

## QuickLinks

ABHMS presented its second Faith & Activism Town Hall—"How Faith Intersects with Civic Engagement"—in October. Read about it at [abhms.org/NewsRoom](https://abhms.org/NewsRoom).



## Faith &amp; Activism Town Hall

Taran Richardson, whose Boy Scouts of America troop meets at Edna Martin Christian Center—an ABHMS Rizpah's Children partner in Indianapolis—has been featured on the "NBC [TV] Nightly News" with Lester Holt and in the "USA Today" newspaper for being accepted to 65 colleges and universities. Learn more at [abhms.org/Publications & Resources/Mission Stories](https://abhms.org/Publications & Resources/Mission Stories).



## Mission in America

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## ABHMS convenes 'The Justice Dialogues'

In September, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) convened on its online ministrElife platform a group of American Baptists from across the United States and Puerto Rico for its first meeting to be known as "The Justice Dialogues."

The Justice Dialogues seeks to provide conversation, allyship, spiritual support and an exchange of ideas, perspectives and resources among diverse nationwide participants during this difficult age of racial unrest and its intersecting challenges, in addition to COVID-19, political polarization and natural disasters. Participants included activists, pastors, writers, educators and networkers.

"Twenty-twenty has truly turned out to be the year when we have clear vision on the complexity and magnitude of the challenges we are facing in our world," said ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. "If ever there was a time we all need to be aware of the need for allies in justice, the time is now."

Participants were divided into online breakout groups to discuss the following questions: "In so many ways, 2020 is a year like no other. What challenges and opportunities are you seeing and what actions are you taking?" and "We know you are here because of your commitment to justice issues. How can we collectively make the most of our time together?"

In one breakout group, Amelia Chua, a documentarian who made a film about the Japanese-American internment during World War II, discussed the increased rate of violence against Asians perceived to be Chinese.

## THE JUSTICE DIALOGUES

"They are told," she said, "'You dirty Chinese, go back to where you belong. You bring the sickness [COVID-19] with you.'"

She noted that the situation can be particularly frightening for recent immigrants from Burma, who are fleeing an oppressive government.

After the breakout session, the entire group reconvened for additional conversation about anything that had a significant impact, challenged their existing knowledge or confirmed what they already knew.

## ABHMS awards more than \$100,000 in OGHS COVID-19 recovery grants

Since May 2020, ABHMS has awarded \$132,841 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds for COVID-19 recovery efforts in the United States and Puerto Rico. Sixty-one organizations have received grants for communities in need.

The grants support food distribution, financial assistance for students and unemployed persons, infant and child care and medical aid to homeless persons. Two grants have also been awarded for technology to facilitate academic and community connection.

To give to OGHS for support of relief initiatives across the United States and Puerto Rico, donations can be made online, via your church or check payable to American Baptist Home Mission Societies and mailed to the attention of Leda Carter at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Write "OGHS-COVID Recovery: US & PR" on the memo line.

One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs. To ensure that your church receives credit for your gift, write the church name on your check.

The grants support food distribution, financial assistance for students and unemployed persons, infant and child care and medical aid to homeless persons.

Watch for America for Christ Offering 2021 materials to arrive in postal mailboxes and to be posted online in January. The theme—“For the Purpose of Equipping Saints”—is based on Ephesians 4:11-13: “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service.”

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission **in** America

## ABHMS connects with American Baptists in midst of disaster recovery

Since Aug. 10, forces of nature have caused extensive loss among American Baptists and the communities where they live and serve. Calling for our prayers and active response are dangerous winds and rain in the Midwest, which severely impacted parts of Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois and



Indiana; fires in western states, primarily California, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado; and Hurricane Laura on the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana.

ABHMS staff have been closely monitoring the situations and communicating with regional executives and other ministry partners in all these states, expressing concern and support for them.

ABHMS recognizes the frequency and scope of these natural disasters is increasing and that American Baptists are seeking ways to offer support. Two options are offered for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) donations:

1. For those who want to donate to all the areas in the United States and Puerto Rico that have been impacted by 2020 natural disasters, put “Domestic Storms, Fires and Floods” in the memo line.
2. To designate donations to a recent specific disaster, indicate “California Fires,” “Hurricane Laura” or “Midwest Floods and Storms.”

Donations can be made online, via your church or with a check payable to American Baptist Home Mission Societies and mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406.

One hundred percent of OGHS donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

American Baptist Home Mission Society  
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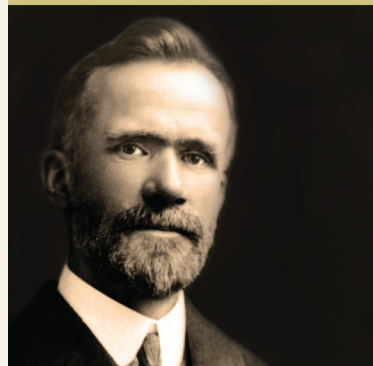
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## Judson Press offers free study guide

New for use by individuals and in small group settings is the free, downloadable “To Live in God Reflection Guide,” a companion resource for “To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch” (Judson Press, 2020).

In solitude or in community, deepen your inward communion with the Spirit, expand your outward obedience to the call of

### To Live in God DAILY REFLECTIONS WITH Walter Rauschenbusch



DENNIS L. JOHNSON

Jesus Christ in service and learn to walk in solidarity with the people God loves.

The reflection guide features suggested reading plans, questions for reflection and an outline for forming your own Circle of Spiritual Companions. The guide is not for discussion of all 180 readings but an over-

all approach to personal reading, spiritual formation and group discernment.

The late Walter Rauschenbusch was a renowned Baptist pastor, theologian and founder of the social gospel.

Readers will find the “To Live in God Reflection Guide” perfect for helping to cultivate and transform personal spiritual life.

The guide is available at [judsonpress.com](http://judsonpress.com).

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