

## QuickLinks

■ ABHMS' new "Discipleship Matters" bulletin inserts for January, February and March are available for free download at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Publications & Resources > Discipleship Matters.

DISCIPLESHIP | MATTERS

■ Have you heard about ABHMS' new Rizpah's Children ministry? Get details at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom.

■ To read about ABHMS' latest gun-violence prevention efforts, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom.

■ ABHMS will pilot an immigration-assistance initiative with American Baptist Churches of Metro New York. Learn more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom.



## America for Christ Offering 2018 helps ABHMS to equip disciples

The theme for the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2018 is "Equipping Disciples," based on Ephesians 4:11-13: "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (NRSV).

To American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), *equipping disciples* means supporting and enabling highly motivated

Christian disciple-makers who deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ and effect life-saving and life-giving change in individuals and congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico. ABHMS seeks to nurture discipleship by building a network of highly motivated change-agents who impact the world with God's love.

God's design is not to have the pastor-teachers do all the ministry. Instead, they are to equip the saints to do ministry. The saints are you—all of you—who have set yourselves apart for God through faith in Christ. God intends every member of the church to do ministry. God uses human support and encouragement to sustain the faith of his children and to lighten the burdens they bear in the service of love.

When you contribute to AFC, you enable ABHMS to provide high-quality Christian resources and encouragement to our network of disciple-makers, thereby improving their effectiveness in equipping other Christians. ABHMS facilitates virtual communities and networks of American Baptists engaged in discipleship for mutual support and enrichment.



For more information and to contribute, visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) and click on the "America for Christ" block.

## ABHMS convenes aligned action network gatherings



The close of 2017 found ABHMS pursuing its new strategy for accomplishing mission across the United States and Puerto Rico by continuing to convene aligned action network gatherings.

Aligned action networks are comprised of geographically clustered American Baptist disciples from ABHMS' new and historic partnering organizations—churches, campus and community ministries—that share resources, funding opportunities, communication practices and actionable ideas to ultimately create ministries that make a difference in people's lives.

In October, ABHMS partners from the Philadelphia area met at the University of Pennsylvania for ABHMS' second aligned action network gathering, followed by the third aligned action network meeting at Mercer University's Atlanta campus with partners from

Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina and North Carolina. In November, ABHMS convened partners from Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Chicago, Illinois and Missouri at Ottawa University's Brookfield, Wis., campus for its fourth aligned action network meeting.

Led by Dr. Jane Wei-Skillern, an adjunct professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, the gatherings introduced partners to each other, to the concept of networks for maximizing social impact, and to methods for engaging in such networks.

For additional information, visit [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > NewsRoom to read "ABHMS Convenes its Southeastern Aligned Action Network" and "ABHMS Convenes its Fourth Aligned Action Network."



### Mission in America

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## Update on ABHMS' 'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico' initiative

- ABHMS provided to Puerto Rico: 100 water filters; 1,000 solar lights; 125 solar chargers; 660 tarps; 200 portable propane stoves; and 50 propane tanks
- Church World Service funded and shipped at ABHMS' request: 2,550 school kits; 1,800 tubes of toothpaste; and 22,500 hygiene kits
- Funds raised/earmarked for Puerto Rico: \$25,000 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Emergency Disaster-relief Grant; \$25,000 in ABHMS matching funds; and \$467,999.74 in donations (as of Dec. 4)
- ABHMS spent: \$80,000 in OGHS funds (\$10,000 of which was used to purchase food on the island)

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

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## National ministry awards presented

At The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts' School of Ministry graduation ceremony at Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center, Groton, in November, **the Rev. Dr. Anthony Pappas** accepted the **Richard Hoiland Local Christian Education Award** for faithful, effective leadership in Christian education on his own behalf as well as that of the **Rev. Dr. Bruce Bardon**. As the school's co-founders, both Pappas and Bardon spent countless hours praying, visioning, outlining and developing the school to serve laity who have neither the time nor the money to attend seminary and to serve small churches that are increasingly unable to afford seminary-trained clergy. Students meet six times yearly for instruction, complete homework independently throughout the year and participate in an annual summer internship.



## One Great Hour of Sharing funds released in response to California fires

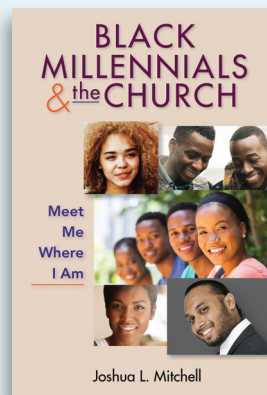
In response to damage wrought by the Northern California wildfires, ABHMS, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, released a \$5,000 One Great Hour of Sharing Emergency Disaster Relief Grant to the Growing Healthy Churches region.

The region will distribute funds to CrossWalk Community Church, Napa; New Vintage Church, Santa Rosa; and First Baptist Church, Ukiah.

Donations can be made via credit card online through ABHMS' website at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org) > Give Now, or check designated to "OGHS-No. CA Fires" and mailed to Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851.

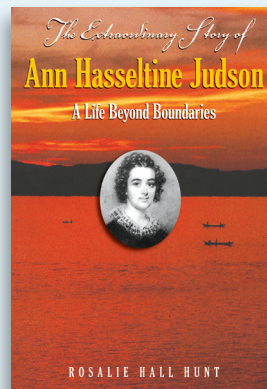
## New from Judson Press: past, present mission frontiers

Don't miss the groundbreaking "Black Millennials and the Church: Meet Me Where I Am" from the Rev.



Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell. Based on an original survey of black Millennials in the United States, this book offers church leaders a wealth of new data and practical tools for ministries of faith formation, as well as featuring the authentic voices of black Millennials themselves. Releases Jan. 5.

Anyone interested in mission history will love "The Extraordinary Story of Ann Hasseltine Judson: A Life Beyond Boundaries" about the beloved wife and missionary partner of Adoniram Judson, a pioneer of 19th-century overseas mission. This narrative history comes from the imagination and scholarship of Rosalie Hall Hunt, who previously authored "Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson Legacy." Releases Jan. 15.



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Order from Judson Press at  
[judsonpress.com](http://judsonpress.com) or 1-800-458-3766.

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