

# Mission in America

## MISSION SPOTLIGHT

### ABHMS calls on American Baptists to welcome, advocate for Afghans seeking refuge

Since World War II, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has helped resettle more than 100,000 refugees. In light of the Afghan crisis, the organization is asking American Baptists to continue this long tradition of welcoming evacuees to the United States.

ABHMS has joined with more than a dozen faith leaders in signing an ecumenical statement in support of Afghan evacuees, advocating for immediate safe evacuation and



humanitarian protection. The statement, issued by Church World Service (CWS) and the National Council of Churches and its 37 member denominations, invites “all people of faith to join together in prayer, love and action to protect vulnerable Afghans fleeing violence and persecution.”

#### To sponsor an Afghan family

Landlords with rental units and those interested in sponsoring a family in your community should email [refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org](mailto:refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org) to learn more about how to be involved in welcoming our Afghan neighbors.

#### To contribute financially

- To donate via One Great Hour of Sharing to support newly arriving Afghan families—particularly in securing housing—visit <https://abhms.org/support-afghan-evacs>.
- Financial contributions can be sent through your local American Baptist church or via check payable to ABHMS and mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Write “OGHS–Afghan Refugees” on the memo line. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

Churches who are sponsoring Afghan families are encouraged to contact the Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, ABHMS senior associate for Grants, Partnerships and Strategy Alignment, at [Rothangliani.Chhangte@abhms.org](mailto:Rothangliani.Chhangte@abhms.org) or 610.768.2426 to receive support, for resources and for networking purposes.



### ABHMS celebrates national network for chaplains, specialized ministers

In November, ABHMS celebrated the soft launch of its National Network of American Baptist Chaplains, Pastoral Counselors, Spiritual Directors and Specialized Ministers with a hybrid event that welcomed visitors both online and in person at the Leadership and Mission Building, King of Prussia, Pa.

The network will officially launch during the Spiritual Caregivers Conference at Space for Grace on Sept. 19 and 20, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

Membership in the network is open to all certified, noncertified, active and retired American Baptist chaplains, pastoral counselors, licensed counselors, spiritual directors, specialized ministers and other clergy in nontraditional settings. Membership is also available to seminarians, students and volunteers in the aforementioned fields.

Membership dues are \$69 yearly. To apply for membership, visit [abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/chaplaincy](http://abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/chaplaincy) and click “Join Today.”



#### Mission in America

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MISSION BRIEF

“Rejecting Eurocentric Christianity” was the topic when the Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at



the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo., presented in November during ABHMS’ 2021-2022

Intercultural Leadership Institute. Held at the Leadership and Mission Building in King of Prussia, Pa., the event included participants from 18 states and Puerto Rico. Learn more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).

NEWS BYTES



Mark your calendar for Space for Grace, Sept. 21-23, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.! Take part in learning experiences for Leadership Empowerment, Discipleship, and Healing and Transforming Communities, and hear from speakers, including Dr. Neichelle Guidry, Kathy Khang, and Dr. Miguel De La Torre. Visit [abhms.org/spaceforgrace2022](http://abhms.org/spaceforgrace2022) to learn more.



When ABHMS hosted the virtual “Converge: Palmer Grant Consultation II” recently, in attendance were approximately 60 representatives of the 42 organizations that received grants from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust in 2020. The speaker for the event was Joy Anderson, who works at the intersection of finance and social change as founder and president of the Criterion Group, a financially-focused activist think tank. Read more at [abhms.org](http://abhms.org).

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ABHMS’ Co-Creators pitch ideas via livestream

Six creative individuals seeking support for six unique visions. That was the scene when the second cohort of ABHMS’ Co-Creators Incubator gathered in October at the Leadership and Mission Building, King of Prussia, Pa., for “Demo Day,” where they pitched their ideas to an audience watching via livestream.

“The Home Mission Societies is incredibly excited to invest in the talent and the furtherance of these individuals,” said ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. “We continue to see our God doing great things in the lives of talented persons.”



Each “missional entrepreneur” was given five minutes to present his or her idea and five minutes to take questions.

“The Co-Creators are equipped to incubate and hatch their ideas into the world,” said the Rev. Lauren Lisa Ng, ABHMS’ director of Leadership Empowerment. “We invite you to support their endeavors.”

To learn more about this group of co-creators, visit [abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/co-creators-incubator/](http://abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/co-creators-incubator/).

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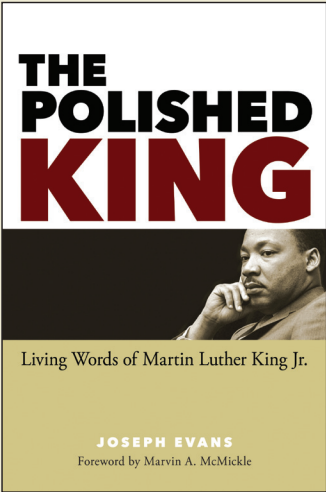
Book explores Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s preaching

Just in time for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Black History Month comes “The Polished King: Living Words of Martin Luther King Jr.” by Joseph Evans. The book analyzes how King’s preaching brought the “living word” and various rhetorical techniques together in ways that helped people understand and receive hope from his messages.

Exploring the complicated relationship between King and novelist James Baldwin—two of the most important writers, thinkers and activists of the 1950s and ’60s—the author observes that Baldwin considered King to be a “polished preacher.”

The book weaves Baldwin’s poetic and fiery words, passion for justice and admiration of King’s oration into a detailed, thought-provoking examination of the rhythm of determination and transformative power in King’s speaking, writing and faith.

It reveals the people and practices within the Black Baptist church and within Black communities whose guidance and cultural norms helped shape and mold King into the person he eventually became.



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