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.
One of our staffers recently said “Mr. Baker, I’m looking forward to your next newsletter because I know you’re going to address all this stuff going on.” Honestly, I hadn’t planned to touch “all this stuff” with a ten-foot pole. The peace of our chapel services at Gateway Rescue Mission seems a thousand miles away from the turmoil.

But then the call went forth from some voices to “tear them down”, speaking of certain statues and stained-glass depictions of Jesus. Granted, Jesus was a Palestinian Jew and likely looked more Arabian than European. He wasn’t white by western European standards. However, there comes a time to stand up and be counted, and for me that time is now.

When Jesus was crucified, He said of those who killed Him “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” This means two things as we ponder a reply to these events. First, Jesus responded by asking His Father to forgive those who killed Him. Secondly, they didn’t have a clue what they were doing.

Don’t misunderstand me. Those who say “burn it down” have a plan. They want to destroy our society and replace it with who knows what. But when they attack the true church, of which statues and murals of Jesus represent, they don’t really have a clue who they are going up against. One day Jesus will return not as a statue, but as a conquering King to set all things right on this earth. We should also remember that God is still mighty to save and always has His remnant. He loves those doing the burning so don’t be surprised to hear testimonies of anarchists coming to Christ as events unfold.

For sure, many people have protested peacefully in recent weeks, including friends of mine right here in Jackson. But to those who seek to burn churches and businesses, I say this. Come to Gateway Rescue Mission one morning when we have chapel. Spout your message of destruction to those in attendance and I’ll preach my message of hope in Christ. We’ll see which message is well received. When people hit bottom and cry out to God, they’re not looking for a lesson on destruction. They want to know there is a better, purer, more righteous way.

To those who would say my concern over churches burning and the call for statues of Jesus to be torn down is just my privilege talking, I say this. Yes, I am privileged. I am privileged to be a child of the King. I am privileged to be part of a community that was chosen by God “before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.” (Ephesians 1:4) The privilege that I claim comes solely through the grace of Almighty God, not by any merit of my sinful self.

Do not look to man of any race to save you. Look to Jesus of Nazareth for your salvation. Christ alone died to atone for our sins and give us new life. The poorest peasant who calls on the name of Jesus is more privileged than the richest person who dies without Him. Too many today are sincerely listening to the woefully wrong voice.

Speaking of voice, we need to hear “thus saith the Lord” from our pulpits today more than ever in my lifetime. The full counsel of God needs to be preached such as, “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” (Philippians 2:10, 11)

I thank the Lord for the good people of Mississippi who have marched peacefully and debated issues such as our state flag properly. Jesus said “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” I pray that the day never comes in Mississippi when the rioters burn our churches. If it does, may we remember that Jesus also said “blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Visit gatewaymission.org for more information on how you can help someone today.

Director
Gateway Rescue Mission
One morning after chapel, I asked a few of the guys to pose for a photo in front of our pulpit. I’m amazed at how different they look compared to what you see on the cable news. Smiles and embraces replace outrage and disorder.

The First Amendment to our Constitution says “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Each day at Gateway Rescue Mission, we practice our freedom of religion by preaching and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We’re not perfect, but we point those who seek a new life to a perfect God.

Each person in this picture has been at Gateway throughout the pandemic. The looks on their faces stand as proof of how God can change lives. I could write a book on how God has changed their lives, along with many others. Perhaps someday I will.

When you give to Gateway Rescue Mission, you are not buying a brick with your name on it. Your legacy of supporting our ministry is the smiles on the faces of people who came to us in desperate circumstances, but now have hope. They also share that hope within the Gateway family.

Sometimes we need to turn off the news and realize that God hasn’t left the building. He’s still changing lives right here in good ole Jackson, Mississippi. Thank you for being a part of God’s work at Gateway Rescue Mission.

Yours truly
Rex Baker
As the summer rolls along, we continue to serve sandwich bags to the public for lunch. Those stubborn coronavirus numbers remain too high for us to safely serve hot meals. Our kitchen is too small to provide safe distances between guests when seated.

We are planning for the day when we can resume serving hot meals. However, until that day comes please know that we continue to feed hungry folks. Nobody makes sandwiches more efficiently than the Gateway Rescue Mission kitchen crew.

Also, nobody keeps watch over our water supply better than Popsicle. Most days the trusty feline can be found guarding our inventory of high-quality H2O. Along with sandwiches, we are handing out a lot of water this summer.

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**Gateway Needs**

- **Masks:** We need plenty of masks to keep our people safe during the pandemic at Gateway Rescue Mission.
- **Hand sanitizer:** Make sure it’s at least 70% rubbing alcohol in order to kill the virus. We also need small bottles of hand sanitizer to pass out to our guests.
- **Personal hygiene supplies:** Toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, clippers, etc.
- **Appropriate board games:** Our folks need a positive way to pass the time in the evening. Checkers, monopoly, backgammon, chess, rook cards, etc. make for a good, clean way to enjoy the evening.
- **Underwear and socks:** We continue to ask for these items because of the ongoing need. We expect an uptick in the coming weeks of men enrolling in our New Life Program. Therefore, we are trying to prepare in advance to meet their basic needs.