

JUNE 2018

GATEWAY

RESCUE MISSION



**DONATING WITH A
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

FEATURE

DONATING WITH A SMILE.



The fine ladies of the Women's Missionary Society of the Pearl Street A.M.E. Church recently dropped off a fine load of donations to Gateway Rescue Mission. These donations included food, shampoo, toothpaste and paper towels. A special thanks to Dr. Brenda Thompson for organizing this drive. Her ladies always bring a spark and a smile when they visit.

Speaking of food, we're topping 200 meals served at lunch some days. Not that long ago, we considered a 100 meal lunch a big crowd. Gateway is blessed with good cooks to prepare tasty meals and compassionate donors to provide the food.

Remember our kitchen with your summer food drives and individual donations. Hunger doesn't take the summer off, so we'll keep right on providing the meals. We thank God for His sustenance of our ministry at Gateway Rescue Mission.



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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

Every time I pick up the newspaper, the “opioid epidemic” or some state that has legalized marijuana is in the news. So, for reasons of personal therapy, I’m going to take executive privilege and vent my personal views on drugs.

For starters, legalizing recreational marijuana is right up there with snake-handling revival services on my list of stupid ideas. Calls to decriminalize illicit drug use are at best naïve and at worst opening the gates to a drug addiction pandemic.

I’m not saying that we should throw everyone who smokes a joint into Parchman. Make the punishment fit the crime. Community service, fines, court ordered treatment, or a dunce cap that says “I smoke dope” are all acceptable forms of punishment in my book.

But legalizing illicit drug use sends the wrong message to a generation already too messed up. I recently talked with a guy who admitted smoking marijuana and doesn’t see anything wrong with it. He might have a case, except that he can’t pass a drug test and therefore can’t get a real job. Sadly, he and too many others prioritize drug use over living a productive life.

Let me preach on the opioid crisis. We most definitely have a crisis. But when crack cocaine exploded on the scene back in the 1990’s, society built more prisons and locked the users up.

I recently read an article saying “Don’t blame addicts for America’s opioid crisis. The real culprit is big pharma.” Big Pharma is most definitely guilty of marketing pain pills as a panacea back in the 1990’s. But whatever happened to personal responsibility? Blaming an opioid addiction on drug companies is like blaming Budweiser because Papaw is a drunk.

Let me be blunt. When it was the black kids smoking crack across the tracks, white America was fine with locking them up. But when white kids get hooked on narcotics, too many say we can’t blame the little darlings. After all, it’s not their fault.

By the way, synthetic opioids like fentanyl have overtaken prescription opioids as the main killer. Street level Fentanyl is up to 100 times more powerful than morphine. Yet, current efforts to fight opioids are more likely to target the expired Lortab in your medicine cabinet than the real culprit.

And it keeps getting crazier. I read recently where some folks are figuring out how to get high from Imodium. I guess they’ll outlaw that next, even as the enlightened ones push to legalize marijuana.

At Gateway Rescue Mission, we see daily that drugs kill. Sometimes they kill the body first. Sometimes they kill the soul and rob the individual of any semblance of a normal life. But it’s time to face reality. As Christians, we have a moral obligation to teach a new way of living to people who literally don’t know how to live. It’s also time for our society to quit coddling addicts and demand personal responsibility.

In the Old Testament, God said “*be ye holy for I am holy.*” In the New Testament, Jesus said “*the Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.*” The Bible never places the responsibility for personal repentance on anyone other than the individual. We are not told how to repent, but we are told to repent.

God will hold the leaders of Big Pharma, drug lords and the purveyors of sin and vice accountable for the misery they spread. But He will also hold each of us accountable for our own actions.

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

A few years ago, someone brought a stuffed dog from our thrift store and placed it above the stove in our kitchen. Thus was born the “Legend of Gateway Dog.” Gateway Dog watches over every meal served and eaten in our kitchen.

I’ve had numerous volunteers ask over the years, “where’d the dog come from?” I can honestly say, “I’m not sure.” Like most things at Gateway, he just sort of showed up one day.

We often forget Gateway Dog is above the stove, and his presence will startle us out of the corner of our eye. Then we remember, it’s just Gateway Dog.

If you want to meet Gateway Dog in person, you can sign up on our website at www.gatewaymission.org and schedule your own time to volunteer in our kitchen under the canine’s watchful eye.



Follow us on Social



Twitter: @gatewaymission • Facebook: Gateway Rescue Mission • Instagram: gatewaymission

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!

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JUNE 2018

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