

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives from Crime to Christ since 1985

December 2022



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

Happy Birthday, Jesus! The Angels Are Rejoicing! —Rick Mathes

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10



What greater joy could our Lord Jesus Christ enjoy on His birthday but a chorus of young voices singing "Happy Birthday Jesus" to Him on this special day?

I can almost see the smile on His face as the impoverished children of Christian prisoners and ex-offenders give Him their heart as a birthday gift with love and childish innocence.

Blessed be the God we worship! This is a wonderful occasion to lift our holy hands to the King and thank Him for the wonderful blessings of this past year and to welcome Him into the next.



*On behalf of the Mission Gate staff,
we wish you a blessed Christmas and
a Happy New Year! —Rick and Trish Mathes*



Help Us Celebrate! Christmas Angel Mission*

Mission Gate hosts Christmas Angel parties for the children of prisoners, ex offenders, and those struggling with addiction.

You can see how much this means in the smiles of the children pictured on this page.



Party dates

St. Louis, Monday, December 12, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, 5252 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63126
Crawford County, Friday, December 16, Meramec Music Theater, 26 MO-8, Steelville, MO 65565

How you can help:

- Provide gifts suitable for infants through 16
- Donate gift wrap, packaged treats, and drinks
- Volunteer during the parties
- Invite your church to participate

Call (636) 391-8560 if you can help.



*Mission Gate is not affiliated with Prison Fellowship Angel Tree or Salvation Army Angel Tree.

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There's Something Special About Going Into the Prisons —Trish Mathes

Mission Gate staff and volunteers walk through prison yards and behind jail walls to bring the plan of salvation and hope. They walk boldly into darkness, shining the light of the Gospel into every facility we visit. Here are a few of our recent stops:

- Fulton Reception & Diagnostic Center
- Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center
- Moberly, Ozark, & Booneville Correctional Centers
- Fulton Community Supervision Center
- St. Louis County Justice Center
- Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center
(We meet with 80 women at a time online)



When Mission Gate graduates visit prisons, they have instant credibility, and the inmates begin to see they can change too.

Our staff and volunteers all say, "There's something special about going into the prisons." Actually, it can be a bit frightening when the doors slam shut behind you, and you're walking through a long yard. For the inmates, prison can be unbearable. Can you imagine sitting in a cell for 23 hours a day? Recently we visited a prison that had 5 deaths in 2 weeks. Were these men saved? We don't know, but the Holy Spirit takes over as we think of what a privilege it is to carry in the Good News.

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" Isaiah 52:7

As prisoners learn to walk with God, they spread peace to other inmates. Their changed lives also flow into their family's hearts. We reach out to these families through our Christmas Angel parties so imprisoned mommies and daddies know their children's Christmas will be filled with treats, gifts, and the Christmas story.

End-of-Year Donations ~ Please Consider Mission Gate

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:20

Mission Gate relies exclusively on donations to take God's Word into prisons, where we see imprisoned people's souls set free. Your donations also fund the operations of each of our residential homes, where ex-offenders become devoted Christians and solid citizens.

We marvel at the way God has blessed and expanded Mission Gate over the years so we can continue sharing the Gospel and seeing changed lives. Your donations have supported us all the way, and we are so grateful.

Individual Funding Items to Consider

Hannah's Ranch Children's play area, phase 2 \$40,000 for electric, bathroom, plumbing, heating	Needs for 350 incoming residents at \$170 each \$59,500 for clothing, room & board, ID, bedding, etc.
Reunite children and mothers, 30 families in 2022, \$350 each \$10,500 for supplies, medical care, housing, food, etc.	Sending 1 staff member into prisons and aftercare facilities for a year \$25,000 per staff member
Donations of jeans, shoes, jackets, coats, and shirts	Costs for tree removal, repairs, building projects
OR 1-time donation of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more	OR Ongoing monthly pledge