

America for Christ Offering 2016
Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ
Ephesians 2:10

Talking Points

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2016, which seeks to raise \$1,250,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Our AFC promotional window is January through March. This year's theme—“**Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ**” is based on Ephesian 2:10: “*For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life*” (NRSV). The theme is a wonderful biblical reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about engagement and compassion for people in need. Through the work of ABHMS, which is supported by the America for Christ Offering, we can participate with our Lord in serving our neighbors in our churches and communities.

Please join us in praying and getting involved in supporting the America for Christ Offering 2016! Together, we can inspire someone with the hope and love of Jesus Christ in word and deed. In Ephesians 2:10, God offers not merely a new lease on life but a new life itself, in which we are no longer to walk in trespasses and sins but, rather, in good works. This is our new way of life.

The situations are there, ready and waiting for you to recognize and act on them. This is what God has called you to. As you answer the call, you become a vivid manifestation of the heart and hands of Christ. As American Baptists, we have the opportunity to respond to the America for Christ Offering 2016 theme of “Becoming More Like Christ.” Let us prepare our hearts to give and serve.

What is the mission of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)?

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies serves as the caring heart, serving hands, going feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ. ABHMS accomplishes its mission by establishing ministries of discipleship, community and justice, and equipping and networking followers of Jesus to transform persons, congregations, neighborhoods and cultures throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

What is the vision of ABHMS?

We seek to bring to bear the whole gospel on persons, congregations, communities and cultures, sharing God’s love in word and deed in places and spaces where God’s grace is not yet fully manifest. Our vision is about discipleship and incarnational practice.

What is the distribution of the total AFC Offering 2016?

The offering is distributed in three parts:

- 29% supports regional ministries
(*ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with ABCUSA regions*).
- 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS
(*20% directly supports American Baptist Neighborhood Christian Centers*)
- 12% supports the offering’s promotional and deputation costs

What ABHMS impactful ministries stories can I share?

The America for Christ Offering 2016 highlights four (4) bulletin inserts with powerful stories of the mission and ministry that is making an impact. These include:

- Judson Press offers value-added 'gems'
 - Celebrating the most vulnerable: disability rights and advocacy
 - "Mission from the gospels" resource feeds further mission in upstate New York
 - Volunteers embrace homeowner's hope
- (All bulletin inserts have been translated to Spanish)*

What Videos highlight the AFC 2016 theme?

There are two (2) videos with powerful illustrations of "Becoming More Like Christ."

- "Diapers ... and the GOSPEL?" The story of how a church met a need in the community through a ministry of providing an item that neither WIC nor food stamps covered.
- "They have a dream too" The story of how church began equipping and enabling young people toward a path for higher education.

Are there ideas for engaging children and youth?

YES. In the Leaders Guide you will find excellent resources to engage the children and youth as a Sunday school activities or a mission project.

If I have a question about the AFC Offering 2016, whom do I contact?

You can connect with the Development office by contacting;

- Leda Carter, Administrative Assistant, 1.800.222.3872, x2028
- The Rev. Dr. Eddie Cruz, Associate Executive Director, 1.800.222.3872, x2423

Where do I find the electronic versions of the AFC 2016 materials to download?

Visit www.abhms.org and click on the AFC logo, which will direct you to the AFC site for downloadable items and the showing of the video directly from the internet.

How do I get more AFC 2016 materials?

Call Judson Press at 1-800-4JUDSON (1-800-458-3766) to speak with a customer service representative.