

JUNE 2024

GATEWAY

RESCUE MISSION



PRAYER
TIME !!

OUR MISSION *To offer life changing hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ to men, women, and children through programs to deliver food, shelter, counseling and discipleship*



FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."

- C.T. Studd



REX BAKER

When I was a journalism student, my professors drilled into our skulls that you lead off a story with the most important fact. In the newsroom, we called it "the lead." If you put the most important part of a story in the second paragraph, you would get a tongue lashing for "burying the lead." To this day, it chaps my hide to see online news sites bury the lead way down in a story because they want to keep you reading on their site as long as possible.

When Jesus launched His public ministry in the gospel of Luke, the first thing He said was "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor." Why did Jesus lead with this proclamation? While our Lord could have led with any number of profound statements, He led by driving home the fact that His coming was directly related to bringing biblical truth to the poor, setting captives free, and giving sight to the blind.

We recently hosted a Mission Mississippi prayer breakfast at Gateway Rescue Mission. It warmed my heart to see the good folks from Mission Mississippi praying with the men enrolled in our New Life Program. I see volunteers bring hugs and smiles to our kitchen. The Spirit of the Lord directs His people still today to take the good news of Jesus to the poor in word and deed.

I know people who have gotten clean and sober from addictions through expensive, residential treatment programs. These are fine programs who have helped many people over the years. However, I believe Jesus wants us to provide the same type of care to the poor who do not have the resources to afford professional help.

Addiction is an equal opportunity offender. It strikes rich and poor, black and white, male and female, gay and straight. Over the years, we've had the adult children of suburban pastors sleeping in the same program dorm as street addicts. This side of heaven, no recovery program is perfect and that includes us. However, I am committed to providing counseling, love, structure, mentoring, along with food and shelter for those who can't afford professional recovery programs.

Addiction creates poverty of the soul. It robs us of joy and life. It devours families and separates children from parents. When Jesus announced first and foremost that He had come to "set free those who are downtrodden," I believe He did that with the addict in mind. At Gateway Rescue Mission, we get a front row seat to see Jesus set captives free.

As a young reporter, I dreamed of one day breaking a big story. I didn't know then that God had plans to call me to a ministry of proclaiming the greatest story ever told to those who desperately need to hear it. In truth, we are all downtrodden in some way. Whether rich, middle class, or poor, during our life we will all experience grief, loss, and spiritual captivity of some sort. I've observed that God often works His greatest miracles of life change when we are at our lowest. Unless we meet Jesus at the point of our lowest poverty, I wonder whether we have truly met Him at all. Just maybe, that's why Jesus led with "He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex M. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rex Baker

Executive Director

Gateway Rescue Mission

VISIT GATEWAYMISSION.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW
YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE TODAY



Summer Donations

What's something you can do this summer to help those in need? How about clean out your closet, garage, or attic and donate some things you don't use any more to our Pearl Thrift Store? Your used dresser, or that Mr. Coffee that got replaced by your new Keurig, those old golf clubs; these are all things we can sell and use the proceeds to support our ministry. Our store crew can be seen hard at work on this page.

When you donate used household items and/or furniture, we can sell those items in our thrift store. This is our little contribution to the American free-enterprise system. We turn your donation into cash, which is just as good as money, to quote the late-great Yogi Berra. And that money helps pay the light bill, buy food, and cover insurance costs for our ministry.

Which brings me to another thought. Some people say "I want my donation to go to help people, not to cover payroll or pay the water bill." Well, one of the ways we help people is through staff who work every day at Gateway Rescue Mission counseling people in need, preparing meals, or making sure the truck that picks up donations for our thrift store has good tires. And while we may be a charitable non-profit, we still have to pay the utility bills.

We want to thank everyone who supports us financially whether through monetary donations, donating to our thrift store, or by dropping off or sending in canned and non-perishable foods. Most of all, we ask for your prayers that God will release the captives, give sight to the blind, and set free the downtrodden.



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Meanwhile at ye olde Gateway Café, our crew recently held a Mother's Day dinner of shrimp and grits. Some of our faithful volunteers who help out each week, and also happened to be mothers, showed up and we were able to honor them. Dalton flashed a big grin while posing with Mrs. Amy, one of our volunteers.

On another day, Jimmy flashed a big grin when he saw the camera. 'I'm running for governor,' said Jimmy. If Jimmy's name shows up on the ballot in the next gubernatorial election, he'll probably get the Gateway vote.

We pray that you all are having a blessed summer. Stay hydrated, have some fun, picnic with the kids and grandkids while you still can, and thank you for supporting Gateway Rescue Mission.



CURRENT NEEDS

- **Coffee, and coffee filters to fit those industrial Bunn coffeemakers.** (That's the kind we have, and they work fine!)
- **Canned foods, especially the #10 sized cans.** We also accept and need non-perishable food items.
- **Bottled water.** It's summer in Mississippi, and y'all all know what that means!
- **Socks, t-shirts, and men's underwear.** All sizes!
- **Most of all, we ask for your prayers that God will be might to save at Gateway Rescue Mission.** We ask your prayers for heavenly wisdom in how to deal with the complex issues we face during these times.

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