



# a Quiet Revolution

Spring 2007

## The Next Step

By Sam Walker, Chairman, Board of Servants

Praise the Lord for His goodness! ...especially in and through transitions.

For over 30 years Phil Reed has been in the trenches as a Christian soldier, fighting *to rebuild people, to rebuild communities through the gospel*. We have been blessed for the past seven years with his rebuilding efforts in the role of President and CEO at Voice of Calvary Ministries. Under Phil's servant leadership **lives** have been changed, and VOCM has found **new partners, new resources**, and new ways to **reach out to those in need**. We have grown immeasurably and are so grateful that God sent Phil to serve through VOCM. It has been a blessed time.

**Phil recently made known his feeling that God is calling him to serve the Jackson community outside of VOCM.** We will miss your day-to-day presence at VOCM, Phil. But we celebrate with you for what is yet to come in your life, asking God's continuous blessings over all that you do. Praise God for a wonderful brother!

### So, who will take Phil's place at VOCM?

As VOCM's Board of Servants began to address the future, we prayed corporately and individually, seeking God's guidance. We felt led to ensure best efforts to correctly match the next leader's faith, skills, personality, and passion for VOCM's mission. The Board engaged external consultants to assist with a nationwide search for the next President and CEO of VOCM. We checked with known Christian networks for potential candidates. In a series of  
*(Continued on page 2)*

*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians 3:13b-14

### From the President's Pen

By Erma Driver



My deep, passionate commitment to VOCM's mission of Rebuilding People to Rebuild Communities through the Gospel is my call to serve Jesus Christ. Like the Apostle Paul, I am focused on what lies ahead. I am even more committed to pressing toward the goals for which God has called us in Christ. I have been given the charge to take this ministry "to the next level". To achieve the next level, we must resolve to greater commitment, greater sacrifice, an increase in our faith, and plan for a more excellent way to reach our goals.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## moving forward



Clodine Ross celebrates her new home in Victory Park in McComb at a ribbon cutting.

a new era

*(The Next Step—continued from page 1)*

meetings we also requested and got input from VOCM staff, partners, and long-time friends.

The Board recently completed what we believe to have been a God ordained process that evaluated 30+ potential nationwide candidates for the posted job description. The process included telephone and personal interviews for final candidates. Board members prayed, discussed, and debated as we sought the best match. Ultimately, the decision was unanimous.

I am so very pleased on behalf of the Board of Servants to officially welcome and present to you **Erma Driver, the new President and Chief Executive Offi-**

**cer of Voice of Calvary Ministries.** We believe her experience and training in business will continue our commitment to excellence. We believe that her personal story of how God has worked in her life will continue our commitment to exhibiting the love of Jesus Christ in all that we do. She is what the Board was seeking – a person with faith, skills, abilities, personality and passion to lead VOCM to the “next level.”

As Chairman of the Board, I want you to know that we stand behind Erma as she leads this ministry. We are committed to serving our faithful donors by exercising good stewardship over all that God entrusts to our organization. Thank you for your love and support! ●



Cassie Hicks (left), representing the Institute for Disability Studies, was on hand to deliver a \$15,000 grant to Charlotte Jackson (center) at the loan closing for her new home in Victory Park. Erma Driver, VOCM President/CEO gives the keys to Ms. Jackson's new home.

*(From the Presidents Pen—Continued from page 1)*

For 4 years, I have undergone life-changing personal and professional development at VOCM. As Chief Operating Officer, I have had the privilege of helping to lead the organization through significant transformation, including the post Katrina period, fundraising, public relations, staff management and development, organizational assessments and systems, restructuring, planning and crisis management.

I am excited that the best days of VOCM lie ahead of us. Our emphasis in the days ahead will be on rebuilding the abilities of people through new and renewed internal and community structures. Toward that end, the Executive Team of VOCM has reorganized our ministry into two “lines of business” – Real Estate and Community Building and Organizing. Real Estate includes our efforts to provide quality, affordable housing to our community. Community Building and Organizing includes our Family Development & Training, Youth Leadership Development, Adult Education and Volunteer Services.

For generations, my relatives participated in progressive civic engagement including the civil rights movement, educating and fighting for rural farmers, advocating for services and Christian community based ministries. Over the last 60 years, it has been a family tradition to build people through education. The Robinson and Jackson lineage has and continues to produce educators

with over 21 college professors, school administrators and teachers who are either in heaven or carrying the torch on earth. As President/CEO of VOCM, I will continue to utilize the opportunity to maintain my family's heritage of community organizing, building, education and activism.

It is my pledge to you that the hard work, determination and Christian principles on which the ministry was founded will thrive through the lives of the staff, the residents of Jackson and most importantly the lives of those who seek VOCM as a resource. We need you, the Body of Christ. Your continued love and prayer support is our continuing request. Our prayer is that God may grant you peace. ●

*Erma, a native of Gary, IN, is married to Morris Driver, a native of Oxford, MS. She and her husband raised her two sons Eric and Joseph from her previous marriage. Morris is owner of Driver Technology, LLC in Jackson. Her mother Lucy Robinson also lives in Jackson. Morris and Erma attend Word of Faith Christian Center where Bishop Kevin Wright and Minister Leslie Wright are pastors. “I don't know if I would have been able to continue in the work God called me to, without my pastors. I have great respect for the ministry God established in Jackson through them. They have been my examples of strong leadership not only has biblical scholars but their commitment is strengthened by their business excellence. It is evident in the facility, expansion of programs and empowerment of the membership that Word of Faith is a representation of the Body in action for Christ and the advancement of His kingdom.” ●*



# Life Changing Power

By Erma Driver

The VOCCM staff is committed to the **good news** of salvation described in our foundational scripture Isaiah 61: 1-4: *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor ...* For over 30 years, the Holy Spirit has anointed VOCCM, through its programs and services, to advocate hope and good news, to heal brokenness in our neighborhoods, to release minds and hearts, to embrace God's favor and share it with others, to comfort mourners, and bring happiness, gladness and beauty to those who have lost it. *They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.* This speaks to the **life changing power of the gospel** as the residents are empowered to rebuild their communities *and* build new ones if they choose. Thus, our mission statement is *Rebuilding People to Rebuild Communities through the Gospel.*

Rebuilding people is not only an external activity, but is also happening internally among the staff. We look for individuals whose lives are Christ centered and ministry minded. If we are to achieve excellence, we must have staff who also have the capacity to lead and to manage with excellence. Some come with these skills and training; others we invest in to empower them to gain the training they need. I believe we are assembling one of the most gifted groups of individuals of any ministry anywhere.

The Executive Team has two personnel who hold a Masters Degree. Two managers are currently matriculating in an accredited Master's degree program. Additionally, every manager has a Bachelor Degree related to the program or scope of service they manage. The remainder of our staff are either formally educated, own specialized certifications or have acquired years of experience. I am confident that the strong group of men and women pictured will allow VOCCM to become the premier faith-based ministry/community development organization in the city, state and beyond.

As God anoints us to rebuild people in our target area, we are holding each other up as a team. For this reason, I, like Paul, am confident that, "...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ... (Philippians 1:6). We still have much work to do. Our past, present and future has been, and will continue to be, attributed to our love for Christ, His work and His people, and, most importantly, His love for us. I owe everything to Jesus Christ, my family and the outstanding staff at Voice of Calvary Ministries. ●



## VOCCM is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Director of Development and Marketing (open through 4/15/07)
- Director of Faith Based Initiatives (open through 4/30/07)
- Executive Assistant to the President/CEO (open through 4/15/07)
- On-Site Volunteers & Construction Coordinator (open through 7/1/07)

Please send a resume and cover letter to:

VOCCM-Open Positions,  
1065 Pecan Park Circle  
Jackson, MS 39209

No phone calls will be accepted.

# Confidence in the Future

By Phil Reed



*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:4-6*

This scripture is truly the prayer of our hearts at Voice of Calvary Ministries during this season of transition. It encapsulates several of the elements of our ministry which have gotten us to this point in our development:

**Prayer:** Praying with joy is central to all that we do. We stand or fall on our prayers and the prayers of our friends.

**Partnerships:** We have seen over and over again the importance of the many partners we have – in our community, among our board and staff, and with our donors across the nation.

**Confidence:** We believe God has even greater things in store for VOCCM as we faithfully follow Him.

As I prepare to leave the staff of Voice of Calvary Ministries, my heart is truly filled with joy and confidence in this ministry. One of my very close partners these past four years has been Erma Driver. Erma first came to us as a consultant to work with our housing department. It became clear that Erma had a much bigger role to play. When we were able to hire her full time three years ago, my assignment to Erma was to help us become a more efficient ministry through which to express the love of Christ. Erma enthusiastically

adopted our vision of exhibiting love and excellence in all that we do.

For the past two years, Erma has served as our Chief Operating Officer. In this capacity, she has been instrumental in the expansion of our programs and relationships in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. The business expertise she brings from her Masters' Degree in business from Belhaven College, combined with her passion for bringing the love of Christ to those He has called us to serve, fills me with confidence that God will continue to bless this ministry. I am very happy that the Board of Voice of Calvary Ministries has unanimously voted to confirm Erma as the next President and CEO.

I want to once again affirm that I will continue to assist Erma as appropriate in this transitional period. I sincerely hope and pray that you will continue your faithful support as God carries on the work here that He has begun! ●



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

## Be A VOCCM Partner!

There are many ways you can partner with us financially:

Include a check with the enclosed reply card, go to our website ([www.vocm.org](http://www.vocm.org)) to give via Credit Card or to set up a regular Bank Draft!



VOICE  
OF  
CALVARY  
MINISTRIES

[vocm.org](http://vocm.org)

1065 Pecan Park Circle  
Jackson, MS 39209  
601/353-1635 P  
601/944-0403 F  
[info@vocm.org](mailto:info@vocm.org)

Focus for this issue:

### a new era

From the President's Pen....pg 1, 2  
The Next Step....pg 1, 2  
Life Changing Power....pg 3  
Confidence in the Future....pg 4

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