

JANUARY 2024

GATEWAY

RESCUE MISSION



PODCAST TIME!

OUR MISSION *To offer life changing hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ to men, women, and children through programs to deliver food, shelter, counseling and discipleship*



Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.

- C.T. Studd

FROM THE DIRECTOR



REX BAKER

I would like to introduce you to James as we begin 2024. James came to Gateway Rescue Mission this past October after spending 40 of his 68 years in prison. He made the rounds through prisons like San Quentin before getting locked up in Mississippi for the last 25 years on various drug-related charges.

"I'd get up, put one foot on the floor, and the other one on the floor, and say today is a good day to die. Who wants to go with me?" says James who picked up the nickname "Bear" during those years. James lived a violent life as an enforcer with the Aryan Brotherhood. However, everything changed for James in the summer of 2013.

"On July 4, 2013, I covered up my Aryan Brotherhood patch and gave my life to Christ and started living for Jesus," recalls James. Today James likes to counsel the younger guys in our New Life Program at Gateway Rescue Mission. He credits God for changing his life and says "my mess is my message."

You can hear more of James' story on our podcast, God After Dark. In this podcast, we will tell stories of how God shows up in the dark places of our lives and works a miracle. Part of that miracle for James is that he now has an apartment, a car, and is rebuilding a relationship with his daughter. James has a gentle voice and the twinkle of God's peace in his eyes. (we are pictured on the front cover recording James' podcast.)

One of my goals for 2024 is to establish our podcast as a way to tell stories of life change at Gateway Rescue Mission. You can find our podcast by searching "God After Dark podcast" or go through the podcast app on your phone.

A new year seems to always give us hope that we'll be able to climb that mountain and succeed with a new endeavor, whether it be losing weight, cleaning out the garage, or starting a podcast. At Gateway, we are

planning a building renovation campaign that will allow us to enlarge and improve our New Life Program. I feel God's timing is right for our ministry to go in this direction.

However, 2023 threw me some curves. That's how things generally work. We plan how we think things should work out. Then life happens and blows our plans out of the water. God intervened in my life this past year to show that I needed to stop some things and allow Him to do an inner work within me.

Where does God have you as we enter 2024? I've learned that I don't have time to do everything I'd like to do in this life. Therefore, I'm learning to focus on those most important things God puts before me. As I grow older, I'm realizing more that how we live really does matter. I also see that in God's kingdom, our idea of worth gets turned on its head.

It's scandalous in today's secular world to think about God saving a violent white-supremacist and using him to mentor younger men, many of whom are minorities. The Apostle Paul wrote "for the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18)

Whatever you do in 2024, may God's power to save be evident in your life and may you be willing to reach out to others and allow Christ's light to shine in you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex M. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

VISIT GATEWAYMISSION.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW
YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE TODAY



Looking to 2024

Gateway Rescue Mission is pretty much a 24/7 operation. Each day we prepare three meals, wash a few dozen sheets and towels, and pray with each other and for each other.

As we look to 2024, here are a few personal observations about Gateway Rescue Mission.

- We will continue to see more homeless people on the streets. At Gateway Rescue Mission, we want to see people come out of homelessness and learn how to live independently and purposefully.
- Gateway Rescue Mission will continue to be free from illicit drugs. We have worked hard over the years to keep drugs out of our mission and off our property. I give kudos to our team members who work hard to keep Gateway Rescue Mission a drug free zone.
- We will plan to expand our facilities in order to help more people. Our current facilities are still in full use. However, it's time for us to embrace physical growth. This means renovating a warehouse building on our property to use as our future home of the New Life Program.
- We will continue to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ as central to building a new life.
- We will continue to feed hungry people, shelter the homeless, preach the gospel, and provide programs for those seeking life change.
- Our funding will continue to come from private donations.

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We'd like to give a Gateway Shout-out to everyone who drops off donations or comes buy to lend a helping hand. We've had Eagles Scouts dropping off supplies during the holidays. Robbie Pendleton and his wife Kimberly (pictured here) recently dropped of several dozen care packages loaded with supplies for people living on the streets.



In 2024, we expect God to move at Gateway Rescue Mission. That's not just "preacher speak." We believe God is calling us to stand in the gap in this drug epidemic and to be a place of refuge and healing for people coming out of addiction. Addiction is one of the devil's main tools today to keep people locked in bondage. At Gateway Rescue Mission, we aim to be one of God's tools in Jackson to do something about that.



CURRENT NEEDS

- **Notebooks & Pens.** For journaling and bible study books
- **Underwear, T-Shirts, & Socks.** These wear out quickly and we're always in need of underwear, t-shirts, and socks.
- **Life Recovery Bible.** We would love more copies of the "Life Recovery Bible." This is an excellent Bible for people who are in recovery.
- **Coffee.** Who doesn't need a hot cup of joe? We can always use coffee - and creamer, too!
- **Tide Pods.** These make it so much easier to wash clothes and do laundry.
- **Prayer.** This is our most important need. Please pray for God to give us knowledge of His will and the power to carry it out.

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