

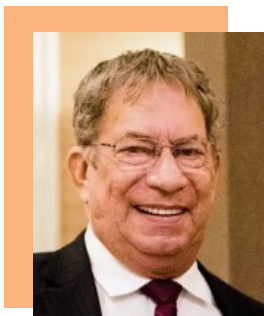
MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023



Press On! —Rick Mathes, Founder



My mind spins with the options the Lord has given our ministry for 2024! With you as a partner in ministry to the last, lost, and least, children are the last ones who should share in the consequences of crime, drugs, and immorality.

We have the lamp, and Christ has the light. What more could we ask for to save our faith and beliefs that our Lord is coming soon and the first thing He may ask is, “Did you love the children of the promise for me? Well, done my faithful servant, well done!”

Therefore,
since we receive
a kingdom
which cannot be shaken,
let’s show gratitude, by which
we may offer to God
an acceptable service
with reverence and awe.
Hebrews 12:28

Former inmate now spreads hope in prisons



Prison reentry fair

James Fields has gone full circle in rebuilding his life. About 13 years ago, James had just finished serving 1 1/2 years at Boonville Correctional Center when he made his way to Mission Gate. Now, 13 years later, James, program director for Fort Good Shepherd, represented Mission Gate at the same facility.

James presented our program to over 300 inmates who visited his table, all looking for opportunities for placement after their release.

Continue to
remember those
in prison as if you
were together
with them
in prison.
Hebrews 13:3a

Mission Gate visits prisons to host tables at reentry fairs, make reentry presentations, and share the Gospel.

We connect with the correctional community to offer better reentry options

This year, Mission Gate rose from participant to sponsor in the 2023 Missouri Reentry Conference. We’re so grateful for the many wonderful connections with Department of Corrections staff and other organizations who participate in this event.

Now we’re receiving many phone calls from representatives of other entities involved in reentry. They want to know more about Mission Gate so we can join forces in giving individuals leaving prison the best reentry experience possible. As always, we keep our focus on the Lord’s power in recovery and reintegration—and we’re so thankful for a wonderful staff who would have it no other way.



Greg
Smith

Shawnya
Blankenship

Joyce
Fields

James
Fields

What a joy to present our ministry at local mission fairs!

We visited Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church, Trinity Presbyterian, Central Presbyterian, Greentree Community Church, Old Orchard Church, and The Journey St. Louis. Call us if you would like us to present at your church. Our residents bring powerful stories of what the Lord has done in their lives. (636) 391-8560

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MISSION GATE UPDATE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023, CONT.

Wow! What a fall for all kinds of supporters! –Trish Mathes, Aftercare Director



The women of Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church brought a feast to our Hannah's Ranch ladies and also delivered a message from our Savior of mercy, grace, humility, and love. They helped us realize that through our faith in Him our sins have been forgiven, and through Him we can forgive others.

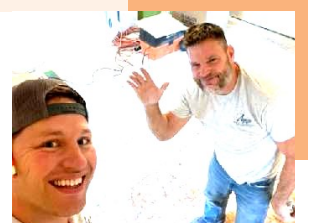
Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. Luke 7:47

Missouri Eastern Correctional Center's institutional parole officers, based in Pacific, MO, took a tour of Fort Good Shepherd. They arrived at 1 p.m. when our classes dismiss, so they saw the fort in full action. They marveled at our 135-acre ranch with its beautiful buildings, wondering how we keep the grounds so nice with so many residents. We explained that our leaders involve the residents in the work.

The officers asked many questions, wanting to understand all the details so they could help their clients decide if Mission Gate is a good fit for them. They also invited us to speak at their correctional center. Many thanks to Reyna Rollings, executive administrator and reentry coordinator, who set up the visit.



Thank you to Kevin O'Brien of Agape Construction and Mission Gate board member for your work and amazing employees who totally renovated our two cabins down by the river. Residents are moving in! Thanks to others involved, too, including volunteers, donors, electrician Jim Pemberton, and Mar-bal, Inc., who donated the appliances.



Drugs, divorce, and foster care make it tough to grow up –Kari Haitte

I turned to drugs when I was 13 as a way to escape my chaotic childhood. But drugs didn't work. One day I dropped to my knees and prayed for God to give me a better life. And now I'm living it because of God and Mission Gate.

Mission Gate visited Fulton's Community Supervision Center while I was there. I applied and was accepted at Hannah's Ranch. The day I graduated, I knew my mom was looking down on me from heaven. The Lord is a Great Healer and helped me with anxiety and depression, and I'm getting better. I'm working on my HiSET, have a job and a driver's license, and—best of all—my son Elijah is living with me. We're going to make it.



Elijah and Kari

And let's not forget the beauty of our equine ministry



The ladies and children from Hannah's Ranch spent the day at Fort Good Shepherd enjoying nature and getting close to God's beautiful creatures.

Our equine ministry is available to all residents, and our horses have helped thousands of people heal.

