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.

In Loving Memory
Dave Davis
Dave Davis joined the Gateway Rescue Mission Board of Directors in 1995, three years before God called me to this ministry. He served Gateway from 1995 until his recent and unexpected passing. Allow me a moment to share from my heart, and our collective hearts at Gateway, some personal perspective on this man who served long and faithfully.

Dave served Gateway as board president, board vice-president, teacher, mentor, advocate, and as a friend. And when I say served, let it be known that Dave served. He taught classes to the men in our New Life Program. He helped mentor our staff through discipleship classes. He prepared and served a Jewish Seder meal for our staff on Good Friday one year. He once spent a night in our shelter to experience our ministry up close and personal.

But Dave was at his best when it came time to fight. Dave would insist that Gateway be represented at the D.C. Forum, which takes place each March when rescue mission leaders travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our congressional delegation. Those trips slightly intimidated me, except when Dave made the trip. When Dave Davis walked into the office of senators and representatives, all I had to do was follow and let him do the talking. He was a natural at pressing the cause of Gateway Rescue Mission on Capitol Hill.

When changes in our health care laws took effect several years ago, Dave singlehandedly lobbied our health insurance company to preserve our religious liberties. Dave won. I remember him stopping on the stairs going to my office one day and declaring “Rex, I don’t care what happens, I will always fight for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” And fight he did.

I didn’t always agree with Dave, but I never doubted his love for Christ or his commitment to Gateway Rescue Mission. Dave loved a good debate and is probably in heaven right now explaining the book of Romans to the Apostle Paul. He was a born apologist, in the sense of someone gifted from above in defending the faith.

Sometimes I wouldn’t hear from Dave for several weeks. Then he’d call me out of the blue, all excited about a new idea that he wanted to discuss. He would be the first to tell you that some of his ideas never panned out, but he could churn them out and would force you to think.

Dave was private with his personal business and probably wouldn’t want me writing this letter. But in my own way I can be just as stubborn as Dave, so I’m writing it anyway. I’m also writing it on behalf of the Gateway Rescue Mission Board of Directors and the Gateway staff. Our board meetings won’t be the same with his chair empty and his voice now silent.

The news that Dave had cancer came as a shock, as did his passing just a few days later. I will miss his presence in Gateway life, a presence that I have never been without until now. Dave loved God, his family, Jackson Prep, the Navigators ministry and Gateway Rescue Mission. And whatever Dave loved, he loved passionately.

He is now at home with the same Jesus that he fervently taught and fought for in this life. His fighting days are over, but like the Apostle Paul, we can say this about Dave Davis. He fought the good fight, he finished the course, and he kept the faith. And in doing so, there is laid up for him the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to Dave on that day; and not only to him, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (A paraphrase of 2 Timothy 4:8) Rest in Peace, Dave.

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

Visit gatewaymission.org for more information on how you can help someone today.
Life at Gateway Rescue Mission is beginning to return to a degree of normalcy. We have reopened our Pearl Thrift Store and administrative offices. But we are still serving to-go sandwich bags for lunch and have not yet opened the door for volunteers to return.

We'd like to thank the ladies of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, who graciously provided box lunches from Primos. This gave us a break from sandwiches for a day. Our lunch guests enjoyed the “Thanksgiving in the spring” lunch of turkey and dressing. These ladies, and a whole lot of other folks also, have made and donated masks to Gateway. We thank you all.

Like much of society, we're opening up in stages. We will have a twenty-customer limit at our thrift store, and if you show up to shop, show up wearing a mask and bring some money. We'll provide the hand sanitizer and the stuff to buy. (Actually, our donors provide the stuff to buy, and we're proud to announce that you can start donating to our thrift store again.)

Some things are routine, such as Thomas giving Gary a haircut. If Jesus came to Gateway today, Thomas would make sure those pictures of Jesus with long hair became a thing of the past. Thomas wants to get his barber's license one day. In the meantime, he's getting plenty of practice in our New Life Program.

We wish to thank all of you who have continued to support our ministry with your prayers and donations through this coronavirus crisis. Please pray that God will continue to protect us as we take steps to resume normal operations. *A Special Note: Due to the coronavirus, our administrative office was closed for six weeks. For all of you who have donated during that time, we sincerely appreciate your support. Please be patient with us as we are getting caught up sending out donation receipts.*
Online donations have exploded off the charts during the shutdown. When the Fed-ex driver shows up at Gateway, he’s usually got several boxes that y’all have shipped through Amazon or Sam’s and similar venues. The boxes stacked on the kitchen table show the wonderful support of the Gateway family during this time.

Steven here, is pictured washing down mattresses. We spray the mattresses with a special solution every couple of weeks to keep bedbugs out of the shelter. And in this month’s edition of Adventures of Popsicle, our feline mascot is pictured supervising the cleaning atop her perch on one of the mattresses.

Some things must eventually return to normal. But we'll also keep some things that have worked well during the shutdown. One of those things that works well is donations ordered online and shipped directly to Gateway Rescue Mission, 328 South Gallatin Street, Jackson, MS 39203.

### Gateway Needs

- **Masks** to help prevent the spread of Covid 19. We don’t need the hospital N95 masks, but we do need masks for our folks to wear as they perform daily duties. You can make them yourself or order them online and ship them to us. But we could seriously use some help in the mask category.
- **Latex gloves**. We need gloves for the same reason we need masks. To prevent the spread of Covid 19.
- **Hand Sanitizer**. We need hand sanitizer for the same reason we need masks and gloves. (By now I’m sure you get the idea).
- **Small, individual packets of hand wipes, or individual sanitizer packets**, to give out in lunch bags. We need lots of these for virus prevention among the people coming to us for lunch.
- **We continue to feed sandwiches**, so we still need sandwich condiment packs and cases of bottled water.
- **SPECIAL NOTE**: A couple of months ago, we asked for supplies such as work gloves and garbage bags to clean up the block around Gateway. Y'all responded and those supplies came rolling in and BAM!! The shutdown put the lockdown for the moment on our plan to clean up the neighborhood. We figured with a pandemic going around, the city leaders probably didn’t need us out on the sidewalks. But we're ready to launch that operation as soon as we feel it’s safe to do so.