



The forgotten Pearl Harbor story: Video lifts up American Baptist ministry in World War II internment camps

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/6/12)—In recognition of the 70th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) debuts a new video, “A Church Stands With Its People.”

The video documents the struggles of those of Japanese descent living on the U.S. West Coast following Japan’s 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and the courageous ministry of American Baptist missionaries who served among them.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb.19, 1942, thousands of Japanese immigrants and their families were forced from their homes to unjust imprisonment in U.S. internment camps.

Japanese immigrants and their families were subjected to harsh living conditions in the camps, where they were relocated because of wartime hysteria that they would serve as spies for the country of their heritage. During this bleak period in U.S. history, American Baptist home missionaries swam against the tide of popular opinion, affirming the immigrants and their families as their brothers and sisters, and serving among them as the hands and feet of Christ.

Posted on ABHMS’ website, “A Church Stands With Its People” features firsthand accounts of those who lived the internment experience.

To view the video, visit www.abhms.org.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies—the domestic mission arm of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA)—ministers as the caring heart and serving hands of Jesus Christ across the United States and Puerto Rico through a multitude of initiatives that focus on discipleship, community and justice.

American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with over 5,200 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God’s mission around the world.