

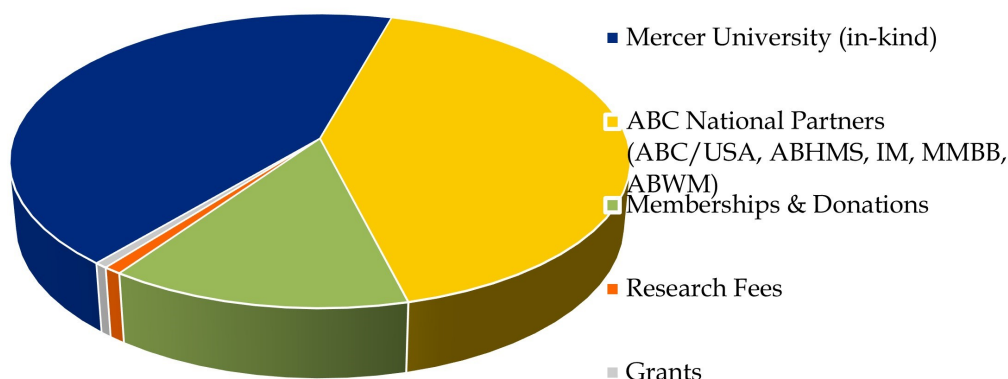
Members & Donors support innovative work

Thanks to members and donors, the American Baptist Historical Society embarked on and completed numerous special projects last year. Your support helped ABHS:

- ★ honor the living legacy of J. Herbert and Elizabeth Cope with the opening of the Cope Collection and the recognition of the vibrant Chin Baptist community in the United States;
- ★ celebrate the rich heritage of Baptists in Puerto Rico with an exhibit and workshops at the ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit in San Juan;
- ★ begin a project to digitize documents related to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. (See article on p.10);
- ★ celebrate 60 congregations' milestones with Anniversary Certificates;
- ★ welcome over 60 visitors and researchers on-site, and fulfill over 40 Research-by-Mail requests;
- ★ continue a collaboration with Ancestry.com. When the project is complete we estimate there will be over 500,000 pages digitized and available online (and this represents about 1% of our collections);
- ★ participate both virtually and in-person in conferences and region annual meetings;
- ★ upload 67,537 files to our digital preservation platform. You can browse these files (photos, documents, and audio recordings) online at <https://abhs.access.preservica.com/>;
- ★ digitize 38 reels of microfilm;
- ★ add 140 books to the online library catalog, WorldCat.org. Of ABHS books catalogued in WorldCat, 72 (2.6%) are unique and 1062 (38.8%) show fewer than 10 copies catalogued worldwide.

Funds to carry out this work come from institutional partners and individuals. We are grateful to Mercer University and President Bill Underwood for hosting ABHS on their Atlanta campus. We appreciate financial support from American Baptist Churches, USA, International Ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, and American Baptist Women's Ministries, all of whose records of ministry we preserve and manage.

Sources of Annual Fund Income
2023



Thank you, members of and donors to ABHS, for your financial contributions! Because of your support, we are able to preserve, conserve, catalog, digitize, and share historical records, celebrating a living legacy of centuries of American Baptist mission and ministry.

Annual Fund Donors

Thank you to these supporters of the Historical Society,
whose generosity enables us to continue our ministry.

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(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

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Donors to ABHS Living Heritage Endowment

Roberta L. Stephens estate
The Baptist Temple, Rochester, NY

Thank you, donors to ABHS collections!

Documentation of ministry takes many forms. Some are meeting minutes, membership registers, or financial records. Other materials are more personal, like photos and letters. All tell aspects of the story of Baptist ministry and mission, and the variety of ways that God continues to work in the world.

We appreciate those who donated materials last year.

Donors of Personal Papers

Wendy Bernhard, missionary to Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo: Personal papers
Cynthia Davis Buffington: Manuscripts and typed articles by Crozer President Milton G. Evans
Deborah Carter: American Baptist Elder Ministries; Rev. Dr. James Lynn Leavenworth papers
Doris Dickerson: VHS of work in Burma
Monica E. Eppinger: additions to Paul Eppinger papers
Sandy Fisher: Dorothy Stratton, Division of Christian Education retirement book
Ruth Fox/Rosemary Gilson: additions to Roberta Stephens papers
Rosemary Gilson: additions to MP133 Gilson Family Papers
Ruth Leine: Christian center records
Sue Matthews: Edna Shoemaker loose scrapbook pages
Keith Parker: Personal papers
Ray Petty: William Onderdonck Sermons
David Rawley: Photograph of Indiana Baptist Assembly, August 1934
Louise Schmaltz: Richard Bowser Papers
Robert E. Smith: additions to Robert E. Smith papers

Neil Sowards: additions to RG1160 Erville and Genevieve Sowards papers
Katherine Swartz: additions to RG1594 Howard F. Myers Papers
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Peter White: additions to RG1632 Carolyn Gleich Papers
Ralph D. Winter Research Center: Marian Shivers and Queenie MacPherson correspondence
Susan Hartman Zeager: additions to Paul Eppinger papers



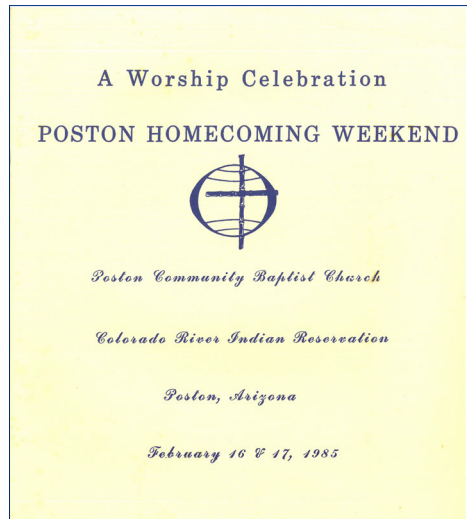
Photograph of Rev. Edith Hill, ordained in 1894; ABHMS collection

American Baptist HISTORICAL SOCIETY

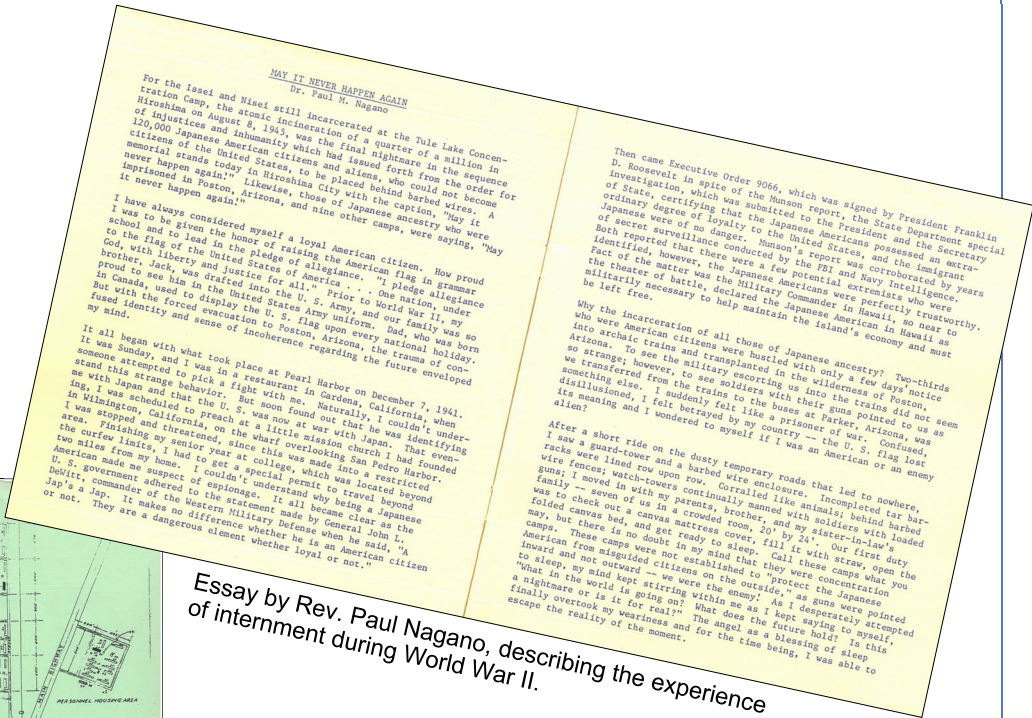
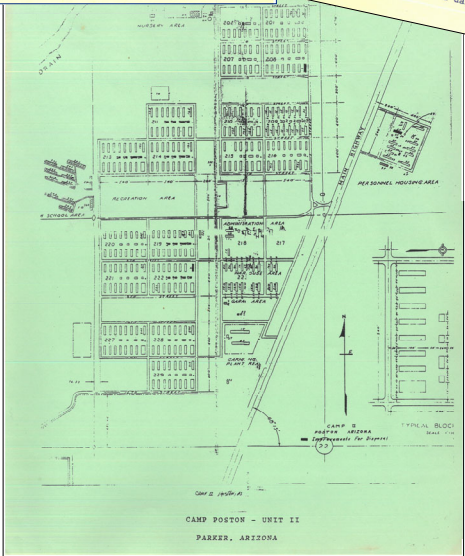
Bringing our legacy to light

From the Archives

Highlights of 2023 Donations



Bulletin from reunion worship service, schema of Poston internment camp, and essay by Paul Nagano donated by Rev. Kathryn C. Choy-Wong



Donors of Books and Pamphlets to the ABHS reference library:

- Stephanie Colton: Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary history book; B.Y.F publications
- Sarah Campbell: Young People Newsletter from 1915
- Beverly Davison: Helen Barrett Montgomery books
- Rosemary L. Gilson: Burma News bound volumes 1960s
- Richard and Anne Harris: Albert Barnes's *Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the Gospels Designed for Sunday School Teacher and Bible Classes*
- Ruth Leine: multiple rare books
- Janet Morony: *Courage in a White Coat*, biography of Dr. Dorothy Chambers
- Nicholas Pruitt: "Open Hearts, Closed Doors: Immigration Reform and the Waning of Mainline Protestantism"
- Mike Sims: Stockton Valley Association minutes 1929, 1934
- Hau Za Chin Suante, Tedim Chin Bible and J. Herbert Cope newsletter collection, stole
- Saskia Taylor: Map of Burma

Donors of Materials pertaining to Institutional work

- ABC Fort Collins, CO: Missionary artifacts
- ABCCONN History Committee: ABCCONN articles
- Bruce D. Aikin: American Baptist Churches of the Niagara Frontier records
- Rev. Virginia Alvarez: Photographs of Primera Iglesia Bautista de Habla Española de Nueva York
- Antioch Baptist Church, Cleveland OH: 130th anniversary church history
- Antioch Baptist Church St. Louis, MO: The History of The Antioch Baptist Church
- Paul Bailey: History & photo of Kittery Point Baptist Church, ME; History of the Sand Lake Baptist Church, Avevill Park, NY
- Roy Bardnard, Clerk of the Mulberry Gap Association: Minutes of the 182th session of the Mulberry Gap Association
- Garth E. Brokaw: East Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester NY Constitution; American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries; Annotated History of Lake Avenue Baptist Church, Rochester, NY and photos of anniversary displays
- Kathryn C. Choy-Wong: West Coast, multi-ethnic church records (Growing Healthy Churches, Asian Alliance ministries)
- Daniel C. Clemens: FBC Hamilton, OH Congregational files
- Stephanie Colton: Ohio congregational and association records
- George and Liz Daniels: 150th and 175th Anniversary programs of FBC Meriden, CT
- L. Faye Flemister: addition to ABWIM collection
- Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association: 2021 and 2022 Annual Minute Books
- Juniata (NE) Community Church: Centennial book and bulletin
- Leslie Keating: WABFMS Pin
- Charles W. Kiker: Files of Burgess Memorial Church and Baptist Community Church, Crow Agency, MT
- Tim Ledbetter: Berkeley Divinity School "Kit of Essential Tools for the Ministry"
- Ruth Leine: Church records from Georges Road Baptist Church (New Brunswick)
- Trudy McNaughton: 158th and 159th Annual reports for Oil Creek Baptist Association
- Mobile Baptist Association: 167th Annual Session, Annual Missions Celebrations
- Oldham Memorial Baptist Church: 110th Annual Meeting 2022 Annual Report
- Arthur Pease: Atwell Hill Baptist Church, Wentworth, NH - news clippings
- FBC Pittsfield, MA: 250th anniversary program and church history (1772-2022)
- Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University: Piece of first communion cloth from FBC Philadelphia
- Benjamin C. Ross: Rev. John Jasper bust unveiling records, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Richmond, VA
- Senter Primitive Baptist Association: 2023 Association Minutes (Ashe County, NC)
- FBC Shelbyville, OH: 175th Church Anniversary bulletin
- David A. Sneed: Oak Hill (WV) Baptist Church History (2 vols) 1892-2021
- Frederick Trost: Rochester Theological Seminary materials
- Tuckaseegee Baptist Association: 2022 and 2023 Associational minutes
- Cathy Wertz, Chair/President Picture Rocks Baptist Church: Brief Summary of the history of Picture Rocks Baptist Church
- James Williams: Copies of Congratulatory Letters received on 200th Anniversary of Veale Creek Baptist Church Washington, IN, Commemorative 200th Anniversary Booklet, and Anniversary Celebration bulletin

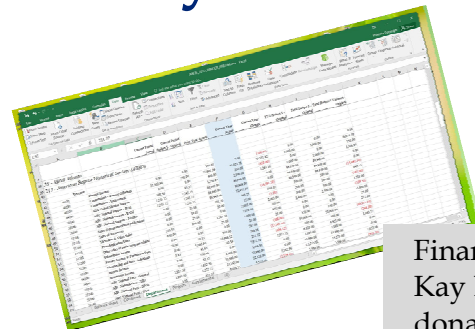
"RG" stands for "Record Group."
"MP" stands for "Missionary Papers."

Bringing our legacy to light

Here's an overview of the ministry that your donations fund:



Executive Director Priscilla Eppinger enjoys preaching and making presentations on Baptist history and the work of ABHS. She is responsible for strategic vision as well as day-to-day aspects of organizational management.



Financial Secretary Kay Eland records donations, processes invoices for payment, and manages subscriptions.



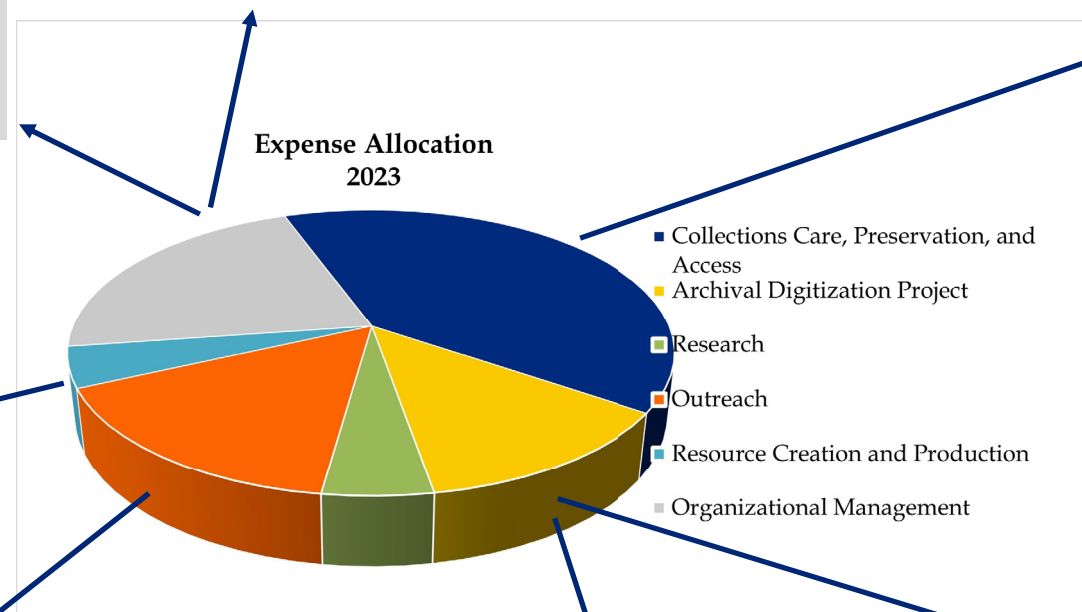
Archivist Mariah Hamby ensures that archival collections are well-organized and can be easily found and retrieved. Mariah also assists researchers and curates exhibits from ABHS collections.



ABHS provides resources for local congregations and publishes a scholarly journal.



Administrative Assistant Jean McDaniel prepares mailings, facilitates research requests, sends out church anniversary certificates and makes social media posts.



Digital Archivist Jenny Manasco oversees ABHS digital archives, digitizing primary documents and managing the digital preservation platform. When off-site researchers request copies of documents, Jenny creates and sends digital copies.



Project Archivist Brice Bongiovanni came on board in November to work on records related to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.



Gifts have been given in Memory of:

- Frank Alexander

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Sermon on "Christian Love" by William Onderdonck donated by Ray Petty

"Coro de la Primera Iglesia Bautista de Habla Española de Nueva York" (Choir of First Spanish-speaking Baptist Church, New York) donated by Virginia Alvarez

Gifts have been given in Honor of:

- Dr. Madison Bittner

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In Honor of Sybil Eppinger and in Memory of Paul D. Eppinger

Jose L. Ortiz

Priscilla E. Eppinger



Church Anniversaries January - March 2023

We celebrate the faithful ministry of American Baptists and their pastors! The following churches have notified us that they mark anniversaries this quarter:

- 190 Years

First Baptist Church of Carthage, Carthage, NY;

Rev. Jon Erik Svereika, pastor
- 185 Years

First Baptist Church of East Greenwich, RI;

Rev. Paul Rollins, interim pastor
- 150 Years

North Baptist Church, New Bedford, MA;

Rev. Donald S. Mier, pastor
- 125 Years

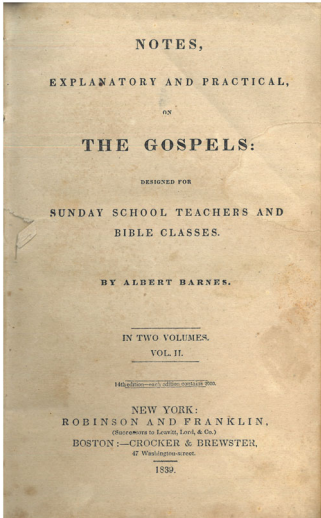
The Wisconsin Baptist, regional newsletter of ABC of Wisconsin, has been published for 125 years.
- 75 Years

Church of the Master, Providence, RI; Herman Falu, pastor
- 35 Years

Haitian Baptist Church of Rhode Island, Cranston, RI; Manuel Percy, pastor

If your church is celebrating a significant anniversary, request a certificate from ABHS.

The Fall 2023 *Primary Source* listed Second Baptist Church of Greater St. Louis, Richmond Heights, MO; Rev. Steve Mechem, pastor, erroneously as First Baptist Church. ABHS regrets the error.



Donated by Richard & Anne Harris

Supporting Congregations

- Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster, MA

Calvary Baptist Church, Norristown, PA

First Baptist Church Ann Arbor, MI

First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA

Lake Ave. Memorial Baptist Church, Rochester, NY

Market Street Baptist Church, Zanesville, OH

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

North Baptist Church, New Bedford, MA

North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, IL

Peoples Baptist Church, Boston, MA

The Baptist Temple, Rochester, NY



Edna Shoemaker Scrapbook, RG 2025 donated by Sue Matthews

Have you included the American Baptist Historical Society in your will?

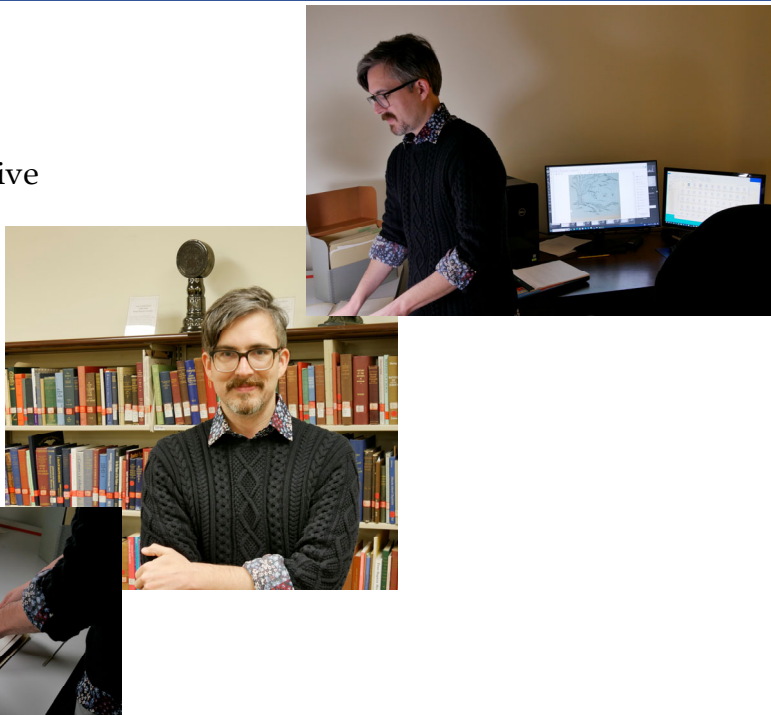
Legacy giving is one way to support ABHS into the future. Your bequest will help ensure professional preservation and increased accessibility of historical materials for generations to come.

Please let us know if you plan for your estate to include a gift to ABHS.

Meet Brice Bongiovanni!

Brice Bongiovanni joined the ABHS team in November as Project Archivist for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) project. A native of Georgia, he holds an M.S. in Information Science from the University of Tennessee, as well as graduate degrees in Religious Studies and History. Prior to coming to ABHS he worked as Digital Projects Assistant at the Georgia State University Library.

Bongiovanni’s responsibilities include scanning and cataloging the relevant records and eventually, assisting in creating exhibits showing Baptist ministry with Japanese American internees. The JACS project will take 2 years to complete.



Sharing the Stories: Increasing Access to Records Documenting Japanese American Confinement and Northern Baptists’ Response

ABHS received a grant of \$119,153 from the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) program of the National Park Service to fund the project that Bongiovanni is working on. This project focuses on records that document the experience of Japanese American Baptists and the work of Northern Baptists who assisted those who were forcibly removed from their communities and incarcerated.

A century ago Northern Baptists had developed active ministries with Japanese families in the U.S. When, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt authorized the exclusion of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast, entire congregations were forcibly removed to internment camps in other states. Some well-known American Baptists, including Paul Nagano, Yosh Nakagawa, Herb

Tsuchiya, and Jitsuo Morikawa, were incarcerated with their families.

ABHS archives hold records of those who ministered among Japanese Americans: Japanese and Japanese American pastors, missionaries from the Home Mission Societies who had been appointed to serve Japanese American congregations and Christian centers, and International Ministries missionaries to Japan who returned to the U.S. during the war years and ministered among internees.

If you or someone you know would be willing to share letters, photos, or other items related to the Japanese American experience in WWII, please let us know. Information about “Community Scanning Days” on the west coast will be forthcoming.

This grant is a 2-1 matching grant so we will also be looking to you to help us raise our portion (\$60,000).

Primary Source

is published quarterly by the American Baptist Historical Society

Priscilla E. Eppinger, Executive Director
Mariah Hamby, Archivist
Jenny L. Manasco, Digital Collections Specialist
Brice Bongiovanni, JACS Project Archivist
Kay Eland, Financial and Subscription Secretary
Jean McDaniel, Administrative Assistant
Website: www.ABHSarchives.org

For Research appointments, donations to collections, reference desk, general questions: (678) 547-6680 or ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org

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Torbet Prize

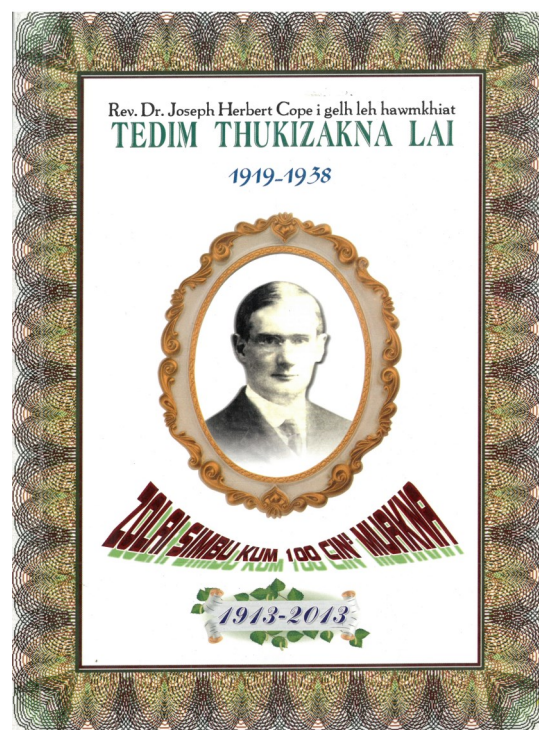
Emerging scholars are invited to submit essays in any area of Baptist history for the Torbet Prize competition.

Each year ABHS invites essays from authors who have not already published a major scholarly work. The Research and Publication Committee of the ABHS Board of Managers serves as judges, and the winning essay is eligible for publication in an upcoming issue of the *American Baptist Quarterly* and its author awarded a cash prize.

Entries should be no more than 25 double-spaced pages (excluding notes) with citations following the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Send entries to ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org. The submission deadline for the next award is September 1, 2024.

Robert George Torbet (1912-1995) was an American Baptist historian and educator. His significant contributions to Baptist research and publication led the American Baptist Historical Society to establish a prize in his honor to encourage development of young scholars in the field of Baptist history studies.

Copies of J. Herbert Cope's newsletters, 1919-1938, donated by Rev. Dr. Hau Za Chin Suante



Inside see more examples of materials donated to ABHS's archives!