



MICHAEL

That face...HOW CAN YOU RESIST?

Mikey is a familiar face downtown and knows how to make others smile! On the streets of Spokane at age twelve, a friend brought Michael to our doors for clothing and help, his friend ensuring him, "This is a safe place to be."



MICHAEL WATTLES

Now a part of The City Gate family, Michael Wattles has served off and on for years, doing various jobs in the kitchen, boiler room, dry storage and whatever else is needed!

One of eight siblings, family was always a struggle for Michael. With dad taken out of the picture when Michael was a baby, he lacked the fatherly support every son needs. Michael's early years with his mom weren't easy either. At only nine years old, he was taken from his home and placed in Child Protective Services. Admittedly, he had a problem with authority figures and often ran away. By age twelve, Michael had burnt all bridges provided for him and ended up hiding on the streets from a placement warrant to take him back to a group home. For two of his teen years, he lived under a bridge and at People's Park, sleeping in tents and anywhere he could find.

From 14-15, Michael was placed at Crosswalk until he was arrested and taken to Juvenile Detention. He served eight months and was released to a group home for next three years in Kootenai County. Anger building and little to no coping skills, Michael blew up and was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon plus property damage, landing him in a correction facility for six and a half months.

Where was God in all this troubled childhood? Michael explains that his turning point was during a three year stay at a group home in Lakewood, WA next to Eastern State Hospital. A doctor took Michael under his wings, helping him stabilize his life and his mood swings. The first father figure Michael had ever had, he remembers, "Dr. John would take me out to his lake property on Vashon Island, providing incentive trips like hiking and bike riding." Michael says, "It was the best place!" There, Michael began taking classes to get his GED and was flourishing with a 3.8 grade point average.



Michael & 2 BROTHERS



Michael's HEAD INJURY

May 2014



Mothers Day!
Look on Page 3

Continued from page 1

Life was looking more hopeful when Michael moved in with his sister in Seattle. He was eighteen years old and glad to have the past behind him. One particular day, family and friends decided to play a harmless game of two hand touch football. One of the other players tripped on his shoestrings, and landed head to head with Michael, causing five major depression fractures. With an 80% chance of NOT walking and possible brain damage, two and a half weeks later, Mikey left the hospital with 150 stitches, 75 staples and an awesome scar from one side of his head, up over to the other side. Walking normally and without any brain damage, Michael jokes, **“Now when I say I have a couple screws lose, I literally mean it!”**

Eventually making his way back to The City Gate, Mikey says it’s now his sanctuary; a place where he can come and empty himself from all the stuff he doesn’t want to carry with him from his past. With Pastor John as his second father figure, his two brothers that are always near and staff who have embraced Mikey as a brother, God has established a strong family unit for Michael that continues to grow in strength.

In March of this year, he celebrated his seventh year clean from drug abuse, stating that The City Gate and Our Club (AA/NA group) have been instrumental in keeping him clean. With Michael’s knowledge of street life, good work habits, a heart to serve, and a teachable spirit, his presence at The City Gate is a blessing, both to our guests and our staff. Mikey shared, “The City Gate has a great atmosphere. I know I can make people smile and that I am needed here.” We stand in agreement with Mikey that he IS NEEDED and that God has great plans and purpose for his life.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.



By Andra Phelps

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation:
old things have passed away;
behold ALL things have become new.

I would explain it like this:

Jesus is the molder of our lives. Like a block of clay, He is always trying to perfect our lives and mold us into a new creation, then we end up getting our fingers into it and the perfection gets messed up! So what I would say is, let Jesus be the one who controls our lives. Enjoy the personal relationship with Him. Prayerfully seek Him and a masterpiece will arise.



 **Church Service**
Sundays at 10am

How YOU can help!

Butter Solid A poem by a guest

FUNDING

Monthly Commitments

1X Donations

FOOD

Sugar / Creamer

Proteins & Dairy

Boxed/Canned Meals

HYGEINE

Razors & Deodorant

Toothbrushes

Shampoo/Conditioner

MEN'S & WOMEN'S

New underwear & Socks

Shoes & Jeans

M-XXL Shirts

MISC.

Sleeping Bags

Plastic/Paper Bags

VOLUNTEERS

Daytime & Evening

THE CITY GATE

CALL or Facebook first
before dropping items off.

509-455-9670

Life on the streets of downtown Spokane is so twisted and sad, I miss the principles we once lived by, the morals most had. I'm surprised it all happened so fast.

In a blink of an eye honesty's a lie, crime a new fad, robbing and pillaging is suddenly a new sport. The hard earned dollar's a thing of the past...they'd rather sneak and rob you blind than take the time to ask.

I've lived on these streets, since the age of eleven, everyday my life is hell, everyday were thoughts of different ways to end it. Everyday was bought, blood and broken bones, my murdered soul alone paid the cost.

But I remain through a decade and some change of nothing but aches and pains. Whoever expected my demise I'm highly offended...Then again, the absence of my childhood helped me grow. I grew up fast,

learned to see the good, the bad... to adapt. The feel of beds long forgotten, replaced with too real memories of sleeping in trash cans. Though it failed to make me bitter, instead I am humble and understand.

I made it through, jumped through hoops, ablaze with flame through the years. I've shed my tears for all I lost because of change, but in the end, I know my friends will fight beside me to stay the same. Watched the worlds self destruction, themselves to blame, false virtues amount to nothing once again.

So let this be a lesson, and to those who read this, inspiration. When all hope's gone, you're not alone, you got friends that are fighting by your side in all directions.

*Written by Johnathan Thomas
AKA lil' Jon
Inspired by... The STREETS
D.S.K. L&R*

To receive our newsletter by email & in color, message us at:

thecitygate@qwestoffice.net

Write your name and
"EMAIL NEWSLETTER"
in the subject line.

THANK YOU for helping us
to be good stewards!





To Reclaim, Rebuild, and Restore Lost and Broken Lives

The City Gate

"A Gathering Place"

Matthew 11:28

170 S Madison
Spokane, WA 99201
509.455.9670
E-mail - thecitygate@qwestoffice.net

LIKE us on
facebook

See MORE of what your prayers, financial support, and donations are doing for the inner-city poor and homeless of Spokane.

www.thecitygatespokane.org

Please Pray For:

- Vickie & Jimmy
- Terry
- Wisdom for staff
- Jeffery
- Alberta House Tenants



The City Gate staff

- John Murinko, pastor
- Shirley Murinko
co-director/office mgr.
- Bonnie Murinko
co-director/food bank
- Jim Hahn, food bank
- Michael Wattles, food bank
- Buffie Harmon, clothing bank
- Don Lanegan, dining room mgr.
- Danielle Green, kitchen
- Andra Phelps, public relations
- Wes Heimbecker, social services
- James Gulbranson, security
- Brenda Gulbranson, kitchen
- Sue Shane, coffee station
- Elisha Shelton, Alberta House Mgr.

April 2014 Lives Impacted

Kitchen:
11,611 servings

Bread/Produce:
1,261 appointments

Food Bank:
197 people

Clothing Bank:
184 people

Volunteer Time:
749 hours

Counseling:
80 appointments

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Without the support of volunteers who give their time and energy to this ministry, The City Gate would not be the haven it is to so many people. Whether you come once a week or once a year, you have contributed to keeping this place up and running. Your donations, regardless of time, money, food, prayers or clothing, have done so much to help the people who walk through our doors everyday. As pastors and as Christians, we want to thank you for heeding the voice of the Lord and ask you to keep us in your prayers as we continue this journey. Love, Pastor John & Shirley