

FEBRUARY 2018

# GATEWAY

## RESCUE MISSION



**WHAT DOES  
GOD SEE ?**

### 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

Winston Churchill became British Prime Minister on May 10, 1940. That same day, Germany invaded France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. I recently watched *The Darkest Hour*, an excellent movie about the opening days of Churchill's tenure.

The movie accurately depicts the almost universal belief that a German invasion of England was imminent, complete with the spectre of Nazi rule over England. Churchill faced a dilemma—tell the truth about the military situation and risk demoralizing the public, or withhold the truth, leaving the people unprepared for the pending fall of France and peril to Great Britain.

At that moment in history, Churchill addressed the British Parliament and declared, “*We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.*”

Winston Churchill was not perfect. He drank too much. His quick tongue could both inspire and offend. Yet, he had an ability to see what others did not see. He prophesied the threat posed by Adolf Hitler when almost everyone else buried their collective heads in the sand.

As I watched the movie, I thought to myself, “what can we in our little world at Gateway Rescue Mission learn from this history?” I recently met with two young ladies who looked like they should be teaching children's Sunday School, but instead are working to rescue women from sex trafficking in Jackson. Yes, it's really happening here.

I got a call not long after that informing me that 300 inmates in the correctional system have been granted parole with no place to go. Then there's the ever present opioid epidemic. Crystal meth, crack cocaine, marijuana and plain old alcoholism are still going strong.

I'm no Winston Churchill and we don't have the German Wehrmacht positioned across the English Channel. Yet, we do have an enemy and I'm not talking about that doofus in North Korea. I'm talking about a spiritual enemy, the devil of old. Diabolos in the Greek; Satan in the Hebrew. We have a choice. Fight, surrender, or negotiate.

It's easy to forget 78 years later how much pressure Churchill faced within his own government to negotiate “peace” with Hitler. Yet, Churchill knew that peace with a murderous madman would mean tyranny for the British people.

As Christians, many of us would say “we shall never surrender” with our lips yet negotiate with the spiritual forces of darkness because we don't want to personally go to war. Let somebody else deal with the girls being pimped in the motels up and down I-55 in Jackson by organized crime. Let somebody else deal with the inmates or the mentally ill.

Oh, and if you do jump in the fight, expect to be criticized. Expect to be told you're not doing it right. You're forcing religion down their throats or you're not Christian enough or your too rule-oriented or you don't offer the right services or programs. I've heard it all.

People, we are in a war against any enemy who will not compromise or negotiate. Jesus said *the thief comes only to steal, and kill and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.* (John 10:10) I wasn't the sharpest tool in seminary, but I learned enough to know Jesus is talking symbolically of Diabolos, Satan, the devil of old.

We are at war, right here at home. Not everybody wants to hear this. Some people just want a warm, fuzzy Christianity. We're not perfect at Gateway Rescue Mission, but we are in the fight in a spiritual war that spills over into our physical space daily. I believe that Jesus lived, died and rose again to ultimately provide victory in this war. In the meantime, we must decide whether to fight, surrender or negotiate. That may offend some, but as Winston Churchill said, “*You have enemies? Good. That means you stood up for something, sometime in your life.*”

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

## WHAT DOES GOD SEE?

**Mark 8:23-25** - Taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around." Then again, He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.

I believe God wants His people to see. He wants us to see Him, a loving God who is constantly at work. When you see the homeless man on the side of the road, do you have the eyes to see God at work? I prayed "God, show me yourself today. Give me eyes that see." Shortly after, I was met by a volunteer bringing a donation. She shared with me that one of her friends had recently been diagnosed with cancer. She offered to help her friend financially, but her friend had other plans. She chose three organizations and wanted to use the money to support them instead. Gateway was one of her three choices. I then got a call from a friend who had a car full of food donations. God was saying "Do you see Me?"

I returned to work during our noon feeding. I walked outside and saw both men and women coming in to eat. I walked to a table and sat down beside a man who would be considered "the least of these." I heard God say again "Do you see Me?" I said "Yes Lord, I see you. Here I am."

I am so grateful to be in the presence of God and a part of God in his work. When I look around Gateway, I do not see lost causes, but a harvest that is plentiful and God is all up in it.—*Rusty Ryan, Volunteer Coordinator, Gateway Rescue Mission*



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### GATEWAY RESCUE MISSION

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A familiar song asks a dangerous question: “What’s love got to do with it?” And depending on where we are in life, that answer may be different for us all. Yet, Matthew 22:37-38 gives us a glimpse of God’s “love language”. Those verses describe what the Lord requires of us towards Him, ourselves and others as it relates to love. At the end of 2017, we were blessed to incorporate a Prayer Room at Ruth’s Refuge intentionally designed to demonstrate back to God how much we love and adore Him. It is during times of prayer and meditation in this room that we are able to pray for the many donors and volunteers who tirelessly love on the ladies at Ruth’s Refuge. (pictured here are our Prayer Room, donations and tables at our conference.)

Donors like Delisa who regularly drop off clothing, clothes or detergent; Lushelia who sponsors the entire house yearly for a women’s conference or the Ladies Auxiliary at First Presbyterian who recently purchased a new refrigerator. So many individuals and groups allow their belief in love to change our ladies’ perspective of themselves, life and ultimately God. At Ruth’s Refuge we are grateful for the love of God shown through the kindness of you, our donors and volunteers. And we are thankful that you at one time may have asked that very dangerous question, yet you chose to answer boldly saying: “Love has **everything** to do with it!” From the ladies and Staff of Ruth’s Refuge...thank you!—*Bria Martin, Director of Women’s Services, Gateway Rescue Mission*



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For your convenience you may now donate online at [gatewaymission.org/donate](http://gatewaymission.org/donate)



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

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FEBRUARY 2018

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