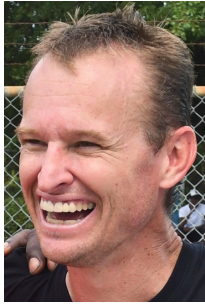


# Soul City Church: 'We're going to raise a generation'

*By William Perkins*  
*Editor*

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Under the leadership of pastor Scott Fortenberry, there's also a bicycle shop, pottery studio, and a monthly event called Burgers and Basketball to attract the area's young people — and that's not all.



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CHALLENGING START – Volunteers have their work cut out for,”  
them as refurbishment begins on an abandoned city pool that  
has now become a recreational ministry of Soul City Church  
in midtown Jackson. (Photo credit: Soul City Church)

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“My job as pastor of Soul City is to leverage the relationships that God has given me on behalf of those I serve.”

Fortenberry recalled driving by the dirty, dilapidated pool and saying, “I think God is going to let us use that pool one day.” Two years later, we just celebrated baptizing kids in the pool. We have the largest baptistery in the state.”

It’s a different way to draw people in, he explained. “We’ve been a great opportunity to be a missions outpost. Local churches have come on a pretty regular basis.” Over 25 teams of volunteers from Mississippi Baptist churches have pitched in and helped out so far this year.

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BIKE MINISTRY – Soul City Church in midtown Jackson operates a bicycle shop where neighborhood youth and can own a bike after putting in at least six hours to restore it. (Photo credit: Soul City Church)

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“It’s watching God do the impossible,” Fortenberry said. “We have a 30-year strategy that says we’re going to raise a generation that will be the change in the neighborhood. It’s a long term commitment.

“All across our city there are incredible people... [who] are bringing Jesus into some hard, difficult places, and I think we ought to celebrate those stories and look what God is doing right here in the center of our state.”

Fortenberry said the pool project is a symbol of what God can do through faithful followers of his Son, Jesus Christ.

“God comes into what’s dead and nasty and broken and not useful to anybody, and He takes all the mud and the muck out of us and places a brand new coat of paint on us and says,

'Bless the neighborhood.'

*Editor's note: Mississippi Baptists support church planting efforts like Soul City Church through gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. To listen to the entire Podcast on which this article is based, [click here](#).*



LARGEST BAPTISTERY – Jerry Tyson, next generation pastor at Soul City Church, baptizes a young person who lives in the neighborhood where Soul City is located in midtown Jackson, in the pool recently reopened by the church. Looking on is Avery Fortenberry, another candidate for baptism. “We have the largest baptistery in the state,” said pastor Scott Fortenberry. (Photo credit: Johnny Ervin)