

The MISSION AT THE CROSS

CONGRATULATIONS

James Hunt

We want to offer a prayer of thanks for the healing and return to faith of our Brother in Christ, James Hunt, and congratulate him on his graduation!

James worked for HFUSA during his vo-tech training. We wish the very best for James and pray that his future will be focused on Christ and that the things he learned while with us will prove to be the strong foundation needed for a steadfast life lived for Christ, forevermore.

James was born in 1970, the second of eight kids, to loving parents who, sadly, separated. He gave his life to the Lord at age 18, but, in lieu of stability and joy, unfortunately, hard times and struggles lay ahead for this young man.

After high school, he took a job working on the crew of a tow boat on the Mississippi River and, for the next 17 years, worked in that or similar jobs. His life appeared stable, but in truth, he was disillusioned. In reality, he was bombarded by bad company and negative media; depression and nihilism became his only worldview, and heavy drinking became the norm. The cares of this world and the burdens that can so easily overwhelm, choked out the young Believer and smothered his growing Christian walk.

"I had simply given up and was doing just enough to get to the next bottle... just waiting to die."

God does not give up on us easily however, and through his friends and family, a little over a year ago, at a family reunion, a few concerned relatives pulled James aside and directed him to The Mission At The Cross website, urging him to seek help for his addiction, offering him a way of escape, which we all thank the Lord, James chose to take.

"I learned you don't have to set the world on fire to matter to God.... I turned back to Him and He showed me all those feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness were a lie," explained James.

While it is true that many of the men who darken the door of MATC are lost and in need of salvation, it is important and worth remembering that many men like James are out there in need of a helping hand to pull them to their feet and remind them of the hope we all share in Jesus. We celebrate today because MATC was there to help remind a mighty man of God who he is, not in the eyes of the world or the bottom of a bottle, but who he is in the eyes of Christ.

James gives special thanks to those mentors he had in his journey of recovery and restoration: Gina Headrick, Mike Shirley, Randy Dossett, and Sean Lubin. And, reminds all who hear his story that HOPE is waiting, and that God uses the small things to work His wonders, just as much as the big.

A Word of Encouragement from MATC Director, Mike Shirley

"Blessed is the man that hopes in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is" Jer. 17:7

Webster's definition of hope:

- A. A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.
- B. A person or thing that may help save some one.
- C. Grounds for believing that something good may happen.
- D. A feeling of trust

Oftentimes, when a man checks into Mission At The Cross, we find that our guest has lost all hope of a life, a good life, that John 10:10 speaks of, "an abundant life."

When James Hunt checked into The Mission, we immediately began to love him and help him find his way back to the life he had known in Jesus before. We were encouraged as leaders watching the progress James made. While in our one-year program, James worked at HFUSA, where he was as one of our prize mechanics. James is a devoted student of God's Word and loves helping men who are in the program to come through, reaching back, helping men out of the same mire pit he was in. Let's Go Gettun!!!

James, we are proud of you, and I love you, Brother. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, and nothing less than His righteousness.

—Mike

MATC is a 501(c)(3) NonProfit Organization - Checks can be made payable to Mission At The Cross
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

Healing Hearts...

...Breaking New Ground



In the ongoing battles with addiction, guilt, trauma and shame, few things can be as detrimental as simply being alone with your own thoughts for too long. The fiery darts of the devil, the accusations, and the regrets we all struggle with grow louder when we allow ourselves to become isolated and get lost in our heads. This is one of the reasons that Mission At The Cross is, what we refer to as, a "Working Mission"—a Bible in one hand and a hammer in the other. Through spiritual counsel and leadership in labor, our men receive training for future employment, while being mentored on how to be men of God in the workplace, in relationships, and in life.

Currently, one of those projects is the construction of Whitney Chapel on our property at Angel Lake. The chapel is well underway because of donations made by family and friends in loving memory of our founder, Richard Whitney Headrick, beside whose gravesite the chapel is so beautifully situated. Under the supervision of master craftsman and project foreman Pastor Tray Lambkin, the Mighty Men have the opportunity to rotate in and out, giving many a chance to gain valuable work experience while spending quality time with their Brothers in Christ and spiritual mentors in a gorgeous setting.

As with all our construction projects, by helping construct Whitney Chapel, our men are developing a tremendous sense of accomplishment as they realize their God-given talents. They're not just building a building with their own hands, they're helping bring to life something lasting that will, Lord willing, point all who walk through its front doors to the saving grace of Jesus Christ for generations to come.

(Thank you to those who have given generously because you loved Richard and desire to see his dream of having a chapel at Angel Lake become a reality. If you'd like to be a part of the Whitney Chapel project, please visit www.missionatthecross.com to make a much appreciated, tax deductible donation.)

Discovering Fellowship

While biblical teaching, vocation training, and overcoming addiction through a personal relationship with Christ our Savior are central pillars of the healing work here at Mission At The Cross, we also appreciate that there is more to life, growth, and personal enrichment among the Brotherhood of believers than simply finding a good job and being 'clean'. The importance of supportive, Bible-believing, Christian fellowship cannot be understated in stepping back out into the world and rejoining our communities as healthy, productive members of society.

To that end, the students here at MATC strive to build bonds and friendships with our local Christian community. It is a testament to that community that so many doors and arms have been opened in the area to these men in need of a family. On the left below is pictured the recent night of games and fellowship spent with the friends of the Mission at Salem Heights Baptist Church, who opened their gymnasium and fellowship hall to us for an evening of fun and fried fish with their family.

The Mighty Men of the Mission were also given an opportunity to enjoy breakfast at night and fellowship with their Highland Baptist family here in Laurel, MS watching the newest Christian feature film by the Kendrick Brothers, entitled *Show Me The Father*. Over the years, our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Highland Baptist have given a tremendous outpouring of love and support, as well as personal time, to those participating in the program as well as the long-term staff here at Mission At The Cross. We are grateful for the body of Believers in our community who sow into our ministry and help keep the doors open. For these, and a million other little things you do to support and uplift us, you have our sincere thanks.



BREAKING NEWS



MATC House Leader, Eddie Parker, made a special appearance on the WDAM channel 7 Nightly Local News recently as a part of their ongoing coverage of our state's battle against substance abuse and addiction. Eddie kept the focus of who we serve and what we do for the community where it belonged: on Jesus! And outlined the mission of The Mission for our community. If you would like to see the story for yourself, the segment can be found on www.WDAM.com by searching for "Mission At The Cross" under the 'NEWS' tab.

Physical Needs @ MATC

- Tea and Coffee
- Plastic utensils
- Bleach
- Styrofoam
- Styrofoam drinking cups
- To-go-boxes
- Paper bowls
- 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