

QuickLinks

■ Go to www.abhms.org to offer your opinion on ABHMS and Judson Press offerings at the recent ABCUSA Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



■ For updates on the 2012 national gathering of American Baptist youth, check frequently at www.abhms-immense2012.org.

■ An ABHMS Children in Poverty grant makes news in Ohio. To read about it, visit www.abhms.org > **Ministries & Programs** > **Children in Poverty**.



Formerly National Ministries

Mission in America

Copyright © 2011
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

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

Executive Director

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III

Editor

Susan Gottshall

Writer

Nadine Hasenecz

Art Director

Danny Ellison



ABHMS continues social advocacy on several fronts

As a social justice proponent, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) advocates for the “least of these” in our communities, and aligns itself with other organizations that do the same.

Most recently, to mark the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law, ABHMS asked religious organizations to stand with the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC) by adding their names to the organization’s solidarity statement for employment of people with disabilities.

“Our society is more accessible and welcoming of people with a wide variety of disabilities and health conditions than it was when the ADA became law in 1990,” says Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, managing director of Resource Development at ABHMS and a member of IDAC’s steering committee. “But, while the ADA also mandated equal access to employment for people with disabilities, the number of people with disabilities who want to work but are unemployed or underemployed has remained largely unchanged.”

In a related effort, ABHMS joined American Baptist Churches USA and 34 other national religious organizations in signing IDAC’s recent letter to Congress urging lawmakers to protect Medicaid from drastic cuts and other harmful changes, such as

proposed block grants and global spending cap proposals.

“As a nation, we must work toward sensible deficit reduction rooted in shared sacrifice that does not jeopardize the care and well-being of people with disabilities who rely upon Medicaid,” Ramsey-Lucas says.

ABHMS is considering developing a network for sharing information about disabilities-related concerns; feedback is welcome.

In addition, ABHMS was recently represented by Ramsey-Lucas’ attendance when the Faith in Action Criminal Justice Reform



working group flew religious leaders from throughout the United States to Capitol Hill to encourage passage of the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011. The legislation would establish a national commission to review and suggest reforms for federal, state, local and tribal governments’ criminal justice policies and practices.

For more information about ABHMS’ social advocacy efforts, visit www.abhms.org.

Dahlberg Peace Award presented at ABCUSA Biennial

The 2011 Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award was presented to the Rev. Dr. Paul Hayes of Noank, Conn., and posthumously to Beverly McNally of Pennington, N.J., during an evening worship service at the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) 2011 Biennial in July in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“Waging peace in a society that wages war is daunting, but, in working for peace, we feel most like children of God,” said Hayes, who is the ABCUSA representative to the Peace Commission of the Baptist World Alliance, pastor of ABCUSA-affiliated Noank Baptist Church, was coordinator for the 2009 Global Peace Conference in Rome, an active member of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, chair of the ABCUSA Statements of Concern Committee, organizer of Friendship Tours to



the former Soviet Union and Myanmar, and leader in many other denominational, community and interfaith activities.

Accepting on behalf of McNally—who was vice president of the Board of National Ministries when she died on April 6, 2010—

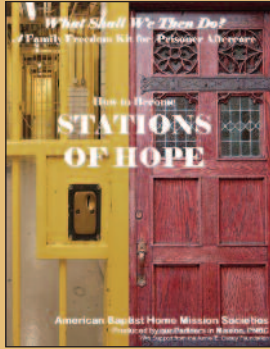


were her husband, the Rev. Thomas H. McNally, and daughters, Heather McNally and Dawn McNally Cobb.

Beverly believed in “working with all Christians to let the light of Christ shine through the darkness of the world,” said Thomas McNally, noting that Beverly McNally was involved in the fight to abolish the death penalty in New Jersey.

Additional award presentations will be reported in future issues of “Mission in America.”

“What Shall We Then Do? A Family Freedom Kit for Prisoner Aftercare: How to Become Stations of Hope” can be tailored to your



church's or region's particular needs. ABHMS adapted the kit from a publication created by the Progressive National Baptist Convention's Commission on Social Justice and Prison Ministry and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For information on customizing the kit,

contact ABHMS' Rev. Fela Barrueto at Fela.Barrueto@abhms.org or 800-222-3872, x2493. ABHMS regrets that the phone number appeared incorrectly in the July/August 2011 issue of “Mission in America.”

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Missionin**America**

Conference encourages Karen Baptist youth to be ‘good examples’

Approximately 350 youth and their adult leaders participated in workshops, worship and Bible study at the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)-co-sponsored Karen Baptist Youth Conference at Houghton (N.Y.) College in July.

With its “Be a Good Example” theme from I Timothy 4:11-12, the conference sought to foster Karen youth’s



The 2011 Karen Baptist Youth Conference (Photo by Law Eh Soe)

understanding of their history, culture and American Baptist faith so that they could gain the self-confidence necessary to live as good examples. The event also offered advice for adjusting to life in the

United States and balancing Karen and American cultures.

“I learned so much from this conference, and it gave me so much encouragement to go back to my home church and apply the knowledge,” says Hayblu Htee, 16, of San Diego Karen Baptist Church.

Sponsoring the conference with ABHMS were Karen Baptist Churches USA, Buffalo Karen Baptist Church, the Burma Refugees Task Force and International Ministries.

During the youth conference, 30 immigrant pastors attended “Summer Courses for Ministry Leaders from Myanmar/Burma” at Houghton College. The courses were sponsored by ABHMS, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, the Burma Refugees Task Force and various American Baptist Churches USA regions.

For information pertaining to Burma refugees, contact the Rev. Rothang Chhangte at Rothang.Chhangte@abhms.org, 1-800-222-3872, x2426, or 610-768-2426. For information about ABHMS’ Asian Ministries, contact the Rev. Florence Li at Florence.Li@abhms.org, 1-800-222-3872, x2468, or 610-768-2468.

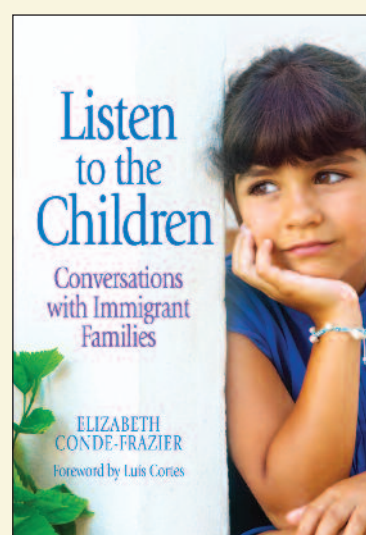
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
P. O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
NM 3584

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Southeastern, PA
Permit No. 167

Facebook page, author interaction planned for 2011-2012 ABC Reads selection

Since 2006, ABC Reads has been bringing American Baptists together through the power of a book. Sponsored by Judson Press, ABC Reads highlights a book annually that provides an opportunity for learning, sharing and growing in knowledge and faith.

The 2011-2012 ABC Reads selection is the bilingual (flip-style) book “Listen to the Children: Conversations



with Immigrant Families/Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes” by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier. Sure to stimulate conversation and debate, this timely and important resource views immigration through the eyes of children, those often left in the shadows of this crisis.

Visit the ABC Reads Facebook page at

www.facebook.com > ABCReads and the Judson Press website at www.judsonpress.com > ABC Reads for a free study guide, quotations from the book and related points for discussion. Opportunities will also be announced for a virtual Q & A with the author.

The book retails for \$13.99 with a discounted web price of \$11.19. Orders of at least 10 copies will receive an additional 15% off the web price. Visit www.judsonpress.com > ABC Reads for more information and to order.

JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824