

ABCOTS



Newsletter



Greetings from the Executive Minister

Happy New Year and New Decade! By now we are all back to work after celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, during the month of December 2019, and now into the new year, and celebrating Black History Month. My sincerest prayer for you all is joy and peace upon your homes and your churches. Oh yes, joy and peace remain in my hopes amidst the noise of troublesome headlines each day in our world. Thank you for your support of American Baptist Churches of the South. We could not meet missions, ministry, personnel or administrative objectives without your love, loyalty, money, and help. THANKS!

The 2020 Pledge/Commitment form is in your Church Office. If you have not returned it to our office please complete and return it to us as soon as possible. Start your American Baptist Mission Giving early in 2020! Send your AB missions gift today. Please consider the "Support Our Schools Project". We want to generate \$50,000.00 for each of the Theological Seminaries in our region, namely, the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia; Shaw Divinity School, Raleigh, North Carolina; and Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

Help to support our Historically Black Colleges and Universities with roots in American Baptists ministry and missions work. Give! The America For Christ Offering for this year, Impacting and Transforming Lives Across America and Puerto Rico: Love Thy Neighbor Campaign is underway. It is supported by the biblical text, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39). Our Region Goal is \$10,000.00; help us make it today! Give!

My mentor, The Reverend Raymond Allen Hailes often referred to a gentleman from his youth who would say in response to the greeting, "How are you today?", "Well under the circumstances..." Whatever was going on that day, it was always under the circumstances. Giving is living above the fallacy that we can find joy and satisfaction in our temporal situations and conditions (circumstances). Our joy, our gratitude cannot be influenced by what we have as in possessions. Our joy is not in material gain. Our joy cannot be influenced by where we are, as opposed to where you are, I live up here and you live down there... our joy cannot be influenced by our professional skill level, or our academic achievements, or even our family and church names. You must know today, that whatever your circumstances, whatever your condition or situation, you can give something. These (my) circumstances are no determination of what God's ability and capacity is in my life. Give! Giving then becomes the indication of who God really is in my life and what God really can do. Give!

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ABCOTS TURNS 50

April 27th - 30th, 2020

Online registration is open: <https://www.annualsession.org>

****Hotel rooms are ready for booking** <https://book.passkey.com/e/49929750> or call 1.800.228.9290
Richmond Marriott Downtown, 500 East Broad St. Richmond, VA 23219**

President	Dr. Arroll Martin , <i>First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, Nashville, TN</i>
1st Vice President:	Dr. Betty Long , <i>First Baptist Church Hampton, Hampton, VA</i>
2nd Vice President	Dr. Wayne Thompson , <i>First Baptist Institutional Church, St. Petersburg, FL</i>
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Assist. Treasurer	Ms. Denise Ruffin , <i>Providence Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD</i>
Executive Minister	Dr. James M. Harrison , <i>Main Street Baptist Church, Smithfield, VA</i>

Dear Mission Partner,

Thanks to your America for Christ (AFC) Offering contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) ministers to families who have lost homes to floods, to children living lives of limitation in poverty, to seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News, and many more. We have been answering God's call to heal broken families and communities—as well as cultivate strong Christian leaders and equip passionate disciples—since 1832.

The world's needs today are as great as they were close to two centuries ago. We are extending our ministry by awarding grants to mission partners across the United States and Puerto Rico—partners who are also doing the work of empowering Christian leaders, nurturing disciples and intercultural awareness, and transforming congregations and communities with the healing power of God's love.

By contributing to the AFC Offering, you increase our capacity to fulfill the biblical mandate in Matthew 22:39: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

In 2019, ABHMS awarded more than \$300,000 to ministries carried out by our mission partners. These are just a few examples of the impact our partners are making across our mission field:

In the Cultivating Leaders and Discipleship categories, \$8,400 was awarded to the Los Angeles-based Innovative Space for Asian American Christianity (ISAAC) 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.

In the Healing and Transforming Communities category, \$115,000 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.

In the Intercultural Ministries category, \$15,300 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 and a church brother accompanied to immigration court in Miami, Fla.

On behalf of ABHMS, thank you for your past generous support of our transformational mission. Our ministries—along with the ministries of our mission partners—are making a difference in the lives of so many individuals and families. With your help, we can bring God's healing touch to so many more.

May we count on your generosity once again?



With gratitude,
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director, ABHMS

ABCOTS Support Commitment/Pledge Form 2020

We need your Support! We are constructing the 2020 Ministry and Missions Operating Budget and we need your information to determine the anticipated revenue for 2020. Prayerfully we call upon you to consider and pledge your covenant support. Giving can be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

Thank you for your consideration, support, and commitment!!!

Church Name _____ **PIN: #** _____
Address _____ **AREA:** _____
Office Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Choose (one) giving method to be given to United Mission during 2020

- () Monthly giving \$ _____
 () Quarterly giving \$ _____
 () Semi-Annual giving \$ _____
 () (One time Annual gift) \$ _____

Total giving to United Mission Basics \$ _____

Special Offerings

America For Christ (AFC) \$ _____
 One-Great-Hour-of-Sharing (OGHOS) \$ _____
 Region Offering (RO) \$ _____
 World Mission Offering (WMO) \$ _____
 Retired Ministers/Missionaries Offering (RMMO) \$ _____
 Institutional Support (Colleges etc.) \$ _____
Total giving to Special Offerings \$ _____

Please return to our office ASAP

Mail: 7008 Security Boulevard, Suite #120, Baltimore, Maryland 21244
Fax: (443)551-3565 **Email: Gloria@abcots.org**

ABHMS/ABCOTS Congregational Ministry Context and Faith Formation Project

ABCOTS churches welcome the opportunity to participate in ABHMS' Ministry and Faith Formation Project. It is supported with a \$25,000.00 grant award from the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Taken from the project's general description, it is designed to equip pastors and key lay leaders to think strategically about spreading the Gospel in their own context in more culturally relevant ways. It will deepen their understanding of the dynamics involved in reaching the unchurched in our current culture, broaden their vision for possibilities, and teach them how to develop models for ministry to the unchurched designed for their individual context. A team of critical thought leaders will name the realities of ministry today, and stretch the imaginations of participants to envision new opportunities. ABHMS staff will share methods for assessing our communities, developing teams to address contextual needs, and will serve as mentors and coaches. Tools will include community asset mapping and Mission Possible interactive vision application. Virtual networks will be developed among pastors and churches to provide peer support and reflection. Thirty ABCOTS churches will be invited to participate in the project.

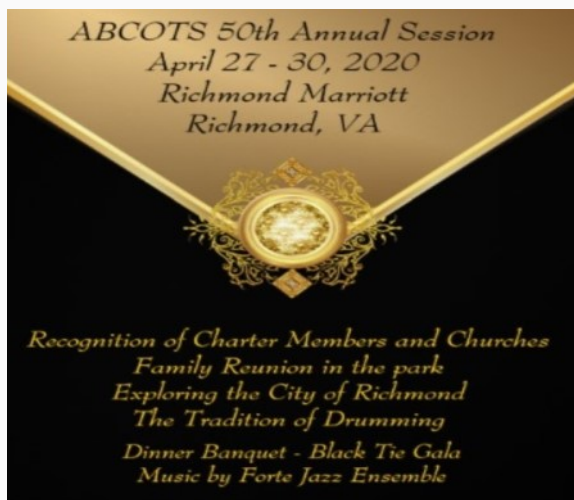
Burmese Diaspora Translator Comes to Our Aid

ABCOTS is excited that the American Home Mission Societies have awarded us \$2,400.00 in grant assistance to bring on board a Translator to work with our member churches of the Burmese Diaspora. They include churches of the Karen, Kachin, Chin and Burmese communities. Florence Li of the Asian Ministries arm has worked to identify the translator who will help to interpret communications, notices, and messages sent out from our Administrative Offices. This will also help to aid in the successful assimilation of Diaspora communities into the life of ABCOTS.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Please send us your church's email address to be kept updated on the happenings in the region.

Upcoming Events in ABCOTS



AB Men Green Lake Work Party



Please complete this form in its entirety and submit 1 of 3 ways:
Scan & Email to randyvm@glcc.org, Fax to 920-294-3686 or Mail to:
Green Lake Conference Center, W2511 State Rd 23, Green Lake, WI 54941

ABMen Work Week
May 18-22, 2020

Meals: Submit a check with your form or include Credit Card information
(Name, Type - VISA/MC/AM/DISC, CC #, Exp Date, \$ Amount and 3 digit CID Code)

Submit 1 form per room

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Arrival Date: _____	Arrival Date: _____
Departure: _____	Departure: _____
Building Trades or Professional Skills: List: _____	Building Trades or Professional Skills: List: _____
First Meal: _____ & Last Meal: _____	Total Due: \$ _____ (\$4.75 per meal)

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Arrival Date: _____	Arrival Date: _____
Departure: _____	Departure: _____
Building Trades or Professional Skills: List: _____	Building Trades or Professional Skills: List: _____
First Meal: _____ & Last Meal: _____	Total Due: \$ _____ (\$4.75 per meal)

Check In - 4 PM Check Out - 10 AM

Meals: Monday Breakfast - Saturday Breakfast - \$4.75 per meal (\$4.50 + 5.5% tax)

Indicate First and Last Meal on form. Guests will take all meals in between. No credit for meals not taken while at Green Lake Conference Center.

This year's spring work party will take place May 18-22, 2020 at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI. As in the past, check-in day will be Sunday. The first meal served will be Sunday dinner and the last meal served will be Thursday lunch. You will be on your own for meals not served at the conference center. As you know, work party participants will incur a partial cost for meals; lodging will continue to be provided at no cost. Meal cost information is contained on the attached registration form. Please indicate to GLCC staff what would be your first meal and last meal; in the event you are not going to stay the entire week.

I am pleased to announce that a limited number of meal scholarships are available for those who desire to participate, but may not be able to incur the additional cost of meals. ***If you are interested in receiving one of these scholarships, please let me know as soon as possible.***

You can give me a call at (304) 549-6220 or email at wmorningstar@suddenlinkmail.com You may also register by calling the GLCC at (920) 294-7230. Please remember, registration is limited and the **registration deadline is March 17, 2020**, so you should register at your earliest convenience.

In His Service
Bill Morningstar, President, AB Men USA