

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

APRIL/MAY 2025



Happy 40th Anniversary Mission Gate April 1st!



Rick and Trish Mathes
Founders

I began an adventure that knows no end when I dropped to my knees and asked the Lord to "Send me." I could see with the Lord's eyes that the future was terrifying for a non-believer and now is the time to show our love and the way to salvation or forever hold our peace. There are souls we love as the Lord does that have been bruised and battered and they need to know His love as we have.

The day is near, I can hear the hoof beats of the horses, the trumpets are about to sound. Thank you for joining us these last forty years and we hope you will continue for the next forty. Press on!

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14

Brenda Cole– Finally home



Before

I was bouncing from place to place, (mainly the streets), sleeping wherever I could, eating whatever I could, committing crimes, never holding a steady job, having no relationships whatsoever with my family. The only people I was around were abusing me. I was drunk and/or high from the age of 12, to SURRENDERING my life to the Lord. I prayed to Him and He led me to Hannah's Ranch. When I pulled up in the driveway, I automatically assumed I wasn't going to make it, that it was just going to be like all the other programs I've tried. DFS had just taken another baby from me. I felt completely defeated, but I surrendered. While here, I have gotten my license and saved up to get my own

car. I have relationships with everyone I love and I don't worry about what I'm going to eat or where I'm going to stay. I get to see both of my babies, and now DFS is letting me get my 6-month-old baby every weekend for 6 weeks, and after that he is going to be placed on trial placement with me here at Hannah's Ranch. Meaning... I will have him full time. I couldn't have ever done it without all the love, support, and guidance that I have received here. Hannah's Ranch believed in me even when I didn't. They loved me when I couldn't. And I am so beyond grateful for this place I call home.



Brenda and Braxley

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." - Ephesians 4:2

Carlando Richardson– Everything makes sense now



Blondie
(Carlando's mom)

Blondie says, "I remember a time when Carl was about four years old, his father and I decided that we were going to get a divorce. We moved to a new place in a new neighborhood. Carl was young but so wise. I woke up one morning and Carl wasn't in the house. His sister and I looked everywhere for him, I was so afraid I wasn't going to see my son again. The sweet Holy Spirit led me to the church on the corner. I interrupted the service and asked the pastor if he has seen a little boy about four. He said, 'Yes, he's in the basement asleep on the couch.' I have never stopped giving God all the glory, honor, and praise."

Carlando remembers feeling "spiritual" as a young child meaning he knew there was someone greater than himself out there. Living a rebellious life, he found himself in prison. He said. "that place was rough, but I found peace in the chapel even though my mind wasn't set on the Lord. I knew I needed to get my life together. According to word of mouth in the prison, Mission Gate was the best place to go. Being here at the Fort, I have learned that I am a sinner and need a Savior. Everything makes sense now. I am so grateful that words cannot explain it. My heart feels like it is in the right place!"



Carlando

Join us at the Lodge Des Peres April 25, 2025 at 12 p.m. for a wonderful program and new lunch menu! RSVP today

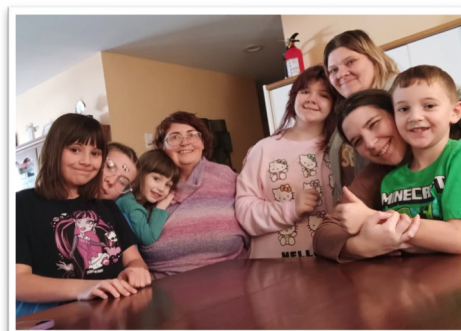
MissionGateMinistry.org / PO Box 6644, Chesterfield, MO 63006 / info@missiongateministry.org / (636) 391-8560

MISSION GATE UPDATE

April/May 2025

Tisha Arnold - Blessings of restoration

Tisha is a full-time staff member at Promises of Hope and recently became a Certified Peer Support Specialist through the state of Missouri. Tisha states, "I couldn't have done this without Jesus." And that is a feeling we can all relate to. You may remember Tisha from our last Septemberfest where three of her children accompanied her on stage. Her two youngest, Jesus loving, children live with Tisha full time at Promises of Hope. They came to us about three years ago and through the hard work of our staff when they first arrived Tisha was able to get her children their identifications, vaccines and enrolled in school for the first time. Her story continues to get better as her relationship and reliance on our Lord grows. She is pictured here with all five of her children, for the first time ever along with the sweet mother that adopted the older three. Miracles still happen today!



Tisha and kids

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!" - Psalm 133:1

Trish Mathes - My mom's poem to those who lost loved ones to addiction



Barbie, Mama, and me

Our distinct privilege at Mission Gate is rejoicing with grateful residents who reached out to God and felt his strong hand pull them out of the depths of addiction and hopelessness. Yet we also sorrow with these saved ones when they hear of friends and family who didn't make it, who died from addiction. Moms and dads also call with

stories of the tragic loss of their children.

Forty years ago, I lost my sister, Barbie, to alcohol addiction and depression. She couldn't find her way out of the trap. Then cancer of the tongue took her voice away. As she was dying, I talked with her about Jesus. Tears poured down her face as she clutched a wooden cross. She pointed to a plaque I had given her with the promises of Proverbs 3:5-6, then pointed to her heart, looking at me with confidence I had never seen before. She had connected with Christ, and I believe she accepted his gift of eternal life.

I often tell grieving friends and parents to look for signs that their deceased loved ones had reached out to Christ. I also remind them that we don't know of their communications with Christ as loved ones move from life to eternal life.

The other day a mom called, grieving her deceased daughter's earthly birthday. I mentioned this woman's sorrow to my daughter Reyna. The next day, Reyna brought me a treasured poem written by my mother around the time of my sister's death. I called the grieving mom to share the poem and offer comfort. Nothing is ever wasted with Christ and when the Holy Spirit weaves our stories together.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

It Grieves a Mother
By Ila Francis (Trish's Mom)

It grieves a mother to see her child
Slip into a world that's not worthwhile.

It grieves a mother that once looked into a face
that had a shine
Only to have it slip away in a glass of wine.

It grieves a mother that for so many years
Not to know that her child had so many fears.

It grieves a mother who thought her job was well
done
To be stripped of the medals she thought she'd
won.

I know this too shall fade away
For our God gives us strength to carry on day
by day.

My heart is heavy and many tears will I shed
But our Father in heaven promised to be with
us in the days ahead.

So my darling be strong and believe His promise to
be true

"I shall never leave nor forsake you."
This is His promise to you.