

THE PULSE

A PUBLICATION OF THE MENDENHALL MINISTRIES

Remembering CJ

Cornelius Jerome Jones

Aug. 12, 1944 - Oct. 11, 2018



CJ, as we so lovingly called him, served in several capacities at TMM, including director of development and administrator, from 1978 through 1990. He was the architect of many of TMM's programs during his tenure. During later years, he served in a consultancy role. CJ loved the Ministry and was a champion for the disenfranchised.

Whether at TMM or other organizations, CJ dedicated himself to improving the quality of life of others. He was involved in the Civil Rights Movement through SNCC. He also worked/served at Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Emerging Land Fund; Foundation for the Mid-South; Mississippi Action for Community Education; and Voice of Calvary Ministries. He received several recognitions for his dedication and service, including the MS Civil Rights Legacy Award in 2017.

Mr. CJ is deeply missed by everyone who knew him.



Dr. Scottye & Mrs. Josie Holloway

Returned to Rebuild Dr. Scottye Holloway

"[Poor] Neighborhoods, both rural and urban, usually lack more than money. They also lack leadership." These are the sentiments of Dr. John M. Perkins, a pioneer of Christian Community Development and a man who spent decades implementing strategies designed to help empower communities of disenfranchised people. He argues that strengthening communities can best be done by building leaders and empowering leaders from within their own communities.

This model of ministry has been practiced at The Mendenhall Ministries (TMM) since the organization's inception. Mentors and leadership developers played very important roles in developing what we presently experience as The Mendenhall Ministries. TMM pioneers: John Perkins, Dolphus Weary, and Artis Fletcher, invested in the lives of many young people who participated in the programs TMM offered.

I am one of those who was blessed to be mentored and disciplined by Dr. Dolphus Weary and Attorney Suzanne Griggins Keys when I was a college student. (Attorney Keys was the Director of TMM's Community Law Office at that time). I cannot begin to tell you how important it was that these leaders invested in me.

Equipped young Christians are the bridges that help organizations remain relevant and in touch with the people they serve.

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Billy Craft Retires

After 35 years of serving as TMM's Director of Business Affairs, Billy Craft retired in December 2018.

His retirement came after suffering a stroke and subsequent complications in June 2018.

Because of God's goodness and prayers of the saints, Mr. Billy is up and about.

We are grateful for the difference the Lord allowed Mr. Billy to make. He is greatly missed at TMM by staff and friends of the Ministry.

We ask that you join us in praying that God continues to uphold and strengthen him.



Youth Leadership Development Program

Eleven young people dedicated five weeks of their summer to discovering their [individual] purpose and developing their leadership skills and talents. After being interviewed and screened, the successful 11 participated in a two-day training session. After training, the participants served as leaders in the Summer Enrichment Program. They read and discussed *Extraordinary* by Darrin Patrick over the five weeks.

Participants paychecks were used to teach practical lessons in money management: banking, budgeting, saving, and most importantly, tithing. For some it was the first time they had banked or received a paycheck.

Some of their comments were:

"I learned many things, including leadership, patience, responsibility, and how to manage money."

"We made a documentary through which I learned a lot about my community."

"The greatest thing I got from the program was maturity. I learned that I cannot control anyone but myself: my actions, my words, and my reactions. Thanks for this experience."

"Thanks to TMM for this program; for turning a bunch of students into a hard-working, tight-knitted group with integrity."

"Before participating in this program I avoided eye contact with people. Now I am much more confident and sure of myself. Thank you for supporting me... and preparing me for my future."

Collaboration with Copiah-Lincoln Community College

The friendly, professional voice you hear when you call TMM belongs to either Mrs. Alma Jean Banks, or Mrs. Maxine Thornton. These ladies began serving at TMM May 2019, through the *Senior Community Service Employment Program, (SCSEP)*, at Co-Lin Community College, Mendenhall campus. Through the SCSEP, seniors receive on-the-job training over a one-year period at SCSEP partner organizations. Upon graduation, participants receive a certificate certifying them qualified and ready for the work-place.

This collaboration is a win-win endeavor for TMM. The Ministry is providing an important service to the community and the individuals participating in the program. At the same time, the need to fill a key position is being met at TMM.



Alma Jean Banks



Maxine Thornton



Summer Enrichment Program

The Summer Enrichment Program got underway with interviews and training sessions early this spring. Students arrived June 3rd ready to learn. This unique 4½ week program provided opportunities for students, preschool through eighth grade, to continue their academic and social development. Highly qualified & certified teachers

with Bachelors and Master's degrees provided instruction and leadership; many of whom were participants in the TMM's Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP) when they were younger. State-certified food service staff provided two nutritional meals and two snacks daily. Students started their mornings with their brains and bodies well fed and ready to learn. Daily devotionals were a staple.

The students spent their mornings focused on reading, writing and developing math skills. In the afternoons their creativity and physical prowess were challenged and nurtured in arts and crafts and physical education by YLDP participants. In addition to the classroom experience, students went on several field trips to Jackson, the capitol, and other surrounding towns.

Special thanks to the volunteers from First Baptist Church of College Hill in Tampa, Florida who conducted Vacation Bible School three mornings with all the students.

Here are a few comments made by students and parents about the program:

Students: "I learned a lot about math." "I didn't know my multiplications; now I know most of them." "The program staff was fun." "Four Square was fun; I had never heard of that game before."

Parents: "I really appreciate the program." "My child is having fun while learning and that makes me happy." "Thanks for working through [my child's] behavior challenges. We really appreciate it."

New Faces at TMM

Several servants who are passionate about ministry joined TMM's staff this year to help in the rebuilding process. Five are new to TMM; one was excited about what she saw God doing and decided to return.

Genesis One is blessed to have three of these new staff members: Ms. Ashlee Cole (Nursery 3 & 4); Ms. Lequansha Adams, (3rd -5th grade); and Ms. Loudella Robinson, (school cook).

Emillo Burrell is doing an outstanding job assisting in maintenance part-time. He is truly a blessing.

We are very thankful to Mrs. Rose Mary Bethea, a long time TMM supporter, for stepping in after Mr. Billy Craft resigned to help manage the finances. She is doing an excellent job.

Mrs. Evelyn Njoroge joined the staff part-time in July. She is excited to be back in the development department and we are excited to have her.

It is truly amazing to watch and see how God is bringing the people and resources together at TMM for this rebuilding effort.

We are grateful.



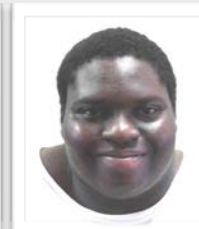
Ashlee Cole



Lequansha Adams



Loudella Robinson



Emillo Burrell



Rose Mary Bethea



Evelyn Njoroge

School Backpack Give-Away Day

Over 250 kids were blessed with backpacks filled with school supplies on July 24th at the Back2School Backpack Day at Genesis One Christian School. The event was a collaborative effort between TMM and MS Shine and SeMRHI.



(Continued from page 1, **Returned to Rebuild**)

And while we may not know how God will use those who are disciplined, faithfulness requires that those in leadership do so with joy and earnestness.

The development of indigenous leaders has tremendous benefits. Indigenous leaders have passionate and vested interest in transforming their communities. They understand the people and are more prone to be holistic in addressing the issues.

I am blessed to be a product of two worlds. I was reared in a traditional African American Baptist Church where my father served as pastor. He gave me a biblical understanding of Salvation and what it means to follow Christ. To further my development, I took advantage of opportunities for growth by participating in the Youth Leadership Development Program at Mendenhall Ministries.

As the current President of The Mendenhall Ministries, (since May 2017), I can say that I developed a great vision for ministry during my earlier days here. I was impressed by what I saw: ministers with formal theological training investing themselves (at the grass root level) in others and impacting the community. I was also fascinated by their ability to explain Scripture. When I sensed God moving me into ministry, I reasoned that I needed formal training also. Without the model I saw at TMM, I am not sure I would have understood the significance of formal training. I was privileged to receive a Master's in Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Doctorate from Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota. These accomplishments, (along with my upbringing and my time at TMM), helped me to come to a deeper awareness of what God desired of me.

After pastoring for 30 years, I am back in Mendenhall serving in a capacity I never thought possible. An important part of my mission is helping young people come to know what God desires of them as they pursue His heart. TMM is therefore purposefully creating opportunities for former students to return, help re-build, and invest in the next generation. Please pray for us as we challenge the next generation to step up and be the leaders that God desires them to be. Also pray that we will be the very best examples possible for young people to emulate; and that these young people might love the Lord and serve Him with integrity of heart and with skillful hands, Psalm 78:70-72.

In this first issue of The Pulse we feature former TMM program participants who are using their gifts and skills to transform communities.

Volunteer Highlights



Volunteers from First Baptist Church of College Hill, Tampa, FL replaced roofing on John & Vera Mae Perkins Visitors Center.

From Ontario, Canada to Seattle, WA to Tampa, FL, people answer the call of God on their lives to serve in Mendenhall. TMM has been blessed to host nine volunteer groups this year. Each group played a significant role in helping with the Ministry's rebuilding effort. These groups were from: First Baptist Church of College Hill (X2); University Presbyterian.



Volunteers from Dordt College re-upholstering chairs

Church, Seattle, WA; Christian Stronghold Baptist Church, PA; Margaret Rhine's Group, IL (2X); Dordt College, IA; Whitby Baptist Church, Ontario; and Overflow Church, Magee, MS.

Grace Church of Ridgeland is scheduled to serve in September.



Volunteers from University Presbyterian Church help with Backpack Give-Away Day

If you want to invest your time, talent & skills into work that has eternal value, we invite you, your church, school, or business, to prayerfully consider serving in Mendenhall. Many volunteers testify that serving with TMM was a life-changing experience for them. A significant number went into full-time ministry.

A New Generation of Builders: Attorney Chanda Roby's Story

I was a student at GOCS from age three to seven, Nursery 3 to 2nd grade, and I served as an intern in TMM's Community Law Office (CLO) in my early 20s. At that time, I was thinking about attending law school.

My CLO experience provided opportunity for me to interact and talk with a law student, an attorney, and a paralegal. I assisted with drafting legal documents. It was exciting to me; and helped me to make up my mind about law school. It was a good experience to learn from people in a legal setting while still being nurtured and encouraged. I did in fact go to law school. The law student working in CLO at the time is now a colleague of mine whom I can use as a resource if I have need.

GOCS is definitely a part of my educational and spiritual foundation. CLO was a part of my development as an attorney and a young adult. It was my introduction to the workplace. It is where I received my first pay check. I am thankful to both GOCS and CLO.

Most of all, I definitely feel like I stand on the foundation built by GOCS everywhere I go; and that it is a foundation that is a part of

every good thing I do. I recommend GOCS to this generation.

I know that CLO is no longer operational, but it blessed the community during the time it was operating, and I believe it would benefit this generation as well.

In order to continue to pursue excellence, both GOCS and a resurrected CLO would need funds from all those able to give in order to improve, grow, and be stable. And each would need the involvement of people who are passionate and skillful to carry out their missions.

I am currently serving as the president of REAL Christian Foundation, Inc. (REAL), a non-profit in Richland, MS, which was founded by two former leaders of TMM, Drs. Dolphus and Rosie Weary. REAL is one of TMM's funders.

In my capacity as REAL's President along with REAL's board, I see my role in helping to rebuild TMM as providing TMM with the needed exposure, resources, and technical support it requires to succeed. As an individual, I see my role as providing financial and skill support where and when I can.



Attorney Chanda Roby



Coach Rahim Lockhart

A New Generation of Builders: Rahim Lockhart's Story

I am a product of The Mendenhall Ministries programs, YLDP being one of them. I have been blessed to go to and prosper in many different states and countries using the techniques and methods I acquired during my time as a youth at TMM. I, as well as other youth,

learned to identify my talents (while being mentored by men and women with similar talents), effective problem solving techniques, and how to interact in different social environments in a healthy professional manner. The things I learned have proven to be life lessons that were required to become a productive citizen.

I attended college on a full basketball scholarship at the University of Mississippi and received an undergraduate degree in History. I went

on to pursue my masters in Sports Administration at Belhaven University.

I've dedicated my life to mentoring kids through sports. I've worked with and for Boys and Girls Club of MS, Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, Big Brothers Big Sisters of MS, The University of Mississippi Basketball coaching staff, and several high schools and junior colleges throughout the state and country. In all these places I have worked, I credit success to the lessons learned from TMM and YLDP.

My current plan requires the biggest step of faith thus far. I returned home a couple of years ago to find that the R.A. Buckley Center was closed. This is where I spent the majority of my time learning values, techniques, and methods. The R.A. Buckley Center, affectionately referred to as "the Gym", is the facility used to deliver the message of hope to the children of our community. I am currently working, under the direction of Dr. Holloway, to restore the Gym. I know that it's potential is unlimited.

Rahim and his wife, Tarrah, have four children.

A New Generation of Builders: Duriel Jammal Banks's Story

I was in 8th grade when I began my journey with the Youth Leadership Development Program, (YLDP). Many of my mentors and TMM staff were leaders in the community and state. I watched and listened to them and learned how professionals should conduct themselves in business and in life. I learned important life lessons and skills that helped me to navigate life and helped position me where I am now.

I have a BS degree from Southern Mississippi; a Master degree from University of Phoenix; a Specialist degree from Arkansas State University and am working toward a Doctoral degree from the University of Phoenix.

Over the years I developed a great desire to work with kids- the seed, that I am sure was planted during my YLDP days. Because of my passion for our youth, I am a teacher and have been teaching for

11 years. I teach Economics and World Geography, currently 11th and 12th graders.

This summer I served as Youth Coordinator of TMM's Summer Enrichment Program. My team and I identified concerns and needs of the youth and the community at large. We improved communications through our Give Back Initiative which fostered better community relations.

I see my role at TMM expanding within YLDP to help develop avenues for our youth through internships.



Jammal & wife, Luvenia Banks



P.O. Box 368
Mendenhall, MS 3911400368

601.847.3421
president@mbc-tmm.org



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If YES, please provide your email address below or email us at EvelynN.tmm@gmail.com

Partners in the Gospel

"... in all my remembrance of you... thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." -Philippians 1:3-5

Thank you for standing with TMM. I pray that you will prayerfully consider the following ways you can partner with us:

- Pray regularly for us.
- Sponsor a child at Genesis One for \$50, \$100, \$200, or \$400 per month.
- Host a home meeting. Invite church members, Sunday school class, friends, and co-workers.
(For details email: president@mbc-tmm.org or EvelynN.tmm@gmail.com)
- Provide accommodation and/or transportation for TMM representative when traveling in your area.
- Find out about Volunteer opportunities. (Contact president@mbc-tmm.org or EvelynN.tmm@gmail.com)
- Give a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift to a specific TMM program area or to the General Fund.

We will send you information on the item(s) you checked.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ for General Fund, GOCS, YLDP, or President's Support. *(Circle One)*

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Make check payable to: The Mendenhall Ministries, P.O. Box 368, Mendenhall, MS 39114. Thank you for your tax deductible gift.