

QuickLinks

■ In the wake of the massacre of LGBTQ individuals at Pulse nightclub, Orlando, in June, ABHMS stands in solidarity with the victims, their families and friends, and the LGBTQ community-at-large. To read more, visit www.abhms.org > NewsRoom > "American Baptist Home Mission Societies Stands with LGBTQ Community in Wake of Orlando Massacre."

■ For stories and photographs from this year's "Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done" ecumenical work week in New Orleans, go to www.abhms.org, click on the "Highlights from Recent New Orleans Rebuilding Effort" mission story, and then, under the photograph, click on "Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done."



Mission in America

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ABHMS encourages dialogue on recent racially-based violence



In response to recent acts of racially-motivated violence during this time of heightened racial tension across the United States, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) encourages dialogue to offer comfort, provide hope and promote healing.

To help launch American Baptist discussion, ABHMS has posted the reflections of an inter-racial group of American Baptist faith leaders:

- "End Police Killings of Innocent Black Lives" by Barnabas Partners, a group of American Baptist clergy that encourages pastors, shares knowledge, advocates for justice and prays for ABHMS;
- A "Letter for Action" by the American Baptist Churches USA Taskforce on Race and Race-based Violence;
- "Be Angry But Do Not Sin" by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley, executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York;
- "It's Safe to Murder Negroes in America" by the Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Croft Sr., senior pastor, St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester, Pa., and Jeremiah A. Wright associate professor of Homiletics and Liturgics, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia;

- "It's Our Time to Move" by the Rev. Susan Sparks, senior pastor, Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York City;
- "Individual Spirituality at the Expense of Seeking God's Will for those on the Margins" by the Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, associate professor of Applied Theology, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, D.C.;
- "Journey Toward Bold," by the Rev. Marie Onwubuariri, executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin; and
- "Centering Black Lives in Pursuit of Racial Justice" by Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

To read the reflections, go to www.abhms.org, click on the "ABHMS Encourages Dialogue on recent Racially-based Violence" news release, and then, within the news release, click "reflections" in the second paragraph.

After reading, please share your thoughts on the "Creating a Groundswell for Racial Justice" group on Facebook. We hope the reflections will prompt critical thinking and open the door for courageous conversation and action. We hope that these interactions will be interracial, intergenerational and culturally diverse. We encourage you to facilitate courageous conversation and action in your homes, congregations, workplaces and communities.

THE MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE: An American story for times such as these

In June, ABHMS Associate Executive Director of Communications Susan Gottshall was among 250 people who participated in an annual pilgrimage to the site of the former Minidoka internment camp, near Twin Falls, Idaho, where thousands of Japanese Americans



were unjustly incarcerated during World War II. Gottshall joined a group traveling by bus; others arrived by airplane and automobile.

Via a blog of words and photographs on ABHMS' website, Gottshall shares the

experiences of pilgrims who had lived in the camp as children and descendants seeking to honor the memory of family members who were imprisoned there.

One of those children, Janet Powell of Mount Vernon, Wash., gave voice to a sentiment that echoed throughout the four-day gathering: "This is the first time I have started talking about this, because it's so terrible to me to talk about it."

Pilgrims remembered the numbers assigned to the tarpaper-covered barracks buildings where they lived. They told stories of using wooden crates to create vanities. They spoke of the food in communal dining halls and recalled the lack of privacy in bathroom facilities.

Read more at www.abhms.org > News Room > Mission Stories > The Minidoka Pilgrimage: an American Story for Times Such as These."



ABHMS' Disaster-response Ministries has released \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds to the West Virginia Baptist Convention and \$2,500

to American Baptist Churches of Indiana/Kentucky for recovery efforts following June storms that caused flooding and significant damage. Noting "OGHS-WV Floods" or "OGHS-IN Floods," you can contribute to OGHS online, or mail a contribution to Kim Wilkins, 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.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

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Missional program bridges cultural divides

Cleveland, Ohio-area minister Lachaka Askew sought a way to bring both foreign and domestic non-Christians to salvation through Christ by bridging religious and cultural divides. She found the solution in "Mission *From* the Gospels," a program created by the Rev. Dr. Ronald Carlson, ABHMS missional church strategist, and the Rev. Sam Brink, American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin's minister of Church Resources and Mission Support.

Because of "Mission *From* the Gospels," "I approach people not from 'I have to talk to you about Jesus Christ' but from the missional standpoint of the mindset of the apostles having to deal with the gentiles," says Askew, founder of both the "20 Second Intercessor" website and a Cleveland-area interfaith dialogue group. "Approaching from common ground gets rid of that cultural stress because people already believe that there's a connection there through the mission work."

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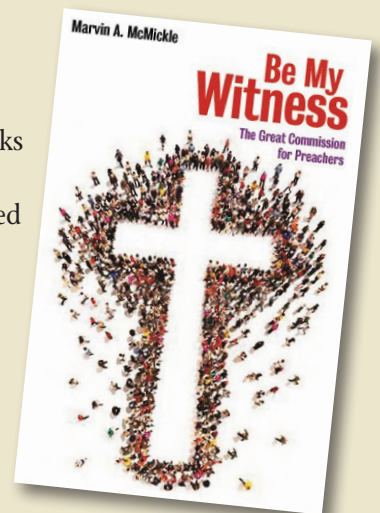
—Lachaka Askew

"Mission *From* the Gospels" materials appropriate for Sunday school classes, Bible study groups and mission teams are expected to be available in September 2016. Learn more at www.abhms.org > NewsRoom > Mission Stories > "Mission *From* the Gospels' Program Aids Cleveland Minister in Foreign, Domestic Missional Pursuits."

Book covers consistency of preaching amid change

While the sound and style of sermons may change over the years, what remains consistent is the core of the gospel message and the central mission of the preacher in the world. Acts 1:6-8 contains instructions from Jesus to his first disciples that remain relevant for present-day preachers on the following issues:

- What theme or message should be at the center of our preaching?
- What should be the hallmarks of our lifestyle as preachers?
- Where should we be prepared to go in fulfillment of our preaching ministry?
- What constitutes adequate preparation for our preaching ministry?
- How can an effective and faithful preaching ministry be sustained over time?



These and other questions lie at the heart of Marvin McMickle's latest book—"Be My Witness: The Great Commission for Preachers"—which invites everyone who preaches to do so with Jesus' charge in mind.

The book retails for \$17.99. To order Judson Press books, call 1-800-458-3766 or visit www.judsonpress.com.

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