



As I write, I'm finishing at an extended stay in Texas. One more weekend to go before I fly home. It's been a great experience to do a little hunting and to get to speak to some really neat guys. At this moment, I'm waiting on about a dozen guys to show up at the ranch I'm staying

I've made this particular trip for the past few years. It's one of my favorites. And I'm thankful that through this upcoming event, I was able to connect to the guys, and church, that I just came from. I'm thankful for this type of networking – one

man telling another man about his experience and encouraging him to have the same experience.

Sounds pretty much like what Jesus wanted when it came to his followers. Tell someone about your experience – one person at a time. And it was the experience that caused them to go and tell. It wasn't, primarily, information. In fact, for the first two or three hundred years, there was no compiled information. There was no "Bible" as we know it. Yes, there were letters and accounts that the early followers had, but they didn't go from place to place and person to person with a Bible under their arm and a salvation tract in their hand. No,

they went and told others about an event (the resurrection) and their experience with a risen savior. There were no Christian historians, theologians, or apologists; just everyday people who shared their experience with an event. These people then began to gather, share burdens, meet needs, and love people because the one who rose told them and gifted

them to do it. And many of them died holding on to their faith when a simple denial of their experience would have saved their life. All this to say, the sharing of your experience is all God needs to begin to work in other's lives. Sure, we have the word of God now. And sure, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. But theology can be debated, your experience

with it cannot. Jesus healed a blind man. Those around him basically wanted to know the theology and methodology by which Jesus did this act. The blind man simply admitted he didn't know. But what he did know was, "I was blind but now I see." And they could not argue with his experience. Those around you, cannot argue with yours. I'll share my experience with some great guys later this week, and while we may have some great theological debates and differences, we will all only admire and appreciate each other's unique experience with a risen savior.

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## MHP initiates D.R.I.V.E. campaign to combat teen driving fatalities

### Press Release

Due to an increase in statewide teen driving fatalities for 2020, the Mississippi Highway Patrol is implementing its traffic safety campaign titled D.R.I.V.E. (Driving Requires Initiative Values and Education).

In 2020, 70 teenagers lost their lives in traffic crashes on roadways in Mississippi compared to 49 in 2019. Research has shown Mississippi consistently ranks in the top 5 nationwide regarding teen driving fatalities based on crash analysis information. In an effort to bring these numbers down, the Mississippi Highway Patrol Public Affairs Division will take the D.R.I.V.E. campaign to schools, community colleges, universities, churches and civic organizations.

"Every Mississippian should be concerned about the number of teenagers that are losing their lives on our highways and roadways," said Colonel Randy Ginn, Director of MHP. "We have to sense the urgency to educate our youth on safe, smart and responsible driving habits. The D.R.I.V.E. campaign will do just that. Changing driving habits will change these numbers."

"It is our hope that the D.R.I.V.E. campaign will help teen drivers develop safe driving habits while reducing the number of teen driving fatalities in Mississippi," said Commissioner Sean Tindell. "Parents can also help prevent teen driving crashes. Parental involvement shouldn't end when a teen receives their license. Parents are encouraged to talk to their teens about the importance of safe driving. Set your teen driver up for success by giving them rules and boundaries."

With COVID-19 still presenting challenges regarding the education of students in Mississippi, there are a variety of ways MHP plans to get the safety message out to not only students, but parents as well.

"Due to the pandemic, we will work with educators, community leaders, first responders and parents regarding the safest ways to present the program,"

said Major Johnny Poulos, Public Affairs Director for MHP. "Receiving a driver's license brings a sense of accomplishment and freedom to teenagers while bringing worry and concern to some parents. We want our teenagers to enjoy this milestone in their lives, but at the same time, they have to understand the responsibilities and possible consequences that come with driving."

The D.R.I.V.E. campaign will incorporate PowerPoint presentations, guest speakers and seatbelt rollover simulations when possible. Main topics will include driving distractions, impaired driving, seatbelt usage and driving with teen passengers.

## Local families take advantage of PPE giveaway

### Press Release

Central Mississippi Inc. hosted a PPE (personal protection equipment) kit giveaway at the former Fred's parking lot Lexington, MS on February 3, 2021. The agency provided 100 local families with much needed personal protective equipment kits.

The targeted families for the giveaway were families that included household members that were elderly or disabled. Each PPE kit came fully equipped with the basic necessities to remain safe to include: masks, gloves, goggles, hand sanitizer, alcohol wipes, and a face shield. There were no qualifying stipulations to receive any of the kits. 100 kits were handed out Wednesday, but over the course of the giveaway, a total of 400 families will be recipients.

CMI is a 501(C)3 non-profit agency that provide assistance to low-income families and individuals in meeting basic living needs. CMI provide services to 7 counties in the Central Mississippi region, these counties include: Holmes, Attala, Leflore, Grenada, Carroll, Montgomery, and Yalobusha. Services that are avail-



CMI CEO Dr. Pamela Gary hand out PPE at the giveaway event. (Photo Submitted)

able include assistance with: Home Energy, Job Training, Housing, Income Management, Education and etc.

CMI also is a service provider for the section 5311 rural transportation grant. This program provides the capability to transport our elderly, disabled, and disenfran-

chised families to locations required for meeting basic living needs (grocery store transit, doctors' appointments, medical treatments, and etc.) If you know anyone in need of any of these services please contact CMI Central Office at (662)283-4781.



Pictured above are (from left): CMI Holmes County Board Member Derek Scott, CMI Board Chairperson Stephanye Peeples, CMI CEO Dr. Pamela Gary, Holmes County District 2 Supervisor James Young and CMI Deputy Director Luther Johnson. (Photo Submitted)



*Bridal Registry*

Lily Fran McCrory  
Rosario Guastella  
May 22

*Peoples Drug Store*

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

**City of Durant  
Poll Workers Workshop  
February 15, 2021 and February 22, 2021 at the Durant Senior Center located at 460 N. W. Depot Street.**

**Citizens of Durant that are interested in being a poll worker for the upcoming Primary Election April 6, 2021 are required to attend one of the workshops listed above.**

**For information, please call the City of Durant City Clerk's office at 662-653-3314.**

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