggins, Lee and Smith

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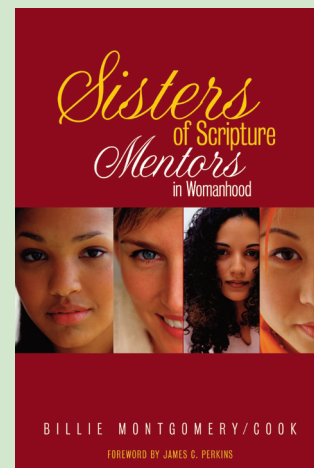
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## Women invited to enter 'Sisters of Scripture' essay contest

For the opportunity to win a scholarship, American Baptist women aged 17-35 are invited to submit original essays up to 200 words that answer the question, "Who is the Ruth or Deborah in your life?"

Running Aug. 1-Sept. 15, the contest is inspired by Judson Press' "Sisters of Scripture: Mentors in Womanhood" by Billie Montgomery Cook, who will judge the contest, along with representatives from



American Baptist Women's Ministries and Judson Press. The book aids young women in finding trust, self-respect, hope, love and faith by creating a relationship to women of Scripture, from Eve to Lydia.

The grand-prize winner will receive the Elva S. Riggins scholarship of \$1,000. Mother of ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, the late Elva S. Riggins was a public school educator who dedicated her life to encouraging and empowering youth. The first runner-up will be awarded a \$500 scholarship. Winning essays will be showcased on [www.JudsonPress.com](http://www.JudsonPress.com), [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org), [www.BillieMCook.com](http://www.BillieMCook.com) and related social media sites.

**Rules, requirements and entry information are at <https://sistersofscripturemnw.wordpress.com>.**

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