

# The MISSION AT THE CROSS

## CONGRATULATIONS

I was born in Gulfport, MS and attended D'Iberville High. I started a life of addiction in my early teens. I never felt like I belonged anywhere, was very insecure and scared, and had horrible social skills. I always knew something was missing in my life. The first time I tried cocaine, I knew that was how I wanted to feel all the time. Eventually coke and pills turned into whiskey and meth.

In absolute hopelessness, I lost my family, health and mind; meth opened up doors in the spiritual realm that allowed Satan and his demons to take up residency in my mind. The powers of darkness are so strong and euphoric, it's impossible to describe. My reality became so dark and satanic, I no longer recognized the person staring back at me in the mirror. I was spiritually dead, and out of options.

My brother heard about the Mission and my family began planting seeds, hoping I would admit I was fighting a battle I would never win in my own strength. Those seeds grew and I realized my way was not working. A few weeks later, I started my journey to the cross. On July 21, 2021, I was saved on the front porch of the Mission. James Hunt, who was also in the program, explained salvation in a way I could understand what it truly means to be saved and how much we need Jesus and that Jesus is the only way to ever make it to Heaven. We turned the crossties into an altar, I got down on my knees and prayed, and accepted Jesus as Savior.

I know God brought me to Mission At The Cross to not only fix me, but to give me the privilege of paying it forward by helping another Brother find his way to the cross. If Jesus can save me and change my life, He can change anybody. I am now Sales and Finance Manager at Hellfighters USA and plan to continue working here and encouraging the men still in the fight.



*Titus Ruiz*



*Corte Stanbro*

Corte came to Mission At The Cross straight from jail in Wayne County, MS. His mother brought him in for an interview, but he was not too happy about 12 months of rehab, in a strict and structured environment. However, he reluctantly decided it was better than JAIL!

He was a very young man, only 18 years old, yet, like so many other 18-yr-olds, he was already in trouble with the law, his parents, and with everyone else who had ever tried to guide him, and show him the right way in life.

The leadership at the Mission watched as Jesus turned Corte's mess into a message!

We watched how the saving power of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ took a hardened, by a short life of bad decisions, young man and turned him into a young, respectful, happy guy with purpose! Corte's life was transformed right before our eyes. Jesus brought out a beautiful smile that blessed us all!

Corte was not afraid of hard work and the Lord has gifted him with skills and talents that will prove useful throughout his life. While with us, Corte was able to learn more carpentry skills and gained retail experience.

The most wonderful part of any man's journey from the pits of hell to Jesus is his redemption story. Corte had many opportunities to share that story, not only with individuals, but also with groups who came to the Mission, and at churches that invited us to come share. The Lord took a bitter, rebellious, lost soul and turned him into a new creation with a powerful testimony! Thank you, Jesus!

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and plenty in mercy.  
He will not always chide, neither will  
He keep His anger forever. Psalm 103:8-9

## Letters from Mike Shirley:

When I think of grace, I am reminded of a very tall, very big guy named Titus, whom we met on a Facetime interview. I remember looking into his face as we were discussing rehab. He was very lost, very discouraged, and very beaten by his own addiction.

He explained how he had grown up in church, but had lost his way to righteous living to drugs and alcohol. The Lord gave us peace and assurance that we were doing the right thing by bringing this big guy into MATC. What a joy it has been to watch as Titus came into our program and began to allow Jesus to come into his life and to see that relationship grow. We will never understand the mercy and grace that Jesus shows us all as we walk through this life we live. The miracle of forgiveness we get to watch and experience in our own lives. Thank you, Jesus!!!

Titus decided to stay on and work at HFUSA as our Sales Manager and, because of Jesus, is a very good one. We are all very proud of you, Titus. Continue in Jesus, our Brother. We love you!



Pictured Left to Right:  
Mike Shirley, Corte Stanbro, Eddie Parker, Titus Ruiz

Bless the Lord, oh my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities: Who heals all of your diseases. Who redeems your life from destruction; Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies. Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagles. Psalm 103:1-5

When I consider the eagles, I think of all the young men who have traveled through the doors of Mission At The Cross - Laurel, MS. And, I'm reminded of Corte, who found his way to our doors, beaten by addiction and the lust and cares of this world. Praise God, he didn't stay beaten. Through Jesus, we saw him soar! We had the pleasure of mentoring Corte and watched as he became a student of the Word of God. Today Corte is a Mission At The Cross graduate working in Montana... clean, sober, and full of Jesus. Corte, we are so proud of you!!! We love you and are praying for you!

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

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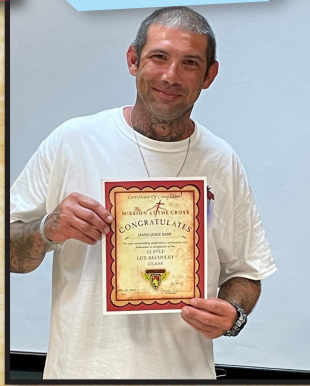
**www.missionatthecross.com joey@missionatthecross.com**



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to James Babb, John Hyatt, and Norman Lewis for graduating from our Christian 12-Step recovery program. Pray for these men as they continue in their journey of healing and recovery in the 12-month program here at the Mission.

James Babb



John Hyatt



Norman Lewis



### Joy in serving the Lord and others!



We were delighted with a visit from Jenny West and her grandchildren and other family members. Jenny teaches a weekly Bible class for her grandchildren and they gathered some supplies for the Mission and delivered them. Thanks so much for the cups, plates, cutlery and coffee, but most of all thanks for teaching the children the practical side of the Bible by showing them how to give and serve.

### HELLFIGHTERS USA

## BLOCK PARTY

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!

# OCTOBER 15TH

5 PM!

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

## JEEP & TRUCK SHOW

BENEFITS MISSION AT THE CROSS

## REGISTRATION STARTS @ 2

## MAGNOLIA CRUISERS CAR SHOW

BENEFITS MAKE-A-WISH MS

## REGISTRATION STARTS @ 2

## 2ND ANNUAL PDI REUNION

LIVE MUSIC

THE BIGBEE BOYS  
THE CLASSIX  
DAVIS COUNTY BAND

## FOOD TRUCKS & FAMILY GAMES

## SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW

@ 8:45 PM

# OCTOBER 15TH

## Richard Headrick

### RHINO MAN

## Laurel Memorial Ride MS

# 3RD ANNUAL

## REGISTER 12 PM KSI 2 PM

RIDE BENEFITS MISSION AT THE CROSS RECOVERY CENTER

### Notes

Please keep The Mission in prayer that God may provide for the following ongoing needs...

Van  
Sound-system  
Walk-in Freezer

### Physical Needs

- Plastic Utensils
- Styrofoam
- To-Go-Boxes
- Paper Bowls
- Tea and Coffee
- Bleach
- Styrofoam Drinking Cups
- Frozen Homemade Casseroles

### Thankful for County Line Baptist Church's Donation



Thanks to County Line Baptist Church of Overt, MS, and Peggy Cole for their recent donation. They provided 22 toiletry boxes for our men at the Mission. We are appreciative of every donation we receive. God always supplies our needs.