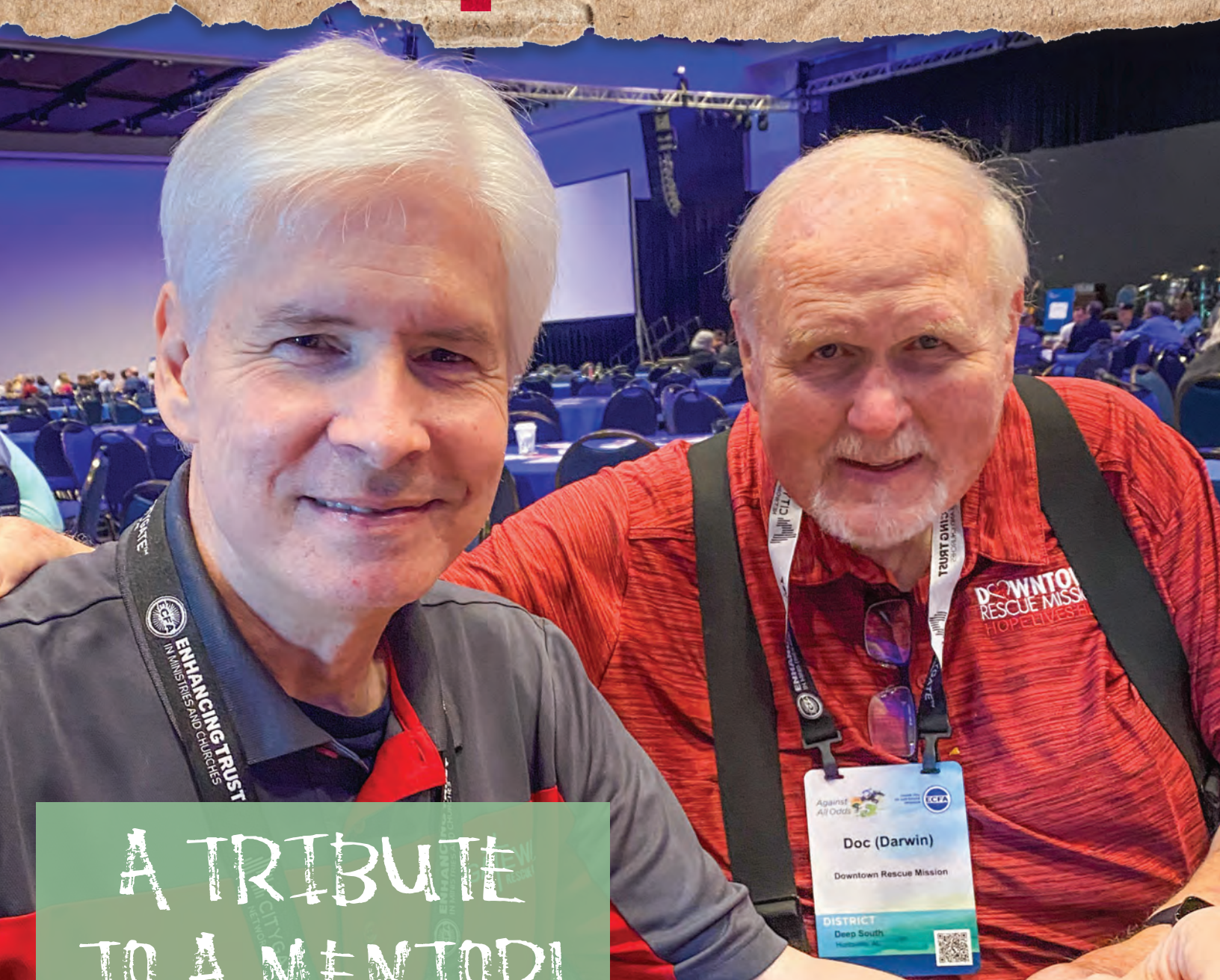


JULY 2024

# GATEWAY

## RESCUE MISSION



A TRIBUTE  
TO A MENTOR!

**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

Sometimes it does a body good to see an old friend. Such was the case at this summer's Citygate Network conference in Lexington, Kentucky. I was charging down the hall heading for a conference on homeless shelter computer software when there sat Dr. Darwin "Doc" Overholt. I caught up with Doc a bit later and we had a great chat.

Doc served as our Certification Consultant about a decade ago when Gateway Rescue Mission went through the certification program designed by Citygate Network, then known as the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. He visited Gateway and helped coach us through the certification process. Citygate certification means your electrical outlets are up to code, you've got plenty of emergency exit lights, your kitchen is grade A health department inspected, things of that nature.

Doc served as director of the rescue mission in Buffalo, New York for years before heading south to run the Downtown Rescue Mission, in Huntsville, Alabama. His fine son Keith now runs the mission in Huntsville, but Doc has an office in the mission to share his infinite wisdom with the staff.

In these challenging days in rescue ministry, I owe a lot to those who have gone before me. With the challenges facing rescue ministry today, we need the energy of youth combined with the voice of experience. It's also good to get together with folks doing rescue work all over the country and compare notes.

Here are a few takeaways from this year's Citygate Network Conference:

- Homelessness is epidemic nationwide. While California leads the way with 27% of the nation's homeless, homeless camps have sprung up all over the country. (A friend of mine who runs a mission in a medium-sized Florida town told of a homeless camp where authorities recently cleaned out 36 tons of encampment debris.)
- The main driving force behind chronic homelessness continues to be drug addiction and mental illness.
- "Harm reduction" models that allow for so-called "clean-injection sites" (where addicts can obtain and freely use drugs) are the height of idiocy. Yes, such sites do exist in places like California, where misguided government policy is a big driver of the increase in homelessness. Let us pray those policies do not come to Mississippi.
- Plenty of well-run rescue ministries exist across the country where God continues to call people out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

Amid today's rapidly changing world, it warmed my heart to see Doc Overholt, a man who despite health challenges continues to serve God and ministry with grace and a warm heart. Doc has been both a mentor and an example to me over the years. As a final note from this year's Citygate Conference, I can confidently report that just as in the days of Elijah, God has many prophets across this great country who have not bowed their knee to Baal.

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](http://GATEWAYMISSION.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW  
YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE TODAY



## Citygate Network Conference

This year's Citygate Network Conference took place at the Rupp Arena Convention Center in Lexington, KY. Pictured here is our Gateway crew in attendance (L to R), Brad, our programmatic apprentice, yours truly, Jamie our kitchen supervisor, and Mitch, our donor development director.

Here are a few Citygate Network facts:

- Citygate Network is comprised of more than 300 rescue ministries, Christian addiction recovery programs, homeless shelters, etc. in the United States and Canada.
- More than 1,000 people from member organizations attended this year's conference.
- Gateway Rescue Mission is a member of the Deep South District of Citygate.

A couple of notes: At Gateway Rescue Mission, we believe in belonging to a conference that shares our values. Citygate Network checks that box and gives us resources to some of the best thinking in rescue ministry.

On another important note, the U.S. Supreme Court just ruled in *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*, that a municipal ban on homeless people camping on public property does not constitute cruel and unusual

punishment. Had the Supreme Court ruled the other way, they would have enshrined a national constitutional right for the homeless to sleep on public property.

Jackson authorities have recently removed several homeless encampments. While this may seem harsh, we at Gateway Rescue Mission do not believe it is compassionate for governmental entities to adopt policies that encourage homelessness.

One last Citygate Conference note: We dropped by the vendor booth sponsored by our good friends at Blue Dawg, a company who helps us with fundraising printing. They had a display of puppies and kittens from the Lexington Humane Society. Yours truly managed to pet this sweet kitty, while not bringing it home. (I have been warned by my better half to not bring home any more animals.)



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Meanwhile, back at 328 South Gallatin Street, life continues at Gateway Rescue Mission. Jamie can be seen whipping up lunch, which is part of our daily routine. We also have plenty of bottled water on hand during these hot summer days.

We wish to thank all of you who faithfully support God's work here at Gateway Rescue Mission. While it's easy to focus on bad news these days, we daily get to see God work through feeding hungry people, sheltering the homeless, seeing people set free from addictions, and seeing broken people restored to a right relationship with God and with family.



## CURRENT NEEDS

- **Tide Pods!!** (big request for these) We do a lot of laundry daily at Gateway.
- **Nonperishable food items**, along with canned vegetables, particularly the #10 sized cans.
- **New underwear, t-shirts, and socks of all sizes**
- **Coffee**
- **Personal hygiene supplies** such as toothpaste, soap, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, etc.
- **Most of all, please pray that God will be present at Gateway Rescue Mission** to preach the gospel to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to set free those who are downtrodden.
- *FYI, you can order these supplies through Amazon and have them shipped directly to Gateway Rescue Mission, 328 South Gallatin Street, Jackson MS 39203.*

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