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
Seems like last week my baby daughter was wrestling with whether to attend nursing school. When class time came around, she used the old man (me) to practice taking blood pressure. Today, she is a nurse on the Covid-19 floor at UMMC. If God had asked my permission to use her in this manner first, I might have said no. Yet, she has a loving heart and takes good care of her patients. I know God is using her.

Numerous guys at Gateway have come up to me and asked “how’s your daughter doing? We’re all praying for her.” These days that’s a comforting thought. Covid-19 is taking a steady toll and currently shows no signs of abating. I figured by now summer heat would have killed this virus, like it does the flu during the hot months.

At Gateway Rescue Mission, we are requiring Covid-19 screenings of those entering our New Life Program. We are still primarily serving sack lunches at noon, though we do cook hot meals several times a week for those in our rehabilitation program. We are handing out masks by the hundreds; masks made available by donors. Thanks to your generosity, every mask handed out and worn at Gateway Rescue Mission has been given to us.

We recently installed an industrial-grade glass protector shield in our kitchen. When we ever reopen our kitchen to the public, we’ll be ready. You wouldn’t think installing protective glass in your kitchen is an overly exciting thing. But we were like kids on Christmas morning when we got word it had been installed.

We all scurried downstairs to check out our new glass. I asked our kitchen crew to pose in front of the glass, when it was actually the glass I wanted to show off. I explained to them that a picture of a glass pane isn’t exciting in and of itself. Thus, their smiling faces.

However, this virus is not a smiling matter. We are hearing about friends, the families of Gateway volunteers and donors to our ministry who are being impacted by this virus. Our prayers are with you. No longer can we think “it won’t happen to me or my family.”

When this started back in mid-March, I thought we were looking at a temporary setback. As an American, I’ve become conditioned to expect us to always bounce back fast. I figured then that we’d be back serving hot meals at lunch by now. Hence, the protective glass shield in the kitchen. But the daily numbers are still too high to indicate a safe return to normal.

I worry about my baby girl working the Covid floor. She’s taking it like a trooper but as a dad, I can sense the weariness in her voice sometimes. Yet, one thing keeps coming to my mind. Years from now, when all this is a memory, she may well look back on her life and see this as a shining moment where she made a real difference. Live long enough and we’ll all see times of sickness and death. For once in my lifetime, our society is experiencing this period collectively. Years from now, may we look back on our lives and see this as a shining moment where we collectively, as God’s children, made a real difference.

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission
At Gateway Rescue Mission, we don’t do a fancy work. Yet, I have noticed something recently. As the people drop by for a sandwich at lunch, we are able to also give them a mask thanks to the generosity of our donors. A mask means a lot these days to people in all walks of life.

Some folks also ask “can I get another bottle of water?” “You sure can!” comes the typical reply from our lunch crew. Handing out a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name in the midst of a world gone crazy means something too.

We get some lively people through the gates of Gateway Rescue Mission, including some who are happy to pose for the camera. Sometimes it does us all good to stop for a moment and smile.

Meanwhile, life goes on at Gateway Rescue Mission. I came through recently and thought “something smells good around here.” Upon investigation, I found Laszlo stirring up a pot of red beans and rice. I sampled Laszlo’s recipe and found it quite delicious, though he would not part with his secret ingredients that make it so good.
We are continually amazed at the goodness of our Gateway supporters to keep our ministry going this summer. A wonderful church group recently dropped off a load of supplies. When you donate supplies to Gateway, those supplies go directly to the front line to help those in need.

God’s people have been most wonderful during recent months to support Gateway Rescue Mission. We are amazed at how you, the Gateway community, have stepped up to support God’s work among those in need. Thank you for remembering us during these unusual and challenging days!

And in this month’s edition of “Finding Popsicle”, the silly cat showed up at our shelter one recent morning after chapel wanting inside. We could only surmise that the Spirit of the Lord was strong in chapel that morning, calling our resident feline to repent of her bird-catching ways.

**Gateway Needs**

- Small canned food items such as Vienna sausages.
- Individual cans of peanut butter. These are always popular with our guests.
- Small containers of hand sanitizer.
- Individual packets of snack foods such as nabs, cookies etc.
- Individual packets of sanitary wipes. Life on the streets is hot and dirty, and sanitary wipes come in very handy.
- Prayer that God will continue to protect our ministry during the Covid-19 situation.

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