

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025



Rick Mathes, Founder - Lift our hands to the King



Rick and Zachary Filanda

I am reminded of the tens of thousands souls I have witnessed stepping out of the prison gates and be gloriously welcomed by you and me at Mission Gate. Jesus reminds us that He is the way, the truth, and the life. You need to see it to believe this miracle, seeing the lost put down the bottle and pick of the Bible. Casting away the needle and picking up the cross of Christ while walking away from their evil ways to

lift up holy hands to the Lord Almighty. This model of salvation is sweeping the Department of Corrections and the name of Jesus is being proclaimed in the halls of justice. Thank you for uplifting those in prayer who are looking up for the Lord's return. As ministers and former prisoners, we will lift our hands to the King and welcome in the new world that appears to be forming before our very eyes.

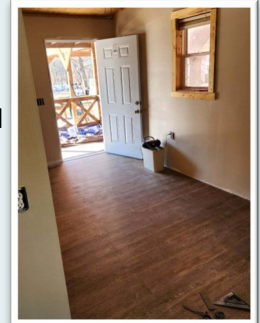
"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:6

The Restoration of Trailblazers – Bob Arb, Board Member



As many of our readers know, the extensive flooding on the Meramec River damaged quite a few cabins and single man units at Fort Good Shepherd in Cuba, MO. We are happy to report that the flood damaged floors, insulation, windows, cabinets and drywall have been torn out and replaced in most of the cabins. Some of our men who were displaced and had to double bunk with other residents, will already be back in the Trailblazer cabins by the time you read this. This would not have been possible without the many St. Louis and Cuba area church volunteers, along with the residents of Fort Good Shepherd who put in full days of work at the Fort. Because of your generosity, \$38,000 was raised, which covered most of the construction materials and finish work. It is amazing how Christians beautifully come together when the Lord called them to such an important project. Bob Arb, along



with his church members from Oak Bridge Community Church, came out to show support and worked eight different times. We are very thankful to all who gave any amount of time, talent, and tithe.

Todd Jarolimek – My parents' faces make it worth it



Todd's Family

Todd and Eric

"My new beginning after being released from prison started the moment Eric, Mission Gate's aftercare assistant, picked me up to bring me to Fort Good Shepherd. He grabbed the hands of my mom, brother and mine and started praying. While I was incarcerated my mom was sick and I realized I had to change. I dropped to my knees in my cell and cried out to the Lord to save me and change me. At Mission Gate we all go to various churches on Sunday mornings, my church is Delhi Baptist. When I go up to the altar, I get even stronger. Mission Gate helped me hang in there whenever I got

fleeing thoughts of going back to my old lifestyle. This has been the best six months of my life in 34 years. Mission Gate wrote the judge stating all my accomplishments and by the grace of God I had all four charges dropped and was able to pay off all my fines. Most of all, I love the look on my family's faces when I see them because they look so proud of me."

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

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MISSION GATE UPDATE

February/ March 2025

Tesha Arnold – Everything changed under that tree



Lemmy, Tesha and Bobby

In 2018, my life spiraled out of control shortly after giving birth to my son. My husband and I tried meth and what followed was nothing but chaos and confusion. In August 2021, my husband committed suicide, and I lost all understanding for my place in this world. Drinking and drugging, I found myself screaming and crying out to God to let me die. As I laid under a tree in a cornfield staring at His creation my belated husband's aunt found me, and started telling me that Jesus loved me and has a plan for my life. It was truly my John 1:48 moment and He saved me.

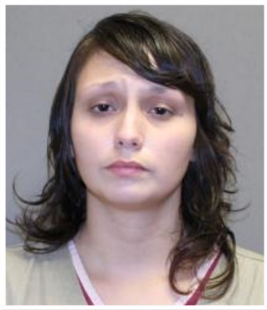


Our new home

Through reverence of the Lord, I was able to strengthen my faith and gain wisdom while at Promises of Hope. I have 3 children and have been blessed to have my son living with me full time. My favorite part is when I start a verse, and Bobby finishes it! All my children love reading the Bible and learning Psalms and Proverbs. We just moved into our own place after graduating from the Mission Gate program and are so thankful.

"Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." John 1:48b

Angela Dawson - I felt His presence in prison



Angela DOC

When my grandma turned 90 and had to leave our home, I got lost. She raised me and always took me to church. I loved her but didn't have her, and I got around with the wrong people. While in jail and then prison, I knew my heart was hardened and got panic attacks. It felt like the room was closing in. Then one day I broke down in my cell asking God for forgiveness. I kept reading the Bible every day. I felt His presence and realized how lost I was in the world. At that time, I knew the difference between just knowing about God to truly knowing Him.



Angela Today
Hannah's Ranch

If I didn't come to Hannah's Ranch when I knew God was calling me here, I wouldn't have had a heart. I have scriptures on my walls and listen to Christian music. I am new here and have accomplished so much already. I feel safe. The house is beautiful, I have Christian sisters, I have a way to get to church, a job already and my first paycheck. Hannah's Ranch got my birth certificate and driver's license. I got my first paycheck, and it felt so good to buy my own toiletries and laundry soap. I never did that before. I look forward to growing my relationship with my Dad and children and my life ahead.

Sydney Segen, Guest contributor – Free indeed



Brenda Cole
Hannah's Ranch

When prison gates open, men and women go free to live life on their own again. But past traumas, crimes, and habits often derail their freedom, and soon they're back behind bars of addiction, crime, or even prison.

John 8:36 says, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." When prisoners who know Christ step through the gates, they're free forever. They face the same challenges as others after prison, but their Savior has endless strategies to help them stay free—in spirit, mind, and body.

Mission Gate is one of Jesus's freedom strategies. Here, residents learn freedom comes with responsibilities, new habits, studying and hard work. They make mistakes, yes, but they rarely go back to prison. And if they do, they're not alone. Jesus is there with them, still setting them free. "Free indeed" is a process for all of us. Jesus sets us free in this life again and again and again. And His gift of eternal life will one day set us free forever.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles." Psalm 34:17