

# BCV VOICE

FALL 2023



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baptistchildrensvillage.com



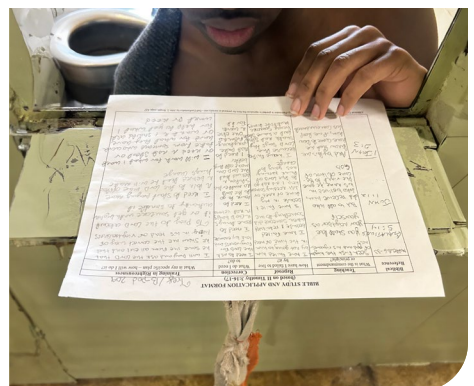
## Laborers for a Plentiful Harvest

One year ago, The Baptist Children's Village launched its Youth Detention Intervention Program (YDIP). In talking with now YDIP Director Darron Byrd, leadership was stunned to learn that there are 17 youth detention facilities in Mississippi and that there was no one intentionally or regularly sharing the Gospel with young people in these facilities. That was a year ago. Today Darron and his Assistant (and son) Jordan Byrd, along with trained volunteers are sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with teens in six of the seventeen Mississippi facilities. This year 30 incarcerated teenagers have made professions of faith through this ministry.

These young people are hungry for God's Word. Volunteer Randy Mascagni says, "It's exciting to see God at work each week. Seeing lives changed and young people learn His Word for the first time speaks loudly to God's love and forgiveness available to all". Darron says that many of these children have never heard the Gospel. Many have never been to church or heard the children's Bible stories most of us are so familiar with. "This is an unengaged, unreached people group right here in Mississippi," Darron explains.

"The response by the young people is overwhelming," Darron continues. Over 95%

of the teenagers who fill out a survey request one-on-one meetings to talk about Jesus. Volunteer Mary Sanders shares, "It's a joy to speak with these girls each week. They are at a crisis point where they may be more open to listen to truth about God's love for them and His plans for their life." When young people make a profession of faith they are allowed to meet with Darron and his team for small group Bible study where they are learning how to study scripture and are encouraged to memorize scripture. One young man memorized over 60 verses in four months! His team also works to meet with each of the teens who request a personal meeting.



■ First volunteer graduating class - Morrison Heights Baptist Church

■ Hungry for God's Word

## Laborers for a Plentiful Harvest (continued)

God has richly blessed this new ministry and is growing it much more quickly than we anticipated. Consequently, there is a real need for additional partners to be trained and take the Gospel to this unreached group of young people. All volunteers are provided comprehensive training to equip them for this ministry that they believe God is calling them to.

Since many of these teenagers are released and feel their only choice is to return to the only family and friends they have known, we have an extraordinary need for partner churches to provide mentoring and connectivity for them. Aftercare is a key component to helping these new Christians be successful in navigating their new life in Christ. The battle between their new life and their former life is real and most of them are not at all equipped for the battle.

If your church is interested in mentoring or in finding out more information about the Youth Detention Intervention Program contact Darron Byrd at 601-952-2422 or dbyrd@bcvms.com.

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* - Luke 10:2



■ More Volunteer Training

## Legislative Updates

The Baptist Children's Village (BCV), along with national partner CORE (Coalition For Residential Excellence) and state partner MACCA (Mississippi Association of Child Care Agencies) continue to be heavily involved in legislative debates advocating for safety and quality provision for children in Mississippi and throughout America. BCV Executive Director Sean Milner and Director of Programs Charlie Rogers just returned from Washington DC where they met with Congressional leaders to secure their support for HR 3852 and opposition to HR 2955 and its companion S 1351.

HR 3852 Create Accountable Respectful Environments (CARE) for Children Act is a bipartisan national effort to safely provide for more hurting children and to help secure the BCV's right to do what we do. Previous legislation like the Families First Prevention Services Act was but one of the attempts to remove our ability to care for children. They were unsuccessful in their attempts to thwart the ministry of the BCV because, due to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, we were not dependent on any government dollars for our services. HR 3852 however, is our attempt to reestablish our right to provide quality care for hurting children and families; and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with each one of them. Congressmen Michael Guest and Mike Ezell have already signed off on this bill. Please contact them and let them know how much you appreciate their leadership in protecting children. Please also contact Bennie Thompson and Trent Kelly and ask them to join their colleagues in supporting HR 3852 and be a part of meaningful legislation that protects our vulnerable children and your BCV's right to serve them. You will want to know that Sean A. Milner, BCV's executive director, helped draft this bill.

Senator Rick Scott in Florida is considering dropping a companion bill in the Senate so please ask your Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith to contact Rick Scott's office and join him in sponsoring this important legislation.

We can also use your help in defeating HR 2955 and companion bill S 1351 entitled "Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act. This bill does not, in fact, "stop institutional child abuse" or acknowledge that many agencies like your BCV provide safely for hurting children. Please let Senators Wicker and Smith know how much you appreciate their acknowledgement that they will NOT vote for this bill. Please also contact your congressmen to thank them for not voting for this dangerous bill that would empower the US Health and Human Services Director to appoint nine people from nine departments in Washington to spend three years to return and tell Congress what should be put into law as to how we are to operate. Currently, your BCV is free to make decisions that we feel are healthiest for the children and families we serve. We appreciate your help in ensuring that we continue to enjoy that freedom.



■ MACCA On the Senate Building Steps



■ MACCA with Representative Michael Guest



■ Sean Milner with Senator Trent Lott

# Alumnus Wins National Award

Alumnus David Rainey was selected as the 2023 Catherine Hershey Awards Alumnus of the Year. When asked about the acknowledgement, David laughingly explains, "I had no idea . . . until they called my name, I had no idea." David's humility is but one of his winning qualities. In his nomination BCV Executive Director Sean Milner writes, "David's appreciation for the BCV is matched only by his commitment to us." That commitment is evident in his willingness to speak on behalf of the ministry at any time and his intentional efforts to enlist donors, including his own bank, as major donors to invest in children so that family trees can be changed as was his.

David is married to his high school sweetheart, Martha Witt. Their three children are all Believers and have college educations. Their youngest daughter, Rachel, has a master's degree in social work and is a Case Manager at the BCV where her daddy once lived.

As a role model for current BCV children, who are now where David once was, he can help them see what is possible for their lives.



■ Martha and David celebrate with friends Sean and Elizabeth Milner



■ Pictured: L to R— CORE President Tom Robinson, David Rainey, CORE Executive Director Don Forrester, BCV Executive Director Sean Milner

David recalls, "The home I have built with my wife and three children in New Albany, Mississippi sits in stark contrast to the life I knew growing up where there was constant shouting, and even gun fights between my mother and father. I was surrounded by anger from a very young age and grew to be a bitter, angry teenager. I had no dreams or expectations of even graduating high school."

Martha shares 1 Corinthians 13:13 that says, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." She explains that this scripture is so important for a wife, parent, mentor, friend, or family and that, "hope and prayer give courage to know tomorrow can be a better day."

David came to know the Lord while a teenager living at The Baptist Children's Village and, though he struggled to do so, he graduated high school, and later earned a college degree in business administration. Today David is a successful businessman and a current and longtime member of the Board of Education for the city of New Albany.

The national Catherine Hershey Awards Program was launched in 2005 with a specific focus on residential education. The awards program is sponsored by the Milton Hershey School and is administered by CORE (Coalition of Residential Excellence). This prestigious award was presented at the Awards Luncheon at the 2023 CORE Conference held in September in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Martha reflects, "It was a wonderful event and David was so honored. I had never heard of CORE. It is such a mission to work with and help these schools and homes."

The Baptist Children's Village and CORE continue to be strong partners in the efforts to ensure excellence in residential childcare nationwide.

# BCV TRIBUTE GIFTS

July 16, 2023 through October 15, 2023

Throughout the year, families memorialize and honor family members and special friends with a gift to The Baptist Children's Village. Small groups honor teachers and the special people in their lives. For each tribute gift received, the donor receives an acknowledgement letter and receipt. A personal letter is sent to the honoree informing them of the gift given in their honor. Family members are informed of a gift given in memory of their loved one. The BCV is herein publishing the list of honorees and donors recently received. We are grateful to the many thoughtful donors who pay tribute to the special people in their lives.

You can visit [baptistchildrensvillage.com/give](http://baptistchildrensvillage.com/give) or use the enclosed envelope to give a gift of honor or memory for your loved one(s) to The Baptist Children's Village.

## In Honor of

### The Staff of FBC Summit

Kathy Patrick

### Jesus Christ Our Lord &

#### Savior

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie E. Poole

### Dr. Craig Adams

The Northway Family

### Rob Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Brown

### Brad & Melissa Crochet

Ms. Louise Y. Ragland

### Kassidy Gautier

Dr. Milton B. Baxter, Sr.

### Carolyn Gorton

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### Katherine Hill

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### Martha Holloway

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Jimmie & Margaret Poole

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Ms. Patricia H. Domin

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Mrs. Robin Thomas

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Keith & Wanda Lott

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Diane Pope

### Myra Elma Pope

Diane Pope

### Stanley & Gayle Varsel

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### Lynn Wagner

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### David Wamsley

Barry & Brenda Warnock

### Joanna Watson

Mrs. Betty Hall

### Elizabeth Wilds

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Brown

### Thad & Kathy Wright

Keith & Wanda Lott

## In Memory of

### Adolph Adams

Paul & Sarah Allen

### JoAnn Alford

Gene & Cheryl McMichael & Family  
Terry's Creek BC

### William Ervin Amacker, Jr.

Pat (Holden) Stanford & Family

### Joan Anding

Betty & Ronnie Crosby  
Joe & Trish Maggio

### Mrs. Theresa Cox Ard

The Joel & Shirley Hale Family

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Odie & Patsy O. Smith

### Myrtle K. Axton

Odie & Patsy O. Smith

### Philbert Axton

Odie & Patsy O. Smith

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Betty Sue Coleman

### Wesley Berry

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McComb

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### Carroll (Nubby) Case

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Mid Delta Baptist Association

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Elaine Moser  
Golden Circle SSC, FBC Richton

### Bob Cozart

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Lynn Robinson  
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**Mr. Charles Smith**

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Mary Woods

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# Mississippi Individuals & Businesses Eligible for Tax Credit

Your Tax Liability . . . Give it to the Government . . . or Give it to Change Children's Lives.



## You can help children without affecting your budgets.

There exists an opportunity for Mississippi business owners and individuals to help provide homes, food, education, and medical care for at-risk children in Mississippi. They are able to do this without changing or increasing their budgeted charitable donations or expenses.



## Here is how:

Passed in 2019 by the MS Legislature, the **Children's Promise Act** allows business owners to receive a **dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to half their MS tax liability** by gifting that portion to an Eligible Charitable Organization (ECO) like The Baptist Children's Village. Individuals may receive a **tax credit of up to \$3,000 if filing jointly** (\$1,500 filing single).



## CHILDREN'S PROMISE ACT TAX CREDIT

For more information about application deadlines contact Tim McWilliams at [tmcwilliams@bcvms.com](mailto:tmcwilliams@bcvms.com) or 601.952.2422

# YEAR-END Giving Reminder

The support from ministry partners like you during the holiday season helps us continue to share the Gospel of Christ with the children and families in our care.

As you make your year-end giving plans, please consider a gift to The Baptist Children's Village. Gifts of appreciated assets such as stocks, mutual funds, and bonds are other gift options and a good way to take advantage of certain tax savings.

If you have any questions about your year-end giving plans, please contact **Tim McWilliams**, Director of Partner Ministries, at **601.952.2422**.

**IMPORTANT!** Always consult with your personal tax attorney or CPA when considering a donation to the BCV other than cash or check. This material presented is intended for informational purposes only.

Remember, all donations to be counted on your 2023 income tax must be postmarked on or before **Saturday, December 31st**.



The children and staff at your  
**Baptist Children's Village**  
wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

[baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://baptistchildrensvillage.com) • 601.952.2422

## Personal Reflection

I LOVE fall. I love everything about fall... the colors, the crisp air, the Thanksgiving holiday decorations, food and family. When we experience that first hint of fall weather, I am immediately energized. Most of my friends are summer lovers. They love the beach and the 100 degree temperatures. (Seriously!) If Bobby and I are blessed with a little extra time when summer hits, we are headed to the mountains.

As I sit here writing in my beautiful sunroom that the Lord so graciously and generously gifted us, the fall colors are evident all around me. Beautiful autumn sun covers the backyard and a perfect breeze swirls with those fall leaves. My heart is filled with gratitude for God's kindness. Some days it seems he is smiling more on my summer loving friends and some days on us autumn loving souls. The truth is, however, that He expresses His kindness to each of us everyday, even when we are unaware or don't feel like He is.

While I love the majestic mountains, I do acknowledge that God speaks powerfully to me through the waves in the ocean. (As long as I am situated on the beach and not in the midst of the waves). My favorite time on the beach is early in the morning and late in the evening listening to the waves and enjoying the summer breeze. How blessed we are to have a creator who gave us a therapeutic creation to enjoy. I am thus reminded on this day that my heart should be filled with thankfulness every day, not just on my perfect day or when I am in my perfect space

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*

- Psalm 95:1-7

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