

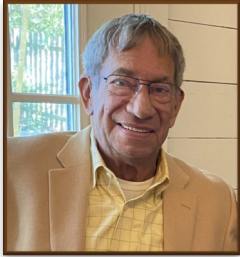
MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

AUG/SEPT 2024



Rick Mathes, Founder, Executive Director



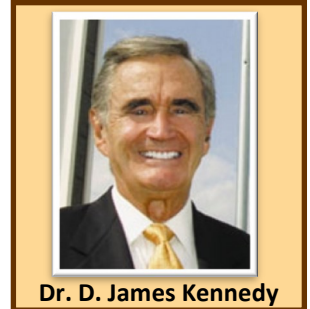
After reading an article wrote by Rick Mathes, Dr. D. James Kennedy stated “Rick Mathes, minister of Mission Gate Prison Ministry in Missouri is a real Chistian patriot standing up for the truth.” He continued to say, “We need patriots and Christians like ‘Charles the Hammer’ to rise up and oppose those who would destroy this country.”

While talking to a group of people in prison, Rick said “Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order for you

to go to Heaven, or my Jesus, who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven, and He wants you to be there with me?”

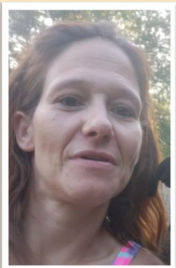
According to Dr. Kennedy, “There needs to be more champions like Mathes who are willing to stand against those who spread deceptive teaching.” People coming out of prisons and addictions need to hear the truth of Christ. We have found out from those we serve who abide in the Truth of Christ are the ones who no longer return to the ugliness of crime and addiction, destroying the county from within.

Dr. James Kennedy went home to the Lord on September 5, 2007. He was a senior pastor at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL.



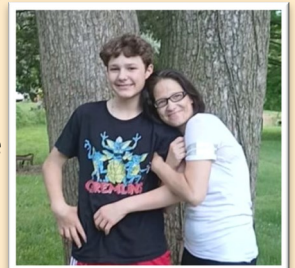
Dr. D. James Kennedy

Natalie Ossieck– Second Chances



Before

September 2018, I entered Mission Gate’s Promises of Hope program. I knew I had been born again earlier that year, but I wasn’t ready to give up all the things of this world and that led me to relapse. I reached out to my Mission Gate family and was accepted back into the program. I have been able to spend every weekend with my son since May and will be graduating from the program soon. I have become closer with God and have been able to take classes that have taught me to turn my childhood traumas over to Him. I am so grateful and thankful for the second chance that God, Rick, Trish, Shawnya, and each of you have given me.



Jax and Natalie

Raymond Romine, Graduate of Fort Good Shepherd



Raymond and Seth

After graduating from Fort Good Shepherd, Raymond just pulled out of Idlewild Road heading toward his new apartment in his truck which he was able to pay for with the funds he saved while in our program. Like most men when they first come to us had only the clothes on his back, his Bible and a hope in his heart for a true changed life. Raymond had a head start because he studied the bible through Emmaus Correspondence Courses while incarcerated. As he set his goals, he was patient and could see God fulfill them one by one. His greatest goal was always to build a relationship with his teenage son. Raymond learned so much and here he is with Seth, enjoying one another and making up for lost time. Even though he came to us filled with anxiety, he left with peace.

“God, your God, will restore everything you lost; he’ll have compassion on you; he’ll come back and pick up pieces from all the places where you were scattered. ” Deuteronomy 30:3

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Aug/Sept 2024

Mike Mooney, Graduate of Mission Gate's St. Louis Program



"One year ago, I graduated from Mission Gate Prison Ministry and while here I've been able to change my whole life. I went from being a prisoner in my mind stuck in addiction for 20 years to being set free by the Grace of God. Now I work for Mission Gate being a live-in nighttime resident assistant at Osage House, our largest home. I have the honor to help the new guys coming into our aftercare homes. I help get them back and forth to work, Celebrate Recovery, and church. I also get to mentor them and show them that with God all things are possible. I love my new life and trust him for my future."

"And Jesus said to him, 'If you can?' All things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

Trish Mathes, Co-Founder Exec. Aftercare Director– You believed in me

It wasn't long before Chris, a resident in our program, was identified as a person we would like to work full-time at Mission Gate. Other brothers on campus talked about how Chris helped them through various trials with the Word of God.

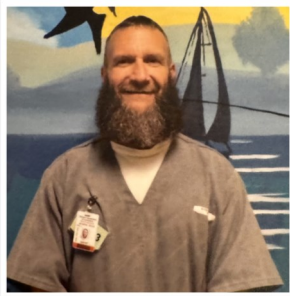
Chris appreciated our love for him, and said that he would commit to one full year of employment, which we needed at the time. We believed in him because he believed in Christ. He had good work ethics and soaked in the teachings at Mission Gate and his church knowing that was the only way he could change his life, especially after he ventured out on his own.

Chris has a landscaping business now, which he came back recently to donate his time to us. He said he will never forget what we did for him. Rick and I give each one of our donors, prayer partners and volunteers thanks. Chris said, "It is difficult out here in the world as there is so much temptation and we need to remain strong." Pray for the men and women who move out onto their own lives apart from the structure of Mission Gate. Pray they will be rooted in a Bible-believing and teaching church to continue their journey with Christ and to stay strong.



Christopher Hendricks

William Batterton– A letter from prison

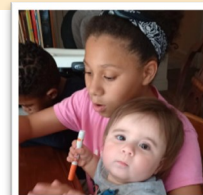


William Batterton is serving 28 years in prison. The Lord is using him by mentoring fellow inmates and leading classes! He was at Fort Good Shepherd serving Christ, but old charges resurfaced and brought him back to prison. His daughters and grandchild visit him, which restoration with them was always his #1 goal. Whoever thought that blessing would happen while he was in prison? Trish Mathes asked him, "How is the Lord sustaining you?" and this is his answer.

"The biggest thing God is doing in my life is showing me that no matter what circumstance, situation or whatever I find myself in the middle of, that if I stay focused on Jesus and stay dedicated to what His Word promises to be true, I will be okay. He won't always take us out of our trials when and how we want, but He will always give us His peace, joy and make it bearable until He does give us a way out. 1 Corinthians 10:13 'No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.' So, no matter how bad life may seem and what horrific circumstances you face, reach out and grab hold of Jesus with everything you have. Then you will have hope and with hope, you will have love, joy and peace."



Mission Gate's Children



"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13