# BCVVOICE FALL 2021









"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

# **Houseparent Commissioning**

"The Baptist Children's Village is the ministry that God called Mississippi Baptists to. This is God's ministry. We are your conduit. We are your tools. We exist, as a part of the Mississippi Southern Baptist Church, to take the good news of Jesus Christ to at-risk children and families. God bless the hands and feet that deliver that message." This introduction by Executive Director Sean Milner kicked off the Commissioning Service of 14 Houseparents at the 185th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Houseparent Missionaries are indeed the hands and feet of Christ that deliver the good news of Jesus Christ to children every day. That good news is modeled in the way they love each other, and the children God has entrusted to them even in the most mundane tasks. It sounds like teaching the truth of the gospel. It looks like sharing a joyful moment with laughter and giggles, or a disappointment filled with tears, and explaining that God is with us in all these times—ever present and loving us unconditionally.



continued on next page

# Houseparent Commissioning Continued

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Director-Treasurer Shawn Parker issued the challenge—

Thank you for serving as missionaries of the MBCB. We commission you, and encourage you, and challenge you to love the children entrusted to you. Love them as the Lord loves His own children. We commission you to teach them and train them in the ways of the Word, in the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We commission you, at the appropriate time, to introduce them to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to use every ounce of influence you have to help them come to know Jesus as the Savior of their lives, and the Lord they will follow all the rest of their days.

Dr. Parker then challenged Mississippi Baptists to pray for these and other Houseparent Missionaries serving on one of the BCV campuses in the state. This show of support was encouraging and empowering to these honored Houseparents. Houseparent Patrick Robertson recalls, "The Commissioning Service was a special time in my life. I could feel the presence of the Lord there. It was a night I will cherish and remember for the rest of my life." The special evening began as houseparents and their families, BCV children, BCV staff and several BCV board members enjoyed dinner together. After the meal, BCV Executive Director welcomed everyone and called on board president Jim Hurt to offer words of encouragement and support to the houseparents on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Tom Prather, BCV Director of Convention Relations introduced the houseparents to be commissioned. As each houseparent was introduced, Director of Human Resources Karen Rikard and Director of Partner Ministries Tim McWilliams presented them with the Mississippi Baptist Missionary lapel pin. Board member Rev. Steve Jordan closed the program with a special commissioning prayer.

Houseparent Mandy Daniel explains, "The commissioning service was so honoring and such a blessing to be a part of. The dinner was great to be able to fellowship and see everyone and celebrate with my family. Being a house parent is such an honor because I can give children the love and care they deserve and tell them about Jesus and help give them a better life. I'm so thankful for the work I do."



# Staff Spotlight As one chapter begins, others end

Shane Ashley

The Baptist Children's Village has hired Shane Ashley to serve as the North Mississippi Area Director. Shane's responsibilities will include the supervision of our Farrow Manor and Reedy Acres Campuses. Shane has served as a BCV Case Manager since October 2019.

He and his wife, Marsha, and their children Danielle (18) and Jared (11), live in Blue Springs. Shane attended Northeast Mississippi Community College and received his bachelor's degrees in psychology and history from Blue Mountain College. He also minored there in social work. His

experience as Case Manager has provided an up close and personal view of the requirements for this job. Shane explained that he sees how God has taught him things in all his previous jobs that are valuable for this new responsibility.

Shane shares, "I am optimistic about opportunities given to me. Having the support of staff at both campuses has meant a lot to me."

Shane is filling a new position created as a result of the retirement of Bill Tate who served the ministry for 25 years along with his wife, Peggy. Also retiring after 21 years of service is Frankie McElvoy who worked as a mechanic and helped in various ways in properties. A retirement celebration was held for all three of these long tenured employees. This quarter we have seen chapters close and new ones begin. Such an example of the seasons God orchestrates in our lives. We are grateful for their service and for His sovereignty.

## Retirement Celebrations













Make an Eternal Impact by Remembering The Baptist Children's Village in your Estate Plans

#### "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." James 1:17

Many of our faithful donors are supporting future generations of children by naming the BCV in their estate plans. The most popular way of giving - other than cash or check - is through a bequest. You can leave a percentage of your estate or a set amount.

#### Please consider making your BCV children a part of your estate plans to help secure the future of children in need.

Remembering The Baptist Children's Village in your will is the easiest and most popular way to provide for at-risk children and families other than gifts of cash and securities. In many cases, a codicil can easily be added to your existing will.

For additional information, contact Tim McWilliams, Director of Partner Ministries at 601.966.5754 or tmcwilliams@bcvms.com



Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. I Chronicles 29:13

## **BCV Tribute Gifts** August through October 2021

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, and 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 or use the enclosed envelope to give a gift of honor or memory for your loved one(s) to The Baptist Children's Village.

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\*Pictures of children are representative of those in the ministry. The identities of BCV children are protected.

## **Personal Reflection**



"I just wish Mrs. Steen were here to see this." These were the words I heard myself saying to my husband recently. Mrs. Steen was his loving, forgiving housemother when he was an active little boy at The Baptist Children's Village. It was evident in her kindness and hard work maintaining a house filled with boys who were not hers, that God had called her to this special work.

Living for a time with his grandparents, he was accustomed to getting up with the chickens (or before). That practice continued when he moved into Cooper Cottage with eleven other rowdy little boys. Mrs. Steen had a practice of

enjoying an early morning walk around the one-mile campus. One of Bobby's fondest memories is of those early morning walks with her around the campus. "How kind to let me invade her one solitude moment in the day," he says. I say, "It was self-defense. She did not want you waking up the whole house before daybreak."

Bobby and I had the opportunity recently to live in a cottage for a weekend and give some well-deserved, weary houseparents a short reprieve to rest and recharge. On one such occasion, a red-headed country boy filled our day with constant conversation and early morning visits. We quickly realized our best strategy was to involve him in cooking breakfast and getting early morning chores done. As we listened to this little boy's stories of home and family, and the car show we had been to the previous day, and a host of other topics, my mind drifted to Bobby's recollection of his time with Mrs. Steen. We hoped that, as this little chatty boy looks back on his time at The BCV, he would remember and be encouraged by the man who took time to include him in the early morning routine and be encouraged.

hystelle

Chrystelle Thames Director of Communications









"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that popenly profess His name." Hebrews 13:15

## **CHILDREN'S PROMISE ACT TAX CREDIT**

If you pay taxes to the state of Mississippi, you may be able to subtract your donation to The Baptist Children's Village from the amount you owe.

If you file jointly you can subtract the amount of your donation up to \$1,000. If you file as a single you can subtract the amount of your donation up to \$500. However, there is a limit to how many will qualify for this benefit. So, you must complete a form and send it to the MS Department of Revenue with a copy of your receipt. If you qualify, they will send you a confirmation.

We are happy to help you with this. Please contact Tim McWilliams at 601.952.2422 or tmcwilliams@bcvms.com.

ATTENTION: Your Donation Could Be Used to Lower Your State Tax Liability!

Change a Child's Life!

**Become a Houseparent!** 

baptistchildrensvillage.com