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MISSION MISSISSIPPI MOMENTS

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August 1, 2016 Pastor Jenkins somewhat reluctantly arrived at the Jackson Police Department to pray with the Mission Mississippi group. He was reluctant, because he knew someone would be in the room that he had taken issue with the previous week. When he arrived, he was overcome by a feeling of warmth and love for the very person he had been upset with. He was able to pray with and for that person.

Pastor Jenkins recapped one more incident for us to share:

Recently, he and his wife went into a store within their community. His wife, Rose, was speaking with a white lady in the store, who was the store owners wife. As they were leaving, Rose asked if Thomas recognized the woman. To jog his memory, she reminded him of an invitation to a birthday party their daughter had received while in elementary school. A few days after being invited, the girls father revoked the invitation, saying, “Just because I have to work with them doesn’t mean I have to let them in my home.” Rose said that the woman she had been speaking with in the store was this man’s wife. They’d hadn’t seen them in years, but they still remembered that birthday party. Feeling immediate indignation, Thomas said they would never shop at the store again. Ironically, God put them back in that same store sooner than they expected. He eventually met the owner, the man who many years before had hurt his daughter and insulted his family. But the man was different now. Thomas realized that in the years since he had last seen him, the store owner had changed, and that he himself needed to change. God was calling Pastor Jenkins to accept this man for who he had become, and to not hate him for who he had been twenty years ago.

Pastor Jenkins said that he is thankful to Neddie Winters and the leaders of Mission Mississippi because his involvement keeps reminding him to live out GRACISM in his day-to-day life, and not to hold on to bitterness or anger, but to forgive and love. We know that Mission Mississippi did not give him that love, but we are excited to be a part of God working in the lives of His people. It is humble to hear that our work is acting as that little reminder that we can be reconciled to one another as we have been reconciled through Christ.

www.missionmississippi.org
601.353.6477
grace@missionmississippi.org
P.O. Box 22655
Jackson, MS 39225

