

# MISSION GATE UPDATE

*Turning Lives from Crime to Christ since 1985*

May 2023



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

## Standing on the Edge of Glory—Rick Mathes

The ancients saw the horizon and believed the world ended there. Any further, and you would fall off the earth. We learned since that the visible horizon is only the beginning of a whole new world of adventure and excitement serving the LORD!

Mission Gate stands at that precipice of glory. Don't just peek in: leap in and join us for an experience you won't soon forget as we *turn lives from crime to Christ*.



## Get Your Calendars Out for Summer Celebrations

Call (636) 391-8560  
for more info

### Promises of Hope

- Friday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.
- Calvary Fellowship, Troy, MO
- Testimonies and songs from the ladies

### Hannah's Ranch and Fort Good Shepherd residents

- Thursday, July 27, 6:30 p.m.
- The Salvation Army Camp Mihaska
- Bourbon, MO

### Family Day at Fort Good Shepherd Ranch

- Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Join families from across Missouri as they come to rejoice for God's work in their adult children's lives. We want them to meet you—you who have supported their walk and blessed them by filling their needs.



Joyce and Britney

## Going Back to Prison—Free This Time!—Joyce Fields

Britney Harper came to Mission Gate from the Community Supervision Center in Fulton, MO, last June. This month, she returned to bless the ladies who are there now with a message of hope and change through Christ. The staff greeted Britney warmly and told her how proud they are that she has changed.

Britney recently graduated from Hannah's Ranch. She has grown in the Lord and in the relationships with her children. Brittany has a vehicle, signed up her son for baseball, and supports her daughter's band and art club activities.

## You Are Wanted! (to volunteer)

1. **We need men and women** to go into St. Louis County Justice Center and Missouri State prisons. After training, you'll visit the facilities to offer encouragement, pray, share God's Word, or lead Bible studies.
2. **Help! We need volunteers to paint** all the riverside cabins at Fort Good Shepherd Ranch!
3. **Paid position available** for a staff resident supervisor to assist Jay Major in our St. Louis Outreach programs.

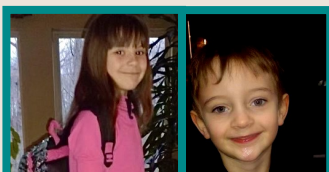
Call (636) 391-8560 to volunteer, apply, or get more information.

# MISSION GATE UPDATE, Continued May 2023

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## God Saves Moms—And Their Children, Too—Shawnya Blankenship

**Tisha's daughter, age 7, and son, age 5, had never been to school.** It was late in the school year, but with help from Promises of Hope and the Lord's grace, Winfield school opened their doors—with no judgment by anyone.



"I was so far gone in my addiction, I couldn't even get the paperwork done to put my children in school."

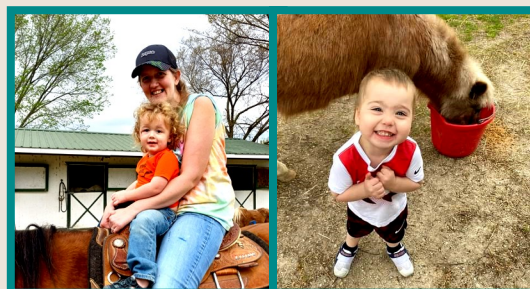
**Tisha cried when we told her Serenity and Jordan Michael could start school** for the first time in their little lives. A local church provided supplies, backpacks, and clothing. The children tell us every day how much they love school, and every morning, they say "thank you" to our childcare assistant Tamra Goins when she helps them into the bus.

**Watching the children's excitement and seeing their eyes light up** was so very powerful to me. God *does* restore, and He *does* bring mothers straight from muck and mire into his loving arms. I want to personally thank supporters like you. Without you, we wouldn't be seeing big miracles in little lives.

## Hannah's Ranch Kids' Day Outings

**Mission Gate's children love to go on outings,** like this visit to the horses at Fort Good Shepherd Ranch, with their moms and our staff. Both moms and kids experience the Lord's presence in nature as they learn how to have fun together.

**These outings in God's amazing creation** build the mother-child bond, which is so critical for the children's future development.



## Thankful for Much Favor From Our Master—Trish Mathes

**I am extremely excited about the connections and favor Mission Gate gains** through volunteers, donors, prayer warriors, and the Department of Corrections staff. It's heartwarming to hear that case workers and institutional parole officers refer to us only people who are ready to benefit from our program and most likely to succeed. These professionals watch out for both inmates and Mission Gate!

**More favor . . .** When our residents shop in town or run errands, clerks and other shoppers treat them courteously—just like they treat everyone else. This happens at church, the bank, the license office, the grocery store, and even on campus when our parole officers meet with them.

**Our residents also sense dignity in their lives because of you.** You provide housing, food, bedding, clothes, training classes, beautiful settings, and more. God works through your provisions to stabilize lives. In return, our residents work hard too.

**Our 98% employment rate is unheard of for ex-felons.** In fact, companies located near our facilities eagerly await the arrival of incoming residents for their new hires! Also, the good work ethics of Mission Gate's residents often result in pay increases and promotions.



Want to see incoming residents get steady work like the people pictured here? No problem! Just send in the enclosed donation form to help our newcomers get off to a good start.