

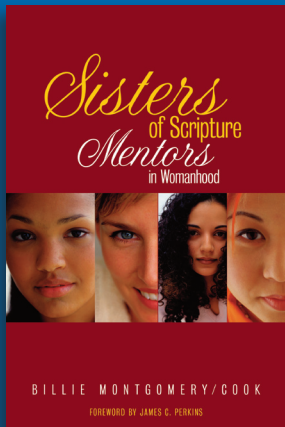
Jan | Feb 2016

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

# Mission in America

## QuickLinks

■ Visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > About Us > News Room to see who received the \$1,000 Elva S. Riggins scholarship as first-place winner in Judson Press' national essay contest inspired by the book "Sisters of Scripture: Mentors in Womanhood." The scholarship honors the mother of Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, ABHMS executive director emeritus and former Judson Press CEO.



■ ABHMS board members were recently recognized for notable America for Christ donations among board member congregations. Read more at [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > About Us > News Room.



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### Mission in America

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## America for Christ Offering 2016: Give to mission across America today!

At this time of year, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) traditionally launches its America for Christ Offering, seeking to raise \$1,250,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

### AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016



This year's theme—"Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ"—is based on Ephesians 2:10: "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" (NRSV). The theme is a wonderful biblical reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about engagement and compassion for people in need. By supporting ABHMS

ministry via the America for Christ Offering, we participate with our Lord in serving neighbors in our churches and communities.

Please join us in praying for and becoming involved in supporting the America for Christ Offering 2016! Together, we can inspire someone with the hope and love of Jesus Christ in word and deed. In Ephesians 2:10, God offers not merely a new lease on life but a new life itself, in which we are no longer to walk in trespasses and sins but, rather, in good works. This is our new way of life.

The situations are there—ready and waiting for you to recognize and act on them, as God has called you to do. As you answer the call, you become a vivid manifestation of the heart and hands of Christ. As American Baptists, we have the opportunity to respond to the America for Christ Offering 2016 theme of "Becoming More Like Christ." Let us prepare our hearts to give and serve.

To read more about or contribute to America for Christ, visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) and click the "America for Christ" button.

## ABHMS urges support for Syrian refugees

ABHMS urges American Baptist individuals and congregations to take action and speak out on behalf of Syrian refugees, recommending Church World Service's (CWS) online "How Can We Help?" resource as a starting point.

The resource includes prayers, a bulletin insert with instructions for calling Congress, and ideas for collecting home goods to be donated to incoming families.

"American Baptists and our mission partners have both historic and recent experiences of extending welcome and hospitality to persons fleeing danger, seeking refuge and resettling on America's shores," says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray.

American Baptist Churches USA is a founding member of CWS, an organization committed to immigrants, refugees and other forcibly displaced persons since its founding in 1946. CWS includes a network of 36 denominations and communions, plus 34 refugee resettlement affiliates.

To access the resource, visit CWS at [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org).



On Wednesdays, Feb. 3-March 2, the Rev. Glynis LaBarre, ABHMS transformation strategist, will offer a five-week online Missional Church Learning Experience Facilitator Training course. For more information, contact LaBarre at glynis.labarre@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3872, x2412.



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## Learning about ‘call’ during ‘Space for Grace’

“God knows who you are and calls you anyway—or in spite of it,” said the Rev. Dr. Adam Bond during his leadership of the Learning Experience “When God Calls Us in the Midst of a Crisis,” presented as part of American Baptist Home Mission Societies’ recent Space for Grace gathering in Los Angeles.

Assistant professor of Historical Studies and American Baptist liaison at Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University, Bond’s session drew participants from as far away as Alaska and spoke especially to those plagued by self-doubt. He lifted up a quote from the late Morehouse College president and Martin Luther King Jr. mentor Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays: “Every man and woman is born into the world to do something unique and something distinctive, and if he or she does not do it, it will never be done.”

When a participant questioned the concept, maintaining that another individual would be capable of accomplishing the same task—just as stones would cry out if people refrained from praising God (Luke 19:40)—Bond replied, “You’re more than just a function. God wants it done in the way YOU would do it.”

The Learning Experience served as a reminder that God is in charge, and—despite our human weaknesses, foibles and misgivings—God always gets it right.

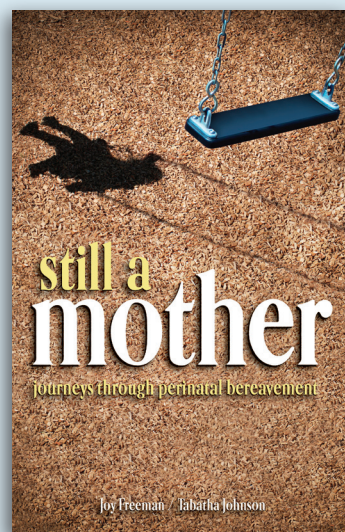
Bond authored “I’ve Been Called: Now What?” (2012) and served as co-editor of “Church on Purpose: Reinventing Discipleship, Community, & Justice” (2015), both published by Judson Press.



## Judson Press offers resource to help women heal from infant loss

More than 1 million women suffer fetal loss each year, yet most mothers struggle to find words to share their grief. And because miscarriage, stillbirth and infant death are often considered taboo topics, these women can feel isolated, ashamed and confused.

In “Still a Mother: Journeys Through Perinatal Bereavement,” chaplains Joy Freeman and Tabatha Johnson



share their own incredibly honest experiences in a collection of stories of others who have sustained such loss, ending the silence and helping to equip pastors, congregations, family and friends in ministering more compassionately to mothers who grieve.

“This unique combination of personal memoirs of loss with practical wisdom for ministry with sensitivity and skillfulness makes this book

a resource for healing and hope,” says Richard P. Olson, distinguished professor of Pastoral Theology, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kan.

“Still a Mother” retails for \$15.99 and can be purchased online at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).

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