

APRIL 2018

GATEWAY

RESCUE MISSION



GOD'S HEART
FOR THE POOR

OUR MISSION

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

REX BAKER



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

—C.T. Studd

A woman recently walked past Gateway Rescue Mission late one afternoon pulling a tattered suitcase. She didn't ask for help or shelter, only for a ride to meet her boyfriend. Something didn't feel safe. She could have had drugs in her bag and who knows what would be awaiting us on the boyfriend end. In our world, you learn to be careful.

I later mentioned the situation to a friend who works with sex trafficking victims and got the probable real story. The “boyfriend” was her pimp and she was coming in town to turn tricks for him. I don't regret not giving her a ride, but the incident showed the need to learn how to spot someone caught in sex trafficking and have a plan to offer a way out.

Twenty years ago, we worked primarily with crack addicts and alcoholics, with some weed smoking. Today, that list has grown to include those addicted to spice, crystal meth, opioids; the homeless mentally ill, people caught in the corrections system and people who have just plain given up. Now, add the dark underworld of sex trafficking right here in Jackson to the list.

The Bible clearly states God's heart for the poor and downtrodden. When Jesus came out of His 40 day fast to begin His earthly ministry, He said the following:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me

Because He anointed Me to preach the Good News to the poor.

He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To set free those who are downtrodden,

To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

Why did Jesus say this? Perhaps at the very core of the Good News lies the fact that God is concerned to the uttermost for the poor and oppressed. If so, then where should ministering to the poor, the captives, the blind and the downtrodden rank on our priority list?

If you are reading this letter, chances are you already support us financially. However, I'm asking that you also pray for the power of God to save, deliver and heal at Gateway Rescue Mission. Intercede on behalf of the addicted, the mentally ill who walk the streets, those trapped in sexual bondage and those who have lost hope. Evangelist Leonard Ravenhill wrote that “preaching affects men, but praying affects God.” I'm not asking for your prayers for rote religious exercises, but because the oppression we see is too great and too awful.

The evils we see today are going to get worse. Gangs are taking over the sex trafficking racket and mothers are selling their own daughters right here in Mississippi. I could go on, but you get the picture. God has called us to speak hope into darkness, but hope without prevailing prayer only leads to dead sermons falling on deaf ears. May we get busy praying, so that it can be said of us today that *the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because He has anointed us to preach the Good News to the poor.*

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

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

FEATURE

SPRING VOLUNTEERS



Meet Jen Odom, Volunteer Extraordinaire! Jen volunteered over spring break in our administrative office and, oh how she did volunteer. Jen shredded mounds of documents, sorted and stored files, and from the mouth of Administration Director Patricia S. Melvin, earned the title of “Best Volunteer Ever.” (no offense to those who volunteer in the kitchen, but if you had seen how much stuff we needed shredded, and how fast Jen shredded it...well, let’s just say she made the Watergate cover-up crew look like rookies.)



On another note, some of our kitchen crew received a pleasant surprise from volunteer Yasma Stringer, who brought one of the guys a cake to celebrate his graduation from the New Life Program. Jen, Yasma and all of you who volunteer bring sunshine to our little corner of the world, and we thank you, as Patricia says “from the highest of thankivity!!”

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GATEWAY RESCUE MISSION

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We'd like to give a Gateway Shout-Out to the good members of the Mississippi Wireless Association. These folks recently dropped by with a generous donation to help feed hungry people. This group has a special place in our heart and we sincerely appreciate their support of our ministry. They are, as we say back home, *good people*.

On the food front, we're hitting on all eight cylinders. The number of people showing up for lunch continues to rise. Gateway Rescue Mission typically serves about 170 meals a day at lunch alone. We may not be able to solve every problem, but God has blessed us with the ability to serve a tasty meal to a lot of hungry people every day. *Thanks to all of you who make our ministry possible!!*



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For your convenience you may now donate online at gatewaymission.org/donate



YES! I will help Gateway Rescue Mission care for the homeless and hurting people of our community!

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Help as many people as possible \$ _____

APRIL 2018

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