

MARCH 2018

GATEWAY

RESCUE MISSION



SPRING CLEANING
with a
GATEWAY SMILE!

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

I awoke one recent morning to find Spice suspiciously missing from her doggie bed. One step from the bedroom into the kitchen confirmed my worst fears. Garbage was scattered all over the kitchen, the den, the couch, even next to the fireplace. On the couch lay our hound mutt Spice, giving me that big doggie grin and wagging her tail.

I had inadvertently left a bag of garbage in the kitchen the previous night, with the intention of putting it out for trash pickup the next morning. Spice beat me to it. Eggshells, napkins, potato chip bags, used ice cream cups and old newspapers were strewn everywhere.

After exiling the silly dog to the backyard, I began the unpleasant task of cleaning up her mess. A few nasty minutes later everything was tidied up and after a quick shower, off to Gateway Rescue Mission I headed.

Spice's little excursion reminds me of the human condition. God blesses us and we repay Him by getting in life's garbage and having a good old time. Then Jesus comes behind us and cleans up our mess.

At Gateway Rescue Mission, we specialize in people who just can't seem to stay out of the garbage. Many a day I've strolled through the chapel and had a fellow who went through our program a while back grin and say "hey Bro. Rex, remember me?" Now about right now you're wondering if he went through the program a while back, what's he doing back at Gateway. Simple answer. He got back into the garbage.

Next question you're asking is, "hey Bro. Rex, how do you know when to work with somebody who's messed up again and when to say no?" Well, that's not always quite so simple. Yet, here's my gut answer.

When I discovered Spice's garbage handiwork, then I saw her wagging her tail and doggie smiling at me, I just couldn't be angry. She's my dog and I love her. Same with people. We get to know people at Gateway who we view as "one of ours." When they come by with their heads hanging low, it's sometimes hard to say no.

We've got a few lunch guests who bring their canines with them to Gateway Rescue Mission. I usually pet the pup, snap its picture, and immediately text it to my wife and say "look what I found. Can I keep it?" Then she'll text back "don't you bring another animal to our house!?" (I've brought home more than a few stray dogs and cats during our marriage.)

Truth be told, we've all got a bit of Spice in us. Sometimes we just make a royal mess in the kitchen of life and then call on God to clean it up. It's easy to joke about a dog getting in the garbage, but Jesus gave His life to clean us up. That's no laughing matter. With yours truly leading the pack, we've all gotten in the garbage. The Bible calls it sin and it just seems so irresistible. Then when we're all covered in slime, we realize our true condition and seek cleansing through the blood of Christ.

If you're a child of Jesus, He will not allow you to remain in your sin. When we've strown garbage all about, the Holy Spirit flips on the light in our proverbial kitchen while we lay back on the couch amid our filth. For reasons I can't always comprehend, God loves us through our mess, but too much to allow us to remain in it.

I'll close with a question I'd like to ask Adam when I get to heaven. "Adam, did your dog start getting in the garbage before or after you and Eve ate the forbidden fruit?"

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Rex M. Baker".

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

FEATURE

SPRING CLEANING WITH A GATEWAY SMILE!

Spring is nigh, so time for some Spring Cleaning! If you're like me, stuff accumulates around the house; sometimes too much stuff. If that's you too, then we've got a win-win for all. Donations are running low right now at our thrift stores and *we need your help*.

At our Thrift Stores (Pearl and Clinton), we sell donated items and the proceeds go directly to support the ministry of Gateway Rescue Mission. So, you can clean out the garage or closet, donate the items to Gateway Rescue Mission, and support a worthy cause all in one fell swoop.

Pictured on the front page is our smiling cashier Hattie, and you can see here pictures of happy customers buying things; all sorts of things. If it's legal and the dog hasn't chewed it up, and it's not garbage, we can sell it. (clothing, furniture, household items, etc.)

You can drop your donations off at our Pearl Thrift Store between the hours of 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or if it's too much to fit in your vehicle, we can pick it up. Just call Debbie at 601-932-1668 and schedule a pickup time.



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GATEWAY RESCUE MISSION

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A Gateway Shout-Out this month to Brandon First United Methodist Church! These fine folks held a chili cook-off, with Gateway Rescue Mission as one of the beneficiaries. *(pictured here)* We are always humbled at Gateway by the support of good people with good hearts.

We wish to thank all the volunteers and donors who give of time or resources. We've got regulars who serve a lot in our kitchen, and we thank you. We've got parents bringing children who want to expose their kids to the Lord's work. It's a beautiful thing to see the faces of smiling children serving at Gateway Rescue Mission.

In closing, we feed lots of hungry people at Gateway Rescue Mission. It's one of the pillars of what God has called us to do. However, our feeding program is within a larger context. Acts 2:42 says of the early church *"they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship of breaking bread and to prayer."* May this be said of us all.



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MARCH 2018

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