

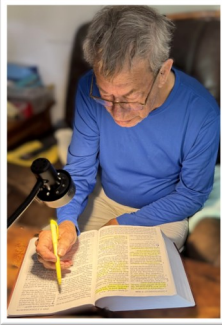
MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

JULY 2025



Rick Mathes– Founder, Prison Minister



Jesus ascended alive into the heavens while 500 witnesses watched His feet leave the ground and fade into the highest glory. He finally became the King of Israel in their sight and His Church's Bridegroom. As this transaction of atonement unfolded, you are His and the rest of your life is none of your business. He has become your hand and you have become His glove; God with skin on.

We are now as believers satisfied with our destiny knowing He loves us and our life is to serve His purposes here now and in the New Jerusalem later. One day, if you are His, you and I will be walking those golden streets of glory together. No pain, no wars, no sorrow and no sin. You can rest assured that He is coming again. This is the glorious hope we believers press on for. No matter how your life has been in the past, you are writing the Epistle according to you right now. How you die will illustrate how you lived. So, I encourage you to put a bow on your life and confess Him to all who will listen.

Waylon and Jenny Ross– God's way

Waylon and Jenny are both graduates of Mission Gate. Waylon took many classes while at Fort Good Shepherd and under the teachings of Mission Gate staff and his Pastor Joe Bruno learned the meaning of becoming a Godly man. He learned that when seeking a wife he should want a relationship that resembles Proverbs 31, someone who can glean from him spiritually and make him strive to be a better person for our Lord.

Waylon and Jenny go to the same church, Delhi Baptist Church. He saw that she served our Lord to the best of her ability, prayed for those who need it, and praised God even if it hurt. He began to realize she was the woman God placed in his life to spend eternity beside. Under the guidance of their pastor and leaders in Mission Gate they began the courting process. They saw other Godly relationships in Mission Gate and their home church that showed them when you put God first, He will make your paths straight. Waylon worked hard and got an apartment where he could bring his bride home after the wedding.



Pastor Joe Bruno, Waylon, and Jenny

"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this" Psalm 37:4-5

Zach Leible– "I always wanted to make my mom proud."



Zach Leible

I arrived at Mission Gate's Fort Good Shepherd location on January 17, 2020 after completing treatment at Booneville Correction Center for the Department of Corrections. When I got here all my family were still using drugs. I just continued to pray and got to see God work in a mighty way. My whole family is now clean from drugs, and two of my three sisters came to Mission Gate after me. The most amazing thing to me is how God restored my life in the same town in which I destroyed it. I always wanted to make my mom proud and the Lord allowed me to do that before she died. I came looking for a better way of life, but He showed me my purpose in life. Today, I am an Aftercare Assistant at Fort Good Shepherd, helping those who have been through the same things as me which is finding our strength in the Lord!

"Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." Isaiah 40:30-31

Reserve seating now for Septemberfest! ∞ Friday, September 26, 2025 ∞ by calling Reyna at (636)391-8560

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June 2025

James Fields– “I had a warrant waiting with my name on it!”

When I first came to Mission Gate, roughly sixteen years ago, I was new to the Christian faith. I was young, only twenty-four years old. I had a past history that caused the parole board to warn Trish and Rick about accepting me. A warrant was even sitting on my parole officer's desk for me, seeing as after three prison stints, this was the first time I actually showed up. But instead of looking at my past, Rick and Trish saw value in me.

Over the years Rick has poured his lessons into me, helping to shape and mold me into the man I am today. He believed that God had a purpose for me and never gave up on me. Through the times that I was hardheaded, through the times that I wanted to give up on myself, Rick stood firm. He taught me the meaning of rising to the excellence that Jesus saw in me. Today, I am the program director of Fort Good Shepherd. The Lord has blessed me, the youngster that Mission Gate was told would never make it. Thank you, Rick, for never giving up on me, for believing in me, for teaching me the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for helping me become the man I am today.



James Fields, C.P.S.
Fort Good Shepherd
Program Director

Joyce Fields– Mission Gate and WERDCC's new nurse wing coming together

Over the past 40 years, Mission Gate has worked very closely with the Missouri Department of Corrections to build a strong partnership. Both of Mission Gate's women's programs, Hannah's Ranch and Promises of Hope, allow mothers to bring their children into the program with them. No one can deny a bond between a mother and child, it is one-of-a-kind, and now D.O.C. is realizing that. Qualifying pregnant women who are currently incarcerated and meet the State's criteria are being allowed to keep their children with them inside the prison's new nurse wing. Here you see Dallas with her son Dawson, the first child born in this wing along with Kimberly Perkins, the head over WERDCC's nurse wing. Ms. Perkins is holding Landon (whose mother, Ali, was working at the time of the photo). Both Dallas and Ali are now at Hannah's Ranch continuing to build that bond with their sons, seeking our Lord and becoming the mother our Lord has called them to be. We consider this a great honor to be able to work so closely with them.



Dallas with her son Dawson (left) along
with Ms. Perkins and Landon (right)

Dusty Studdard– Soul-Deep Freedom

For years, holidays meant nothing to me. The 4th of July was just another day behind bars, just another reminder of everything I had lost. Fireworks were for other people just like families that gathered, children laughing, grills sizzling, skies lighting up with red, white, and blue. For me, holidays only echoed pain—separation, regret, and the deafening silence of being forgotten.



Dusty Studdard

Jesus saved my life, no question about that, but if it wasn't for Mission Gate's Fort Good Shepherd Ranch that took me in coming out of prison with nothing, I would still be stuck in my addiction. They gave me the chance to surrender my life over to our Lord as we are all called to do.

But today... I stand in freedom, not just physical freedom, but soul-deep freedom only God can give. As I lift my eyes to the fireworks that paint the night sky, I see more than bursts of color. I see a story, my story. From chains to change, cellblocks to second chances, dope to deliverance, hopelessness to healing. Every crack and boom in the sky reminds me that God didn't leave me in the darkness. He met me there and He led me out.

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