June 2026

GATEWAY RESCUE MISSION



FROM PROGRAM GRADUATE TO EMPLOYEE !!

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



I recently sat in a ministry workshop where the facilitator asked “what problem are you and your organization solving for?” This did not mean what needs are you trying to meet, or what multiple problems are you trying to tackle, but what single problem are you focused on solving?

After some thought, I answered that at Gateway Rescue Mission, we are trying to break the bondage of addiction in the homeless community. The facilitator then asked “how does your ministry define success?” That question rattled my cage just a bit.

We feed three meals a day at Gateway Rescue Mission, so our cooks might define success by saying “if a person comes here hungry and gets a good meal, that’s success.” The ministerially minded on our staff might define success as a person having a spiritual awakening. The programmatic staff might define success by someone in our addiction recovery program graduating clean and sober. All these would be correct, depending on your vantage point.

Our staff is currently working through a process of determining what success looks like for us at Gateway Rescue Mission, putting down on paper a philosophy of care that influences our programs, and figuring out the big problem we are working to solve.

This may sound all well and good, but it’s already causing some dilemmas. Our bylaws at Gateway Rescue Mission specifically charge us with serving two groups; the homeless and the addicted. Yet, we actually spend a significant amount of staff time and ministry resources dealing with the correctional system and mental illness.

A good number of the homeless wrestle with mental illness, so that is part of our world. Also, many of the homeless have spent time in the correctional system. But the problem we are working to solve is *addiction in the homeless community.* We are not a transitional program for inmates coming out of prison. We are not a mental health program. Our New Life Program is designed for homeless addicts who are addicted to hard drugs. It is not designed for an inmate who has been clean several years and needs a place to go in order to be paroled. Neither is our program designed to be a long-term residential facility for someone with mental illness.

To be fair, we’ve had some beautiful success in working with paroled inmates. I’ve seen God use Gateway as a place of grace for men who were locked up for years and no one else would take them. However, that has morphed today into an issue where too many inmates are getting paroled to our New Life Program but leaving within days of arriving here. That really messes with our success statistics.

Also, if we define success as someone who graduates from our New Life Program, gets a job, and moves into transitional living, the model doesn’t work if too many program clients are schizophrenic and can’t function around others. In another era, many of the people who come to Gateway Rescue Mission would have been housed in a state mental institution.

We live in a fallen world and things will never be perfect this side of heaven. At Gateway Rescue Mission, we will continue to serve people who talk to themselves and stare off into oblivion. We will continue to work with people who are coming out of prison and have no place to go. However, God has put Gateway here to minister to the homeless and has challenged us to make the gospel applicable to a homeless person struggling with addiction.

Please pray for us in the coming weeks as we work to build unity around the problem we are solving for, our definition of success, and our philosophy of care. May we honor God in this process and the fruits it will produce.

Blessings,



Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

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

FEATURE





Ricky recently graduated from our New Life Program. When we hired him to work the dock and the baler at our thrift store, Ricky was on "Cloud Nine" when he got the job. Ricky is shown here driving the forklift at our store.

The men in our New Life Program learn to give back by helping out at our thrift store in Pearl. Curcel can be seen helping unload donations from our truck. We are currently changing some things to improve the shopping experience at our store. Please donate your household items, furniture, and clothes to us when you no longer need them. Also, come shop at our store! (You can schedule a pickup by calling our store at 601-932-1668.)

Moving along, Rocky is shown here going through his Peer Support Specialist Certification for a job working with an addiction treatment center. (His name is Chris, but he got nicknamed Rocky while in our New Life Program due to a general resemblance to Sylvester Stallone.)

In other news, the Gallatin Street corridor is a primary route for the homeless in Jackson. The city of Jackson recently closed down two homeless camps in the area. However, we still see many of the people from the camps who have merely moved to alternate locations.



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GATEWAY
RESCUE MISSION

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

Phone: 601.353.5864
Fax: 601.353.9468

Website:
www.gatewaymission.org





We continue to feed folks every day. The Gateway Café is often home to a more eccentric clientele of diners than you might see in your average restaurant. We snapped pictures of Hunter smiling and Teononie holding the peanut butter, both while dining sufficiently on tuna sandwiches, chips, and mac-and-cheese.

All of us at Gateway Rescue Mission would like to thank you for your compassion and generosity in supporting our ministry. While we work with broken people at Gateway Rescue Mission, God's love for all His creation is perfect. Thank you for allowing Him to show His love through you this summer.

Current Needs

- **We need cases of bottled water this summer.** Dehydration is a real danger among the homeless in summertime.
- **Drawstring bags for emergency kits for the homeless.** We can also use plastic Ziploc bags for personal kits.
- **Notebooks and pens** for program residents to journal and take class notes.
- **With summer heating up, we need crackers, Vienna sausages, snacks, cookies, etc.** for emergency kits for homeless people dropping by.
- **We also need wet wipes, particularly the small packs.** These are popular among our homeless guests.
- **Please pray that God will equip people on the streets with the motivation toward life change.**



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