

The Baptist Children's Village  
Annual Report  
2018-2019  
Sean A. Milner, Executive Director

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” -Romans 10:14-15 (ESV).

We are often asked, “What does the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) do for children and families?” The answer requires a deeper response than the question appears to demand. For the purpose of this annual report, the question could be phrased, “What did the BCV do for children and families, this year?” Certainly, an adequate response must include objective and measurable actions such as feeding, clothing, educating and providing a safe home for children. The question must be answered at this level. To not do so would be to avoid the question and justifiably cast suspicion on any answer given. Accordingly, we first answer by providing our objective and measurable actions. The BCV operates two ministries 1) residential child care and 2) in-home-care.

Residential Child Care. The BCV provides homes for boys and girls on seven campuses around the state. The campuses are located in Senatobia, Water Valley, Louisville, Star, Brookhaven, Waynesboro and Wiggins. Every campus has at least two (2) homes, one for boys and one for girls. The BCV received twenty-three (23) new children this year. This 23 is in addition to the children already at the BCV at the beginning of the year. The age of the children cared for this year is from 1 year old to 21 year old, pre-school through college students. The BCV also provided 155 medical appointments, 45 psychiatric appointments, 46 eye exams, 109 dental appointments, 8 emergency room visits, 1 hospitalization and 1 psychiatric hospitalization. The case managers had one thousand seventy-six (1,076) interactions with the children and six hundred seventy-four (674) contacts and interactions with the parents/guardians of the children.

In-Home-Care. The case managers of The Dorcas Ministry go into the homes and work to strengthen the families so that the families can stay together and not be disrupted. They teach parenting and home making skills. They diagnose and address harmful patterns and inadequate abilities. The Dorcas Ministry is in 33 counties in the Delta and across the northern part of the state. This year, your case managers ministered to 57 new homes. Those homes represent 161 children and 88 adults. This in in addition to the number of families being ministered to at the beginning of the year.

Over three hundred (300) children and adults were served by the ministries of BCV in 2018.

These are good deeds that improve children's lives as well as the lives of their families. However, secular agencies can answer this same question exactly like the BCV just did. We have numbers and homes and they have numbers and homes. Does the BCV “do” the exact same thing as any other child care agency in Mississippi? No. And that is why the question requires a deeper answer. First of all, we must answer, “Who is The Baptist Children's Village?”

The BCV was chartered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the early 1890s. We are an official agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. As such, the BCV is a ministry of every Baptist church that is a part of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. We are your ministry. We are not one of many good charitable causes asking for support. Accordingly, the question is best understood as “What do the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention do for children and families?” What do you do?

The BCV is the Mississippi Baptist Convention's effort to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to at-risk children and families. The BCV is one of the evangelical arms of every church of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention. When a child is fed, educated, and otherwise cared for, that is the testimony of every member church of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. More importantly, when a child makes a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, that is the testimony of every member church of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

You are blessed with couples and single individuals who are called out by God to carry out His plan entrusted to you in the early 1890s. The houseparents are your missionaries. In 2018-2019, all of your houseparents were commissioned as Mississippi Baptist Home Missionaries. Your houseparents carry the designation and biblical responsibility of those called out in obedience to Romans 10:14-15. Please pray for them and pray for those the BCV needs. You have two campuses that have no children. This is not because there is not a need; no, this is because we do not have the laborers. Please pray and be attentive to persons God is calling to missions. Look for the opportunity to share with someone the mission opportunities at the BCV.

The BCV is different from other agencies and good charitable causes because we are you. What do we do? We take the gospel of Christ to at-risk children and families because that is what God told you to do. How do we do this? We rescue, we feed, we provide safe homes, we educate and we care for their needs with love, grace and compassion. Simply stated, we share in word and deed. This year one hundred percent (100%) of the children in your care were exposed to the gospel of Christ, two (2) made professions of faith in Christ, two (2) rededicated their lives to Christ and one (1) received believers' baptism.

This is what you do. This is your report and this is your testimony. Please accept this report as part of your testimony and pray that God will help us to find more children and families to hear and see the gospel of Christ. Thank you for your obedience to God's call and all you do for Mississippi's at-risk children and families.