

## HELPING THE WORKING POOR FIND EMPLOYMENT AND JESUS

Last month we wrote about one part of our employment ministry to our homeless friends and how we work with people in our New Life Program to get jobs. It's a key part of our ministry, as we strive to help people become self-sufficient.

However, there's another part of our employment ministry that we probably don't talk about as much as we should.

On average, 25 percent of the homeless guests who stay in the Rescue Mission's emergency shelter are employed. They are just struggling with poverty due to low-wage jobs and existing debt or payments that make their earnings even lower. It's hard for them to save up enough money to get into housing. Others are situationally homeless because of a temporary life event, like a medical issue that left them briefly unable to work and, on top of that, with a lot of medical bills. These are people who often do not have an addiction problem, but need a hand to get back on their feet.

So just because a person does not have a home, it does not mean that they do not work. Just because someone is sleeping in our dorm, it doesn't mean they don't have a job. We help people like this however we can.

We allow them to store their possessions in our bag room. They can receive phone calls here from their employers, as well as mail. We serve them breakfast and dinner and

make them sack lunches they can take to the job site. If they need work boots or special clothing for their job, we do our best to provide, often partnering with local thrift stores to obtain the needed items. And if people need help with resumes, finding job openings or interviewing tips, we help where we are able.

The help we provide to the working poor is truly one of the most important parts of our ministry.

We share this because we sometimes hear people describe the homeless as freeloaders. While some are, we want you to know that a good portion of our homeless friends are trying their best. While they lack many things necessary for a good job, such as an education or computer skills, they are still trying. They take the work they can get and attempt to support themselves and, in some cases, their families. We stand by their efforts and aid them as needed.

Most importantly, we are able to share God's love and forgiveness with the working poor and encourage them to attend a local church. We realize that all people—including the very rich and the very poor—really only need one thing in life: a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As with all the physical help we provide, our employment help is designed to show God's love and point people to the hope found in a relationship with Him.

### APRIL 2015 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Christ is Risen!</b>			1 South Mountain Community Church - Chapel and Kitchen	2 Salt Lake Christian Center Kitchen: Korean Presbyterian Church of Utah	3 Mt. Olympus Presbyterian	4 Bible Baptist Kitchen: South Valley Community Church
	5 RMSL <b>Happy Easter!</b>	6 Road to Freedom Biker Mission	7 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth	8 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	9 Millcreek Baptist	10 Hilltop United Methodist Church
12 Calvary Chapel Salt Lake - Chapel and Kitchen	13 Intermountain Baptist	14 Unity Baptist	15 Capital Church	16 Wasatch Christian Kitchen: Capital Church	17 Discovery Christian	18 Southside Church of Christ - Chapel and Kitchen
19 Alpine Church	20 Bennion Christian Center	21 K2 - The Church	22 First Methodist	23 Tooele Christian Fellowship	24 Midvalley Bible	25 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake
26 Grace Community Bible	27 Living Waters Christian Fellowship	28 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	29 First Presbyterian of Salt Lake	30 Calvary Chapel Mountain View	<b>He is Risen Indeed!</b>	

# RESCUER

APRIL 2015

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



## PAUL NEWTON: Sobriety, Employment and Faith

*My name is Paul Newton. Fifteen months ago, in the middle of a cold winter, I walked into the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, looking for a warm place to stay. Eleven days later, I joined the New Life Program. That decision changed my life.*

I had been an everyday drinker, a pot head and a meth head. In the two years leading up to December 2013, I had spent most days lying on a friend's couch, getting wasted.

Today I have a job, 15 months of sobriety and a relationship with God. None of this would be possible without God and the Rescue Mission.

### Growing Pains

Participating in the New Life Program has changed me, but not without some growing pains. Living in Utah my whole life, I was raised in a religious environment. However, I didn't embrace religion. In the back of my mind, I wondered whether God was real.

So I had a hard time with all the New Life Program's Bible stuff. I would read the Bible, but wouldn't understand. I was frustrated. However, after a few months of going to classes and letting sobriety take over, I began to understand what I was reading. I would read a passage one week and feel like God was saying something specific to me. Then, I would read the same passage a week later and get something different from it, totally related to what I was going through again. I was amazed that God's Word worked like that.

Then I began to see God working. I found that He works in the world, even in the everyday mundane things.

I will share an example. The showers at the Rescue Mission sit directly over the chapel where we hold afternoon Bible studies. One day, there was pipe leak. Some people put a large garbage can under the leak to catch the water. The water rushed down from the ceiling into the can. The water was so loud that we couldn't hear the Bible study.

Our Bible teacher said we should pray. One man prayed for the water to stop so we could hear the Bible lesson. The



Paul Newton started smoking pot when he was eight. Three decades later, he asked the Rescue Mission for help.

water slowed. Then the teacher prayed. By the time the prayer ended, the water was barely dripping. I was amazed.

I began to believe that God was real. I realized that He sometimes stepped into the world and acted. After about seven months in the New Life Program, I was baptized at the church I attend. After that, my attitude changed.

please see "Paul" on page 3

Web: [RescueSaltLake.org](http://RescueSaltLake.org)  
 Social: [facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake](https://facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake) - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)  
 Email: [info@rescuesaltlake.org](mailto:info@rescuesaltlake.org)  
 Phone: Main - 801.355.1302 Finance Office - 801.746.1006  
 Mail: PO Box 1431, Salt Lake City, UT 84110  
 Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

**Connect**  
with us

# Why We Shouldn't "Segregate" the Homeless

*Is out of sight, out of mind?* Do we relegate homeless and hurting people to the margins of society, creating a new "segregation?"

I recently went to a community open house discussing ways to make the downtown area more welcoming for all people. Much of the open house was an open and honest dialog, with people exchanging ideas and weighing pros and cons. I was impressed that many in our community truly want to partner with the Rescue Mission and other homeless service providers to make Utah a great place to live.



Most people want to honor the dignity of other human beings and enable homeless people to reach their highest God-given potential as they strive for and obtain self-sufficiency.

Yet not everyone feels this way.

A small group of us were talking with a police officer who serves the downtown area and often works with the homeless. During the conversation, a middle-aged woman shared her view: she simply wanted homeless and hurting people out of the

downtown area. She made statements like, "I just want them gone" and "just make them leave."

As I listened to the conversation, I was relieved and disheartened at the same time. I was relieved that someone spoke her mind, sharing her opinions and honest frustrations. But I was disheartened that struggling men, women and children were not spoken of as human beings, but reduced to "them."

It reminded me of a time when my wife and I worked with international students and I was volunteering with a local rescue mission. One of the students asked my wife, "Why do you help [the homeless]? We just let them die." It was sad that this young student and his country had devalued life so much. They felt that homeless people were, at best, not worthy of help, and at worst, not worthy of life.

I realize that we live in a pluralistic society where everyone is entitled to their opinions and is free to express his or her

thoughts. We live side-by-side, trying to fulfill the American dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (in the context that all people are created in God's image and have inalienable rights). We once referred to our society as a melting pot, not in the sense that each person's individuality would be stripped away and society would be homogenized, but in the sense that we could all co-exist together. All that said, I couldn't disagree with these two people's points of view more.

As I ponder history, I am struck that we have always had homeless and hurting people in the world. No wonder Jesus said, "the poor you will always have with you, and you can help them whenever you like" (Mark 14:7). So should we seek to have the poor, the homeless and the addicted right here among us? Or do we mentally, emotionally and even physically segregate people so they are out of sight, and thus out of mind?

We should remember that God considers homeless, hungry and hurting people so important, that Jesus calls them "brothers of mine." He said that "whatever you have done for one of these least of these, you have done for Me" (Matthew 25:40). To help people, you have to be with those people and they have to be with you.

Thank you for serving God by serving people,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

**Our homeless friends** often need just the basic necessities, the stuff that most of us take for granted. Please consider asking your church, business or neighborhood to do a food or clothing drive to help our homeless friends. Here's some of what we need most:

- Canned goods - all kinds
- Summer clothing
- Socks
- Underwear
- Jeans
- Shoes
- Bath towels

## These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	February 2015	Total 2015
Professions of Faith	26	36
Meals	13,252	26,259
Family Food Boxes	194*	462**
Nights of Shelter	4,287	9,070
Clothing	11,418	25,081
Day Service/Hygiene	475	997
	*3,880 meals	**9,240 meals

## Our Stats

how your gift helps

## PAUL: Continued from Page 1

### A New Man

I had been stubborn. I procrastinated on my counseling assignments. There is this workbook that New Life Program members go through called The Genesis Process. It melds the Bible and God's truth with addiction recovery principles.

I always had an excuse for not doing it. Looking back, I'm glad I procrastinated. I wasn't ready to deal with the deep anger that was leading me to use drugs and alcohol. But with God on my side, I dove into the counseling material more and more. I started meeting with a community mentor named Nick Fuller and I learned more about God through our Bible study.

Things were going well. Then I started facing challenges. I was getting ready to move into the employment phase of the New Life Program when I learned that I had warrants out for my arrest. One was from 1996, for drug possession, and the other was from 2001, for getting in a fight. I had a choice: I could either quit the New Life Program, since dealing with these warrants was too hard, or I could try to resolve them. The Rescue Mission encouraged me to clear my legal issues so I could really have a fresh start when I graduated.

The Rescue Mission staff were there for me as I went to court. The judge ordered me to spend 15 days in jail on one charge. Then, at another court, he gave me four days in jail for the second charge. The warrants were cleared.

It felt good to put those warrants behind me. In the past, I had never followed through on stuff like that. I wouldn't deal with my problems. But I could see that God was shaping me into someone who could handle life's problems. I had grown into a person who could face problems and resolve them.

With my warrants gone, I was ready to get a job. I started looking for work in November. I found some temporary work around the holidays, but I wanted a steady job. After searching for several months, I found a good job at Spring Back, a shop that re-purposes old mattresses.

Our company collects used mattresses and we tear them down. We then recycle all the individual parts. It's a neat business model that helps reduce waste. I am glad God gave me this job. It's amazing to look at my life now and think about what it had been before I came to the Mission.

### Where I Went Wrong

My mother introduced me to alcohol and drugs when I was eight. I remember being in a room with my mom and her friends. They passed around a joint and gave it to me. It is difficult to think about a mother teaching her child to drink and use drugs, but that's when my life of drug and alcohol abuse started. I would get drunk or high at school, and I started fighting, shoplifting and stealing.

When I was 19, I stole expensive music equipment from a local band. It was stashed in their van, outside a bar where they were playing a gig. I got caught and spent five years in prison.

After I got out of prison, in my mid 20's, I spent the next 20 years or so working for a construction site catering business. We had trucks that would go to different construction sites and sell lunch to the workers.

It was an easy job and gave me money to support my drug and alcohol habits. Since I had no wife or children, I lived for myself and got drunk or high all the time.

While my drug use had always been constant, I really went downhill in 2007. My aunt, whom I was close to, died of lung cancer. Six months later, my mom also died of lung cancer. My mom had been sober for the last 20 years of her life. She felt bad for introducing me to drugs and always talked to me about getting sober. I knew she really cared for me.

Losing my mom and my aunt hurt. I used drugs and alcohol more and more to curb the pain and anger. I really didn't know how to recover.

Four years later, I remained a mess. I still worked at the catering company, but by that time, I was the cook. I lived in a motor-home in the back of our business. I cooked the food that went out in the trucks each morning. One day, the health department did an inspection and heard my dog bark inside my motor home. When they opened it up, they saw the dog and a disaster: there were empty beer and whiskey bottles all over my place. Lots of cigarette butts, too.

The health department threatened to shut us down. My boss fired me and I spent the next two years on a couch in a friend's apartment. Each day I would think about looking for work, but each day I used drugs or got drunk instead.

In December of 2013, my friend finally kicked me out. He was tired of my freeloading. I still had my dog and we stayed a night outside near Sugarhouse Park. My dog nearly froze to death. I started calling places where I might stay. The Rescue Mission was the first place that answered.

### The Help I Needed

I took my dog to the Humane Society and checked into the Rescue Mission. For the first 11 days, I stayed at the Mission as a shelter guest. In the morning, I would go get high. When I smoked up my last bit of marijuana, I decided to try sobriety. That's when I asked to join the New Life Program.

I believe that it was God who led me to the Rescue Mission. I didn't realize it before, but I needed God's help to get clean and change. Without God, I would still be stuck in a life of despair and addiction.

Today I have hopes and dreams. I have reconnected with my grandma and my sister. We can have a real relationship now, since they know I don't need anything from them. I love being able to talk to them and spend time with them. They are the only family I have left.

I want to keep working at the mattress recycling plant. I need some stability. When I can save up enough money, I will move out of the Rescue Mission and into the Terri Timmerman Freedom House. There, the Mission will continue supporting me in my sobriety and encourage me to remain connected with my local church family at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake.

At 46, my life is ahead of me. I am excited and encouraged. The best part is how the Rescue Mission taught me about God. I know now that whatever happens in this life, I can look forward to heaven in the next. This is what really matters.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission. I know it can be hard to help people like me, people who are so broken down that they seem beyond repair. But I am here to tell you that your support is worth it. Without this help, I would be lost. Thanks for caring enough to help save someone like me.