

BCVVOICE

SUMMER 2022



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P.O. Box 27
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baptistchildrensvillage.com



Staff Spotlight – Buddy and Debbie Hawes



*It's all about serving—
We just want to stay in God's will.*

Houseparents Buddy and Debbie Hawes felt God calling them to do more in September 2009 when they answered His call to join the BCV family. They served fulltime for 13 years before deciding to semi-retire. Although, with age and health challenges, they came to believe they were better equipped to serve for seven days as opposed to fourteen, they still had a heart to serve the Lord and be with their BCV children. They felt there were still things they could do in the ministry. "It's hard

to leave folks that you have been with a while, and you don't want to leave them when there is still such a need," Buddy explains.

In their current position they hope to "love on staff on every campus and encourage not just children, but houseparents, case managers and campus directors". Buddy continues, "there are staff throughout the ministry that we can spend time with and get to know better". With four children, fourteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, they are grateful they are also able to spend more time with them.

When asked about the day to day of their work as houseparent missionaries, the two agree a couple must be in agreement about their calling to the work. Working together each day in a house, modeling Christian family values to children requires teamwork and a unified calling they explain. Debbie has an obvious calling to love and create a home for children of all ages. They have cared for children ages 18 months to 19 years, some of whom still reach out to them today. Buddy loves teaching the boys about work in the yard or playing golf or shooting a bow. According to Debbie, there is something else Buddy does very well. One of their four children says their dad taught him to love Jesus and love his wife. Debbie says, "Buddy prays with the boys and teaches them the power of prayer. He shows the girls and the boys to love and respect their spouses." As a couple they work together to create a home for children and to share Christ with them. Buddy acknowledges it was a major transition from the 9-5:00 job to the 24-hour live-in arrangement, but he nods his head in agreement when Debbie says, "it is all worth it in the long run."

Alumni Reunion

The Baptist Orphanage/Baptist Children's Village held its bi-annual Alumni Reunion this summer. Since this is the 125th anniversary of the ministry, this was an extra special gathering of alumni who have been meeting every other summer since 1960. This year's event was held at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond. Alumni came from all parts of Mississippi and from throughout the country as far away as Alaska. Pat Lovett from Anchorage is always among the first to make her reservations when the plans for the event are finalized. The reunion is always filled with lots of laughs, tears, and hollers. (Shhhh, don't tell the housemothers. They would be mortified their ladies and gentlemen were behaving in such a fashion.)

Carla Belk who lived on the India Nunnery Campus on Flag Chapel Road with her siblings from 1976 to about 1984 says she couldn't stop talking with her family about the great time she had. She explains, it was really cool to see people who called that home before it was mine. I enjoyed hearing them talk about their lives. I have a lot of respect for them." Carla's weekend with fellow BCV brothers and sisters caused her to reflect on how God had used her life experiences to equip her for ministry as an EMT and immediate care clinic nurse. While she recalls that "every bit of stability I had was at the Village," she has been able to have empathy for families she encountered and share the hope she found at the BCV with them in the midst of their dark days. Today, Carla has grown children who she is very proud of, and she agrees that "changing one life at The Baptist Children's Village changes generations." At the BCV Carla explains, "You see a different life. You see people who have college degrees who want the best for you. They really care. It changes your life to have mentors like that."

For many alumni, as with Carla, attending the reunion is an encouraging experience where they can reconnect with those who have different yet similar experiences. Milton Baxter who lived at the Baptist Orphanage 1946-1948 says the highlight for him was definitely making new friends that were so easy to talk to because of their common experiences regardless of the age differences. "The whole meeting was fun," says Baxter, "but it is also a necessity for people who had that experience."





Alumni Reunion – Continued





Wood art donated by Bob Catlett with Bob's Bois d'Art was included in door prizes and silent auction.

Thank you, Bob, for your continued generosity.



summer vacations

BECAUSE The Baptist

Children's Village has such generous partners in the ministry, our campuses enjoyed some meaningful vacations this summer. Several visited the Creation Museum, Ark Encounter, Cincinnati Aquarium and some beaches. How wonderful that our children are able to experience God's amazing handiwork and see that they are indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made." Taking the good news of Jesus Christ to at-risk children" is accomplished in so many different ways at the BCV.



The Baptist Children's Village is looking forward to seeing all our north Mississippi friends at our final campus anniversary celebration on September 17 at our Farrow Manor Campus event. North Mississippi Campus Coordinator Shane Ashley and his staff are hosting an evening with Jeff and Sherry Easter, campus tours and a hamburger and hotdog dinner. If you have questions about the event contact him at 662-233-2155 or email him at sashley@bcvms.com.

THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 2022 4:00 - 6:00

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662-233-2155



BCV Tribute Gifts

May 2022 through July 2022

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



Personal Reflection



I was recently challenged to think more deeply about Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." While we can all appreciate the comfort God gives in the midst of our mourning, the question that challenges me here is, what is it that is provoking the "mourning" in this passage? Consider James 4:9-10, "Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble

yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you." Then comes to mind lyrics from a Hillsong Worship song, "Break my heart for what breaks yours." As we "mourn" the things in our lives that break the heart of our holy God, he gives comfort. As we mourn the pain of those around us who suffer at the hands of sin in a fallen world, He

gives comfort. Every day at The Baptist Children's Village we see children and families suffering from consequences of sin in a fallen world. More than once I have heard the heartache of houseparents, case managers and campus directors as they have sought to give hope to those in their care who were hurting. Today I am challenged to mourn the sin in my own life; and at the same time, be grateful for the comfort God provides as we mourn our sin and the sin of others. The Baptist Children's Village exists, as a part of the Mississippi Southern Baptist Church, to take the good news of Jesus Christ to at-risk children and families. We have an amazing opportunity through our Mississippi Baptist Convention and The Baptist Children's Village to show God's love to the hurting and point them to the One who frees us from the burdens of sin and gives comfort.

Chrystelle Thames
Director of Communications



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