July 2026

GATEWAY RESCUE MISSION



RESTORE LIFE TO JACKSON CAMPAIGN !!

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



Gateway Rescue Mission recently had one of the most momentous days in its history. This day began like any typical hot Mississippi summer day. Around 11:00 a.m., folks started milling near Gateway Rescue Mission in anticipation of our noon lunch meal, just like every other day.

Shortly thereafter, members of our Gateway Board of Directors started arriving for a board meeting. Y'all, we don't usually have board meetings in late June. One of our key board members was on his way out of town for vacation but postponed the trip a few hours for this board meeting. The main item on the agenda? An item more than thirty years in the making; a dream that not that long ago seemed almost impossible.

Allow me to reminisce. Back in the mid 1990s, an anonymous donor gave a 24,000 sq. ft. warehouse building to Gateway Rescue Mission adjacent to our current mission property. It was obvious back then that this was the building of the future for Gateway Rescue Mission.

However, we did not have money to tackle such an ambitious renovation project. Several Gateway leaders who saw the vision back then, both at the staff and board level, are now in heaven, not having lived to see the dream come true. I had my own doubts whether it would happen in my tenure at Gateway.

God has His own calendar. On June 30, 2026, the Gateway Rescue Mission Board of Directors unanimously approved the contract to complete Phase One of our renovation project. The campaign, titled ***Restore Life to Jackson*** is designed to renovate our warehouse building to house our New Life Program. This includes new dorm rooms, showers, offices, and a new chapel. This phase will allow us to almost double the size of our addiction recovery program. It will also allow us to house program residents in a separate building from overnight guests.

This is not the final phase of the campaign. We've raised enough money to complete the upstairs dorm/office/chapel areas but will need to raise more funding to complete the downstairs area for classrooms and efficiency apartments. Yet, through the generosity of our supporters, and God's providence, and the hard work of our staff fundraising guru Mitch Lott (who built this campaign from scratch), we are now poised to complete the first phase.

Barring Jesus coming back beforehand, this time next year we will have the first new Gateway facility on Gallatin Street since our original mission building was built in the 1960s. By the way, the work will not be done by Ralph and Alf from *Green Acres*. The project was designed by Danny Cawthon and his fine architectural team at Canizaro, Cawthon, and Davis. (Danny is also a member of our Gateway board of directors.) The construction will be done by Alliant Construction, and they'll be breaking ground soon.

Finally, while too many entities are high-tailing it out of Jackson, we're staying put. God has called Gateway Rescue Mission to be a ministry to the homeless, hungry, and addicted in Jackson, Mississippi. We're not renovating a building just to have modern facilities. We are launching this project because people need help in Mississippi. At this moment, a drug addict in a crack house or a homeless camp is crying out to God. He hears that cry and leads that person to Gateway Rescue Mission.

Thirty years ago, God lead a property owner who is now in heaven to donate a building to a rescue mission. God is now moving to renovate that same building so that, years from now when yours truly is in heaven, that building will be a haven to people seeking freedom and a new life.

Blessings,



Rex Baker
Executive Director
Gateway Rescue Mission

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

FEATURE





Our ***Restore Life to Jackson*** campaign, is a three-year effort to raise funds for renovation of a 24,000 sq. ft. building to house our New Life Program. The warehouse is a large building. Phase One will renovate the 12,000 sq. ft. upstairs of the building. This area will include dormitories, showers and restrooms, offices, and a chapel.

Mitch Lott, our development director, is shown here (on the left) explaining the Phase One architectural plans to Gateway staffers Steven and Kentrell. Phase One will house 36 men in our New Life Program.

Facilities Manager Huey Howerton is shown surveying the building's bottom floor, which will be used for classroom space and transitional housing units. The bottom floor also contains 12,000 sq. ft. of space. The bottom floor renovation will take place in Phase Two.

To be clear, we have raised the funds for the Phase One renovation of the top floor. We will be working to raise additional funds to complete the Phase Two renovation of the bottom floor.

We want to thank everyone who has supported our ***Restore Life to Jackson*** campaign along with all who continue to support our general operations. We still have to pay utilities and buy food to feed hungry people during the summer season.



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Summer has arrived and it's officially hot! We found Gerald, our shelter manager, showing off some donations of shoes and socks that we hand out to folks on the streets. Daily, we get requests for water, as dehydration is a real threat in the Mississippi heat.

Several weeks ago, the city of Jackson closed a couple of homeless camps on the Gallatin Street corridor. However, many of those same people merely moved to a more discreet location and continue to live homeless on the streets.

Thanks to all of you who have prayed for us, volunteered at our mission, or donated financially to support our ministry at Gateway Rescue Mission!



Current Needs

- **Bottled water.** We need a lot of bottled water to help thirsty people stay hydrated this summer. Dehydration is a physical danger to people living outside.
- **General hygiene supplies** such as soap, anti-bacterial wipes, insect repellant, and no-rinse body cleanser to pass out to homeless people.
- **Underwear, socks, and t-shirts** of all sizes.
- **Breathable, mesh summer shoes** of all sizes.
- **Canned foods and nonperishable food items.**
- **Coffee –** we are just about out of this drink, and it's very popular.
- **Please pray for the power of God to change lives!!**



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