

APRIL 2024

# GATEWAY

## RESCUE MISSION



LUNCH 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 am Rex, and I am a sinner.” I just want to establish that fact at the beginning of this letter. I once heard a wise preacher say “everybody is addicted to something.” By this, he meant that each one of us has a personal struggle with sin and the flesh. While our struggles are not all the same, we all have a proverbial “thorn in the flesh”, as the Apostle Paul calls it. Paul wrote that “there was given me a thorn in the flesh” to keep him from becoming too proud in this life.

The beauty is that Paul doesn’t reveal the identity of his thorn. Therefore, we can each relate to having a “thorn”. We all have that problem, that addiction, that nagging sin, that life issue that just won’t go away even after we have prayed and sought God diligently.

At Gateway Rescue Mission, we hold an addiction recovery group meeting each Thursday evening. It gives the men in our New Life Program a safe place to talk about their "thorns." This meeting has become one of my favorite parts of the week.

A couple of months ago, we had a guy named Luke in our program. Luke looked like an extra from Friday the 13th and during a Thursday meeting he growled out “I love drugs and I hate people.” Now, here is where I’m supposed to say that Luke found Jesus and his frown turned to a smile and now he loves people just fine. In reality, Luke left not long after that for the siren call of whatever drug has him bound.

However, for most of the guys in our recovery program, Thursday night has become their time to share what God is doing in their lives. Some talk a lot while others talk very little. Thorns are discussed such as alcohol, crystal meth, and cocaine.

Sometimes guys share that the thorn of improper sexual relationships led them back to drugs.

Here’s what I’ve learned about the redemption of God being applied to our broken lives. If we create an atmosphere that values the love of Christ being shown toward the fallen, the fallen find that thing most difficult to grasp when battling thorns. That is, they discover salvation bestowed from a loving God lived out in fellowship with other broken and restored followers of Christ.

Our programmatic team of Forea Ford and Michael Sweet recently held a healing/prayer service in our chapel. The service lasted almost two hours with men coming forward seeking prayer through the working of the Holy Spirit. Somedays we have volunteers who show love through handing a plate of food to a stranger.

In most addiction support groups, a person typically begins speaking with the phrase “I’m Joe and I’m an alcoholic, or addict, or whatever.” The idea is not that we must forever be reminded of our past deeds. Rather, we are stating that in our lowest sinfulness, we can today be reconciled to God and accepted by others.

Indeed, I am Rex and I am a sinner. The One who knew no sin died for the sins I committed on the worst day of my life. That holds for everyone who claims the name of Christ. May you experience the joy today of the One who died for you and makes it possible for us to live in harmony with other sinners redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Rex Baker  
Executive Director  
Gateway Rescue Mission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex M. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Rex Baker**  
Executive Director  
Gateway Rescue Mission

VISIT [GATEWAYMISSION.ORG](http://GATEWAYMISSION.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW  
YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE TODAY

## Street Ministry

We like to see smiling faces at Gateway Rescue Mission. Michael, one of our New Life Program residents recently flashed a grin when I walked through the kitchen. Speaking of the kitchen, our feeding program is one of the constants of ministry at Gateway Rescue Mission. In today's world of "outcomes", it's hard to measure the "success rate" of our feeding program. People eat in our kitchen who are working a recovery program to get their lives back on track. Some who are disabled eat the best meal of their day in our kitchen. Others who are still "out there" on the street corners also eat in our kitchen.



We are not here to judge the motives of those who eat with us. We are here to show the love of Christ, as best we can, through a good meal. In God's timetable, it is sometimes our lot to keep someone alive long enough for God to do a miracle of restoration in their lives. We have seen that happen. Our ministry teams go out into the streets each week to deliver care packages and to pray with hurting people.

We wish to thank all of you who support our ministry. Your donation helps keep the light of Christ shining in downtown Jackson, Mississippi.



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We are in the process of getting our old freezer/ cooler replaced with a brand-spanking new, state of the art freezer/cooler. That would make Gomer say “Shazaam!!” I don’t know when our old freezer was put in. I just know it was here when I came to work at Gateway many moons ago.

We’re truly excited about our new addition. We would also like to give a Gateway Shout-out to our friends at Hotel Restaurant and Supply who have supported our ministry over all these years and continue to be good friends today. While I’m on the subject, we’d also like to thank the good folks at Van’s Outdoors who keep us well supplied with deer meat in our freezers.

On a totally unrelated note, I recently found Eli and Dalton working on Dalton’s “new” car one afternoon. This picture contains no theological importance. It’s just a glimpse of what goes on at Gateway when no one is looking.

Finally, we want to thank all of you who help keep our freezer full. God doesn’t mean for any of us to exist on a ministry island. Your prayers and donations go right to the front lines here at Gateway Rescue Mission. Thank you!!



## CURRENT NEEDS

- **Addiction recovery literature.**
- **New men’s underwear, socks, and t-shirts. (all sizes)**
- **Nonperishable foods and canned goods.**
- **Large bath towels.**
- **Bottles of body soap.**
- **Personal hygiene supplies such as soap, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, etc.**

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NOW!**

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