MAY 2026

GATEWAY RESCUE MISSION

MAYOR JOHN HORHN VISITS GATEWAY !!

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*

ECFA ACCREDITED

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

Jackson Mayor John Horhn recently paid an official visit to Gateway Rescue Mission to review our renovation plans for service expansion. While this is not a political publication, I believe the election of Mayor Horhn is a good thing. More on that in a moment.

First, Gateway owns a 25,000 square foot warehouse that we are planning to renovate. The renovation will allow us to double the capacity of our New Life Program for men seeking recovery from addiction. Currently, our shelter building is split among two populations. About half our 40 beds are used by New Life Program residents. The other 20 are for overnight homeless guests. Mixing those populations is not ideal.

This expansion will allow us to house our recovery program residents in a separate building from the overnight homeless population. We'll be able to serve both groups better. This will provide new dormitories, new offices, classrooms, and a new chapel space.

We've launched a capital campaign to raise funds for this venture. I truly believe this campaign will transform our ministry by allowing us to better serve people in need, solidify our funding base, and bring new vitality to both Gateway Rescue Mission and our part of Gallatin Street. That's why we're calling in our *RESTORE LIFE TO JACKSON* campaign.

We recently received the official go-ahead from the City of Jackson Planning Committee to move forward with the renovation. Prayerfully, we'll soon break ground on the work and we're truly excited to see what God is about to do. This building was donated to Gateway back in the 1990s. We've known for a long time it is our building of the future. We just didn't know it would be this long in taking place. However, God's timing is always perfect.

Speaking of God's timing, I believe there could be a divine element in the election of John Horhn as mayor of Jackson. Our capitol city needs wise leadership at this venture. In my 28 years, we had not received an official visit from a Jackson mayor. We have now. Since Mayor Horhn took office, two homeless camps in the Gallatin Street corridor have been closed. While that doesn't solve the entire homeless problem, it's a move in the right direction.

Streets are being paved. Potholes are being fixed. Conversations are taking place about moving Jackson forward. Things will take time and nothing this side of heaven will ever be perfect. That includes Jackson, Mississippi. A lot of people have written Jackson off. I hear what people say about Jackson and read the negative comments on social media.

Folks wrote Jerusalem off after the Babylonians sacked the place in the Old Testament days. Yet, in His own time, God brought together political rulers, religious leaders, and the necessary powers-that-be to rebuild Jerusalem. They overcame sniping from the local critics who ridiculed the effort. They put in the hard work and did the unthinkable. Could it be that God is not yet through with Jackson, Mississippi?

I know this much. It's been a long time since we've seen new construction in our little stretch of Gallatin Street. God appears to be lining up the stars for this to happen at Gateway Rescue Mission. God is sovereign and we look forward to the Lord glorifying Himself by doing a new work in our little part of His grand creation.

Blessings,

Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

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

FEATURE

Pictured from l-r, Forea Ford, Gateway's Director of Programs, Mitch Lott, Gateway's Director of Development and Jackson Mayor John Horhn. This picture was taken in the warehouse building that will be renovated. This building is foundationally solid, big, and will provide the opportunity for ministry growth and transformation.

Now, let us switch gears from Jackson to Seattle, Washington. We recently took a squad of Gateway staffers to Seattle for a week of training/brainstorming at the Seattle Union Gospel Mission. During this week, we drilled down into practical solutions in offering a quality addiction recovery program for homeless drug addicts.

Our team spent an afternoon checking out the streets of Seattle. We snapped a picture of Brad Hancock, our energetic Program Coordinator talking with William, a fentanyl addict on the Seattle streets. While crystal meth is the primary drug on the streets of Jackson, fentanyl is the prime drug in Seattle. We saw several people smoking fentanyl and saw the catatonic state it creates. We saw young people in a chronic state of being stooped over from fentanyl use.

We talked with a Seattle police officer who told us "Seattle doesn't have a homeless problem. Seattle has a drug problem!"

At Gateway Rescue Mission, we are thankful that God is allowing us to be a part of the solution for homelessness in our day and time. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!!

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We'd like to give a Gateway Shout-Out to all our volunteers who continue to brighten our day and provide service with a smile. We're serving a bit more than 7,000 meals each month to hungry people at Gateway Rescue Mission.

Many people who eat in our kitchen are homeless. Some are what we call "shelter-resistant;" meaning they don't like to stay in shelters. We are working to focus on this group of the homeless population in the future. At Gateway Rescue Mission, we believe God wants to bring out the best in each of us. He is still in the business of rescuing people from darkness and bringing them into light.

Current Needs

- **Cases of water.** As the temperatures heat up, dehydration is an issue in the homeless population. You can order cases of water and have them shipped directly to Gateway Rescue Mission, 328 South Gallatin Street, Jackson MS 39203. (same goes for other supplies too.)
- **Shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, and razors.**
- **Pre-packaged hygiene kits work great to hand out to our homeless guests.** Small bottles of hand sanitizer, anti-bacterial wipes, and non-alcoholic mouthwash work well.
- **Bug spray for homeless guests.**
- **Non-perishable food and canned goods for our pantry.**
- **Please pray that God will raise up donors and another generation of ministry workers for the fields of Jackson.**

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