

# ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP

Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands MARK 10:46-52

America for Christ Offering 2012

## Mentoring the Future: Children of Promise

By the Rev. Alan G. Newton

In fall 2010, American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region (ABCRGR), in partnership with Volunteers of America, created the Mentoring Children of Promise program, which pairs adult mentors with children who have at least one incarcerated parent. The program received a Children in Poverty (CIP) grant from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), which led to a federal government grant.

In spring 2011, as the first volunteer, I met the 12-year-old I was to mentor. After only six months of mentoring my “Child of Promise,” I can see that he has benefited from the program. He is a bright, caring, active young man. I also notice that I am changing, learning and growing through him.



The program has been expanding weekly with new partnerships created, new mentors trained, new youth identified and new matches made. Thanks to the vision of partners, including ABHMS, dozens of mentors have been matched

with youth in Rochester. Church and community generosity keeps hope alive.

Your gifts to America for Christ made possible both the CIP grant and the resulting federal grant that support this wonderful life-changing ministry.

**To learn more about the CIP grant and other justice for children initiatives, contact the Rev. Lisa R. Harris, national coordinator, ABHMS Justice for Children Initiative and Christian Center Relations, at [lisa.harris@abhms.org](mailto:lisa.harris@abhms.org), 1-800-222-3872, x2158, or visit [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) > Ministries & Programs > Children in Poverty.**

**The Rev. Alan G. Newton is regional executive minister, ABCRGR.**

# AFC'12

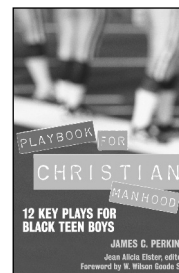
America for Christ Offering 2012



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