



MEDIA RELEASE

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Voice of Calvary Ministries Presents **Bridges Out of Poverty** Training Sessions to Focus on Ways to Overcome Poverty in Our Community

(Jackson, Miss.) August 30, 2010 -- Voice of Calvary Ministries (VOCM) will present the **Bridges Out of Poverty** training program that enables organizations and individuals to become more effective in addressing poverty issues in their community on Thursday, September 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Voice of Calvary Ministries, 531 W. Capitol St., in Jackson. Social service providers, church congregation members, educators, local government personnel, health care professionals, concerned community members and business professionals are invited to attend.

Bridges Out of Poverty is a community effort using valid research in four key areas that will help organizations develop and implement long term strategies to promote prosperity for people in poverty. Registration is required to attend the six hour training program is being offered free.

"Voice of Calvary Ministries is pleased to be able to provide this important training to those who are committed to improving the lives of our brothers and sisters. We know that poverty is rampant in Mississippi and until we can address some of the root causes in meaningful ways, we will continue to suffer as a community from the negatives that result from poverty," said Phil Reed, President and CEO of Voice of Calvary Ministries.

The training session will:

- Introduce a framework for understanding the basic culture of poverty based on the work of Ruby Payne, author of **Bridges Out of Poverty**; and
- Review the skills that will enable organizations and communities to become more effective in working with people from different social-economic backgrounds.

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VOCM/Bridges Our of Poverty – Add One

In the morning session, from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., participants will learn the key points of **Bridges Out of Poverty** materials; mental models of life in poverty; hidden rules of socio economic class; and poverty research. The afternoon session, from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. will focus on learning how to build resources for prosperity, fostering effective relationships, practical application and will conclude with action planning and evaluation.

“This is a very informative training program that will enhance the knowledge base within many organizations and improve their ability to be successful in working with those persons who need help in overcoming poverty. We encourage members of our community to take advantage of this training and use this information to help achieve better results with their programs and initiatives,” says, Rashida Walker, Circles Coordinator for VOCM.

This training session is free, but because space is limited registration is required. Each participant will receive a **Bridges Out of Poverty** book and lunch will be provided for all registrants. The deadline for submitting the registration form is September 6, 2010. To register for more information, please contact Rashida Walker at 601-969-3088 or rashidawalker@vocm.org.

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