

THOMAS DIXON

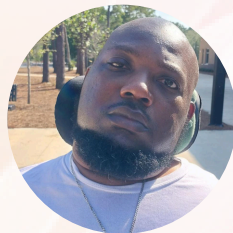


Social justice and gun violence prevention advocate, Thomas Dixon, serves as an Associate Pastor at Life Community Church in Mt Pleasant, SC. He also serves as an advisor to Positive Vibes Ronjanae Smith Inc. and several other organizations addressing gun violence in our community.

Since exiting the prison system in 2001, Pastor Dixon has dedicated his life primarily to reducing gun violence, although his advocacy has covered every aspect of human rights. For the last 6 years, he has been a member of the Brady United Against Gun Violence national Board of Trustees. Among his many accolades, in 2018, Pastor Dixon was awarded the Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposium Award by the National Bar Association for his work in gun violence prevention. Most recently, he received national certification as a Violence Interrupter.

Pastor Dixon ran for U.S. Senate in South Carolina in 2016 and for mayor of North Charleston, S.C. in 2019. Him and his wife, Vanessa, have been married for 40 years and live in North Charleston. They have two adult children, both of whom are married, and three grandchildren.

WENDELL MANIGAULT



From victim to survivor, Wendell's journey through gun violence has transformed him into a passionate advocate for change. As a public speaker author, and peer support, he is on a mission to end gun violence and save lives by sharing his powerful story with the youth, sparking conversations that inspire action and create safer, stronger communities.

CHANDRA GIBBS



Chandra C. Gibbs is married to Bishop Morlon J. Gibbs of Charleston, South Carolina. She is the daughter of retired Army Command Sergeant Major Carl B. McPherson, Sr. who is now married to the beautiful Mavis McPherson, and the late Mrs. Jeanette B. McPherson. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, her father's lifetime career in the United States Army gave Gibbs and her siblings the unique opportunity to travel the world and appreciate the culture of many communities firsthand. Chief Chandra C.-Gibbs began her career in victims' services at the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office as an advocate. Those early years provided the basis for the service she has rendered her entire career - ensuring that the rights of the victims are protected and educating the community about law enforcement services.

Gibbs is a sworn law enforcement officer and currently serves as the Chief Deputy of the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Leroy Ravenell. She is responsible for assisting with providing the day-to-day oversight of the daily operations and adherence to policies and procedures of the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office. Chief Gibbs is guided by a strong focus on community policing and providing avenues for members of the community to learn and be engaged with law enforcement. She has also served as the Chief of Staff and the Director of Victim Services.

Before returning to the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office, Gibbs was a Department Manager at the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) a Division of the South Carolina Governor's Office. She served as a liaison to the Victim Services Coordinating Council and provided non-partisan leadership in strategic planning efforts. She conducted site visits and provided feedback on Victim/Witness Assistance Programs to Solicitor's Offices across the State. During this time period Gibbs experienced firsthand the plight of being a crime victim.

She was a victim of an armed robbery at gun point and locked in the freezer. This experience further ignited her passion for the field and dedication to supporting crime victims. Before she went to work for an extension of the Governor's Office, Gibbs served as the first civilian based Victim Services Coordinator for the South Carolina Highway Patrol developing a policy and procedure manual for the unit. She was responsible for providing services to victims of highway crimes to include DUI, reckless driving, reckless homicide, and hit and run.

BRIAN HOWARD



A powerful scripture advises parents to "train a child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it." While this doesn't guarantee that a child won't stray, it suggests that the foundational values instilled by parents, family, and community will guide them back. Brian Howard's life exemplifies this promise.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, as the eldest son of John and Susan Howard, Brian was raised with a strong Christian foundation and values emphasizing education, honesty, and hard work. However, after moving to Ladson, South Carolina, his life took a tragic turn when his parents separated when he was just 12. At a pivotal moment in his adolescence, Brian was molested by a babysitter, which opened the door to a lifestyle far removed from the one he and his sister, Keesha, had been taught.

Struggling with the trauma of divorce and a desire to fit in, Brian became involved in crime, eventually leading to the tragic loss of another young man's life. In 1989, he was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. During his time in prison, Brian experienced a profound encounter with God, surrendering his life to Jesus Christ. He repented for the pain he had caused and sought to make amends, reaching out to the father of his victim and dedicating his life to helping others. This inner transformation reignited the values of faith and hard work instilled in him during his childhood.

Initially reading at a 6th-grade level, Brian immersed himself in his studies, earning a GED and certifications in Construction and HVAC through college courses. Driven by a desire to uplift others, he became a mentor to fellow inmates, which led the Warden to select him as one of eight men to lead a character-based dorm and develop a character education program.

Due to his transformation and good behavior over 28 years, Brian was granted parole in 2016. With the support of his faith and family, he has embraced a positive path since his release. He rekindled his relationship with his childhood sweetheart, Lisa, and they are now happily married. He also connected with a daughter who had never known him, stepping into the roles of devoted father and grandfather. Brian is employed as an installation technician at Cregger Company and has obtained his CDL license, with aspirations of owning a trucking company.

Continuing the impactful work he began in prison, Brian serves as the youth development coordinator for My Community Keeper Mentor Group, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the community through youth restoration, community revitalization and transformative mentorships. Brian also serves as a volunteer in South Carolina Department of Corrections teaching reentry.

GARY ROBINSON



Gary's life is an example of the power of redemption and transformation. As a former ninth-grade dropout addicted to drugs and alcohol, his poor decisions led to a fifteen-year prison sentence. However, during his incarceration, he encountered a group of men who inspired him to acknowledge his greatness. Within the confines of a prison cell, Gary realized his life's purpose and his responsibility to fulfill it.

Gary is the program coordinator for the Engaging Men and Boys Program. Engaging Men helps men understand healthy masculinity and manhood. He facilitates the Men Of Strength Club. An after-school program that seeks to transform the mindset of young boys into that of strong men.

He is the SVP of The Community Powerhouse. A program that works primarily with at-risk African-American males in the local middle school. Gary is also a Path2Redemption Credible Messenger Mentor. As a credible messenger, he provides mentorship to young boys in the Department of Juvenile Justice. Through one-on-one, and group coaching, he helps them understand manhood and identity.

Gary has written and published six books. He and his wife Salena have been married for ten years and live in Lancaster, South Carolina.

HOLLI TABREN



Meet Holli Tabren, a multi-talented Author, Mentor, and Entrepreneur. Originally from Harlem, New York, Holli now calls Columbia, South Carolina her home. She holds a degree in Biblical Studies with a concentration in Ministry from Columbia International University and is a Certified Literary Braille Transcriptionist through the Library of Congress specializing in Nemeth and Science. Holli is a Certified Blingologist and has built a thriving fashion business called Styling Is Necessary, where she designs custom rhinestone apparel and creates unique logos for her customers.

In addition, Holli is a two-time author of 'Blood Ain't Thicker' and 'The Path2Redemption Anthology: Strategic Lessons from Mentors to Empower the Youth.' The book and anthology are captivating works showcasing her unique writing skills in diverse genres.

Holli is also a Real Estate professional and a speaker who inspires her audience through her podcast Law And No Order: Special Survivors Unit and many social media channels. Her inspirational posts target a range of demographics from youth to adults. While Holli continues to inspire a new generation of brand makers through her many enterprises, her greatest assignment is mentoring our youth. She devotes her time to the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, through organizations like Path 2 Redemption & Credible Messenger.

SEAN FOGLE



A native of Holly Hill, South Carolina, Sean Fogle is a 1991 graduate of Holly Hill-Roberts High School and a 1993 graduate of Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Decatur, GA. Later, he attended Clayton State University in Morrow, GA majoring in Computer Networking Technology.

In 2003, Sean joined the staff of the Orangeburg County Coroner's Office. Since that time, he has risen to the rank of Chief Deputy Coroner. He has over 21 years of experience in medicolegal death investigations and was responsible for the day-to-day management of the office.

Sean has spent many years participating and speaking with students about Consequences of Drunk Driving, Student Drunk Driving Reenactments and "What Happens when Guns are Involved".

In 2023, Sean was awarded the South Carolina "Miracles in Sight" scholarship for the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Death Investigation Training Symposium held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In addition to working for the coroner's office, Sean serves as Minister of Music for St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Ridgeville, SC.

Sean is a member of the South Carolina Coroner's Association, International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners and the SC Violent Death and Drug Overdose Advisory Council.