

# MISSION GATE UPDATE

*Turning Lives from Crime to Christ since 1985*

June 2023



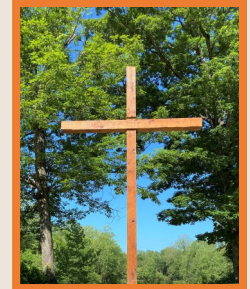
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## New Cross at Fort Good Shepherd!—Rick Mathes, Founder

He is Risen! The Cross is empty, and his return is soon to be. As our fellow Christians step through the Mission Gate, they get 9 months of intensive training, and then they step into the church of their choice with the pastor that preaches the Gospel.

How is that for a recovery program?  
Too simple? Guess what, it works!

*Turning Lives From Crime to Christ*  
Good job, staff and volunteers!



## June Is Bloomin' Up Praises —Trish Mathes, Founder

**April Durbin and Bryttanie Nelson** at Hannah's Ranch, we are so proud of you for earning your High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) with honors!



**Thank you, Alice Whalen**, Adult Education and Literacy Director at East Central College, for providing virtual classes for the students at Hannah's Ranch.

**Thank you, Linda Moore** (not pictured) from East Central Literacy Council, for serving as our virtual instructor and staff trainer.

**Lindsey Miller**, while still in prison, prayed that God would place her at Mission Gate. Now, after 4 months at Promises of Hope, she says, "I praise the Lord that Mission Gate is giving me a chance to have my life back again."



**Hannah's Ranch and Fort Good Shepherd** participated in the Trash 'n Bash community cleanup project and picked up trash around the city. It was a perfect way for Mission Gate to give back to the community that gives us so much.

Sara Curtis and Rachael Farmer

## My Life Wasn't Wasted

**My name is Eric Sawyer**, and I grew up in a church family. I thought doing Christian things made me a Christian. But I didn't know Jesus beyond what I heard in sermons. As I got older, I was too busy "being God" to go to church. I made bad choices, lost jobs, became addicted, ended up homeless, and lost all hope.



Eric before Christ

**The last time I was incarcerated**, I finally opened my heart to who Jesus was and to who I was in His eyes. After I began a relationship with my Lord and Savior, I saw my failures weren't failures, but experiences to bring me back to Him. Before release I was accepted to Mission Gate's Osage House. I arrived in June 2022, graduated, and now I'm a senior resident and house leader.

I've been actively involved in The Journey Tower Grove Church, and I'm also taking membership classes. I'm 46 years old.

**Did I waste 46 years of my life** living for myself? No. Thanks to Christ and Mission Gate, I finally can see my life has not been a mistake, but Christ has been preparing me for such a time as this so I can raise my son and serve Jesus!



Eric after Christ

*"I will restore to you the years the locusts have eaten."*

Joel 2:25

# MISSION GATE UPDATE, Continued June 2023

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## Don't Miss ~~This~~ These!

### Promises of Hope Dinner

June 23, 2023, Friday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Calvary Chapel, 28 Snyder Rd., Troy MO 63370  
Delicious dinner from Zaddocks Restaurant!  
\$25 adults, \$10 children

- Senator Jim Talent, Emcee
- Amazing resident testimonies

### Fort Good Shepherd Family Day

June 24, 2023, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Fort Good Shepherd & Hannah's Ranch Celebration

July 27, 2023 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Camp Mihaska, Bourbon, MO 65441

### SeptemberFest at First Free Church

Friday, September 22, 2023

## Opportunities to Help

**Agape Construction**, longtime supporters of Mission Gate, sent five carpenters for a week to begin restoring two cabins. Founder Kevin O'Brien reports, "We laid flooring, set cabinets, and installed new stairs in one cabin. We replaced the subfloor and framing on the other one."

**Trish adds**, "We're so thankful for Agape's faithfulness and also for Mar-bal Manufacturing, a local employer, for buying appliances for both cabins!"



**Are you an electrician or plumber** who has a heart for giving guys a second chance?

**Contact Kevin O'Brien**

**314-565-2494 kevin@buildagape.com**

**P.S. We still need painters! Call (636) 391-8560**

## Praise From Prison Staff—Reyna Rollings

**We recently accepted an applicant to Mission Gate** and soon after, we received an email from his prison parole officer. The officer said, "Thank you so much!!! He [the applicant] was so excited, he was tearing up a little—but of course no crying in prison. He turned down a home plan that would have put him back into same lifestyle he came from. Instead, he's reading his Bible and talking about the Book of Matthew. With Mission Gate's help, he's going to become a better dad and change his life. Please share this with your supporters:

**"We need you out there!"**

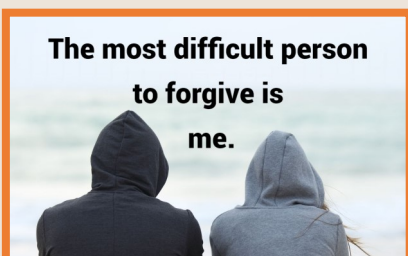


## The Importance of Knowing—Sydney Segen, editor

**"Knowing" is essential.** Knowing who we are in Christ brings salvation. Knowing the Bible guides our lives. Knowing God keeps us close to Him. Mission Gate residents have another kind of knowing: They know trauma.

**All our incoming residents carry terrifying trauma within themselves.** They've carried it for a long time, and they try to forget it. But if they want changed lives, they must look directly at their traumas, name them, tell what happened, and feel the deep feelings of shame, guilt, and anger that have raged within them for so long.

**The most difficult person  
to forgive is  
me.**



**Our residents—like everyone—must know their traumas to heal** from them. They have to bring those dark, hidden secrets into the light—the light of Jesus. Then they have to own the traumas, to say, "This really happened. It happened to me. It was terrifying." They have to tell their stories and write them out. As they do this, God heals these sufferers. Mission Gate also helps them learn to cope for future times when the traumas pop up again. Lifelong healing begins, and complete healing happens in heaven.