

## November 2010

### God's Faithfulness, Our Opportunity – Bringing Hope to Fulfillment

*His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

*Lamentations 3:22b-24 (KJV)*

These encouraging words from Scripture have been a source of comfort for Christians for generations, spawning the composition of one of our most beloved hymns, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. It is easy to forget that the setting for these words of consolation is the book of *Lamentations*. **In *Lamentations*, the prophet Jeremiah is weeping over the destruction of his nation.** A few verses earlier he says: *And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD.* (vs. 18) **In the midst of his travail, Jeremiah proclaims: *This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope... Great is thy faithfulness.***

I think most of us would agree that our nation is in the midst of turmoil. No matter one's political perspective, or one's opinion of the cause of our malaise, we know that these are tough times in our country. **In the midst of the voices of lament, God is doing powerful things among us.** One clear sign that **God is moving people to reach out for hope like never before** is seen in one of our most basic services or initiatives, **our GED program.**

For the past 10 years or so we have been operating a **GED Program** (graduate equivalency diploma) with Hinds Community College. This fall we began a program with 51 students and after 3 months we have only lost 2 students. The normal attrition rate is over 50% after two weeks! In addition, half of the class is made up of young men – this alone is more than extraordinary! **Because of demand, we re-opened our enrollment and now have 69 students filled with hope to change their lives. This is an increase in enrollment of over eight times this past year's enrollment – with almost no attrition!**

One of our students is Quameka Williams. Quameka attended Voice of Calvary Fellowship regularly with her grandmother and siblings several years ago when she was a child. Her grandmother, who had become the stabilizing influence in her life, died when Quameka was 15 years old. Quameka consequently went into depression and dropped out of school. In 2005, she enrolled in another GED program, and although she participated for over 2 years, she never earned her GED.



On August 11<sup>th</sup> she was passing by the VOCM office and saw our sign for free GED classes. She remembered the days that she had attended church at VOC and heard the good news of the Gospel. She called the phone number and put her name on the list.

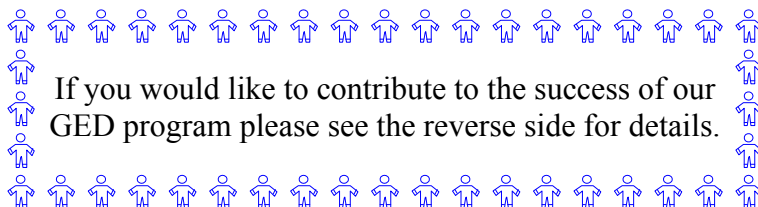
***“When I attended the opening class and heard Dr. Henderson from Hinds Community College, Pastor Reed, Mrs. Bul-lie and Miss Cynthia talking about how much they cared for us, I knew this was the place for me”, she said..*** Since the first day, Quameka has not missed a day. **We are so excited that God encouraged Quameka by the remembrance of her experience at VOC and the renewal of her hope.**

On behalf of all the staff here at VOCM, THANK YOU for your support —THANK YOU and rejoice with us at the wonderful transformation going on in the hearts and lives of those we serve through the GED and other programs. I would ask you to prayerfully consider making VOCM a part of your planned giving. It may be that God places it on your heart to make a special donation at this time. **Whichever way you choose, we deeply appreciate both your prayer and financial support that helps us to continue to provide life changing opportunity and hope during these challenging times.**

Sincerely yours,



Phil Reed, President/CEO



If you would like to contribute to the success of our GED program please see the reverse side for details.



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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Join with us in prayer - our monthly Prayer Calendar is at [www.vocm.org](http://www.vocm.org)  
or let us know if you need a copy via:      email      USPS.

\* Please provide address corrections or changes

**Thank you for your prayers and tax-deductible gift.**



Rebuilding Lives and Communities Since 1975

### Computers for VOCCM's GED Program

VOCCM's General Education Diploma (GED) program requires students to use specially designed Education Software in addition to learning computer skills to meet their course requirements. We still need to raise \$3537. If you would like to help fund this effort mark "GED Computers" next to 'Other' on the return donation slip or on your check next to 'Memo' and return it with your gift. Thank You.



### We Welcome New Team Members

#### Sheron Brown-Gorden

Sheron is our Homeownership Coordinator. Her responsibilities include providing Financial Literacy, Credit Counseling and Homeownership Education. Sheron is also a Circles® Initiative coach.



#### Kumari Moncure

Kumari is our Construction Manager. Kumari is responsible for the supervision of all of VOCCM's construction projects. This includes our current rehabilitation of 28 homes in South Jackson.



*The Mission of Voice of Calvary Ministries is to rebuild people to rebuild communities through the gospel. Voice of Calvary Ministries serves as a resource in Christian community development by providing comprehensive programs which build strong individuals, families, churches, and communities in order to enable them to reach their full potential in Christ physically, spiritually, economically and socially.*

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