

BCV VOICE

SUMMER 2021



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P.O. Box 27
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baptistchildrensvillage.com



Staff Spotlight

Joyce Wilson

*In times like these, we need a Savior
In times like these, we need an anchor
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock*

*This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the one
This Rock is Jesus, The only One
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock*



Hymns and songs of worship are important to Dickerson Place Campus Director Joyce Wilson. Recently she has found herself frequently singing this 1943 hymn written by Ruth Caye Jones often. As an agency, Joyce explains, "We must be sure our anchor is securely in Christ."

Wilson came to the BCV as a Case Manager in 1985. Her then pastor Ronnie Robinson was a member of The Baptist Children's Village board of trustees and approached her about the open position that included work at the Dickerson Place and Deanash campuses. She had previously worked with SW Mississippi Mental Health as a Program Specialist.

When asked about her work at the BCV over the last 36 years, she reflects on changes in family dynamics and consequently changes in programs of care. She notes that she has seen pendulum extremes in family reunification, long term care, more immediate termination of parental rights, all of which can be problematic if they fail to first consider the need of the individual child. "Children are hurt and can fall through the cracks in those extremes," she says.

In Joyce's work she acknowledges that she must be sensitive to where families are and where they came from, meeting people where they are and sharing Christ with them. There have been times parents have not wanted to hear about Christ but when in crisis they seek out His peace and solace. In one such occasion, a distraught mother called to say, "I know you guys pray. Will you pray for my friend who was in a bad accident?" Joyce asked if she could contact a local pastor to be with them at the hospital, and they accepted the offer, opening the door for future meaningful conversations.

Wilson also explains that while there have always been abused and neglected children who need love and care, in recent years the abuse of children seems more evil and perverted. There is a darker side to the abuse she explains. Families she worked with in her early days seemed to struggle more with alcohol where the families of children today struggle more with a variety of drugs. Wilson considers how taking God out of the equation in our society is not inconsequential and remembers a saying she once heard, "There is no true change until there is heart change and there is no heart change until Jesus changes it."

"What I love about my job are the kids," she says through her tears. "If you listen to kids, they say so much. Sometimes we talk too much and don't listen. Sometimes the answers are in what they say." She continues, "My greatest joys are found in a child coming to know Christ, in a child's laughter and in their expression of awe in God's creation."

Joyce and her husband, George live in Brookhaven. They have two children: Brett who works as a draftsman and lives in McComb, and Hannah who works as an interior designer and lives in Clinton.

God at Work in Every Generation

LEGACY OF FAITH AND HARD WORK

Regardless of the decade you can find BCV alumni whose lives were changed through the relationships of The Baptist Children's Village. For several years staff have been sharing how *changing one life at the BCV changes generations*. This quarter I have had the opportunity to visit with two different alumni who are continuing to make a difference for Christ because ministry staff and partners invested in them.

Sybil Butler, with her brother and sister, came to live at, what was in 1935 *The Baptist Orphanage*, when their mother died. Sybil's father faced the same dilemma many single parents face today. He could not work and support his family without someone to care for his young children. At 96 years old, Sybil has vivid memories of her time at the ministry. I am not sure many of us can relate to her continued love of potato salad sandwiches which she first enjoyed as a young girl at the Baptist Orphanage; but perhaps we can better relate to two more meaningful things she recalls: opportunities for Bible teaching and worship and the strong work ethic that was instilled in her. VBS at First Baptist Church, Jackson, devotionals in the dorm and frequent visits to Sunday church are among those experiences that she knows led to her salvation at age 13. "They (the BCV staff) were all about the Lord," Sybil remembers. She also recalls chores in the dorm and in the cafeteria: ironing (lots of ironing), learning to knit, crochet and quilt. The work ethic she learned during her young years prepared her for work in a machine shop making bolts for war planes and later in her beauty shop. Together with her husband, Jim, who she met during the war, they enjoyed a fruitful life and invested in her family and others as she had been invested in through the BCV.

Because of the kindness and generosity of Sybil and her husband, James Arleigh Butler, family friends, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Smith, recently set up a scholarship fund to honor them and Mr. Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Smith. This scholarship fund makes it possible for this legacy of faith and hard work to live on in the lives of BCV children for generations to come.



BECAUSE ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND HOUSEPARENT MISSIONARIES WALKED THE TALK

The joy of Christ was evident in Cait's eyes, in her smile and in her voice as she shared how much she loved the people she encountered at The Baptist Children's Village. Cait has shared about her journey to the confident young adult she is today with hundreds of people thanks to the encouragement of her dad, Bryant May, Pastor of The Exchange Church. Since she won first place in the Baptist College Division at the 2021 Mississippi Baptist Student Speakers Tournament with her speech entitled, "Certainties in an Uncertain World," she has had other opportunities to tell her story and has grown more and more confident now relishing each opportunity.

When Caitlyn first came to live at The Baptist Children's Village, she remembers being a frightened, angry, and lonely young girl. She also remembers how her houseparents, April and B. J Shows, allowed her to honestly express her feelings, while consistently living out their faith in front of her and reassuring her of the faithfulness of Christ and their commitment not to abandon her. She reflects, "They lived out what they said. Living out your faith has more impact. They chose to be Houseparents. It is a calling. They were there because they chose to be."

Cait met her adoptive family through her mother's sister who served as a counselor at Lake Forest Ranch where Cait went for summer camp. In God's sovereignty Caitlyn and her adoptive family found each other. God even prepared the heart of her little three-year old brother as he prayed for a big sister. She remembers her early days with Bryant and Heather May. "Because my heart had been hurt and disappointed so many times, and because I had a distorted view of authority, they continually had to say, 'we are sorry that happened to you, but we are not them. We love you and we are not going anywhere.'"

Today Cait aspires to be a social worker like her Aunt Molly. She wants to combine her love for Jesus and her love for children. "My experiences have made me fall more in love with children. I don't want them to think they don't have someone who loves them." She continues to inspire others by sharing her story of God's sovereign plan for her life.



LEAVING A LEGACY

**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**



Please consult with your legal or financial advisor to learn more about how you can benefit from a planned gift.

Summer 2021

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:11-12

One of the great benefits of summer is the time it affords to explore the creation of God. At The Baptist Children's Village children can experience aspects of nature they may not have seen before. Some of our children have never seen the ocean and are visibly awestruck by its vastness and its power. Some may have never hiked in mountains or hills.

The generosity of BCV partners have provided many such awe-inspiring experiences for our children. Early in the summer North Greenwood Baptist Church hosted a fishing rodeo for children on several campuses. They gathered early with their fishing poles and high hopes. Throughout the day children were heard squealing, shrieking, and exclaiming, "this is the first fish I ever caught." Of course, our kind friends from NGBC patiently removed fish and baited hooks over and over all day long, then graciously served everyone lunch. Some of our more "experienced" fishermen, found joy in the isolated patient pursuit of the next big catch.

Later in the summer children enjoyed cottage trips to the beach and several campuses gathered again for some fun, relaxation, and fishing at Hilltop Children's Ranch at the invitation of Mississippi Agricultural Commissioner Andy Gibson. He and his family and friends were gracious hosts serving up hamburgers, hotdogs and Mississippi watermelons. In addition to fishing, children also enjoyed some close encounters with horses and billy goats and a tour of the ranch. No day at Hilltop Ranch is complete without a visit to the beautiful chapel where the gospel is always shared.

Our partners who host experiences for our children or provide gift cards or monies for them to visit museums, or the theatre or go to summer camp or travel are impacting children in ways beyond what we can imagine. God often uses these experiences to reveal things about Him or His plan for their lives. We are so grateful for the unseen hand of God as he works in the hearts and lives of our children through such generous friends.



BCV Tribute Gifts

May through July 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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Briar Hill BC
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 Arlington BC
 Elizabeth "Cissie" Brushaber
 Melvin Trentham
 Terry and Martha Wicker
 Rev. Buford Ursy
 Mrs. Jessie R. Wright
 Lea Anne Valentine
 Dr. and Mrs. F. David Rives
 Yokefellas SSC, FBC Newton
 Doris Vandiver
 Harry Neal and Weezie Corder
 Pat Vaughn
 Yokefellas SSC, FBC Newton
 Mr. Willie Wallace
 Mr. Paul Bullard
 Lavelle Ward
 Herman and Sharon Dungan
 Carol Ware
 Mrs. Gloria H. Davis
 Mabel Harris Watts
 Mrs. Helen Watts
 Nina Watts
 Oldtown BC
 Ms. Betty Jean Webster
 Bethel BC
 Virgie Welch
 Jimmy and Rose Anna Welch
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy West
 David and Rebecca West
 Mr. Jessie Lee White, Sr.
 Larry and Barbara Benton
 Ann Wilkinson
 Arlington BC
 Denise Mason Wilks
 Mrs. Angie Cheek
 David Williams
 Lea and Tim Kirby
 Beth Robertson Wilson
 Mr. Robert C. Gillaspay

Leslie Wilson
 Eddie and Delia Speights
 Donald Woodard
 Robert and Carolyn Payne
 Paul Wood
 Crape Creek BC
 Glynda Woodruff
 Mr. and Mrs. Tony Fulton
 Judy Deason Wooley
 James and Faye Brannon
 Larry and Sandra Oakes
 Billy Ellzy
 Don Sullivan
 Justin Mangum
 Strong River BC

Betty Wright
 Judy and Ron Phillips
 Nell Yonce
 Ms. Debbie Matthews
 Bill Young
 Ms. Glenda S. Scarbrough



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

Personal Reflection



"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and His might and the wonders He has done." Psalm 78:4

This verse challenges us with a profound responsibility. I am certainly confronted with this truth as I consider my obligation to my children, grandchildren and community. Today, however, I am considering this verse in the obligation we have toward our BCV children. God

has called us to "take the good news of Jesus Christ to at-risk children and families." As a ministry who will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year, we have many of God's "wonders" and "glorious deeds" to share with this

generation. We want them to know of God's might in the challenges they face daily. We want to be found faithful in openly sharing the good news of Christ that gives hope to the hopeless.

We are so blessed to be a part of a denomination who is committed to taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to others. I wonder if this verse came up in discussion when Mississippi Southern Baptists decided to launch this ministry all those years ago. Historical writings and alumni testimonies give witness to the fact that hundreds who have gone before us have ensured that the many mighty works of our God have not been hidden from the children in their care and consequently the gospel has exponentially impacted lives for eternity. May the same be said of us by those who God calls to lead and work in The Baptist Children's Village in the next generation.

Chrystelle

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*Pray for us, for we are sure
that we have a clear conscience,
desiring to act honorably in all things.*
— **Hebrews 13:18**

**Thank you, prayer warriors, for
praying that there will be no
hindrances to sharing the gospel
with our children and families.**

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY: Pray for children in residential care and their families; also for families in our Dorcas In-Home Family Support Program.

TUESDAY: Pray for Houseparents and Case Managers who are providing daily for children and families. Pray for openings to be filled quickly.

WEDNESDAY: Pray for support staff – the leadership and the churches who make up that Convention.

THURSDAY: Pray for board members as they provide overall leadership and direction for the ministry.

FRIDAY: Pray for the army of friends who pray for and financially support the ministry. It is God who works in the hearts of people who give.

SATURDAY: Pray for our Mississippi Baptist Convention under whose umbrella we serve – the leadership and the churches who make up that Convention.

SUNDAY: Pray for those whom we serve who have not accepted Christ as their Savior; and for spiritual growth in ones who have.

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Child's Life!*

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