The legacy of education, congregational leadership, and women’s empowerment will be themes at the Judson200 conference on November 14-16 in Atlanta, Georgia. Historians and practitioners of mission will gather on the campus of Mercer University to explore the life and legacy of Adoniram and Ann Judson, as well as Sarah Boardman Judson and Emily Chubbuck Judson.

The conference theme, “Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future,” targets church leaders and historians, especially those focused on mission. Partnering with Mercer’s McAfee School of Theology, the Historical Society will be providing an historical exhibit and tours.

Keynote speakers are Dr. Bill Leonard of Wake Forest University School of Divinity and Dr. Molly Marshall of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Workshop leaders include missionaries Duane and Marcia Binkley, missionaries with American Baptist Churches USA and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Among other matters, they will discuss their work with refugee congregations and those congregations who, as they host refugees, are discovering that “foreign” mission has become home mission.

Other session leaders include:
- Virginia Holmstrom, Executive Director of American Baptist Women’s Ministries;
- Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator Cooperative Baptist Fellowship;
- Carol Woodfin, Hardin-Simmons University;
- Graham Walker, McAfee School of Theology;
- Pamela Smoot, Southern Illinois University;
- Robert Nash, McAfee School of Theology.

Rev. Saw Ler Htoo is the trilingual preacher for worship on Friday evening, November 15, at First Baptist Church of Tucker, Georgia. He currently serves as executive secretary for the Karen Baptist Convention USA and missionary for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

Educated at Yangon University, Myanmar Institute of Theology, and Virginia Theological Seminary, Saw Ler Htoo was ordained in 1996. He has ministered in Yangon at his home church, Judson Karen Baptist Church, and with the Myanmar Christian Leprosy Mission, the Evangelism and Mission Department of the Karen Baptist Convention and with the Judson Educational Aid program of the

Continued on page 2
Conference
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Myanmar Baptist Convention. Since 2001 he has served in the United States, beginning with a ministry to the Burmese at Calvary Baptist Church of Washington, DC, and continuing as executive secretary of the Karen Baptist Convention USA.

Other sponsors of this conference include the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist Women in Ministry, and the Baptist History & Heritage Society. Additional information, including for registration and hotels, is available at http://bit.ly/13B5pzK and at www.judson200.org, which includes a range of resources for celebrating the Judson bicentennial.

This fall conference is a highlight in the three-year celebration of the Judson Bicentennial that began in February 2012, with events in Massachusetts, from which the Judsons sailed two hundred years ago. This year is the bicentennial of the Judson’s arrival in Burma (Myanmar) and commencement of a ministry that continues today in the work of the Binckleys, Saw Ler Htoo and countless others. Next year, 2014, is the 200th anniversary of Baptist national organization in the U.S.

Another highlight of this bicentennial was the address, June 23rd, of Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven at the biennial meetings of the American Baptist Churches USA in Overland Park, Kansas. She linked the Burma mission, specifically the earliest revivals among Karen, to a change in thinking about mission that had a major impact on how American Baptists did mission among freedpeople following the Civil War.

Because the Karen model of native preachers and Bible women had been so very effective, Americans understood that their role as teaching missionaries had become secondary. Their work was important, but only in support of the native preachers and leaders who were the natural leaders both of the Karen and the newly emancipated freedpeople. As Van Broekhoven argued, “foreign mission influenced and became home mission, such that mission history and methods were turned upside down.”
Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Richmond, VA, was the winner of the 2013 George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local American Baptist History. The American Baptist Historical Society honored this congregation for its year-long celebration of the birthdate of their founding pastor, Rev. John Jasper (1812-1901).

Mr. Benjamin Ross, the church’s historian, accepted the award on behalf of the congregation during the Historical Society’s breakfast on June 23, part of the American Baptist Churches’ Biennial meeting held in Overland Park, Kansas. Elected church historian in 1984, Mr. Ross’ outreach during this bicentennial built on earlier work of preservation and collections management.

This award comes in commendation of the excellent research and outreach incorporated in the 200th birth year celebration of founding pastor, Rev. John Jasper. Public programs and subsequent press coverage blanketed the city of Richmond and reached as far north as Baltimore, Maryland and as far south as Raleigh, North Carolina. The celebration involved programming throughout 2012 and, as the judges noted, made an “overwhelming . . . impact . . . on a broader than Baptist community.” Outreach included programs at the Virginia Historical Society, the Library of Virginia, and the African American Museum in Baltimore.

The Commemorative Quilt created by the congregation’s Victory Senior Adult Ministry received special mention and commendation, both for the way in which it was created and the way in which the quilt was displayed and shared with the general public. One judge commented about the store front display of the quilt: “talk about bringing Jasper to the masses!” The Historical Society commended Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church as a model to other congregations planning a ministry of memory in their community and indeed to their state and nation.

The next Younger Award will be announced during the 2015 Biennial Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. 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. Deadline for submission is May 1, 2015, and guidelines for nominees are available from the Historical Society by phone 678-547-6680, or on their website at www.abhsarchives.org.
Yosh Nakagawa and Mitch Homma visit with Deborah Van Broekhoven at the ABHS booth.

The ABHS breakfast is a time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

One display “Shining the Light on Myanmar” focused on the ABHS heritage tour of Burma January 2013.
Glimpses of Biennial 2013

Two past presidents of ABC-USA, Trinette McCray and John Mandt, greet each other in the exhibit hall in Overland Park, KS.

Paul Reeder from Billings, MT repairs books at the ABHS booth.

Motley of Lindsay Street Baptist Church, Atlanta and Charles Hawk from Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, chat with Deborah Van Broekhoven.
Tawthalin, 1287 [i.e., during the Full Moon Festival of Tawthalin, 1925]. Whoever looks on these images, look on them well. Hold them in hand. When they are old and destroyed, they can no longer be had.” [Translated by Dr. Will Womack] The Shan album was donated to ABHS by Elva Jenkins Hendershot’s family, Elaine and John Munson.

Currently, the Shan album is being digitally preserved as one of ABHS’s Judson200 projects. Additionally, full-sized photographic prints of all 26 images in the volume are being produced to facilitate study and exhibit. This fall, several of the digital images will be featured in an exhibit on the Judson200.org website; and beginning in March 2014, the prints will be exhibited in the ABHS reading room. To offset the cost of the Shan Album project, ABHS is offering photographic reproduction of the “Elephant Men” leaf shown here for $125.00. To order, contact ABHS at abhsoffice@abhsarchives.org or 678-547-6680.

Displayed here are two images from an illustrated album given to Elva Jenkins (Hendershot), who served from 1924 to 1927 as an American Baptist missionary nurse in Kengtung, a town in the Shan state of Burma. The album was given to her by an artist from the nearby village of Yan Hlwa to thank her for caring for his sick wife.

Writing about the album for the San Diego Sun in 1932, journalist Etta Mae Wallace recounted the tale of a mysterious, uneducated “jungle artist” known as “Shan” who rendered these beautiful paintings with natural dye as color and bamboo as brush on rice paper.* The colophon title on the cover, written in three languages --- Burmese, Tai Kheun, and Old Shan – translates: “Keng Tung painter of Yan Hlwa village / 13th day of the waxing moon of Tawthalin, 1287 [i.e., during the Full Moon Festival of Tawthalin, 1925].

Wish List

Equipment that will make it easier for researchers to work with the collection and for staff to work with researchers and process new collections:

**PastPerfect Cataloguing Software Upgrade**  $515

**Café Chair:** For researchers checking databases on the reading room computer.  $150

**Reading Room Lamps:** Four needed.  $100 each

**Reading Room Chairs:** For conference table (8 chairs).  $2400

**Shelving:** Units needed for processing.  $500 - $3000

*The following items will allow ABHS to expand our educational program:*

**Exhibit Cases:** From vitrines and stands to fine secure exhibit cabinetry for use in the atrium outside the ABHS office.  $100 - $50,000

**Baptist Heroes Coloring Book:** Update and republish this popular ABHS publication.  $5000

**Photograph Display System:** Permanent wall track system for displaying enlarged collections photographs in the reading room. Cost includes first exhibit.  $3000

**Museum gallery protective posts and belts.**  $100

*Many thanks to:*

- Richard S. Beal, Jr of East Wenatchee, WA for the donation of a Samsung computer which was used at our booth at biennial.
- David Laubach of Paoli, PA, for two library carts, which are now being used by researchers.
- The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for file cabinets and a processing table.

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Yes! I/We believe in a Ministry of Memory and enclose a gift of $_______ to support the American Baptist Historical Society

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☐ Subscribing Membership (American Baptist Quarterly subscription)

$50____ 1 yr; $90_____ 2 yrs; $130 _____3 yrs

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**CONTACT US**

**E-mail:** abhsoffice@abhsarchives.org

**Website:** www.abhsarchives.org  
www.judson200.org 

**Phone:** 678/547-6680 Research appointments, collection donations, reference desk, general questions

**Phone:** 610/768-2269  ABHS donations, American Baptist Quarterly subscriptions

**Mail:** 3001 Mercer  University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341

**Physical Address:** 2930 Flowers Road South, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30341
Racial Reconciliation

Friday evening, September 20 at 7 p.m., Dr. Andrew M. Manis is speaking at the American Baptist Historical Society on “Racial Reconciliation: From the Emancipation Proclamation to Trayvon Martin.” Dr. Manis is Associate Professor of History at Middle Georgia State University in Macon and author of numerous publications on civil rights, including an award-winning biography of Fred Shuttlesworth, A Fire You Can’t Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham’s Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, also Southern Civil Religion in Conflict: Black and White Baptists and Civil Rights, 1947-1957, and Macon Black and White. The event location is the 2nd floor of the Administrative and Academic Conference Center at 2930 Flowers Road South, Atlanta. It is free and open to the public. Discussion and reception will follow the talk along with tours of the Historical Society exhibit “Forever Free: American Baptist Home Missions in the Vanguard of Liberty.”

Questions? Contact 678-547-6680 or abhs@abhsarchives.org