



Changing Mississippi  
One Relationship at a Time

# MISSION MISSISSIPPI

P.O. Box 22655  
Jackson, MS 39225-2655

Tel: 601-353-6477  
Fax: 601-353-6478

Email: [grace@missionmississippi.org](mailto:grace@missionmississippi.org)  
Web: [www.missionmississippi.org](http://www.missionmississippi.org)

September 12, 2012

Honorable Tommy Fortenberry  
City of Gautier  
3330 Hwy 90  
Gautier, Ms 39553

Dear Mayor Fortenberry:

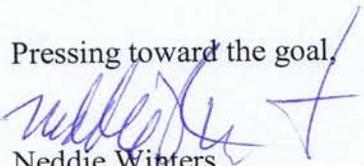
Celebrating October as “Racial Reconciliation Celebration Month,” provides an excellent opportunity to counter some of the negative publicity about race relation in Mississippi. The month long theme is “Celebrating the opportunity to overcome the past and facing the challenge of working together to be reconciled.”

We are requesting you to proclaim October as “Racial Reconciliation Celebration Month” in Gautier. You may wish to hold a press conference during the last week of September to encourage and promote activities that would engage the people in racial reconciliation and healing. This will be a practical way of highlighting the many accomplishments our State has made. Enclosed is a sample Proclamation that you may use. We ask that you please return the executed Proclamation to our office by September 31, 2012.

In addition, we would like to invite you and any of your guests to join us for our Annual Reconciliation Celebration Banquet on Thursday evening, October 25, 2012 at 7 pm at the Jackson Convention Complex. Our honorees are Dr. Ollye Shirley of Jackson, Mississippi and Mr. Jack Reed Sr. of Tupelo, Mississippi. Let’s make October 2012 the best “Racial Reconciliation Celebration Month” ever through proclamation and participation.

Again, thank you for your continued support and commitment to racial reconciliation and healing for our great State. Please contact me at 601-665-5900 or [monica@missionmississippi.org](mailto:monica@missionmississippi.org) with the number of guests for your complementary tickets.

Pressing toward the goal,

  
Neddie Winters,  
President

President: Mr. Neddie Winters  
President Emeritus: Dr. Dolphus Weary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Samuel Bruce,  
*President, Bruce Family Ministries*

Ms. Carol Burger,  
*President, United Way of the Capital Area*

Mr. Lee Bush,  
*President, National Collections Systems, LLC*

Mr. Tillmon Calvert  
*State Farm Agent*

Honorable Robert Gibbs,  
*Attorney, Bruini, Grantham Grower & Hughes*

Mr. Briggs Hopson, III,  
*Attorney, Teller, Chaney, Hassell & Hopson, LLP*

Ms. Carolyn Jefferson,  
*Attorney at Law*

Dr. Thomas Jenkins,  
*Pastor, New Dimensions Ministry*

Reverend John Johnson,  
*Pastor, Morningstar Baptist Church*

Mr. David Landrum,  
*Sr. National Sales Director, Primerica*

Ms. Susan Lunardini,  
*President, Southern Consultants Engineers*

Ms. Jacqueline Mack,  
*Dir. Of Christian Ed., New Hope Baptist Church*

Mr. LeRoy “Lee” Paris, II,  
*President, MS Properties & Invest Line Securities*

Honorable Charles Pickering,  
*Attorney, Baker Donelson Bearman & Caldwell*

Reverend David Rich,  
*President/CEO, Risen Son Foundation*

Mr. C. Robert “Bob” Ridgway, IV,  
*President, Ridgway Realty*

Mr. Eric Stringfellow,  
*Professor of Mass Communications, Tougaloo College*

Honorable Robert Waller,  
*Attorney, Waller & Waller*

**City of Gautier Proclamation  
Of  
Racial Reconciliation Celebration Month**

**WHEREAS**, Mission Mississippi has – since 1993- been dedicated to the underlying truth that all persons of all races are called to live in unity and harmony in Mississippi. We are well aware of the need to overcome the traditional barriers that have in the past separated the people of our State and our communities;

**WHEREAS**, it remains the goal of Mission Mississippi to create an environment in which it is safe to talk about deep issues of race relations in order that genuine and meaningful relationships can be developed among all our fellow citizens across racial and denominational lines;

**WHEREAS**, Mission Mississippi has labored tirelessly toward this goal by sponsoring the Governor’s Prayer Luncheon, The Mayor’s Prayer Luncheon, the concept of GRACISM, Days of Dialoguing, Vision Gatherings, weekly/monthly Prayer Breakfasts, local gatherings and chapters in more than twenty Mississippi municipalities, Youth Summits, Grace is Greater than Race Rallies, Unity Forums, Two and Two Meal Days, conferences and other events as well as numerous speaking engagements at civic clubs, churches, media forums and other gatherings around this State, all designed to help Mississippians of different backgrounds to come together and establish deep and genuine relationships across racial and denominational lines; and

**WHEREAS**, Mission Mississippi will sponsor events in the month of October 2012 promoting a message of reconciliation and healing which can enhance and improve the lives of all citizens, businesses and communities of Mississippi.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Mayor, I do hereby proclaim October 2012 as

**RACIAL RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION MONTH**

in the City of Gautier, Mississippi to celebrate our opportunity to overcome that past and face the challenge of working together to be reconciled and thus do hereby encourage all of our citizens to join with Mission Mississippi to promote racial reconciliation and healing to bring about unity.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have given under my hand and the seal of the City of Gautier, Mississippi this the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2012.

---

**Tommy Fortenberry, Mayor**