



# THE PULSE

A PUBLICATION OF THE MENDENHALL MINISTRIES



Dr. & Mrs. Scottye Holloway  
**From the President's Desk**

**Here's our opportunity!**

I have heard that nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come. *The time has come and here's our opportunity!*

We've lamented, as Christians, decisions of the past when the body of Christ failed to

live out the dictates of Scripture; when unthinkable atrocities of years gone by and statements made comprised and compiled went something like this: *"If I had been there, I would have made a different decision or I would have done something."* Well, here's our opportunity!

Here's our opportunity to live out biblical mandates set forth in the word of God. As Christians we have *right now* the opportunity to garner the imagination of the world for the sake of the gospel. I am excited about the opportunity that God has entrusted to us. My prayer is that we not miss this precious gift that we've been given. Our world desires leadership. Righteousness and Justice have extended their hands in an effort to meet the human experience and be fleshed out by believers in the Lord Jesus.

From a theological perspective, we would be the first to say that we believe that human beings are created in the image of God. Because we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), anything that mars that image is an enemy to the character of God.

What we saw in the murder of George Floyd really hit us hard. In some sense the world seems to be asking the question, *"How do we make things right?"*

I am of the conviction that only the body of Christ through the application of God's Word can truly make a dent in this stronghold of satanic activity. Racism is sin. As sin it must be treated the same as every other sin. We must get rid of it especially among those of us who claim the name of Jesus Christ.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Moving Forward: Genesis One Christian School



GOCS: 1978 - 1984

Genesis One Christian School (GOCS) is moving from 717 Center Street to 104 South Grand Street, closer to the railroad tracks (that have historically divided the communities). Volunteers are transforming the former TMM Thrift Store into an exciting and welcoming learning center for kids, pre-school to fifth grade, in anticipation of the 2020/21 academic year.

In 1978, GOCS's students began their formal educational journey in the former



GOCS: 1984 - 2020

Mendenhall Bible Church building, which is now "the Chapel," and is attached to TMM Administration building. Just as the student body outgrew this first facility, the current building has also reached capacity.

The former Thrift Store housed the Five-County Head Start Center over the past 20 years, from 1999 to 2019. Because it has been recently used and maintained as a pre-school facility, minimum structural



Future Home of GOCS

work needs to be done to ready it for GOCS students. The new facility not only provides additional space for growth, it is also located more strategically in the community and can be seen from the main street, Old Highway 49, which runs into downtown Mendenhall.

Everyone at TMM is excited and is looking forward to this move. It is another step forward in our rebuilding effort.

## Serving the Community during the Coronavirus Pandemic

All of us at TMM pray that you, our friends and ministry partners, stay safe during this Coronavirus pandemic.



It's Storytime at The Mendenhall Ministries (TMM). During this time of Covid-19 when many kids are not in school or engaged in any other structured activities, TMM Special Projects Department is providing a time of good old fashion reading. While at Storytime children observe the rules of COVID-19 provided by the CDC. They receive a disposable face mask and a homemade reusable cloth mask to take home. Each child chooses a book; and is given a frozen treat.

The children have been out of school since March. Their teachers prepared educational packets for them to close out the year. During April and May, they received weekly packets which included materials on reading, language, math, science and a special activity sheets on the Love of Christ. When students turned in their completed assignments they received a special prize.

### Caring for the Elderly

Josie Holloway and Rosemary Bethea are delivering water, sanitary supplies, and fruit to the elderly residents of Harper Village. They also distributed sanitary supplies, masks and fruit to the elderly throughout the community. The masks are trifold, cotton fabric and washable; and were made by TMM staff. Staff also educated community residents on health and safe practices during this pandemic.



### Developing Indigenous Leadership

"Poor neighborhoods, both rural and urban, usually lack leadership." These are the sentiments of Dr. John M. Perkins, a pioneer of Christian Community Development. He argues that strengthening communities can best be done by building and empowering leaders from within their own communities.

This model of ministry has been practiced at The Mendenhall Ministries since the organization's inception.

To expand on this concept we are excited to announce that Dr. Scotty Holloway was awarded the first Burgess Christian Community Development Fellowship through Rural Education and Leadership Christian Foundation.

Dr. Holloway will choose six young men to disciple. Attention will be given to character development, leadership competencies, entrepreneurship, the development of a solid work ethic, conflict resolution, and a biblical perspective on who they are as people created in the image of God.

Our community needs Christian leaders to serve as role models and take the reins of organizations that impact the lives of the people in the communities. The fellowship allows for a stipend only. Educational materials and other expenses are not covered.

We invite you to join us in implementing this pilot program with a designated gift by checking the Christian Community Development box on page 4.

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### From the President's Desk

Amos 5:24 states, "but let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mainstream."

The God of justice desires that the character of justice, the right application of God's law in society, be practiced by all in his name. Righteousness on the other hand is a moral position that reflects the character of God's justice. I said that to assert that we as believers have a divine responsibility to make sure that those around us are treated justly and that the standard of righteousness from God's perspective, regardless of our feelings, must be advocated and lived out.

Micah 6:8 states, "he has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Surely as believers we all want to do and be engaged in what is good and to know what God requires of us. This passage frames it beautifully, "act justly." Acting justly must include recognizing and speaking truth about injustice. Secondly, "love mercy." This is the idea that you always challenge injustice and always act with a heart that demonstrates love for mercy.

Finally, walking humbly is required of believers. True humility is looking at what God wants and what's best for people and not what's comfortable for me.

So, here's our opportunity to garner the attention of the world and arrest them with our singular focus upon the things of God and his desire that we as the church become, ONE!!!

Here's our opportunity to demonstrate that all lives have value because of the nature of the giver of life.

Here's our opportunity to demonstrate the wisdom of God who created all of us exactly as he desired.

Here's our opportunity to become ministers of reconciliation rather than being a model of tolerance.

## A Salute to Margaret Rhine: Volunteer and Minister of Reconciliation



Dolphus Weary (TMM president, 1981-1997), welcomes Margaret Rhine, (both facing camera) and volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Downers Grove (1984)

Margaret Rhine stands out among thousands as the longest serving volunteer with TMM. Her journey began with TMM in August 1984, when she helped bring a youth group from First Presbyterian Church of Downers Grove, IL to Mendenhall, MS. Margaret shares her first experience:

*"We were in Mendenhall the week before Genesis One Christian School opened the 2-story building. We slept on mattresses in the gym and cooked in the gray building. We built bookcases, painted the fire escapes, and did some landscaping. I spent the week helping to insulate the kitchen. Cement needed to be poured but it had rained and there was uncertainty as to whether it could get done. The church prayed. We went to Legion Lake for supper and were drenched. Returning to TMM we discovered God had put an umbrella over Mendenhall; there was no rain, and the cement was fine. I was impressed by the faith of the people.*

**Margaret, what keeps you coming back?**

*"I have developed relationships with staff, former staff, and community members that are as strong as family. Volunteering at TMM strengthened my faith as I watched individuals and the ministry depend on God through difficult times."*

Over the past 36 years Margaret has led volunteer groups from two churches and in many cases volunteered along side her husband, John, and their (now grown) children, Sarah and Stephen.

**John Rhine shared this:** *"I think the most important reason I come back is the relationships I have developed with the people in Mendenhall over the years. Furthermore, I have been blessed by and learned from relationships and interactions with the people in the groups I come with. I*

*have been part of teams from First Presbyterian Church and Highlands Presbyterian Church. I think I have been blessed more than I have given. My faith in Jesus has grown by seeing the faith exercised by people with less material means than I have. The people in MBC and TMM show a confidence in God that is inspiring and humbling. I have grown personally and relationally through my involvement with TMM."*

Margaret began to bring groups from Highlands Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, IL to Mendenhall in 2004. Highlands played a significant role in ministering to the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In fact, several of the current volunteers got their feet wet during that time; Mike Reihsmann and his two daughters worked tirelessly. On later trips, Mike was joined by his wife, Laura, and together they continue to serve at TMM. When asked why they continue to volunteer, they had this to say:

**Mike Reihsmann:** *"TMM impacts the people who come in as volunteers as much as it does the community.... I have strengthened relationships with my children and friends that I worked with in service at TMM. I have also made connections to new friends that I would never have had the opportunity to know.... I have too many memories of trips to single out any one [as my fondest]."*

**Laura Reihsmann:** *"Like many, I appreciate the cross-cultural nature of my experience with TMM. I have met many talented, dedicated people that I am proud to call friends. I am touched by the Christian love I see practiced in this community each day and I commend and encourage the commitment of the leadership to the improvement of the community."*



Highlands Presbyterian Church Volunteers, (2010) L to R: Back Row: John & Margaret Rhine, Allyson Scheppler, David Taylor, Stephen Rhine, Becky Reihsmann; Front Row: Marissa Dahl, Nick Giansin, Patricia McKane, Tom Kohrs; Kneeling: Bob McKane



Highlands Presbyterian Church Volunteers, (January 2020). L to R: Jerry Jones, Mike Reihsmann, Millie Webster, & Laura Reihsmann

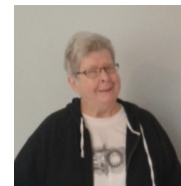
**Becky Reihsmann**, daughter of Mike and Laura Reihsmann, wrote a letter to her high school principal requesting to be excused from school to help in the recovery effort after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Below are excerpts:

*"I had never felt a real calling on my life, .... After going on a mission trip with my youth group to Mendenhall, Mississippi, I came home a completely different person. Suddenly, I couldn't contain my candid love for the town and everyone in it. I wanted nothing more than to go back and continue working and helping everyone. It was an amazing feeling of being awakened into a new and better chapter of my life. And everyone around me could see the difference....."*

Becky returned to TMM over 5 times.

**A Matthew 5:16 Life Fleshed Out**

Margaret Rhine has allowed God to use her to bring hundreds of volunteers to Mendenhall. She blessed many individuals and families with cross-cultural experiences that enhanced their walk with God and enriched their lives.



Many local individuals and families are blessed by the volunteers' friendships and investments of time, talents, and treasures.

Additionally, Margaret plays a significant role in promoting reconciliation between Blacks and whites; and the 'haves' and 'have-nots,' by demonstrating the love of Jesus to the lost and hurting.



P.O. Box 368  
 Mendenhall, MS 39114  
 601.847.3421 | Fax 601.847.3754

Dr. Scottye Holloway, President  
 President@mbc-tmm.org

Evelyn Njoroge, Director of Development  
 Develop.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, or \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
*You will receive information, academic updates and a photo of the child you are sponsoring.*
- Christian Community Development Fund. Enclosed is my gift for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Give to the General Fund. Enclosed is my monthly, quarterly, or annual gift for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Give to the President's Support. Enclosed is my monthly, quarterly, or annual gift for \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Host a home meeting. Invite church members, Sunday school class, friends, and co-workers, etc.
- Provide accommodation and/or transportation for TMM representatives when traveling in your area.
- Give toward the **Ministry Needs List**. Item \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Find out about Volunteer opportunities.

#### Ministry Needs List

- Industrial steel can opener
- 2 stainless steel work tables
- 4 Stainless steel rolling carts
- Prep sink
- Industrial dishwasher
- Video camera
- Commercial lawn mower
- Heavy duty leaf blower

For more information on any of the above email [president@tmm.org](mailto:president@tmm.org) or [develop.tmm@gmail.com](mailto:develop.tmm@gmail.com)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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