

## **MISSION GATE Ministry**

### ***A Nine to Eighteen Month Residential Aftercare Program***

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free"  
John 8:31a-32.

**Rick Mathes**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Trish Mathes**  
EXECUTIVE AFTERCARE DIRECTOR

**Crystal Goings**  
ST. LOUIS AFTERCARE DIRECTOR

## **GUIDELINES**

### **Residential Housing and Aftercare of Mission Gate, St. Louis, MO**

#### **Fort Good Shepherd in Cuba, MO**

Please keep this copy for yourself.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

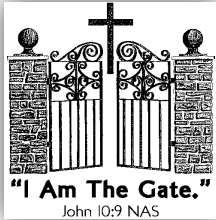
Mission Gate is a Christian organization founded in 1985 that ministers in prisons and jails throughout Missouri, Kansas and Illinois that provides Bible studies, one-on-one counseling and worship services along with special programs like "Mommy Reads to Me" and the Christmas Angel Mission. Over 140 area churches participate with upwards of 300 field volunteers and 12 staff positions.

The residential program is available for nine month with recognition at 1 month, three months, six months and graduation at nine months. The ministry owns 5 homes in south St. Louis City and a 124 acre ranch in Cuba, MO with 30 cabins and 3 bunkhouses providing safe housing for up to 90 former inmates combined. The city outreach visits Fort Good Shepherd Ranch once a month to enjoy horseback riding, fishing, hiking and fellowship. Each house is overseen by an in-house supervisor and and/or resident assistant and overseen by our professional and caring staff. An in-house supervisor is a respectable Christian leader who has been free from drugs and alcohol for a minimum of five years and who is not on probation or parole. They also assist in the spiritual day-to-day guidance of the residents. A resident assistant is a resident who has graduated from the one-year program and has remained drug and alcohol free. This part time position is a graduate of the program and his job is to report to the Aftercare Committee any infractions of the rules as well as providing support from someone "who has been there."

The Aftercare Committee is a team of staff and volunteers who oversee the day-to-day activities of the programs as well as the welfare of the residents. We do our best to provide initial food, clothing, Bible, identification, job location and preparation, and whatever reasonable emergency needs you may need to get off to a good start. You are coming to a team of people who love the Lord and love you with His love. So we are expecting that you will respect us in return, do your part to succeed, listen to wise counsel and have a thankful heart by living out your commitment to change once and for all. Be a Mission Gate graduate and your life will never be the same!

**P.O. Box 6644, Chesterfield, MO 63006 • [missiongateministry@msn.com](mailto:missiongateministry@msn.com) • [missiongateministry.org](http://missiongateministry.org)**

**Office: 636-391-8832 • Fax: 636-391-6611**



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#### **The Aftercare Program conducts the following classes:**

- A variety of spiritual life skill classes including Making Peace with your Past, Overcoming Depression, Every Man's Battle, Experiencing God, Better Relationships, Anger Management and Assaultive Aggressive Behavior, Victim's Impact, Financial Stewardship, Job Readiness
- One-on-one and group counseling.
- 12-step and relapse prevention
- Recovery Mentoring – 12-step and relapse prevention and Landmines of the Believer
- Bible studies, pastoral counseling and worship services
- Special needs classes including overcoming sexual abuse, parenting and marital counseling
- Work preparation including job readiness and GED

Program goals and objectives are individualized to meet each client's needs. Each person's strengths, weaknesses, and identified problems and successes are taken into consideration. What each client has learned through treatment, the Lord and life experiences are important to us for a continuum of care. Networking with other services and agencies are an important part of our efforts to advance toward the achievement of recovery and establishing unique goals for each resident. Reporting to Probation and Parole, Department of Mental Health, the Courts, or Division of Family Services is a routine part of the effort to provide the best service to the client, society and the community. It is of utmost importance to staff and senior residents to maintain a drug and alcohol free environment.

#### **Purpose**

The Aftercare Program is a residential ministry of the Mission Gate. It is the desire of the ministry to assist ex-offenders, the homeless and graduates of drug and alcohol treatment centers in their reintegration into the local community as strong and productive Christians. Certificates of recognition are issued after 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and nine month completion dates. Please note that if a nine-month graduate and staff have made the decision that an extended nine months is necessary for client's continued therapeutic and spiritual gain, the resident may stay on for an extended nine months. After eighteen months a resident can continue at Mission Gate if they take leadership classes and offer their service as part of helping the ministry by being on the Mentoring Team and/or an additional position. We believe that the residents who are walking with Christ are one of the greatest values to a new resident's success.

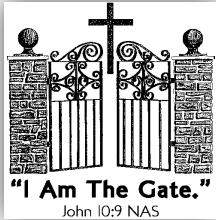
#### **Goals**

Short Term: The goal of ministry is to provide a potential nine to eighteen months of residential aftercare for Christian growth, fellowship, counseling needs, and living skills.

Long Term: The goal of ministry is to re-integrate the resident into the community and a local Bible teaching church upon graduation from the Aftercare Program. It is our objective that the resident will be spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, and vocationally equipped to graduate from the program within nine months. A second nine months of discipleship training is available to those approved by the Aftercare Committee.

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### **Admissions**

An applicant must be referred to the Aftercare Committee by a Mission Gate volunteer, area ministry leader, case worker, institutional activities coordinator or parole or probation officer, or Chaplain who has personally known the applicant while incarcerated. Upon written request, an application will be sent directly to the inmate. A fully completed application must be submitted to the Aftercare Committee and approved prior to admission. All information received is kept on a confidential basis unless otherwise released by the applicant for a specific purpose.

### **Resident Responsibilities**

You must attend and be active in a local church and provide a church bulletin each Sunday as evidence of your having attended the service.

You have a 10 PM curfew the first 3 months and 11 pm weekends after you receive your three month certificate. Weekend furloughs with immediate family only will be considered after three months. If you work evenings, you will have a day curfew set.

You must attend three classes throughout the week. Private counseling sessions are required weekly during the first three months, bi-weekly the second three months and monthly the last three months.

You must provide \$85 per week housing fee. In the city outreach the \$85.00 fee remains throughout the first nine months. At Fort Good Shepherd in Cuba, MO the housing fee is raised to \$90.00 per week after you move out of a bunkhouse and into your own cabin. This usually takes two to three months.

### **Personal**

- You must maintain a clean and personal appearance honoring Christ.
- No body piercing, including tongue, eyebrows, navel or nose allowed.
- Satanic body tattoos must be covered or removed.
- Two hours of work service is required each week as assigned.
- There is zero tolerance for drug and alcohol use, pornography, cursing and fighting of any kind including negativity.

### **Financial**

1. You must obtain full-time employment.
2. You must be current on paying your program and housing fee each week.
3. You must pay by cash or money order only.
4. You must pay for any damage you have caused to property.
5. After you are employed, you will be expected to pay for your own gas and transportation fees.

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