

Merea Moments

March 15, 2021

| Volume 1, Number

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD...

Jeremiah 29:11

Merea Moments

What a year!

Where there is a will there is a way

Opportunities to serve.

Upcoming Events

Other Giving Opportunities

"Merea is the most honorable place I know. It has the most spirited women that I've ever met in my life and they have inspired me to be a better person."

Terri R.

What a year!

Wow to say the least 2020 was a strange year. Merea's year started out as normal we had a class of 8-9 girls from the Job Corp that was coming for classes in Bible Study, Salvaging My Identity, and Life skills classes and from the community we had 4 ladies or couples coming for tutoring. Praise the Lord we had three make professions of faith and were baptized by Bro Tommy Snider at FBC Batesville. Then Covid-19 shut us down completely for a month or so.

While quarantined I was told that I needed to have a knee replacement so felt it was the best time to do this. It was a success and after a small setback I was back up on my feet in time for things to start opening back up.



While I was down, I had a wonderful group of volunteers who helped keep Merea going in the limited capacity that we could by the state. As restrictions were lifted, we transitioned to one-on-one tutoring which has continued throughout the year.

Where there is a will there is a way

Not being able to have a group class or for some of our teachers who were older and were encouraged to remain quarantined from groups due to health reasons we had to think outside the box to reach our participants and to minister to our community. Our Panola Baptist Association was in contact with the Mid South Food Bank, and we formed a partnership with them to distribute food boxes to those who may be food insecure and to our elderly in our community. This was a wonderful way for Merea to continue to reach our community through service and to make sure our participants, volunteers, and others in our community had enough to eat during this trying time. We distributed over 620 food boxes, some boxes we were able to supplement with pasta, beans, or rice. We were also blessed with hygiene products donated by, the "I Support the Girls," MS Affiliate Director, Mrs. Deana Pittman.

One of the results, layoffs, from the covid virus on our economy has created a lot of homeless people even in our community. One way we would like to be able to assist those who come to Merea seeking help is to provide a hygiene kit and 2-3 days of shelf stable food that a person could eat in a car or out of their back packs if necessary. If you would like to help sponsor or provide these, contact Terrie for more information.

"I always feel welcome at Merea and encouraged to keep working towards my GED, thank you for all you do for me to help me keep going."

- **Anonymous participant**

Merea Ministry, Inc.



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Opportunities to serve.

There are many needs at Merea, we need funds to maintain our building, rent, utilities, program materials, and staff.

- * We need Prayer Warriors to pray for staff, volunteers, current and future participants, and for monthly donors.
- *We need volunteers to come help maintain our clothes closet as donations come in, and to help with maintenance.
- *We need teachers to teach classes, tutor individuals in Bible Study, reading, GED, life skills etc.
- *We need mentors to come along side those who are in the program to walk along side and be an encouragement to the participants as they accomplish their goals.
- *We need champions to promote and encourage others to learn about our ministry, to serve in our ministry, and to give time and resources to further the ministry purpose.

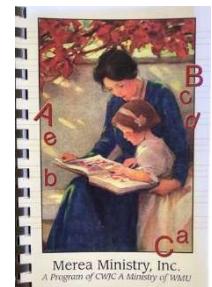
If you know of someone who could benefit from the services that Merea offers, please help by giving them our contact information on the left and by promoting us in your community, church, and families.

Upcoming Events

April 3, 2021 – Show off on the square in Batesville. Merea will be doing the concessions as a fundraiser if you would like to help sponsor some of our supplies please contact Terrie at 662-578-4928, but please come out and support us by coming to view the cars and stopping by for breakfast or lunch.

Other Giving Opportunities

1. *One of our earliest fundraisers was this cookbook that is sold for \$10. There are still some available and there are some recipes of those who are no longer with us and are priceless. This makes a great shower gift for a new bride. Call to get your copy today.*
2. *You can also support Merea Ministry by shopping on Amazon Smile. Make sure you go to smile.amazon.com you can donate items from our wish list, shop for your own items and if they qualify .5% will be donated to Merea.*
3. *Do a Facebook fundraiser for your birthday by choosing Merea Ministry as your charity.*



Merea Ministry, Inc.
A Program of CMJC A Ministry of WMU

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our current and future participants, that the Lord will lead us to them, and them to us.

For our Site Coordinator, Board Members, Volunteers, and Mentors.
For our current and future donors and sponsors.

Please pray about adding CMJC to our ministry to serve men in our community as we have had an increase in requests for help from men.