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
Serving dogs is not part of our mission vision at Gateway Rescue Mission. However, when a gentleman brought his dog by for lunch one day recently, we just had to give his canine companion some water and a hot dog. (no pun intended)

I attend a lot of meetings where people ask questions like “what are your strategies, goals, and objectives to help meet the needs of the homeless, the addicted, and the mentally ill scattered in Jackson?” I particularly relish the well-meaning inquiry that asks “what is your definition of success and how do you objectively measure success?

Just once, I’d like someone to ask, “Mr. Baker would you please share with this astute body some of the more unusual situations you’ve faced at Gateway Rescue Mission.” I could knock that question out of the park.

Let’s see, there’s the guy in the program who got so drunk last week we had to call the police to escort him off the property that night. Then there’s the woman who was dumped on our doorstep by a local health provider at 4:00 p.m. on a recent Friday. She proceeded to energetically cuss out everyone within earshot.

No day at Gateway Rescue Mission would be complete without the 20 or so visits from Eric, who lives in a nearby personal care home and comes by religiously for water, twinkies, food, hygiene supplies, usually all before lunch. I could regale the audience with stories about Pop Shelly, who lived at Gateway years ago and would periodically drink rubbing alcohol to get drunk. Why he didn’t just drink whiskey always mystified me, as the rubbing alcohol would land Pop in the hospital getting his stomach pumped out.

Then there’s the guy in our program who once inhaled roach spray from our supply cabinet just to see what it would do. I will never forget the fight that broke out in the kitchen some years ago while the Pinelake deacons were serving dinner. One of our guests, a wimpy little fella, felt led to throw a cup of water on a rather large program guy serving the guests. The program guy, who had done time for manslaughter, didn’t take it kindly. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Which brings me back to the lunch guest asking for some food for his dog. That was an easy fix, as we always plan for the unusual. At a rescue mission, the unusual becomes usual. We have a saying that “there’s never a dull day at Gateway Rescue Mission.”

I’ll also share with you what cannot always be quantified. There’s the program client who, just out of prison, shares a Bible verse with our lunch crowd most days from his heart. Then there’s Jamie and Snow, who routinely fetch shoes, shirts, and whatever else we have for folks who come in off the streets.

I must mention our shelter crew, guys like Jeff and Gerald, who meet raw human need coming through the doors each day with grace and calmness.

The dog days of summer present daily opportunities to minister to people in need. People will come in this summer hot, thirsty and needing to know someone cares. When you support our ministry, you take part in letting someone know they are loved by the Lord above. This summer may you know God’s grace, may you stay cool and hydrated, may you offer someone else a cool cup of water in Jesus’ name, and may your dog not go thirsty.
FEATURE

Pictures tell the story of lunchtime at Gateway Rescue Mission, a time when our kitchen rolls with energy. Spaghetti, red beans and rice, and stew make up some of the tasty dishes served by our kitchen crew. (Crew can be seen smiling in this Tuna Fish Thursday picture)

On this same day, Godfrey made sure a pair of kids made it to their vehicle with lunches intact.

We snapped a picture of our canine guest being served a drink of water by his owner. People can be seen traversing Gallatin Street to get to our kitchen for lunch. Providing good meals is one of our strengths at Gateway Rescue Mission.

Our overnight shelter is filled to capacity most nights. The majority of those in our shelter have enrolled in our New Life Program. However, we still have about 10–15 men from the streets seeking an emergency bed for the night in our shelter.

With the summer heating up and a lot of people in need, now is a great time for an office or church-based food drive. God continues to provide during these days of high inflation, but the cost of gas, utilities and food goes up for us just like it does for everyone else. Thank you all for your prayers and support this summer.
We’d like to give a big Gateway Shout Out to Samuel Cobb of Boy Scout Troop 8 from First Baptist Church, Jackson. Samuel put together a food drive and brought several boxes of canned goods to Gateway. This is just what the food doctor ordered for our kitchen pantry. Best wishes to Samuel for a bright scouting future!

Rev. Jim Taylor from Pointe Church in Brandon recently dropped by a Gateway Celebrate Recovery service to share a word and pray for those in attendance. Prayer is key to throwing off the old life and developing a new life in Christ. Please continue to lift up Gateway Rescue Mission in prayer. Pray that God will draw those unto Him who seek true life transformation.

A quick walk through our shelter on any given day may find Willie at the washer/dryer post, helping make sure that our guests have clean towels and linens for their stay. Willie always has a smile and friendly demeanor.

Current Needs

- Bottled water: With summer at hand, we’ll go through lots of water to help people make it through the day without becoming dehydrated.

- Towels and soap; Note: Hotel size bars of soap can be purchased in bulk through Amazon and shipped directly to Gateway Rescue Mission, 328 South Gallatin Street, Jackson MS, 39203

- Breakfast cereal (good cereal, as our kitchen crew worded their request)

- Hand sanitizer wipes and assorted items for personal care kits for the homeless.

- Sun screen and bug repellent (small cans if possible for use by the homeless during the summer months.)

- Canned foods and non-perishable food items. These types of donations go straight to those who need them.

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