

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives from Crime to Christ since 1985

September 2023



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

It Doesn't Take a Village; It Takes a Family

The success of Mission Gate depends on love. Consequently, we don't minister *at* the people the Lord brings to us; we minister *with* them. That way we learn and teach together. Iron sharpens iron, as you have with your donations, prayers, and volunteer time. As a family, we reach out our hat for contributions at Septemberfest, our once-a-year event to set the course for 2024. Hope to see you there!



—Rick Mathes, Founder, Teacher, Preacher

Back-to-School Sendoff



Thank you for your contributions toward equipping our Mission Gate kids to go back to school with all the supplies they needed. Having the right supplies and new school clothes helped boost our kids' confidence and shoo away the first-day jitters.

We had sufficient funds to cover expenses for 18 children, including some children from our nearby communities.

Letter From William Batterton in Prison

Many of you have been praying for William Batterton, who had completely turned his life around only to be sentenced to 28 years in prison because of unexpected old criminal charges—alongside others with the same charges who received only 4-year sentences. Here is his most recent letter.

"I thank you, praise you, and love you guys with all my heart. For I truly believe that if I wouldn't have met you, I would not still be in this world. You showed me who Jesus is. He became real to me, and I knew him. My faith is growing stronger every day, and I have that love, faith, and grace in my heart now. When God delivered me to your doorstep, I just knew I was ready to give Him all I had. The love, truth, compassion, and trust you had in me was amazing. You didn't even really know me except by my criminal record. But you accepted me anyway with Christ's own love and grace!"

William received this from a prayer warrior: "I have been praying for you.... Over the years, I have watched God take situations that seemed totally unfair and out of control and use them to bring about miracles.... Perhaps, like Paul, you have been called into the darkness to proclaim the light. Although you are currently physically behind bars, spiritually you are free! If you can trust God in this, you have the opportunity to witness to many who are living not only in physical bondage, but spiritual bondage as well."

William's daughter and granddaughter visit him regularly in prison.



Want to write to William?

Email your message to info@missiongateministry.org, and we'll forward it to William's tablet.

I Was Finally Ready to Change

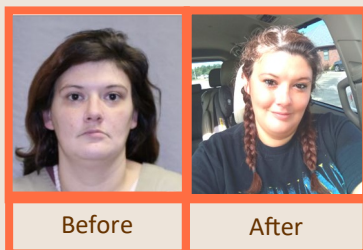
—Jennifer Butler

I always knew that when I was ready to change, Jesus would be the change I needed—but I wasn't ready until I was sick

and tired of being sick and tired. The change came after 17 years of drug addiction when the Lord opened the door for me at Promises of Hope Ranch. There, I completed my HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) and held my first full-time job.

Today, I work at Hannah's Ranch. I just earned my Missouri Certified Peer Specialist certification, which allows me—formerly addicted to drugs—to help others who are addicted. With Jesus Christ, I have completely turned my life around.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." —John 16:33



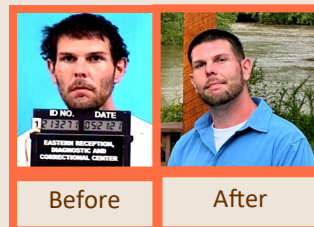
He Found Me in a Prison Cell

—Christopher Hendricks

I started using drugs at age 14 and was addicted to heroin by 17. Back then, I always imagined a better life but never achieved it. As an adult, I was in jail or prison almost all the time. At 32, near the end of my prison sentence, I found Jesus—I should say *He found me*—in a cell in Bonne Terre Prison.

I felt the Holy Spirit change me. I felt His presence flow into my body. He started stripping negative things away from me.

I didn't know where to go when I left prison, so I applied to Mission Gate. I didn't know what I was walking into, but I did know I was ready to change. Everyone said go here if you want to change your life. Now I have peace in my life that I can't explain. My life has direction, and I'm building a foundation to stand on. God is alive at Mission Gate! If you're seeking direction, it might be the place for you.



There Is Something Supernatural About Septemberfest

—Trish Mathes, Aftercare Director



At Septemberfest, guests from all walks of life join our residents from all ten Mission Gate facilities. They lift up the name of Christ, and the Holy Spirit fills the banquet room. Our residents, who once lived in small prison cells, see the magnitude of our organization and stand in awe. Their eyes brim with tears, so grateful to be part of something so big.

For months after the event, our men and women feel the love and care from people they've met face to face. Wow—what a ongoing miracle of grace! They realize entire churches are pulling for them, equipping them to break their chains of poverty, ridicule, loneliness, and failure. Please join us on Friday, September 22, and experience the thrill.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner—Sydney Segen, editor

This summer, I invited Rick and Trish and some of their friends for dinner. As we talked, ate, and laughed, the Holy Spirit connected our hearts.

I recently learned that one of the couples who came to my home set up a dinner of their own to introduce some of their friends (and members of their church) to Rick and Trish so they could learn about Mission Gate. This time, the guests went a step further and got involved with Mission Gate—working on projects and maintenance, bringing dinner and donating. Amazing!



Would you like to try this? Call (636) 391-8560 to set a date with Rick and Trish, then get a dinner started.