

Light of the Village

JESUS CHRIST
The LIGHT of the Village
JOHN 8:12

FALL 2025 UPDATE

"God is everywhere, especially here:" Summer Bible Camp 2025

Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors, volunteers, and those who prayed for us, along with the dedication of 9 college interns who spent their summer serving alongside us, we successfully provided our free Summer Bible Camps to over 120 children in 2 locations! Interns summarized their experience saying, "God is everywhere, especially here (Natalia)." and "Peace isn't the absence of chaos, but the presence of God (Ajani)." We thank God for the opportunity to do this sacred work.



Teens Shine in the Summertime

This summer, 31 local teens joined the LOV crew to make our Summer Bible Camps a blast. Watching them light up camp as they play with the kids, tackle responsibilities, gently guide campers with kindness, and sprinkle in creative ideas to level up the camp fun is a joy to witness! We are truly grateful for this cherished time spent with our teens each summer!



Travel Team Takes the Gospel on the Road

Thanks to our friends at the City of Mobile Parks and Recreation Department and the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama, our Travel Team had the opportunity to share the Gospel with over 450 children throughout Mobile! The Travel Team got to frequent 8 sites this summer bringing weekly Bible studies! It was truly uplifting to witness so many students eager to learn and engage with questions.



TEENS BREAKAWAY FOR RETREAT AT WAUKAWAY SPRINGS

We are so grateful for the opportunity to have taken 35 youth to Waukaway Springs in Vossburg, MS for a spiritual retreat! The group was comprised of teens, college interns, and even some of our former TeenLeaders who returned as leaders! Everyone had a great time swimming in the springs, completing outdoor challenges and having fun together. However, the most meaningful experiences were our times of worship, Bible study, and small group discussions. The teens engaged in vibrant conversations, sharing heartfelt insights with their groups. It was a truly beautiful time of renewal that we will cherish for a long time.



SUMMER BAPTISMS

All praise to God! At the conclusion of Summer Bible Camp, twelve children, teens, and adults were baptized, with an additional four baptized at Waukaway Springs. We celebrate their decision to join the family of Christ and to publicly express their faith through baptism. Join us in prayer for these believers as they journey forward with Christ.



“DON'T IGNORE IT; EXPLORE IT”

We have been challenged over the years to share the experiences of Light of the Village to a wider audience. This challenge is two-fold. First, we wish to share how the presence of Christ impacts the lives of those who we serve. Second, we want to encourage other Christians that may feel a specific calling from the Lord to, as we say, “Don’t ignore it, explore it.” Salvation is a one-on-one relationship between Christ and the individual. However, ministry is a team effort with Christ at the center. In fact, all six of the full-time staff members at Light of the Village started out as periodic volunteers in the service of Christ; little did we know where that journey would lead. However, I can say with full confidence that everyone who participates at Light of the Village, be it through volunteering, praying, donating food items or by financially supporting the ministry, is as important as those of us serving on the ground daily.

This fall, two publications that share these experiences will be available. First, author J. Malcolm Garcia, a renowned author of multiple books detailing his experiences from the border to the battlefields of Afghanistan and Syria, has completed his novel, *Alabama Village: Faith, Hope and Survival in a Southern Town*. Malcolm lived at the Light House across from Light of the Village off and on for a full year. During that time, he met and interviewed a variety of residents in the neighborhood. The back cover reads: “In Alabama Village, children no longer flinch at the eruption of gunshots. In this community, few things last and the loss of life is relentless. Through a close account of the individuals who make up the Alabama Village community - the boys and girls who grow into young men and women here, the devout Christian couple who established the Light of the Village church where the community gathers - J. Malcolm Garcia captures the unflinching reality and perseverance of the people in this town. Through its striking, raw, and humanizing portraits, *Alabama Village* is an ode to communities and the stories that make them whole.”

The second publication, written by myself, is a 13-page book, *D-Block: A Street View of Christian Ministry*, a supplement to Malcolm’s book that takes a deeper look at the hands-on ministry aspect. This true account highlights how the message of Christ, as mentioned in Matthew 4:15—“And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a Light has shined”—is a central theme in our daily efforts within this unique community. We will make those available in November.

Again, let us say thank you for your prayers and support over these 23 years as we continue to “not ignore but explore” this amazing journey the Lord is leading.

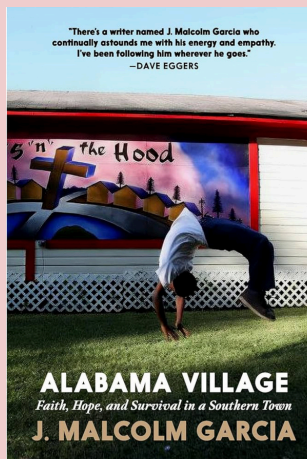
The Mission Continues..

John Eads

“When you hear two shots you think someone is testing their gun or something. Multiple shots, yeah, this is a shootout, and they’ll fire every bullet they have in every direction and not care who they hit.”

*Da’Cino Da’marcus Dees,
Alabama Village*

**ALABAMA VILLAGE
RELEASES OCTOBER 14!
PRE-ORDER NOW
ON AMAZON!**



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

We proudly celebrate 26 high school graduates from the class of 2025! Some have embarked on their college journeys, others are enlisting in the military, and many are entering the workforce. It has been a true joy to witness their growth in this special place that has become a second home for so many. Now, it is our privilege to pray for and support them as they step into their futures, fully trusting that Christ is with them wherever they go.



Torry, former TeenLeader and candle maker, visited Summer Bible Camp while on a brief leave from the Navy! He enlisted in 2021 and is currently stationed in San Diego.



Imirriay was asked to pray at the Emerging Scholars program Ceremony at MVSU. She has begun her freshman year of college and is playing in the band.



LaKendra served as assistant director of Camp Peace this summer and did a stellar job! We are impressed with her growth and desire to serve!



PARTNER WITH LOV

Set Up an
Online
Donation



Sponsor
Plates for
Thanksgiving



Collect Items
for Our
Food Pantry



Provide
a Meal for
Teen Night



UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Thanksgiving Eve Meal | Nov. 26 | 2:00pm-5:00pm
Night in the Light | March 5 | 6:00pm

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Sunday Bible Study at LOV | 11:30-1:00pm
- Camp LOV After School Program (Alabama Village)
Tuesdays - Thursdays | 3:00pm-5:15pm
- Camp Peace (Toulminville)
Mondays | 3:00pm-5:00pm
- Teen Night at LOV | 6:00pm-7:30pm

SCAN ME



For more info, scan the code above for a full list of year-round opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email volunteer@lightofthevillage.org or call or text 334.406.0221. *For safety reasons, please contact us before coming out to visit or volunteer for the first time so we will know to expect you.*

Light of the Village



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Light of the Village is a 501(c)3 organization accredited by the ECFA. All donations are tax-deductible.