

The MISSION AT THE CROSS

He is Risen

April 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

BRENNON

PRODUCED AND EDITED BY THE MIGHTY MEN OF THE MISSION

Every man who submits himself to the call of God and turns his back on his old life, especially those here in the Mission at the Cross, come from circumstances of bondage and oppression. Even in an uplifting environment like the Mission's, it can be hard to shake free of those old feelings. Lost, out there in that world, Satan afflicts those he strives to destroy with what you could call a habit of hopelessness. This is why we thank God for Christian Brothers like Brennon Conner.



Although Brennon came from similar circumstances to most men who come to the Mission seeking help, oppressed under the heavy yoke of addiction and hopelessness, the one thing most men who walked alongside Mr. Conner will consistently tell you is that he seemed to be on a personal mission to uplift those around him. Be it serving behind the counter in the HFUSA Service Department or sitting around the dinner table at the Mission, Brennon has a God-given gift for putting smiles on the faces of others and defusing tensions and sour attitudes, despite whatever his personal struggles may have been. To tell the story of Brennon Connor is to tell the story of all the Mighty Men of the Mission alongside him as he went through his 12-month recovery. You simply cannot talk about the time spent here at Mission At The Cross without drawing attention to the force for positivity that he was day in and day out for the men around him.

Unfortunately for us, however, as the Lord's healing is worked in lives, more often than not those men who complete their time with us here have other obligations, families, and separate walks to walk in His will. And so, although we rejoice in the amazing uplifting and healing of Jesus on the life of this young man, it is with sincere sadness we part ways with a Brother. While the MATC may have lost our own Barnabas, we know this son of encouragement will sow love and a smile in his wake. Reunited with a loving family today, Brennon has taken back to the business of shutdown work for the various roustabout crews working across the south in the oil industry, a smile on his face and on the faces of those who love him and are testified to daily of the loving, healing touch of our Father, so clearly visible in a life rebuilt, and a son made whole.

**A Word of Encouragement from
MATC Director, Mike Shirley**

*Blessed is the man that trusts in the lord,
and whose hope the Lord is. Jer 17:7*

When I consider how far we have come in the Lord, I'm forever reminded of the love of Jesus and the power in just the mention of His name! When a man checks into MATC, we immediately begin to show the love of Jesus to him, and, if he already knows Jesus as Lord and Savior, we remind him of Jesus' forgiving heart and the Lord's ability to give him a fresh start and forgive him of his sins! What marvelous power!! Should our guest not know Jesus as his Lord and Savior, we begin to introduce him to the only One with the power to deliver us from our addictions.

On the day Brennon Connor checked in, we saw a man with so much promise, a loving, caring family—everything a young man needs to succeed in life, except that he had taken a wrong turn. He had made bad decisions that put him on a path that ended up on our doorstep. During Brennon's 12 months with us, we watched as Jesus transformed him into the godly man He wanted him to be; therefore, his graduation was a real church testimony service, and a proclamation of a new start. We are very proud of you, Brennon. Son, I love you.

~Mike



(Left to right) House Leader, Eddie Parker, Graduate Brennon Connor, and MATC Director, Mike Shirley

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



Sunrise Over Angel Lake

We here at the Mission At The Cross would like to extend an invitation for our Annual EASTER Sunrise Service, to anyone interested in joining us for a morning of celebration on the banks of the beautiful Angel Lake. This event is open to the public and will include not only the Staff and Students of MATC, but also our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from First Baptist Myrick and Mill Creek Methodist. Services will start at 6:30 am, Sunday, April 17.
112 Pavilion Road, Laurel, MS 39443



SAVE
THE
DATE!

June 25, 2022!

**Our 9th Annual
5K/2 mile Walk!**

**Mission At The
Cross fundraiser!**

**Start making
plans to bring
your whole church,
family, staff,
class, group,
tribe...!!!**

Touch A Truck

Being so directly connected to the Hellfighters Motorcycle Ministry and Hellfighters USA opens a lot of doors here for our ministry of the gospel at Mission At The Cross that otherwise may never be open. Laurel has an annual event called "Touch A Truck" where local kids are invited to come on down to the Jones County Library for a chance to climb on, interact with, and generally just play around with things like fire and police vehicles, power company trucks, and the like. It's a day of good, wholesome fun for the kids, that, thanks to the awesome fleet of interesting and unique vehicles God has provided for Hellfighters USA, we are able to take part in. After all, any community social gathering could be a door the Lord is opening for us to spread His word.

With this in mind, a team of MATC graduates from the crew at Hellfighters USA, and a few Mighty Men of the Mission, like those pictured below, loaded up a Hummer with Bibles and gospel tracts and opened its doors to the local kids and their parents, to whom we were able to distribute over 100 Bibles and roughly 300 tracts. On top of that, the guys got to have a great time in the bargain, showing off a sweet ride, sharing the love of Christ with families, and sowing into the City of Laurel. Although the act of simply putting a Bible in a child's hands may seem a small one, it is important to keep in mind the promise of God that His word WILL NOT return void, just as the opportunity to share that word will work in the hearts of the Mighty Men of Mission At The Cross!

Physical Needs

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

@ MATC



Notes

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

Van

Sound-System

Walk-in Freezer



Marking Milestones

At Mission At The Cross, part of our program of discipleship and study that we partake in is the famous "Twelve Step" Life Recovery study, lead and taught on Monday nights by a team of dedicated Christian men who, over many years, have served the Lord faithfully in this calling. While organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, to this day, teach a "secularized" version of this curriculum that has been altered to leave concepts like "a higher power" open to interpretation and have largely written the hope and good news of the gospel out of a system of rehabilitation that was originally built entirely on scriptural guidance and the hope of the good news of the gospel. Here at Mission At The Cross however, each and every man on campus knows that REAL, lasting healing only comes through Christ and the opportunity He gives us each individually to become new creatures in Him.

This month, our 12 step program marks an uncommon milestone and lauds the dedication of these three men (pictured left to right: Corte Stanbrough, Titus Ruiz, and C.J. Sawyer) who achieved completion of the master's level certificate! Having gone through all 12 steps multiple times, these Brothers in Christ are armed and ready, fully equipped with the word and experience with the program now to offer their own guidance and support to those new members of the MATC student body as they take their own first steps on the road to recovery through Christ.

