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

Hot Meals in time for Thanksgiving!
At this time of year, I normally muse about things for which I am thankful that have happened over the year. This year is a bit challenging. No concerts, no vacations, no ball games at a packed-out stadium. This will be the first year in about 40 years that I will not see the Rebels play football in person.

But this is no ordinary year. Covid-19 threw our strategic plan for 2020 out the window at Gateway Rescue Mission. Also, this has been a year of loss for some friends of mine who suffered personal tragedy. So, 2020 is a particularly poignant year to look at what it really means to give thanks.

The Apostle Paul wrote “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” from prison. That he would tell fellow Christians to pray to God with thanksgiving while he was personally in prison underscores one of the great foundations of Christianity. Since our hope is in a risen Jesus, we can still find things for which to be thankful during times of personal struggle or loss.

With that in mind, here are some things for which I am thankful in 2020. I am thankful that my youngest daughter recently spent my birthday weekend with us. Her fiancé came over and the kids humored me by watching the Hunt for Red October in honor of the late, great Sean Connery. I’m thankful that my now adult children still want me in their lives.

I’m thankful that my granddaughter is a happy, healthy, laughing and crying 16-month old. Annie was born last year at 26 weeks and is our miracle baby. I’m thankful that my now adult children still want me in their lives.

I am thankful that God blessed me with a Toyota Camry that lasted for 19 good years before I finally sold it. At 300,000 miles, Silver was still working when I parted ways with the old girl. God can bless our finances by providing a car that runs long after it is paid for.

I am thankful that despite my many faults, God still allows me to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to people at Gateway Rescue Mission. I’m thankful that God has blessed me with a seasoned, good team at Gateway to get the job done. We serve meals, minister to broken people, and operate on a sound financial footing not because of any genius on my part, but because God in His wisdom brought good people to Gateway to do His work.

I am thankful to members of our board of directors who have worked through some personal tragedies in their own lives over the last year, but continue to stand fast as a witness that God is always good, even when we don’t see it. I am thankful for those of you who have given sacrificially during this bizarre year called 2020 to help keep our doors open.

I am perhaps most thankful for the work that God is about to do. Dawn always follows the night. 2020 has been a night for many people. Yet, I believe God is about to bring a new dawn for those who call upon His name. We don’t always know the specifics until He reveals them, but if we stay faithful to the Lord, He promises without fail to finish what He started in our lives.

While in prison, Paul also penned these words. “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6) That’s indeed good news.

As I grow older, I’m learning to be thankful for the small things in life. I’m learning to appreciate the struggle and the periods of loss, as they prepare us for something in the future that we may not understand today. This Thanksgiving, may you know the hand of God in your life so that no matter what happens, you can be thankful that God is still on the throne.

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

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

“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

From the DIRECTOR

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

Hot Meals in time for Thanksgiving!

Hot lunch is back on the menu at Gateway Rescue Mission! After serving to-go sandwich bags at lunch since Covid-19 came-a-calling back in mid-March, we resumed serving hot meals for lunch this month.

We are still serving the lunches in to-go trays. However, it tastes mighty good to be back serving spaghetti on Monday. To be clear, we have been serving hot meals at breakfast and dinner for those in our New Life Program for several months. But we had continued to serve sandwiches for lunch until now. We plan to continue serving hot meals for lunch from this point forward.

Our kitchen crew is up to the task, especially when it comes to giving a thumbs up for the camera. We also caught Chief Cook and Bottle Washer Huey H. Howerton slicing bologna as only he can slice.

As for Covid-19, the numbers continue to be like a hard-to-hit knuckle ball. Just when you think they are trending downward, they jump back up again. This presents challenges for long-term planning. However, for right now we celebrate the serving of hot meals.

The jury is still out on when we will crank up our lunch-volunteer program. We want to see how things go with serving hot meals in to-go trays first. We still have to balance the health safety of volunteers, staff, lunch guests and program residents. Thank you all for being patient with us during this time.

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With Thanksgiving just around the corner, the Gateway Rescue Mission family wants to thank all of you for your support throughout this unusual year of 2020. Thanks to you, our cupboard has not run bare and we continue to feed hungry people.

God has blessed us to continue feeding the hungry and providing shelter to those seeking life change through our New Life Program. He has fired our souls with the continuing passion to preach the gospel in word and deed. We are truly thankful to the Lord and also to you for helping keep things going strong during a pandemic.

This Thanksgiving season will be different in many ways for many of us. However, may we all give thanks to God above for allowing us to continue to serve during this time.

Gateway Needs

- Caps and gloves. We need these to give out to our lunchtime guests.
- Blankets. With winter approaching, the need for blankets on the part of people living on the streets increases.
- Small bottles of hand sanitizer to hand out to people coming for lunch.
- Socks and underwear. (socks continue to be the most asked for item at most rescue missions, Gateway included.)
- Scarves and pocket warmers.
- Soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shaving cream and razors.
- Gospel tracts to hand out to the public.

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For your convenience you may now donate online at gatewaymission.org/donate