

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

JULY 2026



Rick Mathes, Founder, Prison Minister– Who are you?



We are the sum total of all that has passed before us to this moment, which has prepared us to be the ambassadors of the King that He ordained us to be before the beginning of time. You have been in His perfect will or His permissive will. In either case, you have always been in His will. You are perfectly molded and shaped to extend His love to others because you were preordained to do so.

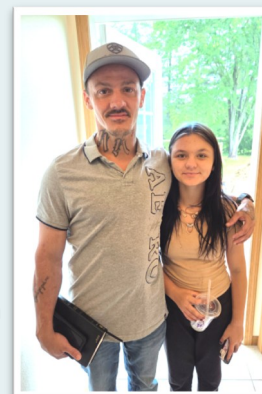
"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

We look at the back of the tapestry and see all the knots and tangles. He sees the finished product and we are beautiful in His sight. When our heart has had its last beat we will look back and be astounded at the genius of how we were created for His purposes according to His will. All that has passed before has prepared you for this moment, to go about the Lord's business and not know it.

Austin Markley– This Father's Day

When I began my relationship with Christ I tried talking to my daughter, Sophia, about God. She didn't want to hear it. Who could blame her after all the trials I had put her through over the years? She did not acknowledge God and didn't want me to feed her any of His truths at that time. I have been at Fort Good Shepherd for almost two years now, and I know our Lord hears my pleas and answers prayers. He has blessed me with employment that offers health benefits and vacation. I have a vehicle that is licensed and insured in my name; this is only possible through our Lord. And Sophia has called on Jesus to be her Savior and has been baptized. Here you see, she chose to spend this Father's Day with me at Delhi Baptist Church with my Bible in hand. He has truly made my cup overflow.



"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15

Austin and Sophia Markley

Promises of Hope camping trip made possible with help from Crawford County

Each year, the women and children of Promises of Hope travel to the Meramec River in Crawford County for a camping trip. This year, 19 made the journey for prayer, bonding, and learning that they can enjoy God's creation sober and free.

On Highway 44, Shawnya's van got a flat tire, and the other two vans pulled in behind her. Their jack was too short, so a Missouri highway patrol officer stopped to help. Shawnya explained they were with Mission Gate, traveling from Lincoln County for their annual trip. The patrol officer called a Crawford County officer, who knew Mission Gate through the Christmas Angel Mission in Steelville.

Determined to help, the officer found wood to support the jack, got dirty, and crawled under the van to fix the tire. His kindness made a lasting impression on the girls.



"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

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Trish Mathes, Executive Director– What a Positive Impact!

We are blessed by Apostolic Christian Church in St. Charles MO for its longstanding support of Mission Gate Ministry through donations of men's hygiene products and a recent volunteer service project. The middle school and high school students, along with VBS teachers, volunteered at our Crawford County locations. Their work included cleaning **Daddy's Place** in preparation for father-child visits and organizing donated clothing in **Rob's Closet** at Fort Good Shepherd. Part of the team moved furniture at **Hannah's Ranch** and mowed and weedeated around the lake that Rick named "Still Waters".



We thank the church and its teachers for raising young people who serve others with humility and compassion, reflecting something so important to their church's mission.

Promises of Hope learning how to let go of strongholds through classes

God promises in His Word that He will heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. We are reminded over and over throughout scripture that our healing comes from Him and our transgressions were taken by our Lord and Savior when He was pierced on the cross. The ladies at Promises of Hope just completed Restored, a Bible study that helped them understand God's promises of restoration. Learning that through the trauma of our past we can be free by fighting those creeping thoughts, and taking them captive with His Word. They searched the scriptures and laid down the grip that Satan had on them. Here you see them burning the strongholds that held them down which symbolizes their new freedom in Christ. Our strength comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and Earth, who holds us up with His righteous right hand.



Come and meet these ladies and hear what our Lord is doing in Lincoln County on
July 24, 2026 at Calvary Chapel Troy from 6– 8p.m.
\$30/per person or \$200/ table of 8 Call Reyna at 636-391-8560 to R.S.V.P.

Summer time with Mission Gate kids!

If you have kids you know they don't slow down and neither do we. Summer is flying by for the children in our women's programs. From celebrating our country's 250th anniversary, pool time, martial arts, birthday celebrations, games and much, much more. We are blessed!



Summer vacation will be over next month and our mom's are preparing for the school year. If you feel led in helping with clothing and shoes please contact Reyna at 636-391-8560. Contributions will be given by Walmart gift cards. Thank you for your help in supporting our children.

"Then He touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith, let it be done to you.'" Matthew 9:29