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

“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’m always excited at the beginning of a new year and 2020 is no exception. A new year brings new opportunity for growth, love and the positive things we seek in life. At Gateway Rescue Mission, hungry people will come to Gateway Rescue Mission to eat in 2020. Addicts will enroll in our New Life Program. Volunteers will come by to help out and many of you will support our ministry financially. Homeless people will stay in our shelter.

But I’d like to begin 2020 with an honest discussion about how we do ministry to the “least of these” in our country. If we believe God is still in the miracle working business, and He is; and we believe God calls and empowers us to minister to a broken world, and He does, why don’t we see more victory? Why do homeless people still live on the streets in 2020, in America, the most prosperous country in world history?

Why are addiction and incarceration still epidemic in certain parts of our community? If the Holy Spirit indwells believers with the power to walk in new life, why do so many Christians struggle with habitual sin? These aren’t just questions for Gateway Rescue Mission. They are questions for the authentic Christian church in America.

I’m often asked “Rex, what is your success rate of those enrolled in your New Life Program?” Truth is, I don’t really know. I know that some guys make it and some guys don’t. I’ve seen enough relapse among our program clients to know that success numbers aren’t exactly off the charts. And it’s not just us. How many of the people you sit near at church on Sunday are leading victorious lives? We don’t know.

We try and measure success by church attendance numbers, baptisms and building programs. On the rescue mission side of it, we offer graduation numbers, budgets, and we can track giving. Yet, why do we see more homeless camps sprouting up around Jackson? Why are people still overdosing on drugs?

A big part of the answer is the human will. God gave us the right to make choices and a lot of people make the wrong ones. Not much I can do when someone would rather sleep in the woods at night than come into a shelter. People have been sinning since Adam and Eve ate the apple and the Bible says they’ll keep right on doing so until Jesus returns.

In 2020, I want to dig deeper and get solid information measuring our impact. I want to hear from the men staying in our shelter why some of them are still homeless. While the majority of people who come to Gateway are appreciative, I catch enough lip from those who aren’t to know everything’s not peachy out there. Jesus caught lip too, so we shouldn’t be surprised.

In 2020, I want to ask deeper questions of the people coming into our program. I want to find out why they’re here and what they want. I want to focus on those who sincerely want to be here. I don’t have as much time as I used to, and don’t want to waste it on people who don’t care.

In 2020, I want Gateway Rescue Mission to come to grips with what it takes to focus on the few who really want it rather than the masses who say “what sign would You perform that we may see it and believe You?”

I’m not down or cynical. If anything, I’m more energized than ever about what God is planning for Gateway Rescue Mission. But before He does a work, He purifies His people and narrows their focus to what really matters. May you have a Happy New Year in 2020. Set some goals. Lay out a plan to achieve them and work your plan. And may our God who is in Heaven bless the work of your hands to His glory.

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

Visit gatewaymission.org for more information on how you can help someone today.
Happy New Year, as we ring in 2020 at Gateway Rescue Mission. Pastor Michael Sweet, shown here greeting a lunch guest, serves as Gateway’s Director of Ministries. We are blessed to have a dedicated, good-hearted staff at Gateway to do the front-line work in ministry for the folks who come our way.

We’re also blessed to have a house packed full of volunteers most days. Entergy, led by Haley Fisackerly (pictured on the right), brought a crew one day recently to help serve lunch.

It’s not too early to start signing up for volunteer slots in 2020. All you have to do is go to www.gatewaymission.org, register as a volunteer, find an open slot and book it yourself. It’s that easy.

For 2020, I ask for your prayer support in seeking God’s wisdom for our ministry. God has been faithful to sustain His work at Gateway Rescue Mission over the years. We feel He is preparing us for a next step and invite your prayers as to what those steps should be. We know it will involve ministry to the homeless and addicted, but we seek Divine guidance in where to place our emphasis.

We look forward to seeing you all and corresponding with you throughout 2020!
We typically wind up with some Christmas pictures taken after the December newsletter deadline. This past Christmas was no exception. True Vine Missionary Baptist Church brought a group by to donate gifts to our patrons. One gift found its way into the arms of a very happy little girl.

Though it’s now 2020, we wish to take one last moment to thank all of you who helped make 2019 special at Gateway Rescue Mission. In 2020, we’ll continue offering three meals a day, seven days a week. We’ll continue sheltering the homeless and providing programs for those seeking life change. And we’ll continue preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, believing that God is capable of changing lives.

Editor’s Note: Gateway sincerely appreciates the outpouring of support over the last year to this section of our newsletter. It warms our hearts to see donations of food, clothes, notebooks, journals, hygiene supplies, etc. come in. These donations go straight to the front lines to help the people who need them. If we ask for some things on a regular basis, it’s because they are regularly needed items.

Gateway Needs

- Soap: The motel-sized bars work great, but we ain’t picky.
- Ponchos for protection in the rain.
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and assorted hygiene supplies. This includes hand sanitizer and personal wipes.
- Nail clippers and emery boards for fingernail and toenail care. (People living on the streets don’t have healthy nail care.)
- Snack packs. Many people drop by the mission at odd times during the day in need of something to eat, particularly those from out of town and unfamiliar with the area. A snack pack of cookies, nabs, etc. brightens a homeless person’s day.
- Long sleeve pullover shirts, underwear and socks.
- Gloves and winter caps.