

The MISSION AT THE CROSS

CONGRATULATIONS

Hunter Buchanan



God knows the plans He has for us, to give us a future and a hope! It can be easy to forget that, when we have fallen away from the truth and the road God set us on and have been pulled down into the mire.

Hunter began life with his path clear, raised in a Christian home, given the blessing of knowledge of the gospel truth from a young age and a loving family to support him. How seductive that world can seem when we are young and filled with wide eyed optimism. At the young age of 15, Hunter began to make decisions outside of the will of God and seek the approval and love of a group of friends and peers that pulled him away from the road of righteous living. Soon came the offers of drugs and alcohol and, sadly, those offers spiraled into a decade long struggle with drug addiction. Relationships damaged, bridges burnt, the one person who never gave up on this young man was Jesus Christ.

Fortunately for all of us, Christ is not easily discouraged and, even when we turn our backs on Him, He never stops chasing after us. Hunter was drawn back into the arms of Christ and accepted the gift of His salvation June 28, 2020, in the midst of his struggle with substance abuse, and the next day paid a visit to The Mission At The Cross. Driven by the words of a loved one and the conviction of the Holy Spirit he, a newborn believer, deep in the throes of cravings and withdrawal, enrolled in the MATC year-long recovery program in order to escape the grip of addiction, and enter back under the teaching of the Word of God. Clean and sober for the first time in a decade, Hunter set out to learn how to walk the walk of a young man in Christ, and to put behind him the mistakes of the past, gaining friends here in the program, valuable on-the-job-training working in the Hellfighters USA Service Department, and saturating his daily walk in the study and meditation on the Word of God. On June 24th, 2021, we celebrated with our Brother in Christ as he graduated from the program and began to make his first steps into independence and a stable, healthy walk with Christ, putting action to words of the last year of discipleship.

Today you can still find Hunter hard at work repairing and inspecting bikes at HFUSA, saving up and acquiring skills for his future, heart open to the call of God on his life as he learns to walk, day after day, in sobriety and hope.

Hunter, pictured here with Mike Shirley (left) and Allen Langston, Mission At The Cross Alumnus (right).



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Physical Address: 324 South Magnolia St. Laurel, MS 39440 * Mailing Address: One Freedom Sq. Laurel, MS 39440-3367
Mike Shirley, Director - Eddie Parker, House Leader - Phone: 601-335-2060 or 601-342-5552
www.missionatthecross.com joey@missionatthecross.com

Happy New Year Celebrating together

Following the call isn't always easy. Sometimes we can allow ourselves to forget why we struggle down the long and difficult road to recovery, and the devil works night and day to make us lose sight of why we fight to take back our lives from addiction. Christmas at the Mission is something special though. These moments of still and calm in the tumult that is this journey are where the Lord blesses us with a chance to be reminded firsthand, face to face, why we keep fighting those demons day after day. Seeing friends and family, holding a child one has been separated from; what stone could the devil throw that could match this motivation, this powerful reminder of why we all chose to run this race, even on those days when "back-to-normal" seems a distant aspiration.

It is at this sacred celebration of our Savior's birth, that we all take a deep breath at the Mission At The Cross, renewed by the grace and love of God, and, as David did, strengthen ourselves

in the Lord. **THANK YOU** to all the friends, family, local church congregations, and members from the community who came together to make this Christmas one of encouragement and peace for the men of the Mission as they endeavor to seek the Lord and reestablish lives in Him. Your blessings and outpouring of love help fill this house with joy year after year!



Join the family at Mission At The Cross as we celebrate the new beginning of two lives with the start of this new year. Together with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at First Baptist Myrick, we wish to congratulate and give a warm and loving welcome to Zack Reid and Titus Ruiz (pictured above respectively, with Hellfighter Rory "Padre" Dill), as they made their public professions of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who has pulled them from the mire and made new creatures of them in his love during their time with us in the program. What better way could there be to put the old year in the past and look forward to 2022 than a celebration such as this? Keep them in your prayers moving forward, as they learn to walk in Him and stand in the strength of the Lord, and that in their remaining time with MATC they may gird themselves up to face whatever calling the Father may place before with boldness and wisdom.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." -Romans 6: 3-4

Physical Needs @ MATC

- Plastic utensils
- Tea and Coffee
- Styrofoam To-go-boxes
- Bleach
- Paper plates and bowls
- Styrofoam drinking cups
- Frozen Home-made Casseroles



Notes

Please keep the Mission in your prayers that God may provide for these ongoing needs...

Van

Sound System

Walk-in Freezer

2021 Toy Drive

HUGE SUCCESS!! GREAT JOB!!

Giving Children Hope

This year was an absolute blowout and we want to thank everyone who took the opportunity to stop by in person and donate at the big red boxes at this year's Hellfighters and MATC Toy Drive! Look at that mountain of toys, that went out to little boys and girls in need. We can't thank you all enough for sharing the love this Christmas and helping us reach out and put smiles on faces and open doors for the sharing of God's Word and the love of Christ!

House Leader Eddie Parker and Tyler Gardner showing off this years donations!



We here at Mission At The Cross just want to take one more opportunity to Sincerely Thank all of our supporters for believing in what we do, for loving us so well, and for keeping us in their prayers. God Bless You All.