

QuickLinks

Watch for America for Christ Offering 2020 materials to arrive in postal mailboxes and to be posted online in January. The theme—"Impacting and Transforming Lives Across America and Puerto Rico: The Love Thy Neighbor Campaign"—is based on Matthew 22:39 ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself").

Visit abhms.org/afc.

ABHMS is pleased to announce that Lauren Williams of Upper Marlboro, Md., has been named recipient of the prestigious Daniel E. Weiss Scholarship. Williams attends Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

The scholarship is provided through the Weiss Fund for Excellence, established by the Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Weiss, who served as general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, 1988-2000. The scholarship is administered by ABHMS' Office of the Executive Director in collaboration with ABHMS' Leadership Empowerment team.

For more information, visit abhms.org/newsroom.



Mission in America

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ABHMS launches fundraising campaign to repair, replace roofs in Puerto Rico

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) hosted a livestream broadcast from its Leadership and Mission Building in Valley Forge, Pa., at the end of September to launch "A Roof Over Their Heads: My people will live in ... secure dwellings," its campaign to raise \$300,000 by Thanksgiving to repair and replace roofs that were destroyed when Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017.

The Rev. Salvador Orellana, director of ABHMS' "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative, noted that ABHMS has been making an impact on the island since the onset of the natural disaster.

In addition to cleaning, painting, and repairing roofs for 58 houses on the island, Orellana said, ABHMS, through its volunteers, has helped a variety of entities, including 27 American Baptist churches, Corporación Milagros del Amor and Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico.

Abigail Medina Betancourt, onsite volunteer coordinator, noted that more than 100 teams and more than 1,000 volunteers have served in Puerto Rico in two years.

However, she pointed out that "two years after Hurricane Maria, 25,000 people are still living under blue tarps, which are made to last only one month."



Abigail Medina Betancourt, volunteer coordinator of ABHMS' "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative, speaks during the livestream event.

Stressing the need that remains on the island, ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray said, "Last week Tropical Storm Karen pummeled Puerto Rico yet again with drenching rain."

He expressed thanks for American Baptists' support of ABHMS' ministries before asking, "May we count on your generosity once again?"

Give online at abhms.org/givehope. Or mail your check—payable to American Baptist Home Mission Societies—to ABHMS Development, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. One hundred percent of your gift is applied directly to rebuild and restore Puerto Rico and will provide support beyond denominational offerings.

ABHMS awards grants in 2019's second quarter

ABHMS awarded \$257,220 in grants to 27 organizations, churches and regions:

- \$11,000 total in Asian Ministries grants for leadership development and discipleship to the Innovative Space for Asian American Christianity; Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society; Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches; and American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii;
- \$8,000 in Discipleship grants from the Louise Burchard Pierce Memorial Fund to Vick and Pathfinder Camp and Conference Ministries;
- \$1,500 Leadership Empowerment grant to the American Baptist Churches USA Theologians' Conference;
- \$115,000 total in Healing and Transforming Community grants, comprised of the following:

Community Outreach Ministries grants to Edna Martin Christian Center; Friendship House; Bethel Neighborhood Center; Detroit Friendship House; Corporación Milagros del Amor; Global Health Connections International; Heart Reach Neighbor-

hood Ministries; JOYA Scholars; Mount Olive Development Corp.; Rankin Christian Center; Weirton Christian Center; Children in Poverty grant to First Baptist Church; Volunteer Ministries grant to St. Paul Community and Economic Development Corp.;

- \$121,720 total from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds, comprised of the following:

Puerto Rico Community grant to Primera Iglesia Bautista de Corral Viejo;

\$16,000 in Refugee and Immigration grants to Monte Vista Cross Cultural Church; Milwaukee Christian Center; American Baptist Churches of Nebraska; and

\$104,720 in OGHS Development grants, approved by the World Relief Committee, to St. Paul Community and Economic Development Corp.; United Interfaith Action of Southeastern Massachusetts; Indian Education; American Baptist Assembly, Green Lake Conference Center; Bethel Neighborhood Center; and Eagle's Wings Ministry Eloheh Farm and Seed.

Approximately 44 young people aged 21-39 from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds participated in ABHMS' first "Intercultural Institute for Emerging Leaders" in September at ABHMS' Leadership and Mission Building in King of Prussia, Pa.

This innovative training program sought to provide participants with hands-on, in-depth experience to effectively engage across cultures.

By the beginning of the event's second day, the Rev. Michael Strickland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atchison, Kan., was already pleased with the experience.

"Although we hadn't yet gotten into the meat and potatoes of the program, we had already engaged in so much conversation last night," he said. "That alone was worthwhile."

■ Learn more at abhms.org/newsroom.

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AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES
Mission in America

ABHMS collects OGHS donations for Hurricane Imelda

ABHMS is accepting donations through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) for Hurricane Imelda relief efforts.

Imelda flooded Jefferson County, Texas, with more than 40 inches of rain in three days, according to the National Weather Service, Houston, making it the seventh wettest tropical cyclone in U.S. history.

OGHS is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual OGHS offering received by churches.

To read more, visit abhms.org/newsroom. To donate, send donations through your local American Baptist church or to the attention of Leda Carter at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Write "OGHS—Hurricane Imelda" on the memo line, and make the check payable to ABHMS. One hundred percent of donations are applied to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.



Judson Press readies your church for Christmas

Ready your church for the Christmas season with the help of two titles from Judson Press.

"'Tis the Season: Church Celebrations for Advent & Christmas" features 18 programs designed to connect



God's people with God's story, from generation to generation. Author Rachel Gilmore takes traditional Christmas stories and weaves them into the big picture of God's salvation plan. The diverse selection of worship and learning formats includes:

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These dramas—all originals by author Sheryl J. Anderson—may be simple or elaborate productions, as stage area, budget and time permit. All roles may be portrayed by actors of either sex and of any age. The book also includes a bonus drama for Epiphany.

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