

YOUR SUPPORT WILL MEAN A LOT FOR THE HOMELESS THIS EASTER

Easter is a special time of year for our homeless friends. As spring approaches people look forward to getting outside and watching the frozen world come back to life. At our Easter Banquet our students, friends and volunteers head to Pioneer Park for a day of celebrating Jesus' victory over death—and all that tries to hurt and destroy us. It's a great celebration, full of meals, fun and games together.

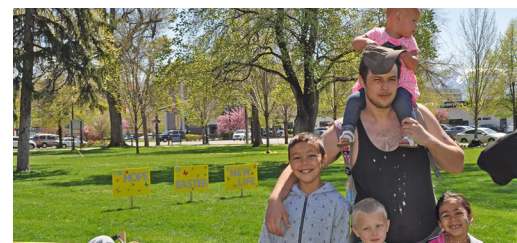
Your support for our Easter Banquet means a lot to our homeless and low-income friends here in Utah. Our celebrations help people feel normal and understand that life is worth celebrating. As trees bud and flowers bloom and life immerses from a cold winter, it gives our friends the desire for a fresh start and changed life. It is far more than meals you are providing—it is changed lives.

You can help us by giving, praying and volunteering for this important event on March 31 (the Saturday before Easter). The banquet will include music by local churches along with messages of hope and God's love. We will also give the homeless in our

community an invitation to join the Mission's New Life Program—a free program that helps people get out of homelessness and into sobriety, employment and housing. There will be warm clothes, haircuts and we are planning an Easter egg hunt and carnival games for homeless and low-income kids.

This event will be great way help homeless and low-income families in our community and presents an opportunity to join the work of Restoring Broken Lives.

So join us by giving, praying and volunteering for this Easter event. We want to see God change lives this Easter season. If you would like to help serve at our Easter Banquet please give us a call at 801.355.1302 or email Rachel our volunteer coordinator at Rachel@RescueSaltLake.org



MARCH 2018 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Salt Lake Christian Center	2 Mt Olympus Presbyterian	3 Bible Baptist Kitchen: South Valley Community Church
				4 Gospel Grace	5 First Baptist of West Valley - Chapel and Kitchen	6 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth
11 RMSL	12 Intermountain Baptist	13 Unity Baptist	14 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	15 Capital Church - Chapel and Kitchen	16 RMSL	17 Southside Church of Christ - Chapel and Kitchen
18 RMSL	19 Bennion Christian Center	20 K2 - The Church	21 RMSL	22 Tooele Christian Fellowship	23 Midvalley Bible	24 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake
25 Grace Community Bible	26 Living Waters Christian Fellowship	27 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	28 First Methodist	29 RMSL	30 Utah Partnership for Christ - Chapel and Kitchen	31 Faith Baptist - Chapel and Kitchen

RESCUER

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake

MARCH 2018



RescueSaltLake.org

TAJ GOODMAN: A Former Criminal Cleans Up With God's Help

A few months ago, I was assaulted at a TRAX station in Murray.

The guy who assaulted me was someone I knew from my past. He said I owed him money for a drug debt. He told me that if I would give him my beloved bicycle that I ride everywhere, it would settle our debt. I said no. He couldn't have my bike.

I watched the guy walk away down the platform and retrieve something from his backpack. He walked back towards me and showed me a gun. This was a TRAX station with many other people on it, but he discretely pointed his gun at me and told me to give him the bike. I said he was just going to have to shoot me in broad daylight. I tell you how this story ended later, but I share it to try and illustrate how much my life has changed since I came to the Rescue Mission a year ago.

Last year, I came before a judge who was ready to send me to prison, yet again. My life to that point had been shaped by one moment in time, when I was 15. The man who I considered my father beat my mother to death in front of me and my four siblings. My sister, brothers, and I were heartbroken, rudderless and devastated. We have all dealt with that day differently. I dealt with it by spending most of the last 20 years in addiction including both selling and doing meth. I have been in prison five times and have never completed probation, always committing another crime before my probation ended, landing me back in jail.

A year ago, I was again before a judge, charged with theft and selling meth. The judge, looking at my arrest record was rightfully disgusted with me. He told me he was going to run my charges consecutively (one after another), which meant I would do more time in prison than if my charges ran concurrently.



Taj Goodman was facing another prison term, when God stepped in an lead him to the Rescue Mission

But in the days leading up to seeing the judge, I had been praying. While I didn't have any real relationship with God, I did believe He exists and knew I needed His help. Someone at the jail where I was staying had told me about the Rescue Mission's New Life Program. I had talked to my lawyer about

Please see "Victoria" on page 3.

Connect with us

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THE AMAZING IMPACT OF THE RESURRECTION

I wanted to share the profound significance of Easter for those we minister to, as well as for our staff. I hope in sharing this, you will realize the impact that your support has for our homeless friends.

Easter, of course, is a pivotal event in history. God raised His Son Jesus from the dead (Romans 6:4) and in so doing fulfilled Jesus' own prophecy about Himself (Matthew 17:22) as well as prophecy from the Old Testament, which declared "nor will you let your Holy One see decay" Psalms 16:10.

The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is overwhelming. Several eyewitness accounts state that the tomb was

empty. And during the 40 days after Jesus appeared, He ate with, was touched by, and taught His apostles. Then, there are the more than 500 other people Jesus appeared to after his death (1 Corinthians 15:5-6). Many of these witnesses even died for refusing to deny what they saw—the Risen Lord. It's hard to believe that so many witnesses would die if the resurrection wasn't true.

The men and women on the New Life Program joyfully celebrate Easter and cling to the truth of the Resurrection for three reasons. First, the resurrection gives them the hope that they will be able to live free of their addictions since it proved that Jesus could be trusted when He said, "Everything is possible for him who believes" (Mark 9:23). Secondly, it gives them

the hope that even if they fall back on their road to recovery, Jesus is alive and can help them. They can cling to the promise that if we turn in faith to Jesus, He will forgive us. Third, like all those who believe, one day they'll be free of their broken, imperfect, and weak bodies. Those who believe will pass through death to resurrected and glorified life forever with the Lord, never to suffer through homelessness, addiction, and poor mental health again.

Like many of our homeless friends, the Rescue Mission staff also clings to the Lord's promises. Our faith in the Risen Lord and knowing that we'll be with Him soon is sufficient enough grace to carry us through even our bad days.

The resurrection is proof that God is real, truthful, and with us, no matter if we are struggling with homelessness or have all the wealth in the world. So join us in celebrating this good gift that God gave us all this Easter season. We thank God for all His gifts, including the gift of your support, which enables us to Restore Broken Lives here at the Rescue Mission.

Have a blessed Easter,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

How Your gift helps

	January 2018	Total 2018
Professions of Faith	32	32
Meals	10,020	10,020
Family Food Boxes	140*	140**
Nights of Shelter	5,029	5,029
Clothing	4,336	4,336
Day Service/Hygiene	1,716	1,716
Jobs Obtained	5	5
Housing Obtained	5	5
	*2,800 meals	**2,800 meals

Not just numbers, but people's lives impacted!

TAJ: Continued from page 1

it. I prayed to God that the judge would have mercy on me. I asked God to somehow get me into the New Life Program, instead of prison.

To my amazement, the judge told me he would give me one last chance. He let me enter the New Life Program, instead of prison. I told the judge that the next time he saw me in his court, he would be letting me off probation. And that's just what happened, one week ago. I went back to court, to see the same judge. He said, "you have done everything I have asked of you. I am releasing you from probation."

That is the first time I have ever completed probation and I could not have done it without you and the Rescue Mission. Because of the New Life Program, I came to realize the real reason I was doing drugs was to mask the pain of my mother's death and because I felt like I needed to use drugs to have friends. All my friends used drugs and I felt important because I could get them drugs. When I did drugs and bought drugs it seemed to make my friends happy, so I kept doing it.

It feels good to not be afraid of society anymore, but to be a member of it

- Taj Goodman

But through the Bible studies, the chapel services and church services, God started working on me. I quit all drugs and alcohol and have been sober now for over 10 months. It's like what my counselor, George Sproul, tells me. "When you put good into your mind, good will come out. When you put bad into your mind and body, bad will come out."

So, all that good that God and the New Life Program put into me, changed me. I trusted that God loved me and wanted to help me. Before I had blamed God, or at least questioned Him, for what happened to my mother. I wondered why God hadn't stepped in and saved her. Why did He let her die? But I have come to understand that God has made a way for us to live with Him after this life, through believing in His Son Jesus. So, no matter what happens in this life, God takes care of those who trust and believe in His Son.

That said, it's not like everything that has happened to me has been perfect since I started following Jesus. When I started the employment phase of the New Life Program I got a good job making \$14 an hour for a local construction company. They own a tractor that they needed transported between different job sites each day. My job was to drive the tractor from job site to job site.

It was a good job and allowed me to save up some money for when I move out of the Mission. But I ended up turning the tractor over on its side during one of my trips between

the job sites. It was an honest driving error on my part, but the company let me go. It was a hard situation and, again, it made me wonder why God hadn't helped me. But the new trust I have in God helps me to believe that He will help me find a new job in the perfect place where He wants me to be. I also realize how easily I could have been hurt when the tractor turned over and how God kept me safe.

And getting back to the TRAX station, God kept me safe there too. The new trust in God is why I acted so differently on that TRAX station. When that guy pulled out the gun and pointed it at me I told him to go ahead and shoot me. Instead, he took the gun and bashed me over the head with it. I fell to the ground and he ran off.

The old me would've let him go and waited until I saw him again on the street to get revenge. But I thought, what would a "normal," sober person do? They would report what happened to the police. So that's what I did. I went to the police station and reported the crime. I don't think they believed me at first, but they were able to get the video footage from the TRAX station that corroborated my story.

A few weeks later they found the guy and arrested him. He is in jail now. While this story may not seem like much, to me it shows how much I have changed. I want to work within the law, obey the law and rely on police and the justice system to take care of me when I need help. The old me would've avoided the law and taken revenge on my own.

It feels good to not be afraid of society anymore, but to be a member of it. I am almost ready to graduate the New Life Program. Before I can graduate I will need to find another full-time job to replace the one I lost. I am staying busy doing temp work, but am looking for full-time work, so please pray that I will find it.

When I get my own place, I will be able to have my daughter over. She is 12 and needs a father. For so much of her life I have put myself and other people in front of her. She didn't deserve that, but now I feel like I am in a place where I can be a dad to her. Pray that I would succeed in helping her know the love of a father and the love of God as her ultimate Father. I have realized the love of a good father, God. Please pray for me as I seek His help in staying sober, finding another full-time job and getting an apartment. I have come so far and I know I need God's help to continue. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission, a place that God uses to help people like me find a new life. Thank you for changing my life.