

MOMENTS OF VICTORY

AN INVITATION FOR *MORE*



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An Invitation for Two Brothers

The invitation to speak was a surprise. "Everyone in town will be there," Matt thought to himself. He repeated it again to himself, "Everyone in town will be there—even pastors of multiple churches."

All things start with an invitation. Everyone receives invitations to do things all the time. Every marketing message or ad is an invitation to try something new. Every social media invitation to be "friends" can release endorphins.

The invitation Matt received to speak would have been unheard of years earlier. Matt grew up bouncing his basketball down a long driveway and waving at his neighbors looking out their window. Matt saw them almost daily waving at him. "They were always so kind," Matt said. "I just knew there was something different about them." Matt was just focused on basketball, but the game couldn't keep him from asking the question, "where do I belong?"

Matt followed in the footsteps of his family and just sort of made a mess of things. Pretty soon Matt was neck-deep in all kinds of trouble. Everything went so wrong. He even tried leaving with his dad to California, but the results were the same. Matt needed a way out and he would have never thought of going to prison as a solution.

The judge's *invitation* was for Matt to spend some time in prison and ponder his life choices. So off he went to reevaluate his life choices. That's when the next invitation came. It was his "celly" who invited him to chapel. There, Matt heard another invitation from the pastor to accept Jesus. He now had a new group of friends in prison. "The Christian guys in prison were a rough-looking bunch, but their strength was a different kind." Matt remembered, "I felt like that was a blessing to connect."

Not long after, Matt's release date was approaching. He had to find a spot to land for his home plan. "I knew I needed structure," Matt said, "Structure was what I lacked. I just knew something had to change." Then came his next invitation. Matt joined the Victory Restoration program.

"It was like nothing I expected," Matt said. Then Matt saw his own transformation happen. "The first person I thought of was my older brother, Mike. He needed this too."

"I just knew something had to change." — Matt Hayes



Scan the code for more of
Matt and Mike's stories



Matt continued to extend the invitation to Mike with every visit. Mike shared, "from the first time we had a conversation Matt was on me." Mike would respond with excuses: I'm working, my wife needs me, I've got a car, I'm buying this trailer, or I'm helping mom. "One day I woke up and I had no car, no house, no job, and no excuses." Mike knew he needed to accept his brother's invitation.



By this time Matt had graduated from Victory Restoration and was plugged in his church. He was continuing to seek God first. Matt's life saw blessing after blessing. "It was one amazing thing after another. It was unbelievable. I mean—I was asked to speak at an Easter event in my hometown."

Matt couldn't believe it. Mike even mentioned, "We used to terrorize the town." What an invitation. All the pastors were there to hear the life-transforming story of Matt Hayes. Of course, this was no surprise to their old neighbors. After he spoke, they came up to Matt.

"You know we prayed for you every time you were outside bouncing that basketball." Matt was floored. "We believe God put us right next door to you," his former neighbors continued. "Matt, you accepted God's invitation we prayed for." It's so true. Matt's life needed each and every invitation along the way. Mike's life needed Matt's invitation. Now we pray for their dad and family. Maybe just maybe God is asking their dad right now. Victory Mission extends the invitation and the light is always on...



Restoration at Victory Mission changes the trajectory for generations.

The Restoration Program is a 12-18 month discipleship program designed to transform lives through a "wholistic" approach. At Victory, men and women come to transform these key areas: *spiritual, personal, relational, vocational, and financial*. When people come and have their lives transformed at Victory, the impact on their communities and families is great. Their parents, siblings, spouses, and children can receive the same invitations to a life fulfilled and free in Jesus. *Generational cycles begin to break!*





An Invitation to our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness

The Victory Street Outreach team travels to homeless camps and downtown areas to offer a relationship. When our friends are ready to take steps of change, they know where to find the tools to rebuild their lives. Earlier this month, when police required a group to vacate their camp, Victory was able to pray with our friends and offer a space for change to take place.



An Invitation to Success in the Workplace

Sean came to Victory Mission through our Emergency Shelter. After staying there, he enrolled in our three-day WorkReady BootCamp where he made a plan to overcome his roadblocks and find employment success. Once Sean graduated he was introduced to our local employment partners and has recently accepted a position at NorthStar Battery.



An Invitation to our Mobile Pantry Friends

The Victory Outreach team met an older woman struggling to make ends meet after retirement at a Mobile Food Pantry event. We extended an invitation for a relationship. The Victory Team has had many opportunities to share about identity. She has learned her life is treasured by God. We are able to meet often and help our friend discover more about how she can live an abundant life.

An Invitation for You

RESTORATION CELEBRATION

COME AND SEE HOW JESUS IS REBUILDING LIVES + FAMILIES

*April 4, 2022 | 6 - 7:30 pm at Life Church Springfield
1655 W Republic Rd, Springfield, MO 65807*

victorymission.com/RestorationCelebration

