

QuickLinks

ABHMS' 2019 national-recognition Jitsuo Morikawa Healing and Transforming Communities Award has been presented to Anna Young, aged 88, the organization's longest-serving volunteer, for her ministry at Lackawanna County Prison, Scranton, Pa. Find details at abhms.org/NewsRoom.

Six individuals participated in "Co-Creators Incubator Demo Day" by presenting their Christ-centered project ideas to an audience at ABHMS' building in King of Prussia, Pa., in October. Learn more at abhms.org/NewsRoom.

Floodwaters breached the home of Angie and Tom Gillming, Gibbon, Neb., twice during the 2019 Midwest storms. They were among the beneficiaries of One Great Hour of Sharing Disaster-relief grants that ABHMS provided, on



behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, to the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska region. Experience their ordeal via a first-person account at abhms.org/MissionStories.



American Baptist
Home Mission
Societies
Connect. Cultivate. Change.

Mission in America

Copyright © 2020
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
1075 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Unless otherwise noted, information in Mission in America may be copied without permission. Printed on recycled paper.

Executive Director
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray

Editor
Susan Gottshall

Writer
Nadine Hasenecz

Art Director
Danny Ellison

America for Christ Offering 2020

The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2020 theme tells you to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). Your heartfelt gifts to the AFC Offering allow you to do just that—love your neighbor—by supporting the many ABHMS ministries that live out this biblical mandate by healing hurting individuals and transforming broken communities.

**"You shall
LOVE your
NEIGHBOR
as YOURSELF."**



While the specifics may have changed, the needs across the United States and Puerto Rico are just as great as they were in 1832 when ABHMS was founded—close to two centuries ago now. Today, ABHMS extends its capacity to spread the healing power of God's love to its neighbors by awarding grants to mission partners along with its other discipleship, leadership and healing ministries.

Just as ABHMS ministers to families who have lost homes to wildfires and floods, to children who are challenged by poverty, and to seminarians preparing to devote their lives to

sharing the Good News, ABHMS' partners also serve as the hands and feet of Christ by empowering Christian leaders, nurturing disciples and promoting intercultural awareness.

In 2019, ABHMS awarded more than \$300,000 to the ministries of its mission partners. Here are only a few examples:

The Los Angeles-based Innovative Space for Asian American Christianity received \$8,400 to help fund its "Imagining A More Equal Pulpit" initiative, including a Gender Summit that addressed the challenges faced by women of color in ministry.

A \$115,000 award included support to Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries, Campbell, Ohio, for the purchase of mattresses above and beyond the 104 already delivered to prevent children and teens from sleeping on the floors, couches and piles of clothing in its three housing developments.

A \$15,300 award included support to Iglesia Bautista Betesda, Indianapolis, Ind., and its "Walking With the Immigrant" project, which has helped 60 families, including a family that senior pastor the Rev. Jaime Flores accompanied to immigration court in Miami, Fla.

Thank you for your past generous support of the transformational ministries of ABHMS and its partners. With your donations to the AFC Offering 2020, ABHMS can extend God's healing love to so many more neighbors. You can give during the congregational offering Sunday at your church, or you can give an individual gift online at abhms.org/afcnw.

For downloadable AFC 2020 materials, visit abhms.org/afc.

ABHMS releases OGHS funds in response to Kincadee wildfire in California

ABHMS, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, has released \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Disaster-relief Funds to CrossWalk Community Church, Napa, Calif.

CrossWalk—which has been a Red Cross evacuation site for many years—has been providing shelter since Oct. 27 for those evacuated from their homes because of the Kincadee wildfire that began Oct. 23 in Sonoma County wine country.

According to news reports, the fire has burned 77,758 acres of both state and private land. The fire has destroyed 352 structures, including at least 94 homes. Another 55

structures have been damaged. Four confirmed injuries are of fire personnel and civilians.

CrossWalk was recently visited by Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, ABHMS executive director, and the Rev. Lauren L. Ng, ABHMS lead strategist, West Coast, National Mission Engagement.



ABHMS has also been in touch with the Rev. Andy Quient, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii, who expressed no needs for assistance at the time.

A founding member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), ABHMS supported ICCR's "Taking a Stand: Corporate Action to Protect Human Rights Defenders" panel



discussion in October. Dave Moore Jr., director of investments, represented ABHMS

at the annual New York City event at Redeemer Presbyterian Church West Side. ABHMS has continued its commitment to socially responsible investing for close to five decades.

Among the subjects discussed by the panel and moderator were Saudi Arabia, cyber surveillance and the Ogoni Nine. Discover more at abhms.org/MissionStories.

American Baptist Home Mission Society
1075 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Southeastern, PA
Permit No. 362

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Mission **in** America

November board meeting includes Puerto Rico mission update

At ABHMS' board of directors meeting in November, the Rev. Salvador Orellana, director of ABHMS' Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico initiative, reported that ABHMS invested \$18,000 in the Ruth Maldonado Retreat Center in 2019 to house volunteers helping to rebuild the island. More than 1,100 volunteers have served on 93 teams since 2018.

Sixty-seven homes were restored or repaired in 2019, thanks to grants totaling close to \$60,000, and 65 pastors



participated in an ABHMS-sponsored retreat to help them deal with the stress of ministering in the midst of such great ongoing need. Also, Judson

Press' "Restock the Shelves" fundraising effort has raised \$10,845 to purchase books lost from Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria.

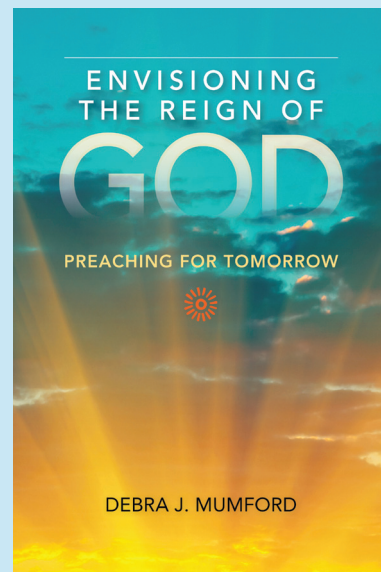
Now moving into Phase III of the recovery effort, ABHMS will focus on homes, Orellana said, seeking to raise \$2.7 million from 2020 to 2022 to repair 450 houses, impacting close to 2,000 island residents. At least 25,000 families, he said, continue to live under blue tarps.

In addition, the board celebrated the faithful service of retiring officers, President Dr. Clifford I. Johnson and Vice President Wendy Hagn. The Leadership and Mission Building's (LAMB) Visitor Hub has been named in honor of Johnson, who served as the longest-tenured ABHMS board president (15 years). Furthermore, the LAMB's Learning Center will be named for Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III as the longest continuous serving ABHMS executive director (24 years).

■ For more, visit abhms.org/NewsRoom. (Photo: Arcadia Lasen)

New Judson Press book shows that eschatology concerns 'here and now'

In "Envisioning the Reign of God: Preaching for Tomorrow," professor and scholar Debra J. Mumford, M.Div., Ph.D., shows that what we believe about the



kingdom of God deeply affects how we relate to the world we inhabit here and now. She makes the Christian study of "last things" (*eschatology*) practical for today's pastors, preachers and church leaders; Homiletics and Theology professors; and seminarians.

"Eschatology is not just about how humanity will be

judged on the last day but how we live our lives every day," she argues. "Eschatology is not simply about our ultimate destruction but rather how we construct and conduct our human existence daily. Eschatology is an existential endeavor that every pastor and preacher who wrestles with the will of God for all of creation must take up with earnest intentionality."

To order, go online to judsonpress.com or call Judson Press customer service at 1.800.458.3766.

JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824