

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

MAY 2024



Rick Mathes, Founder



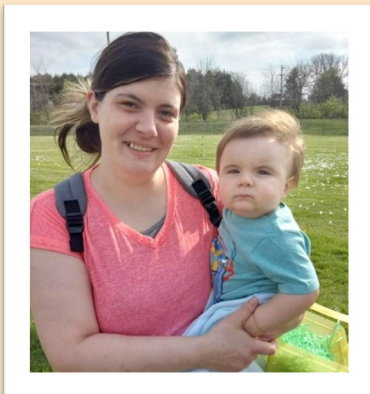
Rick has shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with well over 1 million people since he was saved and began Mission Gate at prisons, jails, aftercare, homeless shelters, churches, radio, and open-air preaching. Here are two special friends in his life who shared a birthday dinner last month along with their wives, Trish, Rachael, and Joyce.

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

-2 Timothy 2:1-2

Matthew Schmidt was one of our first residents who came to us in 1999; and James Fields when he was only 24 years old and needed extreme guidance as his mom died when he was two and he didn't have a dad in his life. Today, 14 years later, he is married, has a child, program director at Fort Good Shepherd, ordained minister, and a deacon at his church. Matthew is a faithful member of his church and has even gone to El Salvador to bring the Good News of Jesus. Both men are brand new people because of their faith in Christ and leadership and guidance from Rick.

From the mouth of babes —Melissa and Bentley

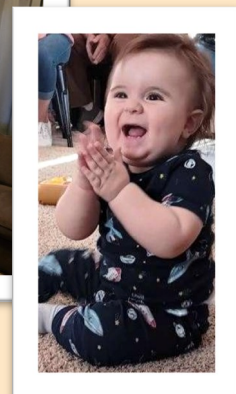


After being incarcerated for about 18 months Melissa was a little nervous to say the least when Tamara, our Family Support Specialist, and she picked up Bentley from the Mennonites. They had been caring for him while she was confined. Being reminded of God's promises, Melissa knows that the Lord brought her to the perfect place to learn how to become a Godly mother.

Surrounding her with caring staff and other mothers have helped Melissa grow confident in her role.



Bentley feeling the love and joy in the room starts cheering the ladies on as they received their certificates.



“You won't regret it!” —Stephen Neal



8/20/2022 “I am in prison. I lost everything and everyone. I opened my bible and there was Jesus with open arms. I have been committed ever since then. I am really needing to get into a positive and encouraging Christian program. I have a five-year-old daughter that needs and desires to have her father back in her life. All I can do is put my faith in God and do my part and not give up. If I am accepted, I promise you won't regret it.”

Today Stephen is a graduate of our St. Louis outreach and is building that beautiful relationship with his daughter that he so desired. He is also a senior resident leader at our Osage House mentoring other men while he grows in Christ and continues to build his bond with his child.

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“He heard me!” –Eric Vandiver



Eric Vandiver,
FGS Aftercare Assistant

In county jail, the conditions were horrible. It was the coldest part of the year, the toilets were clogged and there was no heat. Locked down in my cell, I cried out to our Lord. I decided in my heart that I was done with my former life and it was at that point with tears of humility in my eyes, I submitted my life to the Lord. I went to prison and started going to Celebrate Recovery in Fulton where everyone was talking about Mission Gate. I applied and Trish interviewed me, which gave me more peace and hope. I was shipped out to a level 5 prison at JCCC for three months. Warrants popped up and I was supposed to go to other counties, but I was able to come right to Mission Gate!

I have always had a desire to help people, but I just wanted to do what He wanted me to do. All the events led to where I am today, hired full time for Mission Gate. I just think that it is awesome that God moved mountains to be where I am in my life today after one year sitting in a prison cell. I will soon be working on becoming a Peer Support Specialist.

He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” - Matthew 17:20

Steadfast in His love!

Changing lives from Crime to Christ, is something we strive to do at Mission Gate. I got to experience this with one our gradates from 3 years ago this February. After Cali invited my family to her church, we walked into the sanctuary to see her head bowed, eyes closed and taking in the worship music. What a blessing to my soul seeing a young lady turn her life over to our Lord and years later still praising His name with her daughter right beside her. Thank you Lord!

-Joyce Fields, Hannah’s Ranch
Program Director



"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."
-Psalm 37:4

Hope with Him by my side

Faith and her twin sister were separated from a very young age. Here is a picture of them reunited and celebrating Faith's graduation from Hannah's Ranch. She worked hard and turned her life, wants, and desires over to our Lord. Faith started having visits with her son after years of separation. We now see them enjoying the beautiful spring weather playing soccer. Our Father in Heaven has many names: Healer, Redeemer, Restorer and Savior. Our Lord's healing power is alive today. Miracles happen today through Him. Faith's story is such an inspiration to all those striving to find hope.

Intercession at the Cross

The Cross. What does that mean to you? Rick and Trish know how important the Cross is to our residents. Whether it be struggling with restoration with family members, forgiveness, or just help in our everyday grind. This is a reminder that we can come lay our burdens at the foot of the cross and put on the Armor of God daily. Healing comes as He reminds us that we have a Savior whom has paid our debt, who lives in us and is there with us helping us throughout each day.



Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28