



## **MISSION GATE Ministry**

### ***A Nine-Month Residential Aftercare Program for Men***

"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, MA, D.D.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Trish Mathes, MA, MRSS**  
EXECUTIVE AFTERCARE DIRECTOR  
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ST. LOUIS MEN'S PROGRAM  
EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST  
**Gregory D. Smith, JD, CADC**  
FGS PROGRAM 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 by providing 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 to 300 field volunteers and 14 staff positions.

The men's residential aftercare program is available for nine months or longer, with recognition at three months, six months and graduation at nine months. The ministry owns 3 homes for men in south St. Louis City and a 124-acre ranch in Cuba, Mo. with 30 cabins and 3 bunkhouses that provide safe housing for up to 90 former ex-offenders or recovering addicts at any given time. The city outreach visits Fort Good Shepherd Ranch a few times a year 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. The staff helps assimilate new residents into the program, makes sure that essential needs are met and assist in the spiritual day-to-day guidance of the residents.

Mission Gate's 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. 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!

#### **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

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- Recovery mentoring and accountability
- Bible studies, pastoral counseling and worship services
- Special needs classes, including overcoming sexual abuse, parenting and marital counseling
- Work preparation, including 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 service providers 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 services 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 Mission Gate. It is the desire of the ministry to assist ex-offenders 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 3 months, 6 months and nine-month completion dates. Please note that many residents stay at Mission Gate beyond the nine-month completion of the program if it is necessary for a client's continued therapeutic and spiritual gain. Residents who stay beyond the nine-month program are expected to 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 assets to a new resident's success.

#### **Goals**

**Short Term:** The goal of ministry is to provide a potential nine month or longer 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. Continued discipleship training is available to those approved by the Aftercare Committee.

#### **Admissions**

An applicant must be referred to the Aftercare Committee by a Mission Gate volunteer, area ministry leader, case worker, institutional activities coordinator, 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 confidential, unless otherwise released by the applicant for a specific purpose.

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#### **Resident Responsibilities**

- Prior to arriving at the program, you should make every effort to obtain a copy of your birth certificate and a Missouri State ID (not a DOC ID). Most DOC institutions will assist you in obtaining your identification. Failure to do so can substantially hinder your ability to secure employment in a timely fashion (especially if you were born outside of Missouri).
- 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 10:00 pm curfew. If you work evenings, you will have a day curfew set.
- Weekend furloughs, with immediate family only, will be considered after three months.
- 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 \$100 per week program fee. At FGS in Cuba, the program fee is raised if you move to a private room or cabin, ranging from \$100 to \$110 per week. Residents may become eligible to move to a private room or cabin after they have been in the program at least 30 days, are caught up on all fees, and have secured full-time employment.

#### **Personal**

- You must maintain a clean and personal appearance honoring Christ.
- Men are not permitted to have body piercings, including tongue, eyebrows, navel or nose.
- 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.
- No cell phones are permitted until you have maintained at least 30 days of employment. We provide free landline telephone service in our houses.
- No personal automobiles are permitted during your first 6 months in the program.
- Romantic relationships are discouraged while in the program. No new relationships are allowed during your first 9 months in the program.

#### **Financial**

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

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