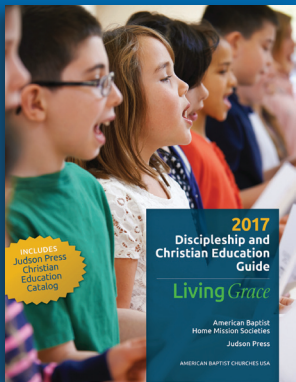


QuickLinks

■ “Living Grace”—a publication combining ABHMS’ 2017 discipleship and Christian education guide and Judson Press’ curriculum catalog—was delivered to postal mailboxes in October. To access it online, go to www.abhms.org > Resources.



■ ABHMS has launched the pilot of its Lily Endowment-supported “In Search of Excellence” financial-empowerment program with participants from the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches of Metro New York and American Baptist Churches of Connecticut. For more information, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries > In Support of Excellence.

Social unrest prompts ABHMS to publish special online edition of ‘The Christian Citizen’

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) continues to encourage dialogue and promote healing during this time of heightened tension, divisiveness, polarization, terrorism and violence across the United States by publishing “Healing Our Land,” a special online issue of its acclaimed print magazine, *The Christian Citizen*.

In this collection of thought-provoking and action-inspiring essays and quotations, a diverse group of national leaders, including American Baptists, examines a range of subjects—from brutality toward African Americans, Native Americans, the LGBTQ community and police to pragmatic approaches for dealing with trauma and grief.

“This year has brought historic unrest across the United States—from New York City to Chicago, Falcon Heights to Baton Rouge, Cleveland to Dallas, Orlando to Ferguson, and Baltimore to Milwaukee,” says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. “The hour has come when the Christian community must reckon urgently with Christ’s call to us to be peacemakers. The pursuit of mutual understanding, reconciliation, justice and



peace requires a special quality of moral discourse that is informed by faith in God, hope and unconditional love for others.”

American Baptists are encouraged to read the collection on ABHMS’ website at www.abhms.org > *The Christian Citizen*, and then engage in discussion in their churches and by posting comments on ABHMS’ “Creating a Groundswell for Racial Justice” group on Facebook.

ABHMS-supported children’s home stresses education, faith

Ezekiel and Emmanuel,* 12-year-old twins, epitomize what can happen when formerly homeless, abused or neglected children begin to reside in a nurturing, loving, Christian environment. At age 8, the brothers—both

unable to read—came to live at ABHMS-supported Murrow Indian Children’s Home, Muskogee, Okla. Only four short years later, the boys are thriving—and reading voraciously.

“They read big, thick chapter books that have 40-something chapters,” says Mary Taylor, 29, the twins’ house mother. “They read them in just a few days.”

Taylor attributes the twins’ literacy success to the home’s focus on education. As with the twins’ previous house parents, Taylor and her husband, Calvin Taylor, 39, help the boys with homework.

“Just taking that time with them, reading each day, made huge improvements,” she says.

Faith is another focus at Murrow. The children and the Taylors—both former youth pastors—attend church, study the Bible and participate in church outings together.

“We talk with the kids about a relationship with Jesus and God,” Mary Taylor says. “And we pray with them.”

* Names have been changed to protect privacy.



Mission in America

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

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**AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2017**

Expect America for Christ Offering 2017 materials to arrive in your postal mailbox in January. This year's theme, "Cultivating Leaders, Equipping

Disciples, Healing Communities," reminds us that American Baptists exemplify a vital legacy of ministry dating to 1824. While 21st-century leadership is challenging, we are invigorated by Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission in America

ABHMS, ABF announce 2016 Palmer grant recipients

ABHMS and American Baptist Foundation (ABF) are pleased to announce recipients of a total of \$538,129 in grants from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust, as awarded by ABF during ABHMS' 2016 grant cycle:

- Cumberland Associations, American Baptist Churches (ABC) of Maine
- Judson Memorial Church, New York City
- Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kan.
- Fredrikson Center for Faith and Church Vitality, Ottawa (Kan.) University
- ABC of Metro Chicago
- ABC of New York State
- The Center for Career Development and Ministry, Dedham, Mass.
- First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Neb.
- United Church of Granville, Ohio
- Asian American Leadership Center, Hayward, Calif.
- Northwind Institute, ABC of Rocky Mountains
- ABC of Nebraska
- Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, San Juan
- Latham (N.Y.) Community Baptist Church
- CHUM, Duluth, Minn.
- ABC of Rocky Mountains
- ABC of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Christian Center
- West Virginia Baptist School of Christian Studies, Parkersburg
- Palmer Theological Seminary, Eastern University, King of Prussia, Pa.
- Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.
- ABC of Northwest
- NextGen Church, West Windsor, N.J.
- Bethel Baptist Church, Leota, Ind.
- New Life Christian Fellowship, Castro Valley, Calif.
- D.C. Baptist Convention
- National Memorial Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

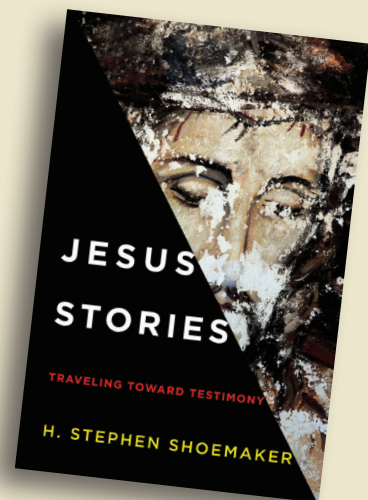
Ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000, the awards are funding special projects and programs that best demonstrate the theme "Alternative Models for Developing Leadership for Mission and Ministry."

Judson Press title facilitates quest for Jesus

Is there more to Jesus than what we think we know? Author H. Stephen Shoemaker explores this question in the Judson Press title "Jesus Stories: Traveling Toward Testimony."

Shoemaker brings together the critical research of "historical Jesus" scholars, the four Gospels, and the Spirit of Jesus alive and present with us to usher readers on a journey that moves from history into testimony. You'll get to know the real Jesus at work in your life and become spiritually transformed as you gain a deeper understanding of the following:

- the essence of who Jesus was, his character and his mission;
- the connection between "historical Jesus" and Jesus' spirit known today; and
- the qualities of God that are crucial for our spiritual lives.



"Jesus Stories" retails for \$17.99.
To order from Judson Press, call 1-800-458-3766,
or visit www.judsonpress.com.

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