

QuickLinks

■ ABHMS' 2015 annual report is now available at www.abhms.org > Resources > Publications. It provides a year-long snapshot of the impact of ABHMS' ministries as well as income and expense statements.



■ Visit www.abhms.org to listen to a podcast of and read reflections by Col. Sean Lee, Joint Force Headquarters chaplain for the Maryland National Guard, regarding Memorial Day, military chaplaincy and the Partners in Care initiative that he launched in 2005.



Mission in America

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Volunteer this summer with ABHMS mission!

Volunteer mission opportunities abound with American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) this summer.

Louisiana

Make a difference in the lives of residents of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward during this year's "Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done" July 31-Aug. 6. Opportunities include painting, laying sheet rock, cutting grass and tending community gardens. Neither construction skills nor training is required. Unskilled volunteers will be supervised by skilled workers. Individuals and groups are welcome; youth are encouraged to participate. Volunteers are responsible for round-trip transportation costs. Fee of \$225 includes housing, food and registration. Scholarships are available.

Oklahoma

Murrow Indian Children's Home, a residential home in Muskogee for orphaned Native American children, needs help with general construction, routine office work, grounds maintenance and landscaping. Volunteer opportunities are ongoing.

West Virginia

College groups and youth at least age 17 (age 16 with parent's signature) are encouraged to participate in the Alderson Ministerial Association's summer work teams that do carpentry and repair work in the homes of low-income, disabled and senior families. Work weeks begin on Monday mornings and end on Friday afternoons, June 18-Aug. 6. Cost begins at \$275 per person for the week and



includes a room at a community center with showers and kitchen facilities; three meals daily; and work materials.

For additional information and to register for volunteer mission opportunities, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries > Mobilizing Volunteers, or contact Victoria Goff, ABHMS national coordinator, Volunteer Mobilization Ministries, at victoria.goff@abhms.org or 800-222-3872, x2449.

ABHMS, partners aid N.Y. community affected by layoffs

After the shuttering of Climax Manufacturing Co., Lowville, N.Y., ABHMS and a few of its partners cooperated to aid laid-off employees. ABHMS' Disaster-relief Ministries distributed a \$5,000 emergency grant from American Baptist Churches USA's One Great Hour of Sharing funds to American Baptist Churches of New York State. The region forwarded the funds to Lowville Baptist Church, which is coordinating American Baptist efforts.

According to news reports, Climax announced its closure in a notice to the state labor department on April 1—the same day that approximately 160 employees were told of

layoffs and loss of benefits, effective immediately. The grant is earmarked for groceries, medicine and gasoline for trips to the grocery store and job interviews.

"We tell and share with everyone about our amazing American Baptist Churches family and the One Great Hour of Sharing grant that is making this possible," says the church's pastor, James Pearson.

Donations designated to "One Great Hour of Sharing—Lowville, N.Y." can be mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851. For more information, contact Wilkins at 1-800-222-3872, x2413, or kim.wilkins@abhms.org.



Would you like to attend a presentation by an ABHMS staff member? Are you making plans to hear preaching by ABHMS

Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray? For information about upcoming American Baptist-related events across the United States and Puerto Rico, check the calendar on ABHMS' new website. Simply visit www.abhms.org, then click "More Events" in the lower left corner.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission **in** America

ABHMS, TABCOM hold annual 'MissionAdventure' in New Orleans

The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM) held its annual nine-day "MissionAdventure" in New Orleans in April. While 27 individuals from nine TABCOM congregations lent muscle to such activities as painting, cleaning and weeding in an effort to restore areas ravaged in 2005 by hurricanes Rita and Katrina, ABHMS helped with funding, registration and onsite leadership.

Father and son David and Jordan Parry of First Baptist Church, Wakefield, were committed to home restoration, including installing insulation and sheetrock as well as scraping and painting. Both expressed satisfaction in their ability to help a homeowner who had been evacuated during flooding but whose neighbor had died.

"She expressed over and over again how grateful she was to us volunteers for coming to help," said David Parry, a musician and teacher. "She'd call us 'angels.' It was obvious that it meant a great deal to her to be remembered 11 years after this horrible disaster."

Sixteen-year-old Jordan Parry echoed his dad.

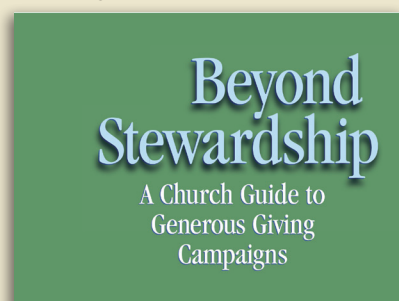
"I really liked being able to talk with the homeowner and her relatives who stopped by—getting to know them all and how much it meant to them," he said.



Jordan (above) and David Parry

Judson Press title explains how to fund your church's vision

It's great if God has given your church a BIG vision. However, the next step—and perhaps the biggest challenge—is how to fund the vision. In "Beyond



JOHN ZEHRING AND KATE JAGGER

Stewardship: A Church Guide to Generous Giving Campaigns," fundraising experts John Zehring and Kate Jagger apply the best principles of fundraising to congregations' annual giving campaigns.

Zehring and Jagger propose a collaborative paradigm that engages leadership across a church's life. And they identify four interlocking strategies

for a successful annual giving campaign: concentric circles of commitment, personal visits, public witness and direct mail. Churches that employ these strategies will grow the spirit of generosity and raise a community of givers.

"Beyond Stewardship" also includes comprehensive and practical tools and resources, plus a bonus section about special-purpose campaigns.

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