

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025



Rick Mathes, Founder, Prison Minister



I can stand as a witness that we have only just begun. We started off in our home, now 40 years later the Lord has brought us to serving over 350 residents a year on four sites, spread over 3 counties. Moses found out he was a somebody when God used him the 1st forty years, much like Mission Gate. Moses found out in the 2nd forty that he was a nobody and in the 3rd forty that God uses the nobodies to declare His majesty. Join us to see what these nobodies can do when we shout, "Let my people go!" from the addiction and bondage they had faced, turning them from crime to Christ. Won't you join us for the next forty years in setting the captives free.

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

Shepherd's Inn- Kevin O'Brien, Board Member & Founder Agape Construction



Ken (left) with two residents along
with Ed (in orange) and (far right)
Apericio, Kevin and Trish

Exciting news! The foundation for Shepherd's Inn, the new men's home being built on higher ground safe from flooding, was poured last week by Apericio Puentes, a graduate of Mission Gate. When complete, the house will sleep 19 men in private rooms, increasing the capacity of residents at Fort Good Shepherd in Cuba, MO by 32%! God has blessed us with the finances to get started, i.e. complete the framing, have it under roof and weathered in.

We are praying for funds to complete the project. Pam Matthews said, "If 400 people each gave \$1000, or 80 each gave \$5000 we could complete the new house!" And she is right!



AP's Concrete and Design
Apericio Puentes and his son, Austin

Would your company, church or you consider being one of our donors? We'd love to put your name on "The Tree of Life" that will be painted on the entry wall of Shepherd's Inn. We thank each one of you who have already given the start-up funds. Without you it would not have been possible to begin this new home. Donations can be made by mailing a check, an online donation from our website at missiongateministry.org, through a donor advised fund, stock donation, or by calling the office to make a credit card donation.

Jay Major, St. Louis Men's Program Director- Faithful Service

The St. Louis Outreach program is truly blessed to have these men give up their Monday nights to lead us in our Bible study. Although they take turns facilitating the classes, they are all with us every week, contributing their insights and wisdom. Collectively, they have over 250 years of faithful service to our Lord. Occasionally, we have guests from other churches join us, and they always proclaim what an amazing night it was.

Our St. Louis volunteers help shine the light of Jesus on our men. Thank you all for your faithful service.



"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

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August/ Sept. 2025

Trish Mathes, Executive Director- Standing at the bars

Not coming from a drug or alcohol background, it amazes me that the Lord was so gracious to call me into prison ministry. One of my first assignments was to conduct weekly bible studies at Hall Street, the old Workhouse. I walked down the long corridor with men on each side while looking straight ahead to the vaulted door where the women were housed. I didn't know I would need to go to their dorms and prompt them to come join me. I remember a couple of ladies standing at the bars naked. But it did not bother me. I saw women sleeping with women, but it did not bother me. I was there on an assignment from the Lord.



A few came in to join me in the old mop room which smelled like Pine-sol. One week I would have one lady attend and the next week three. It kept going back and forth but I never got discouraged. One day I ran late due to a traffic tie up. I literally ran down the long hallway because I didn't want to miss it. The door was vaulted shut; I was out of breath. But what I heard was the most beautiful thing in the world. I heard 15 women singing to the top of their voices, "Oh, how I love Jesus." What a thrill it was for me to see how the Lord worked.

If you have never been in prison or have never been even addicted to drugs or alcohol, still volunteer. From our Peer Support Specialists that have lived a life of addiction to those of us who haven't, it is the Word of God that binds us.

"To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

Oaks of Righteousness- Joyce Fields, Hannah's Ranch Program Director



Hannah's Ranch

Jane Wiese, of Jane Wiese Ministries, comes out twice a year to minister a powerful message to our ladies at Hannah's Ranch and Promises of Hope. Presenting the Word, praising our Lord during worship and eating a scrumptious lunch. Jane spoke this last time of how an oak tree seed goes down into the dirt, surrounded by darkness, but sprouts because of the light pulling at it so strongly. Much like our Lord when He corrects us and starts tugging at our hearts to turn towards Him. It was wonderful and an event our women look forward to all year long.



Promises of Hope

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Isaiah 61:3

Trinity Church Kirkwood- Thank you for coming!

Trinity Church blessed our ladies and children this August by donating back to school gift cards for the children at both women's locations and fellowshiping with the ladies at Hannah's Ranch. Ali Taylor stated, "I loved splitting into the groups and going into detail on certain topics. Thank you." Candy Pfitzinger said, "I just want to say thank you so much for coming to fellowship with us on Saturday. You have been such a blessing. The gift cards for Walmart were exactly enough for the girls school supplies! Your kindness and generosity have left an imprint on me. I felt accepted and comfortable enough to let my guard down. Jesus' love radiated through each and every one of you!"



We are ready for school.

H.R. Kids



P.O.H. Kids



"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17