

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives from Crime to Christ since 1985

July-August 2023



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

As the Spirit Wind Blows, the Ministry Grows—Rick Mathes, Founder

The movement of renewal and revival in the prisons is changing institutional attitudes about reentry. Jesus is redeeming lives at a record pace!

Won't you join us in the end times explosion of God's power— just as He promised?



Volunteer Leaders Keep Our Ministry Moving—Trish Mathes, Founder



New Leadership From Longtime Supporters

Years ago, Bill and Debbie Martin of the First Baptist Church of Crestwood (FBCC) connected with Mission Gate through Christmas Angel parties. This year, FBCC's Bev Wessels expanded those early connections.



A director of human resources, Bev created a workshop, "Job Search, Resume Writing, and Interview Skills," which includes lecture and role play. Bev says,

"Mission Gate's participants jumped right into role playing and didn't want to stop, better than most employees!"

Leadership After a Loss

Every summer, Jay Major, our St. Louis program supervisor and coordinator, hosts a BBQ in the backyard of Daniel's House. The event honors the O'Brien family, who donated this home in memory of their beloved son Daniel. Photos of Daniel and his dog hang on every floor of this home, signifying the O'Brien's hope that Daniel's death will help inspire new life in the home's residents.

When our residents and graduates greet us with tears in their eyes, saying, "Thank you, you saved my life," we know Jesus did the saving.



New Board Member Came Up Through the Ranks

Larry Walker knows crime and addiction firsthand. He came to Mission Gate from prison in 2006, graduated in 2007, and has been a Christian leader ever since.

Larry has been a role model at his job, with his family, and in state prisons. He is an elder at Injoy Christian Fellowship church, a Certified Peer Specialist, and a Volunteer in Corrections. Welcome, Larry, a living example of Christ's miraculous salvation.



New Board Member Even Baptizes Strangers

At Family Day at the Fort this year, Pastor Joe Bruno of Delhi Baptist Church baptized 12 new believers at Fort Good Shepherd. People passing by in a canoe stopped in awe of the river baptisms. They professed their faith in Christ and asked to be baptized too. Pastor Joe happily obliged!

Joe is a new board member, but not new to Mission Gate. He has counseled our men for the past 12 years. Welcome, Pastor Joe.

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Invited to Spread Hope

Larry Walker and some of our graduates visit **Ozark Correctional Center** each month. This year, we were invited to participate in their large reentry fair. Men walked up to our table with hope in their eyes never to turn to drugs, alcohol, or crime again.

Sarah Wormington, the institutional activities coordinator at the prison, wrote this to us:



"The day of release is feared and anticipated ... Where am I going to live? How hard is it going to be to get my ID? Can I find a job? Can I get a driver's license? What am I going to wear? How am I going to fit in with my family? Are they going to allow me to see my child? What about child support? Can I really go back to school? Can I stay clean this time? They have many questions, but few answers.

You have answers ... you have created options ... and hope.... Together we can give the men the tools they need for successful re-entry into society!"

Two Important Needs

First, children are having a ball in the new play facility. However, we still need plumbing and electric installed.



Second, 100 ladies are on their way to Hannah's Ranch and Promises of Hope in the coming year! You can get in on the amazing life changes they will make by supporting the needs of these newcomers.

Summary

\$20,000

Phase 2 of our play facility

\$250

Supplies for one incoming lady

OR

\$25,000

Supplies for all incoming ladies

AND

Any amount helps!

Please use the enclosed donation form. Thank you!

I Am a Child of God—Kayla Barlow



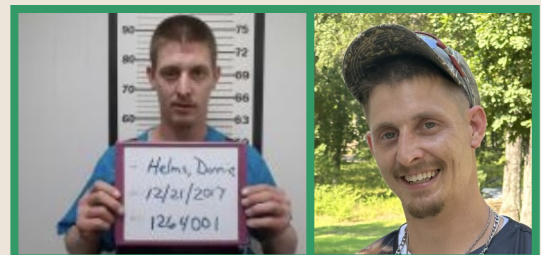
In prison I prayed that I would find a beautiful, loving, supportive family. Just over 30 months ago, my prayer was answered as I joined the Mission Gate family. From the moment they picked me up, my life was forever changed. That's also when I started my sobriety journey.

At Hannah's Ranch, I found self-worth, self-respect, self-esteem, and confidence that I lacked before. I've worked hard as I started my new life, but the Lord has been there for me, and I'm a child of God.

I Can See the Beauty in Life—Donnie Helms, Jr.

There's not enough paper in this notebook to explain how the Lord and Mission Gate have changed my life in just a year. I've held a job, regained my license, got my family back, learned responsibility, and built strong, honest relationships,

I'm not only sober and clean, but the thought of getting high and drunk does not haunt and antagonize me anymore. I live with a clearer conscience. I can see the real beauty in life. Now I can help others change their lives through the Holy Spirit. I hope you're coming to Septemberfest 2023 to hear more of my story.



"I once was blind, but now I see."

John 9:25