

APRIL 2026

GATEWAY

RESCUE MISSION



IN MEMORY OF JIM POOLE:
A LIFE WELL LIVED

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 Jim Poole volunteered to serve lunch at Gateway Rescue Mission, he never made a big deal out of who he was. He didn't go on about catching passes from Archie Manning at Ole Miss or being a successful accountant/businessman. Jim Poole simply suited up in an apron alongside his friends from First Presbyterian Church in Jackson and fed homeless people.

Allow me a moment of editorial license. They didn't teach accounting in seminary, so as a green rescue mission director some years back, I had no clue we were supposed to conduct an annual financial audit. Shoot, I didn't know what an audit was. An acquaintance recommended an accounting firm named GranthamPoole.

I certainly had no idea the Poole in GranthamPoole was the legendary tight end who played in some of the most famous games in Ole Miss football lore. The 38-0 Mule Game shutout of Tennessee in 1969, the first televised night game shootout loss to Alabama that same year, and the 1970 Sugar Bowl victory over Arkansas, all saw Jim Poole catching Archie's passes all over the field.

Fast forward about 35 years to when GranthamPoole performed Gateway's audit for the first time. They sent over a young accountant named Dickens Fournet as lead auditor. Through the years, as financial requirements have changed, Dickens has been a source of financial wisdom and a friend to our ministry.

When Jim Poole recently passed away, Dickens Fournet along with Archie Manning and others, served as pallbearers at Mr. Poole's funeral. In the Bible, Jesus shares a teaching called the Parable of the Talents.

In this story, a man entrusts one of his servants with five talents. When that servant doubles his master's talents through wise stewardship, the master utters the famous phrase "well done, good and faithful servant."

We know the master in this parable represents God and the servant represents a person who lived life in such a way as to take God's gifts and multiply them. I suspect Jim Poole was a five-talent person. Not only did he succeed in business with what God gave him, he did so in a way that strengthened the financial integrity of ministries such as Gateway Rescue Mission. He also volunteered with prison ministry, and yes, he fed the homeless down at the local rescue mission.

Patricia Melvin, our Chief Financial Officer at Gateway Rescue Mission told me recently that we will soon start work on our next audit. These days, GranthamPoole sends a new crop of younger cracker-jack accountants to scour our financial records and make sure we're up to snuff. Their professionalism and eye for detail speaks to how the founders of the firm trained them.

The Bible doesn't say whether we'll have college football in heaven. If God takes requests, I'd love to see Jim Poole catch passes to help Ole Miss beat LSU every year for all eternity just like they did in 1969. Perhaps he's already helping Jesus balance His books in heaven. But I'm pretty sure that Jim Poole has heard these words, "well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your Master."

Blessings,

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



Jim Poole can be seen here serving lunch for the hungry folks at Gateway Rescue Mission. Serving a meal is a simple, but profound way to help others. These days, we provide about 8,000 meals per month at Gateway.

We continue to operate our New Life Program, which is our biblical addiction recovery program. In our outreach ministry to the homeless encampments, we see significant problems with addiction to so-called superdrugs made from synthetic rather than plant-based compounds. This includes crystal-methamphetamine, fentanyl, and synthetic cannabinoids.

We also see an epidemic of mental illness. Many people on the streets exist in a schizophrenic state. We believe that Christ's atonement at the cross includes



victory in this life over addiction, poverty mentality, and mental illness. We are currently evaluating how to communicate the life-changing power of Jesus in a real way to real, hurting people.

Your support helps feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, proclaim a message of spiritual hope, and provide programs for people seeking life change. Thank you for your prayers and support.

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328 S. Gallatin Street
P.O. Box 3763
Jackson, MS 39207-3763

Phone: 601.353.5864
Fax: 601.353.9468

Website:
www.gatewaymission.org

Allow us to share a few success stories from Gateway Rescue Mission. Mike and Josh, both graduates of our New Life Program, recently acquired gainful employment (got jobs) with the city of Jackson. We're proud of these fellows, and want you, our supporters, to know that your donations DO help change lives.



We'd like to give a Gateway Shout-Out to our friends at All Things New. We recently had a group of Gateway gentlemen and scholars graduate from the All Things New Celebrate Recovery program at The Point church in Brandon. Despite an epidemic of addiction, God is still changing lives and people are being rescued.

CURRENT NEEDS

- **T-shirts of all sizes.**
- **Underwear and socks, of all sizes.** (both men and women)
- **Shampoo and/or body wash.**
- **Soap.**
- **Drawstring bags for ministry to the homeless encampments.**

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

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