

QuickLinks

An ABHMS-awarded grant from the Louise Burchard Pierce Memorial Fund helps to ensure that students receive homework help and an evening meal from the "Homework Helper" after-school program at First Baptist Church, Trumansburg, N.Y. Read more at abhms.org > NewsRoom.

ABHMS has provided a grant that helped to fund "Imagining A More Equal Pulpit," an initiative that seeks to serve the Asian American Christian community. Its recent gender summit addressed challenges faced by women of color in ministry. To read more about it, visit abhms.org > Mission Stories.

Imagining A More Equal Pulpit



Mission in America

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ABHMS personnel serve CDF Freedom School at Somerset Academy



American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) personnel are doing their part for the six-week Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom School established in July at Philadelphia's Somerset Academy Early Learning Center, a partner of ABHMS' Rizpah's Children ministry.

Freedom School graduation took place on Aug. 16 at ABHMS' Leadership and Mission Building, King of Prussia, Pa. Sixty-four youth walked down the aisle to accept certificates, cheered on by ABHMS and Somerset staff as well as parents, guardians and friends.

In addition, ABHMS staff members have been serving as volunteers at the school. Dr. Laura Miraz, ABHMS associate executive director, Human Resources Management Services, for example, accompanied the children on a trip to Philadelphia's Please Touch Museum.

Meanwhile, Beverly Allegretti, executive assistant to the Rev. Dr. Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett, ABHMS director of Healing & Transforming Communities, which includes Rizpah's Children, was the guest reader during *harambee* time on a July morning. Allegretti read "Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story about Bullying" by Becky Ray McCain (Concept Books, 2001).

Harambee is a Kiswahili word that means "let's pull together." It's the name of an energiz-

ing, positive portion of the morning in which teachers make announcements, read a book aloud and lead students in cheers, chants and the motivational song "Something Inside So Strong" by Labi Siffre (Polydor, 1988).

While Somerset Academy always offered preschool, after-school care and summer camp for children from infancy through age 13, just this year it added Freedom School, serving ages 6-13. Freedom School is offered free to families, thanks, in part, to funding by a grant from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust, administered by American Baptist Foundation and awarded during ABHMS' 2018 grant cycle, as well as a 2018 Rizpah's Children partner grant provided by ABHMS.

CDF is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for children. Growing out of the Civil Rights Movement, it was founded in 1973 by Marian Wright Edelman, who now serves as its president emerita.

Located in 87 U.S. cities in 28 states, CDF Freedom Schools stress reading and positivity. ABHMS hopes to engage its partners to help establish additional Freedom Schools nationwide.

Learn more at abhms.org > Mission Stories.

'Beautiful Joe': Teaching compassion for more than a century

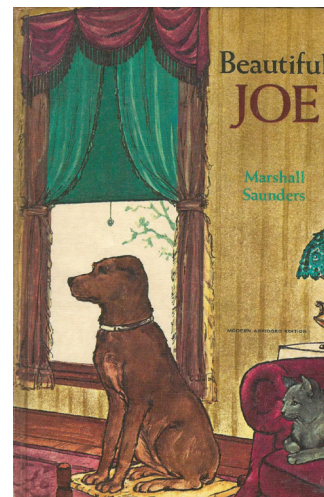
By the Rev. Dr. Cassandra Carkuff Williams

In 1903, a fictionalized "autobiography" of a bull/fox terrier mix named "Joe" was published by the American Baptist Publication Society, a predecessor of Judson Press, the publishing ministry of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS).

Written by Margaret Saunders under the pen name "Marshall Saunders," the children's book "Beautiful Joe" tells the true story of Walter Moore rescuing a dog who had been abused and nearly killed by his owner.

Beautiful Joe Park, Meaford, Ontario, Canada, where Joe is buried, recently received a Tourism Award that may help to further the cause of animal advocacy.

The Rev. Cassandra Carkuff Williams, Ed.D., is ABHMS' director of Discipleship Ministries. Read more at abhms.org > NewsRoom.



Mahoning Valley Baptist Association recently partnered with the Campbell, Ohio-headquartered Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries to provide mattresses to families in the low-income Youngstown metropolitan area. Heart Reach is a partner of ABHMS' Community Outreach Ministries (COM). ABHMS has responded, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, with a \$5,000 One Great Hour of Sharing grant for the purchase of additional mattresses.



For more information about COM, visit abhms.org > Mission Stories.

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ABHMS executive director speaks out

ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray has added his voice to the chorus of faith leaders sharing public advocacy statements about the issues of our day.

First, he joined other U.S. faith leaders in contributing to and signing a declaration that decries launching war on Iran.

“The United States government stands in a uniquely powerful position to reject volatile rhetoric and provocative military gestures that increase the likelihood of conflict with



Iran,” said Haggray. “I pray our nation’s political leadership will heed the concerns raised by faith leaders, and lead with acts of diplomacy and peacemaking.”

Next, Haggray affirmed continued solidarity with the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico (IBPR), supporting the organization’s statement regarding harmful comments by Gov. Ricardo Rosselio.

IBPR called upon Rosselio to resign, stating, “It is because of this, we join the people’s cry for him to renounce his position as governor of Puerto Rico.”

Finally, Haggray joined his voice to the swelling chorus of American citizens who are compelled to condemn the hate speech and threatening actions of Donald Trump.

He called on people of faith, good will and decency to reject racial hatred, bigotry, xenophobia, sexism and classism and to do all within their means to write a more civilized future story for the good of American democracy and civilization.

To learn more, visit abhms.org > NewsRoom.

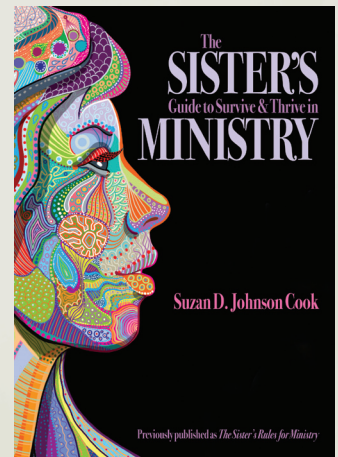
Newly expanded book offers practical wisdom to women in ministry

From the editor of the best-selling “Sister to Sister: Devotions for and from African American Women” (Judson Press, 1995) comes “The Sister’s Guide to Survive & Thrive in Ministry.”

Previously published as “The Sister’s Rules for Ministry,” this newly revised and expanded book offers 10 guidelines for women who are answering God’s call. From the pragmatic to the devotional, these suggestions provide female pastors and women called to other ministries with wisdom for succeeding in a male-dominated vocation, with grace, integrity and style. Compact, conversational, and compelling, this little volume is indispensable for any woman who wants to serve God faithfully—and with flair!

Drawing from her personal experiences in the religious, social justice and political realms, trailblazer Suzan D. Johnson Cook openly shares the challenges, successes, wisdom and insights that have carved her path through the years. A theologian, author, activist and academic, Cook has served as a pastor, presidential advisor and U.S. ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom.

Read more at abhms.org > NewsRoom.



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