Ensuring the Vision—History Matters!

We have a dream.

This morning, three English teachers from Korea, here at Mercer University for several weeks with the School of Education, stopped by the Historical Society.

All Christians—with one identifying himself as a Baptist—they were interested in looking at our exhibits in the reading room and learning about the Society.

When they came to the display with materials about Martin Luther King Jr., including the “I Have a Dream” speech poster, they stopped. They confirmed with me their understanding that he was a Baptist preacher. They asked questions about the picture of the crowds of people on the Mall. They talked about his influence on the coming presidential inauguration.

“'I have a dream,” said our new Baptist friend. “I have a dream of a united Korea.”

Baptist History Matters

Baptists have influenced this country’s history and the world’s. Their ideals and dreams, hard work and struggles, have influenced the course of history. Perhaps, with the help of Baptist leaders, our new friend’s dreams will come true.

Yes, the National Park Service can do a wonderful job preserving the memory and message of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. However, Baptists have the important role of interpreting the faith foundation that led to his words and actions.

But only if we know our Baptist history.

We Have a Dream

Now that staff and volunteers are free from the immediate pressures of moving the collections, they are able to focus on the History Matters Campaign, an enterprise vital to secure the Historical Society’s future.

There’s still much to do to settle into new offices and ways of operating. Friends of Baptist history have supported us with their prayers and patience during this transition time.

Now we need financial commitments from old and new friends. Now is the time for you to make a pledge to the History Matters Campaign.

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Additions to the Archives
Gifts to the archival collections had to be postponed during the move. But as 2008 came to a close, we were able once again to accept new items on a limited basis. Here, archivist Betty Layton and Dr. George Tooze check an inventory list of new items to be added to the Stanley Hanna Judson collection. The first volume of Dr. Tooze’s six-volume set, The Life and Letters of Emily E. Chubbuck–Fanny Forester–Emily C. Judson, will be released by Mercer Press in 2009.

Creating the Space
The dream of a new, consolidated space has been realized. Funds are still needed, however, to finish paying for moving costs.

These costs included all the pre-arrangements, packing supplies, services of an experienced move manager, and of course, the seventeen 53-foot trailers and the more than 32 movers who handled our rare materials over the course of several months, including re-shelving books, manuscripts and records.

It also included the costs of staff, volunteer support, temporary staff, insurance, and other necessary incidentals related to the move and transition.

Also still needed is $8,500 for shelving in the reading room so reference materials can be available to researchers. That purchase is postponed until more funds are available.

ABHS estimates that each shelf, from moving preparation to relocation, cost $50 to move.

Look around your home. How many bookshelves do you have? Could you make a three-year pledge equal to the number of shelves you have, multiplied by $50? $100? More?

Use the form on page 5 to make your pledge today!

History Matters Continued from page 1

Ensuring the Vision — Part II — Staffing

The next great need for the American Baptist Historical Society is staffing.

Establishing endowments for archival staff positions will secure trained professionals, plus help our annual fund budget. Archival staff ensure the proper care and access to collections, plus develop new programming to share the collections.

How could this help? In just the last month alone, ABHS was approached about three special projects that would benefit from adequate staffing.

Native American Church History
When executive director Deborah VanBroekhoven visited First Mesa Baptist Church on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona during her mini-sabbatical this January, church leaders asked if ABHS could help them research their history.

“I said yes, because I knew it was not a request for immediate help,” she reported. “But the reality is that at this time, we do not have the staffing we need in order to help them with this kind of project.”

Continued next page.
Their project would not only relate to the history of one congregation, but also include the history of the Kiowa Women’s Missionary Society, the Women’s Home Mission Society, and missionaries like Abigail Johnson, who served for 57 years.

\[ \text{Chapel Car } \text{Messenger of Peace} \]

When Richard Anderson, executive director of the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie, WA, was applying for a National Register nomination for the chapel car *Messenger of Peace*, he contacted ABHS.

Now author Wilma Taylor, who with her husband, Norman, wrote the acclaimed book, *This Train is Bound for Glory*, the story of the chapel car ministries, is planning a trip to Atlanta to research more details about the car for the Mu-

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Approximately 200 people attended the ABHS Breakfast in Washington, DC, in 2007. Always popular, the event highlights the work of the Society to bring our Baptist legacy to light.

Love Baptist history?

Come join us Sunday morning, June 28, for the ABHS Breakfast in Pasadena, CA.

Held during the American Baptist Biennial Convention, you’ll meet old and new friends, hear about the Historical Society, and — quite possibly — learn something new about Baptist history.

To reserve your seat, go to the Biennial Registration page at www.abc-usa.org. For more details, look for your next issue of *Primary Source*, or go to our website at www.abhsarchives.org.

In just the last month alone, ABHS was approached about three special projects would benefit from adequate staffing.

Deborah enjoys meeting leaders of First Mesa Baptist Church, Polacca, AZ, including their new pastor from Korea. American Baptist work on the Hopi Reservation began because of the desire of the Kiowa Mission Society in Saddle Mountain, OK, which wanted another tribe to know about the Jesus path.
The George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local or Regional American Baptist History

Projects eligible for nomination include, but are not restricted to, church anniversary celebrations, congregational or regional histories, oral history projects, or other historical programs that promote Baptist History in the local community or region.

The winner of this award will be announced at the ABHS Breakfast on Sunday, June 28, during the 2009 Biennial Convention of American Baptist Churches, USA in Pasadena, CA.

Submissions due April 1, 2009.
Nominations will be accepted for projects completed in either 2007 or 2008.

For guidelines, contact the American Baptist Historical Society.

Mailing Address: 3001 Mercer University Dr, Atlanta, GA 30341
Shipping Address: 2930 Flowers Road South, Atlanta, GA 30341
768/547-6680 ● abhs@abhsarchives.org ● www.abhsarchives.org
Ensuring the Vision — Staffing
Continued from p. 3

His research will benefit the Museum’s visitors for years to come. The story of Baptist missionaries and their work on the American frontier will be told to a new audience, many of whom otherwise would never know the importance of Baptist history. Adequate staffing will allow ABHS to do more of this kind of outreach.

Spanish-American Baptist Seminary

The seminary was founded in 1921, after missionaries among Mexicans in the southwest saw churches starting, but had no pastors to lead them. The Los Angeles City Mission Society, the state convention, and the American Home Mission Board saw the need for trained leaders, too, and included the Seminary as part of their mission. After more than four decades, the seminary closed.

The interest of the Alumni and Friends organization in preserving and sharing their experiences and the influence the Seminary has had on their ministries is exciting. They, too, could use help from ABHS, as we hold the archives of SABS in our collections.

Share Your Dreams for Baptist History
Expect a mailing in the next month with more information on the History Matters Campaign. Once you’ve made your own pledge, consider sharing your love of Baptist history with your friends, church or association.

Included in the mailing will be a speaker list you can use to plan an ABHS event in your area. ABHS has staff, current and former Board of Managers and friends across the country who would love to speak or lead a workshop with your group.

NOW On-Line!
Check out our church resources, including special bulletin inserts you can download and photocopy. Go to www.abhsarchives.org.

Pledge Form or go to www.abhsarchives.org

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yes! I/We support History Matters and hereby commit a total of $______ over the next three years to the ABHS History Matters Campaign.

Installments of $_______ will be paid:
☐ Annually    ☐ Monthly
☐ Quarterly    ☐ One time gift

Beginning 2009
☐ Giving online at www.abhsarchives.org
Charge to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

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Exp. Date ____/____  Security Code _ _ _.

Please Print

Name _____________________________________________
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Phone _____________________________________________
Email _____________________________________________
Date _____________________________________________

Make checks payable to ABHS — History Matters and mail with this form to ABHS, P.O. Box, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851. Questions? Call 678/547-6680.
Where Should I Send My Donation?

While operations and staffing are in transition, our accounting continues to be handled at the ABC Mission Center. You can continue to send your financial donations to ABHS, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

BEFORE sending any historical materials for the archives, call us at 678/547-6680 or write us, including an inventory of what you’d like to donate. This allows us to weed any duplicates BEFORE you pay for shipping.

How To Contact Us at Our New Home

Research and Inquiries, we are open on a limited basis. Call 678/547-6680.

Volunteers, If you or your friends live in the Atlanta area, or you plan to visit, please sign up as a volunteer. We need volunteer assistance of all kinds. Call 678/547-6680 or e-mail abhs@abhsarchives.org

Business Mail, ABHS, 3001 Mercer University Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341

Shipping, Deliveries & GPS, ABHS, 2930 Flowers Road South, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30341

Phone, call 678/547-6680

Email, abhs@abhsarchives.org

Incoming Periodicals, Regional/Association Minutes and Annual Reports, ABHS, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341