

## Faith-Based Initiatives Newsletter

# ONE | Team Vision

TENNESSEE'S COMMUNITY-BASED CHANGE AGENTS

### Faith & Recovery—Frontline Peer Support



#### Meet Sherman Mason

Reverend Sherman Mason, Jr. serves his hometown of Memphis as a TN Recovery Navigator and an ambassador of the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services to the faith community in Shelby County. He meets people at their lowest, most often in the emergency room after an overdose, and helps them find the path to treatment and recovery. Reverend Mason grew up in the Orange Mound community of Memphis, attending Melrose and Ridgeway High Schools. He graduated from Belhaven University with a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Ministry and received a Master's degree in Addiction Counseling from Memphis Theological Seminary. He is also a Certified Peer

Recovery Specialist using his past to positively impact others' futures.

To contact Sherman: [smason@caapincorporated.com](mailto:smason@caapincorporated.com), (901) 870-1665

### COVID-19 Resources for Faith Organizations

[Emory University's Resources Hub for Faith Communities](#)

[Strengthening Faith Community Connectedness During the COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar](#) - April 30, 2020, 1:00-2:00 CST

[E-mentoring: Supporting Youth in a Time of Social Distancing](#)

### Initiative Goals

1. Connect individuals struggling with addiction to treatment.
2. Facilitate understanding of what treatment and recovery are.
3. Increase knowledge of what addiction is.
4. Understand the continuum of care and collaborate with it.
5. Help groups understand and implement the best practice model.
6. Promote and improve effectiveness of the faith-based initiative and how it connects the community with recovery and support services.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Office of Faith-Based Initiatives Mini Conference, May 12-15, 2020

- \* **REGISTER HERE:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/office-of-faith-based-initiatives-mini-conference-tickets-103522504598>
- \* **Conference Information Meeting/Intro to Faith-Based Team** - 5/6/20, 12:00 - 1:30 CST  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/64919602666>
- \* **Reducing Stigma Toward SUDs and Mental Health Disorders in the Faith Community**, 5/12/20, 1:00 - 2:00 CST
- \* **The Addicted Mind: Development, Maintenance, & Recovery**, 5/13/20, 1:00 - 2:00 CST
- \* **Addressing Sexual Compulsion in the Faith Community**, 5/14/20, 1:00 - 2:00 CST
- \* **Laying a Good Foundation for a Recovery Ministry**, 5/15/20, 1:00 - 2:00 CST

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## Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists Save Lives



### Meet Melesa Lassiter

Melesa Lassiter BSN, RN a Dresden TN native, graduated from Bethel University with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and then completed the necessary testing to obtain licensure as a Registered Nurse. She has been with the Weakley County Prevention Coalition since September of 2017 as the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist (ROPS) of Region 6 North covering all of North-West Tennessee. Her goal as a ROPS of northwest Tennessee is to educate the public, medical community, law enforcement, and first responders on the opioid epidemic. She currently trains and equips individuals with the life-saving drug Narcan (Naloxone). Naloxone is a

prescription medicine used for the treatment of an opioid emergency such as an overdose or a possible opioid overdose. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Melesa has been part of the TDMHSAS frontline response by training over 150 people how to use Narcan and delivering it to them.

To contact Melesa Lassiter, [melesa@martinhousing.org](mailto:melesa@martinhousing.org) , (731) 819-7603

FOR HELP FINDING TREATMENT, CALL OR TEXT:

**1-800-889-9789**

Monty Burks, Ph.D.  
Director of Faith Based Initiatives  
500 Deaderick Street, 5th Floor,  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 770-1783 Office



 Department of  
**Mental Health &  
Substance Abuse Services**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Addiction, Recovery, & Employment Virtual Summit, 5/21/20, 10:00am-12:00pm CST** \*For info contact [amy@jmprevent.org](mailto:amy@jmprevent.org)

**Faith & Recovery Expert Panel & Interactive Conference, 5/28/20-5/29/20, 9:30am-11:00am, CST** \*For info, contact [skeel@metrodrug.org](mailto:skeel@metrodrug.org)

## Looking for an online recovery meeting?

- ⇒ [Online Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous](#)
- ⇒ [In the Rooms](#)
- ⇒ [12step.org](#)
- ⇒ [Lion Rock Recovery](#)
- ⇒ [Smart Recovery](#)
- ⇒ [Guided Meditation Online Groups](#)
- ⇒ [Peer Support](#)
- ⇒ [Online NA](#)

Need help taking your meeting to a virtual format?

[SAMHSA Virtual Recovery Resources Fact Sheet](#)

*"The strongest people are not those who show strength in front of us but those who win battles we know nothing about."* - Jonathan Harnisch