

QuickLinks

Loren Friend Farmer was featured in a TV news segment as a nominee in the station's "Remarkable Women" contest. She is executive director of the Bob Burdette Center, a partner of ABHMS' Rizpah's Children ministry. Read more at abhms.org.



The "Equip" section of the ABHMS-created online networking platform *ministrelife* offers access to Bible study tools, culturally diverse sermons, and online and offline access on any device to an array of subjects, such as Christian living, Christian education, Baptist history and beliefs, church leadership, preaching, pastoral ministry and discipleship. Visit ministrelife.org.



Mission in America

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Executive Director
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray

Editor
Susan Gottshall

Writer
Nadine Hasenecz

Art Director
Danny Ellison

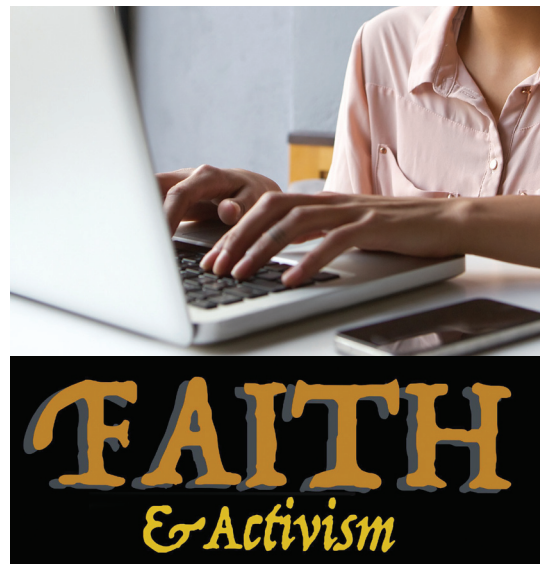
ABHMS holds virtual town hall about faith, activism

In August, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) held "Faith and Activism," an interactive virtual town hall that allowed its audience to listen in and ask questions as panelists delved into a conversation about transforming faith into action and activism. The forum was powered by Zoom on ABHMS' *ministrelife* social platform.

"As a nation, we are currently experiencing racial unrest," says the Rev. Kadia Edwards, ABHMS national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministries. "A young and multicultural community of activists are leading the call to action. Their activism efforts have resulted in a global transformative Kairos moment, which is occurring in the streets and online.

"Another significant advocacy effort," she adds, "includes holding corporations accountable about the ways in which they engage with and market to Black, Indigenous and People of Color [BIPOC]."

Panelists were the Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, postdoctoral fellow and associate director of Public Theology and the Racial Justice Collaborative at Vanderbilt Divinity School; the Rev. Greg Jarrell, co-founder and "chief door



answerer" at QC Family Tree; Geronimo D. Desumala III, Master of Divinity (2021), Yale Divinity School; Minister Alexis Tardy, director of Faith Formation, Zionsville Christian Church; and the Rev. Douglas S. Avilesbernal, executive minister of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.

Says Edwards: "The hope is that people on the panel and those listening in took away ways that they, as individuals or churches, can 'get in good trouble,' as John Lewis would say."

'Operation Planting Hope' celebrates White Cross legacy

For many years, through an initiative known as White Cross, faithful American Baptist women have acted as the hands and feet of Christ, providing much-needed gifts and volunteer services to American Baptist Home Mission Societies' mission partners.

Beneficiaries have included some Community Outreach Ministries partners, who were known as Neighborhood Action Program Christian community centers—such as Weirton (W.Va.) Christian Center—ABHMS' Native American Ministries, race track chaplains and others. These mission partners have benefitted from decades of reliable service and continuous streams of donations offered by White Cross volunteers. ABHMS and its partners are eternally grateful for their faithful service. The legacy of those faithful White Cross supporters will be celebrated as part of the launch of "Operation Planting Hope," which will replace White Cross.

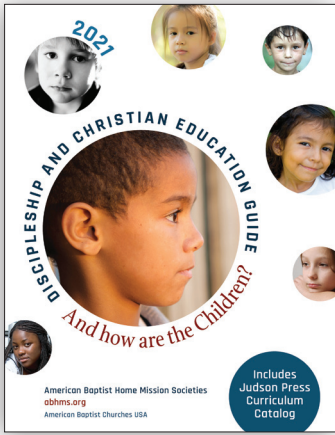
"Operation Planting Hope" provides opportunities for even more ABHMS' mission

partners to benefit from the financial and hands-on support of ABHMS' growing volunteer base.

"Many ABHMS partnering organizations depended on donations they received from White Cross to help support their ministry efforts. 'Operation Planting Hope' will allow that support to continue, while serving a much broader audience at considerably less cost with

These mission partners have benefitted from decades of reliable service and continuous streams of donations offered by White Cross volunteers.

greater impact and benefit," says the Rev. Kadia Edwards, ABHMS national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministries. "'Operation Planting Hope' will allow passionaries to volunteer and share gifts of support with a wide range of ABHMS-related partners who are working to heal and transform communities in the United States and Puerto Rico."



As your church plans its fall agenda, watch for ABHMS' 2021 Discipleship and Christian Education Guide to arrive in mailboxes in October. It features Judson Press' Christian Education catalog as well as stories,

activities, devotionals, a planning calendar and other important resources to aid your church's disciple-making ministries.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES
Mission in America

Judson Press' Secret Place customers receive prayer via telephone

When customers of The Secret Place—Judson Press' 81-year-old daily devotional publication—call the publishing organization's Customer Service department, they receive more than a friendly voice confirming their order. They receive prayer from Loretta Beach, Judson Press customer engagement associate and a minister at Siloam Baptist Church, Norristown,



Loretta Beach

Pa. In addition, Beach asks for permission to share the prayer requests with her church for further prayer.

The Secret Place, Beach says, lends itself to needing or wanting prayer.

So she takes the first step in asking what a customer's needs are—especially important during this uncertain time marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and racial unrest.

Says Beach: "They'll ask, 'Does ABHMS have a prayer ministry?' I'll say, 'I will put you on our prayer list, but would you like me to pray with you now?'"

No customer has ever refused prayer, she adds.

Many Secret Place customers, she notes, are the eldest of the elders. They are often alone—especially during this time of quarantine.

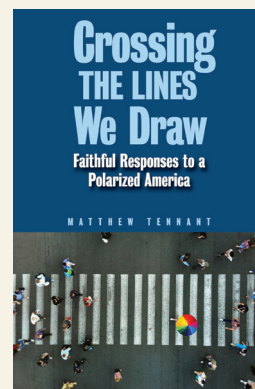
"They're hurting, scared, stressed out, going through so many emotions, and I may be the only person they hear that day," she says. "The Word says we should pray for one another. My job is to be a connection with the Lord, to be a friend and a voice on the other end of the phone."

Judson Press is the publishing ministry of American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

To order The Secret Place, visit judsonpress.com or call the Customer Service department at 1-800-458-3766.

Judson Press releases new study guide, highlights racial, social justice resources

As individuals and churches seek insight during this challenging time of COVID-19 and racial unrest,



Judson Press has released a new online six-session discussion guide to accompany the recently-published "Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America," by Matthew Tennant. Designed for use with congregations and other groups, it is available for download at no cost at judsonpress.com.

In addition, Judson Press recommends these resources in print and e-publication formats on racial and social justice:

- "The Fierce Urgency of Prophetic Hope" by Wendell L. Griffen;
- "Justice for Rizpah's Children: Radical Responses to Childhood Poverty" by Marilyn P. Turner-Triplett;
- "Listen to the Children/Escuchemos a los niños" by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier;
- "Looking Back, Moving Forward: Wisdom from the Sankofa Institute," Dwight N. Hopkins, editor;
- "Reconciliation and Reparation: Preaching Economic Justice" by Joseph Evans;
- "Speak Until Justice Wakes" by J. Alfred Smith Sr.;
- "To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch" by Dennis L. Johnson and
- "Welcoming Community: Diversity That Works" by Douglas S. Avilesbernal.

Direct questions to Judson Press at
judsonpress.com or 1-800-458-3766.

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