

# MISSION GATE UPDATE

*Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985*

OCTOBER 2024



## Rick Mathes, Founder – One Soul at a Time



The father was enjoying his son at the beach when they were overcome by all the starfish that were on the shore instead of in the ocean where they should have been. One at a time the boy carefully took a starfish and gently placed it back into its natural community.

This went on for quite some time when the father chided his son and said, "What you are doing is a wonderful thing and I am sure Jesus is proud of you, but there are miles and miles of starfish that you can't possibly reach. Son, take a rest, you can't help them all." The son replied, "Well, I can save this one."

Soon, others joined in like you, and many were saved. Yes, we can turn one precious life to Christ, one soul at a time.

**But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. - Jeremiah 20:9**

In Missouri, 41,000 people are incarcerated and another 35,000 are on probation or parole. (Prison Policy Initiative)

## Reyna Rollings – "They know lives change at Mission Gate"



Reyna Rollings,  
Exec. Administrator

Reyna spoke about the relationships Mission Gate has built with attorneys, judges, and parole officers inside and outside of prisons within the state of Missouri. Many of our applicants are given Mission Gate's name by their institutional parole officers and case managers because they know lives are changed here at Mission Gate and the Lord's hand is in it.

**"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." - Exodus 14:14**

## Trish Mathes – They Shine Like Stars in the Sky



Trish Mathes,  
Exec. Aftercare Director

Trish Mathes introduced people that graduated from our program, and are now working for Mission Gate who have turned their lives from crime to Christ. Twenty-one former inmates got on stage and proudly showed the change that only God could do. They are all working for Mission Gate in various positions. Their *before pictures*, which they held up for all to see, showed a great emptiness inside them with no hope. They were chosen by God and now shine out among the world like the stars. Joyce Fields explained how they were in desperate need of a Savior, but with His grace and mercy they have become new creations in Christ.



**"so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky." - Philippians 2:15**

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**"And this is why we celebrate one soul at a time!"**

## Jared Leimbach – Delivered from a Drug Infested Home



Jared's family came to cheer him on as he and many others shared how their lives were fundamentally changed by our Savior. He lived in a drug infested home and one day Jared got down on his knees and held hands with his mother and cried out to the Lord. The police came less than ten minutes, and he remember them speaking of a peace he had over him as they arrested him. In prison, Jared took steps to become closer to our Lord by attending chapel services. He had heard about Mission Gate throughout his previous incarcerations stating, "It was the most heard about place." Knowing he wasn't going back to his old friends and lifestyle he took the steps to move forward, put his application in and after his interview was accepted. Jared will be graduating the program in November and is currently employed full-time in our community, as well as a bunkhouse leader at Fort Good Shepherd. He knows that God is with him everywhere he goes and loves spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to all those who come in contact with him.

## Alana Waltz – "I Learned how to Become a Wife and Mother"

In 2019, Alana graduated from Hannah's Ranch after being on a path of destruction that led to IV Heroin use, eight rehab facilities, four felonies for drug possession and burglary, and going to prison three times serving 3 years. She says, "By the grace of God I have remained six years clean. I moved to Springfield and married my husband in March of 2020. I obtained my Peer Specialist certification and spent time working with others in drug and alcohol abuse. After we were married, God blessed us with a child, and two more shortly after. Today, we get to teach them about Jesus and have a marriage centered on God. We now own a business, Waltz Family Homes, and last year I obtained a Real Estate license. My husband and I carry a vision to continue helping people and can't wait to see how God works in the next chapter of our lives. I'm forever grateful to Mission Gate for being the hands and feet of Jesus."



## Mike Mooney – "Left hospital with IVs still connected"



"On my 14<sup>th</sup> overdose I woke up in Barnes Jewish Hospital with the doctors telling me I had acute heart failure. I was deep in my opioid addiction which had been going on for twelve years. I needed open heart surgery but I left with the IVs still connected to me because my addiction was so strong. I needed more work on my heart than any doctor could provide. Shortly after leaving the hospital, I was picked up by the cops. When I was in prison and in a 23-hr lockdown, I asked the guard for a Bible. I felt like God was talking directly to me. I had peace on that day I put my trust in Him. This period of self-discovery brought me to growing a relationship with our Lord and even obtaining my HiSet. After getting accepted into Mission Gate, I was released and picked up at the bus station by a Mission Gate employee. Thirty minutes later I was attending Septemberfest 2021, which showed me how Mission Gate was changing people's lives. Two hours before this, I was in a room of felons, and now on that day I felt love, compassion, and acceptance from caring Christians. Mission Gate has been life changing and I have now served two years as an aftercare assistant in the largest city outreach home, The Osage House, where I get to lead and guide other men in their walk with our Lord."

## Tisha Arnold – "it was as if they did not exist"

Tisha stood tall as she spoke of her mother sex trafficking her at a young age to obtain drugs, sadly we hear similar stories like this often. At just ten years old she met her father who also abused her. This led to 30 years of drug use and her being incarcerated in jail and prison. Her two youngest children were living with their older sister and had never attended school or had any vital records, it was as if they did not exist. While in prison she got on her bunk and started crying out to the Lord. Tisha lives at Promises of Hope Ranch with her two youngest children who are both excelling in school. They have all their needs met and are now flourishing. She obtained full-time employment in a factory and was promoted within the company. She has since gotten her HiSet, driver's license and will be working on becoming a Certified Peer Specialist. She is sharing the skills it took to become a good mother, role model, and helps her children walk with Jesus. Tisha is now an aftercare assistant at our Promises of Hope Ranch.



**"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble." - Psalm 107:2**