

# MISSION GATE UPDATE

*Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985*

MARCH 2026



## Rick Mathes, Founder, Prison Minister

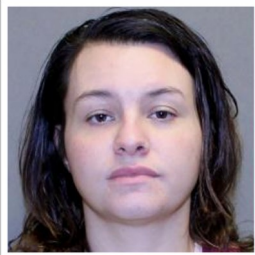


Why is it we will tell everyone we know about a great dinner we had, a new car purchase, or a fabulous vacation but when it comes to the Word of God, complete silence? Let me ask you a question, "What if you were climbing the golden stairway to heaven and your loved ones were walking the other way into the flames asking, 'Why didn't you tell us about Jesus?' What would you say?" What are the proofs that the gospel is worth shouting from the housetops? Let's look at a few together.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for re-proof, for correction, for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

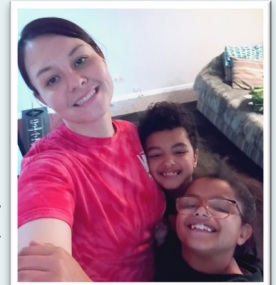
The library of 66 books we call our Bible was written by forty authors, on three continents, in three languages, over 1,700 years and it is seamless in its message! This is a mathematical impossibility. It could only have been written by the finger of God. There isn't a book written that holds a candle to the beauty and wisdom of the Word of God. Satan has had over 2,000 years to disparage and destroy the truths in it without avail. Never have men penned anything like it. It is the sun of God that illuminates the moon of man. It isn't the brightness as much as it is the brilliance it brings of man's destiny.

## Mashala Smith– Coram Deo, "Before the Face of God"



Before

I am a walking testimony, covered by God's grace and love. Over the past few years during chapel at Hannah's Ranch I have heard Rick say a few things that have really caused me to change, such as, "Bible only, Grace only, Faith only, Jesus only", "Coram Deo: before the face of God" and "read 1<sup>st</sup> John till your eyes pop out". When I learned to live by these statements, surrendering my life to God, taking steps of faith, blind faith, my life began to change. God placed me in an amazing program that, like Him, never gave up on me. Today, I own a car that I recently paid off, still employed full-time, graduated our program,



Mashala, Lyric and Melody

and my twins and I stayed the first night in our own apartment. I could have done none of this without our Savior, Mission Gate, and a home church that has helped my children and me grow in His Word. I will forever thank Him, always remembering Coram Deo.

"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

## Spring into the new season with us!



Mission Gate @ Mission Community Church  
Sharing PowerPoint and testimonies

One of our favorite things to do is gain partnerships with local churches. We would love to be invited to come to your church or bible study with our men and women who have had their lives changed from crime to Christ, sharing testimonies of what our Lord has done through this ministry and how you can become a part of His work here.

Please call 636-391-8560 or email [trish.mathes@missiongateministry.org](mailto:trish.mathes@missiongateministry.org).

Pictured to the left is men of Fort Good Shepherd with Trish Mathes, Executive Director; James Fields, F.G.S. Program Director; Eric Vandiver, F.G.S. Program Coordinator; and Joyce Fields, Hannah's Ranch Director.

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## Trish Mathes– Making Great Headway at Shepherd’s Inn

You can’t truly appreciate the quality and layout of Shepherd’s Inn until you walk through its halls. Even before completion, we are in absolute awe of what this space has become. A massive thank you to Kevin O’Brien and the entire team at Agape Construction. Thank you for bringing more than just skill and labor—thank you for putting your hearts into this project.

Through every window, you see God’s majesty in the rolling hillside. It’s a reminder that God created this place specifically for the "least and the last." He is using this beauty to help men transform their lives.

Kevin O’Brien says, “it really is a work of the Holy Spirit. He has put it on the hearts of many people to contribute their gifts and talents.”

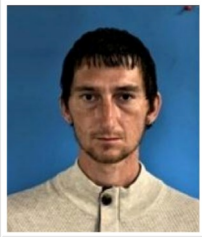


Kevin O'Brien and Bob Arb , board members



Trish Mathes and Kevin O'Brien

## Jacob Towler– His Word Spoke Life Into Me



Before

When I applied for Mission Gate while in prison, I knew I needed to go somewhere that would allow me to build a relationship with the Lord and encourage me daily, speaking life into me through His Word. I had started using drugs at a very young age due to the dysfunctional environment that surrounded me at home. Numbing the pain without understanding the true implications of my choices continued into my teenage years, followed by years of legal trouble. I didn’t see anything wrong with the way I was living until God revealed His love for me in 2013. I felt His love for me, I recognized that I was broken and a sinner and needed a Savior, but I wasn’t ready to surrender. I wanted to hold onto the chaos that I had grown up in and that landed me in prison four times. Hebrews 12:6



After

says, “because the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens everyone He accepts as His son.” God disciplined me until I came to the end of myself and everything I had ever recognized as normal and was ready to surrender completely to Him.

## James Fields, Fort Good Shepherd Director- Gather Together in His Name

At Mission Gate, discipleship does not stop at nine months. Many of our graduates go out and become pillars in their communities. What begins here at Mission Gate continues as residents leave equipped to bring the gospel to others in need. As you were there for them, they are now able to be there for others. Pastors, elders, deacons, and evangelists from Mission Gate gather together to discuss how best to bring God’s Word to the lost.



Breakfast Fellowship



Preaching God’s Word at Equilibrium Ranch Retirement home for Veterans and Seniors



Going to the streets of St. Louis to spread the Good News



Worshipping at Americare’s Cuba Village Senior Living

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thess. 5:11