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Pinelake honors Civil Rights leaders with \$200,000 donation to JSU

killed him happened after he went to check on nineteen young men who had been arrested at a march in Mendenhall. Law enforcement officers in the Brandon jail beat and tortured Perkins so severely that two-thirds of his stomach had to be removed.

Despite enduring horrific injustices, Perkins chose to put aside bitterness and show God’s love to his fellow man.

“I seldom talk about the details of that beating, because I don’t want to use it in a prideful way to punish whites,” Perkins said in *One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love*. “After that beating, I spent a good deal of time in the hospital. I was broken in body and in spirit. I came to understand that my reaction of anger, hate, and bitterness was as bad as the action of the white jail guards who had beaten me. At that point I was able to see my own brokenness.”

Pastor Henderson admires how Perkins has allowed God’s love to

shape him. “Our desire is to honor the legacy of love Dr. Perkins has given us,” Henderson said. “This scholarship is to help first-generation college students. Dr. Perkins wants it to be awarded to students who have a desire to stay in Mississippi and develop better communities here.”

Perkins hopes others in Mississippi will consider helping black young people receive a college education.

“This scholarship is a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds that grows quite large,” said Perkins.

Parker agreed. “I hope it will be an example and challenge for other white Christians to follow. If other churches follow suit, it will have a lot of value in continuing the conversation.

Those interested in the John and Vera Mae Perkins Scholarship or any other scholarship at JSU can apply at jsums.academicworks.com. The JVMP scholarship will be awarded annually, starting in 2022.

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