

QuickLinks

■ Visit the slideshow at www.abhms.org to read about how a pastor's recent installation acknowledged the history and growth of both ABHMS and Mariners' Temple Baptist Church, New York City.

■ The new three-session workshop "Reading the Bible with Integrity" is available for free download at www.abhms.org > **Workshops for Church Life & Leadership** > **New Workshops**.



■ For a pastor's take on the Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE), view "MCLE Adds Direction to Indiana Church's Motivation" in the slideshow at www.abhms.org.

ABHMS plays role in divine plan initiated in 19th-century Burma

Known for providing continuing education scholarships to American Baptists, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) also supports immigrants and refugees through its Office of Immigration and Refugee Services. ABHMS did both for 34-year-old Chan Hnin Thui, a U.S. ministerial graduate student whose story spans more than a century, beginning with his grandfather, Sang Fen, in the 19th-century Chin state of Burma.

When Fen became a pastor after American Baptist missionaries arrived in Zokhua Village in 1899, neither he nor the missionaries could have known that God's plan would come full circle with Fen's grandson, Thui, in 21st-century America. Related denominationally to the very same missionaries who inspired Fen, ABHMS awarded Thui a \$4,000 scholarship from the International Baptist Seminary Scholarship Fund for the 2012-2013 academic year. Thui maintains that the scholarship allowed him to graduate in May 2014 with a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

"ABHMS may not know the impact of the money that they donated to me. It is making a difference in the lives of people," says Thui, who is full-time youth minister at Dallas Baptist Church. "I always felt that when you get help

from folks at ABHMS, it's special because of the long-standing connection between the people of Burma and American Baptists."

In 2000, when he was 20, Thui followed his parents to the United States. Online, Thui met



Chin, the woman who would become his wife. Chin came to the United States from Malaysia in 2010, and the couple married in 2011. Today they live in Garland, Texas, with their 2-year-old old son, Bik Bik.

Another immigrant's story: **ABHMS empowers via OGHs**

Visit www.abhms.org to read how ABHMS, via a One Great Hour of Sharing grant, is helping one immigrant to achieve the American dream and keep his family together.

ABHMS leads denomination in call for examination of U.S. judicial system, criminal justice institutions

In line with ABHMS' continuing pursuit of prophetic justice, ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III led the denomination in developing a comprehensive statement calling for national examination of the U.S. judicial system and criminal justice institutions.

Signed by 34 American Baptist leaders, the statement was offered in December 2014 in response to the controversial grand jury ruling of insufficient evidence to prosecute New York City police officer Daniel Pantaleo, a Caucasian, in the chokehold death of unarmed African American Eric Garner.

Excerpts from the statement are as follows:

"We pray for nonviolent demonstration and official response to the outrage that now grips

these United States. Violence is not the path to justice—it is the root of all injustice. Silence in the face of injustice is not an option. We therefore cry out with a loud voice for justice in our land. ...

As leaders of American Baptist Churches USA, we stand in solidarity with those bearing witness through prayer, protest and vigil. We call for a national examination of our judicial system and other institutions spiritually perverted by racism. ...

The United States cannot heal its broken society until there is honest reform to systems that institutionalize and legitimize racist practices and perpetuate violence."

To read the full statement and signatures, visit www.abhms.org.



Mission in America

Copyright © 2015
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Unless otherwise noted, information in Mission in America may be copied without permission. Printed on recycled paper.

Executive Director

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III

Editor

Susan Gottshall

Writer

Nadine Hasenecz

Art Director

Danny Ellison



Sponsored by
American Baptist Home
Mission Societies

American Baptist Home Mission Societies
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
NM 3584

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Southeastern, PA
Permit No. 167

Inviting God's healing grace on the journey to justice

Nov. 4-7, 2015 Hilton Los Angeles Airport

A national gathering that includes:

- building unity through worship
- sharing and studying God's word
- developing multicultural communication skills

To learn more about Space for Grace, look for ABHMS in the Hall of Ministries at the Biennial/Mission Summit!

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission in America

ABHMS' Justice for Children CiP grants bolster youth

When awarding Justice for Children Initiative Children in Poverty (CiP) grants this year, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) will offer special consideration to projects that focus on anti-bullying efforts and cultivate conflict-resolution and nonviolent communication skills among children and/or parents.

One such project—The Game Loft—received a CiP grant in 2013. Part of the Maine Youth Alliance, The Game Loft, Belfast, Maine, offers youth and young adults a safe environment to play non-electronic games, learn leadership skills and practice dealing with everyday dilemmas, such as bullying.

The Game Loft partnered with First Baptist Church (FBC) of Belfast and two other area churches—First Church United Church of Christ and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church—to create "ENCOUNTERS," a program in which youth from



sixth grade and up meet several Sunday afternoons monthly to explore faith by role playing 21st-century scenarios.

Led by adults, including pastors, role play helps youth understand and apply Jesus' teachings to present-day challenges.

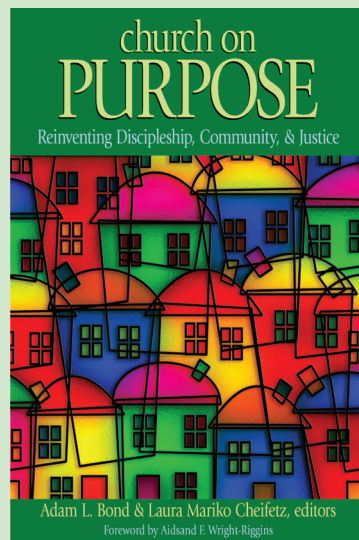
"The role-play format has been an engaging, exciting and fun way for kids to see the application of biblical stories to their everyday experiences," says the Rev. Alan Shumway, pastor of FBC.

The group has begun portraying season six of an ongoing mini-series set in the fictional town of New Salem, Maine.

To apply for a CiP grant, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries & Programs > Children in Poverty > CiP Grant. Applications for 2015 CiP grants must be received by or postmarked to ABHMS no later than April 29, 2015.

Emerging Christian leaders share insight in new 'ABC Reads' selection

The challenges facing today's church are discussed at pastoral conferences, deacon and trustee meetings, and annual congregational gatherings. They're also on the minds of emerging Christian leaders across the nation. To share this perspective with all American Baptists, Judson



Press has named "Church on Purpose: Reinventing Discipleship, Community, & Justice," edited by Adam L. Bond and Laura Mariko Cheifetz, as the 2015–2016 "ABC Reads" selection.

In "Church on Purpose," young leaders share generational and vocational insight to stimulate conversation and prompt adaptive change for more effective ministry.

"ABC Reads" highlights a book annually that's appropriate for small group discussion. For more about "ABC Reads," visit www.judsonpress.com > ABC Reads, where you can order "Church on Purpose" for 20% off the retail price of \$15.99. A 15% discount for online orders of at least 10 copies can also be applied to the 20% standard Web discount.

To order, call 1-800-458-3766
or visit www.judsonpress.com.

JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824