



# THE PULSE



A PUBLICATION OF THE MENDENHALL MINISTRIES



## From the President's Desk Dr. Scottye Holloway

The Mendenhall Ministries has a long history of hosting volunteers. Volunteers help us to bring life and hope to the weakest and most vulnerable in our community. Our work and appreciation for volunteers caused late President George W. Bush to name The Mendenhall Ministries the 541st Daily Point of Light in 1991. We are humbled to have received

such notoriety as we minister with those unsung heroes, (volunteers), to those whom some would consider, "the least of these."

The value of volunteers cannot be overstated. One of our goals at The Mendenhall Ministries is to give volunteers the opportunity to grow and learn about and from those whom they might never rub shoulders with on any other occasion. It is our hope that these face-to-face encounters will deconstruct levels of misunderstanding and mistrust that may have been in existence for many years. By coming to Mendenhall some volunteers have stated that they have life altering experiences that arrest the imagination and cause them to change their perspective about how they see others and the world. Cross-cultural experiences help to tear down walls and erect foundations upon which true friendship and brotherhood in Christ can be built. Cross-cultural experiences allow people from both cultures to learn that

they have something to offer each other that can transform and transcend assumptions they made about each other.

We are told to love via actions and truth rather than through words and speech, (1 John 3:18). With that in mind, volunteerism expresses a love for God and his people. Activities are simply a means by which we express to God that we are thankful that we are trophies of his grace and masterpieces created by his hand, (Ephesians 2:10).

We invite you, whether young or old, skilled or unskilled, rich or not so rich, to come and be a part of what Jesus is doing in Mendenhall, Mississippi.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, our ministry partners, who stood faithfully with us throughout 2021. Whether you prayed, volunteered, sponsored a student, gave an annual or monthly gift, supported a staff position, or gave to a project,

THANK YOU and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Re-dedication of R.A. Buckley Christian Recreation Center/Perkins Center Open House



L to R: Pastor Artis Fletcher, Dr. Dolphus Weary & Dr. John Perkins

Everyone was in awe of TMM's rich history captured by the hundreds of photos as they walked through the John & Vera Mae Perkins House (former home of Dr. John & Vera Perkins), during Open House on Friday, Dec. 17th.

Many thanks to Mrs. Jean Banks, TMM's receptionist, for this informative and very creative visual presentation of TMM's history.

The re-dedication of R.A. Buckley Center began with words from Artis Fletcher, Pastor of Mendenhall Bible Church. He explained the foundational verses Isaiah 61:1/ Luke 4:18, for the mission and work of The Mendenhall Ministries.

Dr. Dolphus Weary, TMM's second president, highlighted the

impact the gym has had on the community since it was built in 1975. The gym served as a sanctuary for youth to gather in a safe and wholesome environment. It was a place where many youth were introduced to Jesus and nurtured. Several of these youth went on to become (Christian) leaders in their communities and beyond. In fact, Dr. Holloway spent many hours in the gym when he was a teen.

Dr. John Perkins, founder of TMM, rounded the ceremony off by reminding this generation of youth that they must "carry on [the] wisdom" of R.A. Buckley, whom the gym is named to honor. He said that Mr. Buckley was the wisest man he had ever met; and he would not be where he is today if not for applying what he learned from Mr. Buckley.



L to R: Dr. Rosie Weary, Elizabeth Perkins, Dr. John Perkins & Dr. Scottye Holloway

## Welcome Home Atalya!



Atalya McDonald

Right before the beginning of the 2021 school year in August, I made the decision to enroll my daughter into GOCS. I was currently entering my sixth year of being the admissions pre-authorization coordinator at one of our local hospitals. I was by no means looking for a new place of employment but out of sheer curiosity, during enrollment, I inquired if TMM was actively hiring and I was told "yes." At that time, I did nothing, simply because I was already employed and had no intentions of changing career. Little did I know that this was all a part of God's plan to bring me back 'home.'

Growing up I was heavily involved in the activities at TMM because my mother, Marie McDonald, was employed here. My close relatives and I would participate in the summer programs, 4-H Club activities on the farm, and some of us even attended GOCS. So I was by no means in unfamiliar territory. During the days after inquiring about job openings there seemed to be a shift in my work environment and I began to struggle with even being present at times. I dealt with this for about two weeks and found myself venting to my mother about being unhappy with the circumstances. I felt in my heart that God was leading me back to TMM to seek employment but I was scared of change. I finally gathered enough courage to reach out to Dr. Holloway, apply for the position and most importantly trust HIM (God). Since starting to work here I've slowly begun to find my purpose and I feel as though I'm doing exactly what I was 'called' to do. I'm excited about the years to come being here at TMM and I must say, it feels good to be HOME.

Atalya McDonald, TMM Administrative Assistant

## GOCS Christmas Program

The Program's theme was "Jesus is the Light of the World." Children marched in with lilted candles, dressed in red shirts and black slacks/skirts, and wearing red caps. They sang "This Little Light of Mines." There were pledges, Bible verses, skits, and other songs.

The children also sang "Siyahamba," (Marching in the Light of God), a Zulu traditional folksong, to the rhythmic beat of drums. Parents and friends in the audience kept time with hand claps.

The Christmas skit was well done. The customs were beautiful; the animals looked so real!

Well done teachers, students, parents and volunteers!



"Siyahamba," (Marching in the Light of God)



The Nativity Scene

## SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY PARTNER

The eyes of each student lit up with joy and anticipation as each of their names were called to receive their individually wrapped gifts from Grace Church of Ridgeland (NJ).

"Thank You," each student said as they walked away with big smiles and bouncy steps.



## PRAYER/NEEDS LIST

Please stand in prayer with us for the following:

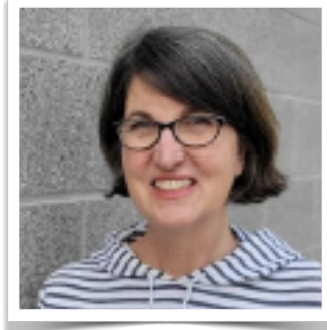
1. Health of the staff, students, and volunteers
2. Two certified teachers in elementary/pre-school education
3. Farm Assistant
4. Volunteers; teams and individuals
5. GOCS student sponsors
6. Ministry Partners to host Dr. Holloway and other TMM representatives when they travel to various cities

(For contact information see page 4 or the Newsletter Insert).

**TMM's Impact - Far and Wide**

Answering the Call to Full Engagement

It will soon be 35 years since I spent one of my college summers volunteering with The Mendenhall Ministries. The lessons I learned and the relationships I developed back in 1987 still bless me to this day. I vividly remember how we came together as a group of volunteers and



Rev. Lynne Faris Blessing

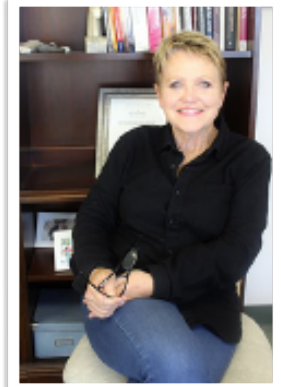
Church Youth Leadership Development youth from the community to run a Summer Enrichment Program in the morning. So much joy! In the afternoons we alternated between Bible study and watching and discussing the "Eyes on the Prize" documentary and hearing from different community leaders how they were using their gifts for Christian Community Development (CCD). My eyes were opened, and my heart started burning to pursue racial justice in this broken world.

After college graduation, I sensed God leading me to seminary, but I knew that I still had a lot to learn from my family of faith in Mendenhall, so I returned to volunteer for a year. There is not enough space here to share all the precious memories of that time. After seminary, I was led to become a Pastor for Outreach at a church in DC, where Dolphus Weary preached at my ordination service. The connections continued through short-term service trips and having Dr. Weary and Dr. Perkins come preach and speak at the churches I served in DC and then Seattle. In recent years, the desire to be more closely involved in Christian Community Development service intensified, and I transitioned in 2019 to serve with Urban Impact. Urban Impact (formerly Emerald City Out-reach Ministries) was born after Pastor Harvey Drake visited The Mendenhall Ministries in 1986. So, it feels as though I am coming full circle from that summer of 1987.

Currently, I am helping run an after-school program for elementary-age students, and while the context is quite different, the basic CCD principles continue to give me a solid foundation. I am so thankful for how God has used The Mendenhall Ministries to help me understand my part in God's ministry of reconciliation and restoration. I pray that the ripple effects continue for God's glory!

Lynne Faris Blessing  
 Urban Impact  
 Director of Community Development and Outreach @ ECBF

Eighteen years ago, I stepped out of an airport in Jackson, Mississippi and was confronted with the reality that I am no longer in Orange County, California. When Mendenhall Ministries' van pulled up, I was met by the warmth of the local African American community that immediately embraced me without any hindrance; however, I was starkly aware of the questioning stares from people around us. This was the moment where I knew that God was leading me on a journey of understanding of my own privileges, systemic injustices, and the necessary work of racial reconciliation that needs to take place in our nation.



Laura Suk

During that week, we lived with the local community at eye-level, witnessing the reality of racism, poverty, the drug infested neighborhood that one cannot "unsee." In that visit, I also witnessed hope, grace, and their simple devotion to the Lord - it forever changed me and still is changing me. It was in Mendenhall that I understood the importance of intentionally reaching communities that come from a different race and socioeconomic background. When the trip ended, I decided to bring the heart of Mendenhall back home and co-founded Mika, a Christian community development nonprofit, to reach the Hispanic neighborhoods in Orange County that are caught in the middle of racial discrimination. In 2005, some of the amazing relationships we built over the years in Mendenhall helped us to build a relief center when Hurricane Katrina hit. To this day, the lessons learned in Mendenhall challenged me to cross racial lines to reach people on a daily basis, responding in humility while unlearning my prejudices.

The verses in Ephesians 3:20-21 have been the anchor of my life, Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

I pray that as God showed His immeasurably more to me through Mendenhall, He would continue to reveal more to all of us.

Laura Suk, Founder & Executive Director  
 Northeast of the Well, California



309 Center Street | P.O. Box 368  
Mendenhall, MS 39114  
601.847.3421 | Fax 601.847.3754  
president@mbc-tmm.org  
Develop.tmm@gmail.com

**The Pulse**

Published by The Mendenhall Ministries  
Dr. Scottye Holloway, President  
Evelyn Njoroge, Director of Development & Editor-in-Chief



**Praises** Because of your faithful partnership:

- The Ministry met payroll and paid vendors on time;
- Renovations on campus facilities are either complete or ongoing:
  - R.A. Buckley Recreation Center (Gym): renovations completed; Re-dedication of Gym on 12/17/21. Gym-based outreach programs under development;
  - Mission House: renovations completed; completely furnished and being used;
  - Rental House/HWY 49: renovations completed; house rented out;
  - Administration Building: interior upgrades made; roof still needs repairs;
  - Renovations begun on (former) Boys Dorm: to transform into transitional housing for male ex-offenders.
- Genesis One Christian School (GOCS) integrated STEM into its curriculum. Kids are excited: Has covered Principles of Flight and is prepping for Robotics competition in March;
- GOCS enrollment increased by almost 50% over last year. Goal is 60 students in 2022/23;
- GOCS hosted Christmas program on 12/17/21, marking end of successful 1st semester; Performances were outstanding!
- Volunteer teams have begun scheduling for 2022; and Dr. Holloway has begun traveling again-visiting ministry partners, (as Covid-19 protocols allow). Please contact us if you are interested in organizing a visit to your area;
- Successfully conducted Summer Enrichment/Youth Leadership Program this summer;
- Blessed over 100 families with food and household supplies.

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US IN 2021.**

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAND WITH US IN 2022 AS WE CONTINUE TO BUILD AND INVEST IN PEOPLE.**

**(See contact information above or [Enclosed Insert](#) to reply)**