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.
I recently reminded David of our “internship” meeting the following morning at 7:00 a.m. David, our trustworthy desk man and program assistant, jokingly replied “you mean 7:05”, in a humorous reminder that I have been known to run a couple of minutes late to meetings.

The next morning I arrived promptly at 7:05 a.m. to meet with Gateway Rescue Mission’s inaugural group of interns. These aren’t your typical interns. Rather than existing for college graduates, this internship is for graduates of our New Life Program.

We have four men who are a part of this internship, all graduates of our New Life Program. The internship has these requirements; to meet on Wednesday mornings and go through Henry Blackaby’s “Experiencing God” workbook; to work toward obtaining an online certificate degree offered through CityVision University, and to graduate the Celebrate Recovery program at The Pointe Church in Brandon.

CityVision University, once known as Rescue College, targets practical degree offerings to graduates of rescue mission programs. They offer courses such as Introduction to Nonprofit Ministry and Management, a course I wish they had offered in seminary. A certificate degree requires passing five courses in areas including Addiction Counseling, Business Administration, Christian Ministry, and Nonprofit Management.

I’m a huge fan of Moneyball, both the book and the movie. Moneyball chronicles how the Oakland A’s, with the lowest payroll in Major League Baseball, developed a powerhouse program in the first decade of the 21st Century. The dirt-poor A’s (by MLB standards) developed a system of recognizing talent in players overlooked by most major league talent scouts. Oakland’s management built winning teams around the talented pitcher who threw too funny, or the first baseman with a knack for getting on base who couldn’t throw, or the aging superstar written off by other teams as over the hill.

One of my favorite lines in the movie comes from an A’s statistician who helped develop a new way of spotting talent: “People are overlooked for a variety of biased reasons and perceived flaws. Age, appearance, personality...of the 20,000 notable players for us to consider, I believe that there is a championship team of twenty-five people that we can afford, because everyone else in baseball undervalues them.”

At Gateway Rescue Mission, we are about to send some guys to college. Lord willing, the gifted shelter deskman who wasted too many years smoking crack, the likeable program rookie with too many tattoos, the talented cook who got hooked on crystal-meth, and the former alcoholic-turned-program assistant with a gift for organization will one day receive a certification degree from CityVision University.

We aren’t the Oakland A’s, but at Gateway Rescue Mission we learn to spot value in people undervalued by society in general. In reality, everyone is broken in some way. Yet despite our faults, we can each know the experience of a loving God who sees value in us through Jesus Christ that no one else can see.

Rex Baker
Executive Director (who sometimes shows up late)
Gateway Rescue Mission
FEATURE

Roderick told me recently, “Mr. Baker, I’ve been here over 6 months and you haven’t put my picture in the newsletter!” Roderick followed this statement with his classic big grin and laugh. So, in this month’s newsletter, we present “Smiling Roderick,” flanked by Anthony on the left and Stephen on the right. Wherever Roderick goes, laughter will soon follow. Every rescue mission needs joy, and Roderick makes sure there’s never a dull moment when he is in the room.

Speaking of smiles, our friends with All Things New, Inc. ministry hosted their monthly “Burgers and Blessings” recently at Gateway Rescue Mission. Ministry leader Aubrey Pridgen brought his monster grill to cook up burgers while team members prayed with folks dropping by for a bite.

God is working to connect like-minded ministries in our area. It’s a joy seeing ministries joining hands and hearts to serve the homeless, the addicted, the incarcerated, indeed those who are too often overlooked and undervalued in today’s world. Thank you for your support of Gateway Rescue Mission during these summer days of 2022.
Things can become quite quiet when the evening rolls around at our shelter. Whether it’s a chess game, or bedding down for the night, we are glad to offer a respite from the streets for those seeking a safe, clean place to stay.

By way of update, our shelter is full every night. We continue to put down extra mattresses in our shelter to handle any overflow. (We have 40 beds in our shelter.) During these dog days of summer, we continue to feed hungry people, plus give out lots of water to drink, plus roll out the hospitality for those seeking shelter. Last but not least, we continue to preach a message of hope in Jesus Christ to those coming our way.

**Current Needs**

- **Water.** We are going through a lot of water during these summer months.

- **Cereal.** Breakfast comes early and often at Gateway Rescue Mission, and we need a good supply of cereal this summer to meet the need.

- **Coffee.** Here’s a bit of Gateway trivia. Coffee is the single most expensive food item we buy. We love the big cans of ground coffee. We can also accept the restaurant style coffee packs.

- **Notebooks and pens.** We encourage our program residents to journal and take notes during sermons, classes, etc. Hence the need for notebooks and pens.