

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, MANY WERE BLESSED DURING EASTER



It was an awesome Easter weekend at the Rescue Mission. Thanks to the help of a small army of volunteers, we were able to take over Pioneer Park downtown and hold our annual Easter Banquet and Easter Egg Hunt for our homeless friends.

Besides toys, games, face painting and eggs for the kids, there was a great brunch with ham, fresh fruit, pancakes and more. We served over a thousand meals and gave away thousands of pieces of clothing, making sure everyone received what they needed. Of course, all of this outreach was reinforced with Gospel messages, words of encouragement and songs of hope from several local churches. Our goal was to “Celebrate LIFE,” both our physical life and our spiritual life that God makes possible through the resurrection of Jesus. We also wanted to bless and encourage homeless kids and adults who might otherwise be discouraged during the Easter weekend. Every man, woman and child should have the opportunity to celebrate the life, death and

resurrection of Jesus!

Our banquet meals, and every meal we serve, are opportunities for the Mission and its volunteers to give back to a hurting community. We thank everyone who prayed for good weather, gave financially and volunteered to make this Easter Banquet happen. Special Thanks goes to Canyons Church, Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake, Grace Community Bible Church, Greenhouse Community Church, First Presbyterian, The Bridge Community Church, and the Tate Family.

Thank you for partnering with the Rescue Mission to provide services to the homeless and addicted people of Utah, offering a hand up instead of a handout!



APRIL 2016 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Mt Olympus Presbyterian	2 Bible Baptist
3 Gospel Grace - Chapel and Kitchen	4 First Baptist of West Valley - Chapel and Kitchen	5 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth	6 South Mountain Community Church - Chapel and Kitchen	7 Salt Lake Christian Center Kitchen: Korean Presbyterian Church of Utah	8 Hilltop United Methodist Church	Kitchen: South Valley Community Church
10 Calvary Chapel Salt Lake - Chapel and Kitchen	11 Intermountain Baptist	12 Unity Baptist	13 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	14 Millcreek Baptist	15 Discovery Christian	16 Southside Church of Christ
17 Alpine Church	18 Bennion Christian Center	19 K2 - The Church	20 Capital Church	21 Wasatch Christian Kitchen: Capital Church	22 Midvalley Bible	23 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake
24 Grace Community Bible	25 Living Waters Christian Fellowship	26 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	27 First Methodist	28 Tooele Christian Fellowship	29 Gateway Community Church	30 Capital Church

RESCUER

APRIL 2016

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

BETTEJEAN JENTZSCH: A relationship with God is not a fairy tale

My name is Bettejean Jentzsch and when I came to the Rescue Mission in October of 2014, I didn't believe in God. Even though I was baptized at eight years old, a lifetime of pain and abuse had convinced me that God was just a fairy tale invented to scare little children.

But after being at the Rescue Mission for a couple of weeks, my heart and mind changed. I came to know that God was real, a fact that has made all the difference in my life. Today, I have been sober for 18 months. I have a good job as an accountant at a print shop here in Salt Lake. I wear nice clothes and feel like a real professional. I have good relationships with both my sons and keep telling them that I need grandkids. My biological clock is ticking, even if theirs isn't!

I also have a great relationship with my community mentor, who goes to the same church I do—Capital Church—just east of downtown. We meet once a week and talk about our joys, fears, struggles, and about God. And that is the biggest change in my life: I know about God now.

Now I know that God exists and that all He wants is to take care of me and love me. I first realized this when I went to a revival service at Calvary Baptist church, just down the street from the Rescue Mission's Women's Center. I was leery of these kinds of events and really considered not coming to the Rescue Mission because of its focus on faith. But at this revival service God showed me He was real and He was loving.

Once I knew God was real, I began to learn more



Bettejean Jentzsch almost drank herself to death while she was holed up in a Las Vegas apartment. Now she has a new life in Christ and a great job as an accountant.

about Him. The biggest revelation I had was about sin. Previously, I thought of religion as overly restrictive. I felt like religion just kept you from doing all the fun things that you wanted to do. But God and my Rescue Mission counselors challenged me to think differently about my sin. What I realized is that alcohol abuse was destroying my life. What I thought was a fun choice—whether I could drink away my problems or not—was actually a burden, making me miserable and destroying my life.

Please see “Bettejean” on page 3.

Connect
with us

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WHY CAN'T I BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES ME?



A few days ago, a friend was sitting in my office, telling me about his recent return to homelessness. As we talked, he burst into tears, reached his hands out and slapped at the air, asking, "Why can't I believe that God loves me and that the Rescue Mission really cares?"

Now that's a real question!

My friend has worked in construction and landscaping. He has lapsed into homelessness at times, especially during the winter or when he could not find work. His struggle with addiction has not helped either. He told me how he lived with his parents this past winter and tried to find employment. Unfortunately, his parents also struggle with addiction and living with them proved to be destructive. He faced the realization that he cannot fall back on his parents anymore.

But he was thankful to have the Rescue Mission to fall back on. He shared how good it was to be back in Bible studies and fellowship with people who really love him. So his question about unbelief came from a real place of heartache and desire for God.

It is hard for a person who does not know God or understand unconditional love to realize that God loves him. Why is this so difficult? Looking at the life of Jesus can provide some answers.

When Jesus talked with people, some left everything and followed Him, while others turned

away or sat on the sidelines, content to just hear His "stories." Time and time again people refused to follow Jesus because they could not give up what was standing in the way. For some it was money, for others—pride, fame, or feeling good/bad. Whatever is in the way of following Jesus, the Bible calls it an idol. The idol in a person's life brings some sort of benefit to him, which is why a person holds on to it.

But this benefit is temporary and an idol will always hurt the person in the long-run.

In giving up something that brings immediate satisfaction, a person must be willing to face the fear of losing that short-term benefit. Once that fear has been faced, the person can see the ways in which their idol was hurting them, even as they once believed it would help them. As this realization takes place, God replaces fear with His LOVE, His TRUTH and HIMSELF, the one who heals.

"Why can't I believe that God loves me?"

The answer to this question is that there is probably something, some idol, in the way. Anyone who asks this question should look in his heart and try to find what he is too scared of giving up for Jesus. Once that is found, the person asking the question can probably answer it for himself.

Please pray that all of us, especially the students in our New Life Recovery Program and our homeless friends whom we reach out to on a daily basis, would be willing to face their fears, get rid of their idols and believe in God's love.

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	February 2016	YTD 2016
Professions of Faith	33	75
Meals	14,621	31,801
Family Food Boxes	279*	578**
Nights of Shelter	4,480	9,371
Clothing	6,237	16,262
Day Service/Hygiene	440	747
Jobs Obtained	9	9
	*5,580 meals	**11,560 meals

Our Stats
how your gift helps

BETTEJEAN: Continued from page 1

Maybe, I thought, I could have more fun being sober. Maybe I would actually be happier not sinning. It was a concept that, strange as it may sound, I had never considered. But as God helped me make good choices and stay sober, I grew happier and happier. I realized that I wasn't depressed, and my life was changing.

And my life did need a lot of changing. I grew up in a dysfunctional home. My family was polygamous and religiously strict. Yet despite being very religious, my family had a lot of problems. I suffered physical and sexual abuse at the hands of close family members.

I was so depressed that I would literally sit in my apartment all day, many days not even stepping outside.

This abuse, I believe, led me to seek out abusive relationships as I grew older. I have never been in a relationship that wasn't physically abusive.

My life of abuse and problems reached a boiling point about 12 years ago in Las Vegas. I really hadn't drunk or used drugs much in my life. I was married and working as an accountant. But my marriage grew more and more abusive and I ended up in the hospital several times. My husband and I started drinking together and ultimately we decided that we couldn't live peacefully anymore. I moved into an apartment by myself and started drinking every day. This went on for years and my alcoholism grew worse. I finally lost my job and went on unemployment.

I was so depressed that I would literally sit in my apartment all day, many days not even stepping outside. I used my unemployment checks to buy alcohol and did nothing but drink, sleep and cower in my apartment. I was slowly dying. My youngest son really saved me and I believe now that God sent him to help me. Both my sons live here in Salt Lake, and one of the few friends I still had in Las Vegas contacted my youngest son and described my situation. My son came to Las Vegas, rented a truck, packed me up and brought me to Utah. I got sober, found a job and leased an apartment, but it didn't last. Within a few months I started drinking again and lost my job and my apartment. My son took me down to the alcohol detox center and, after spending three days there, I started looking for somewhere to go. It was the first time I had ever been without a home.

That's when I found the Rescue Mission and they took

me in, despite my antagonism towards God at the time. Looking back, I am amazed at how God has blessed me and rescued me.

One of the coolest things God did for me was to find me a great job. However, He sure taught me some lessons about trust before He supplied me with this perfect position. It was last July when I started looking for work. I had been sober for 10 months and everyone, myself included, felt like I was stable enough to start working again. July passed and nobody called back, then August and September went by. I had a good resume that attracted interviews, but nobody hired me. It wasn't until February of this year that someone took a chance on me. A company needed someone who knew how to run this somewhat obscure software that they used for bookkeeping. It just happened that this software was the exact same program I used for 15 years when I was an accountant in Vegas. They hired me right away.

During the eight months I was looking for work, I felt defeated, dejected and often wondered if I should quit the New Life Program. All I had was trust in God, encouragement from the staff and a belief that God wanted me to keep at it. I had to trust that God would ultimately supply my needs. I had to cling to that trust through my self-doubt and I have come out with a greater trust and belief in God than I ever had before.

I praise God for saving me and changing me. I look forward to enjoying life and my relationships with my two sons. I thank God that I have a good job, have over 18 months of sobriety, am free from the pain of abusive relationships and am looking for my own apartment. Most of all, I praise God that I have a relationship with

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Him based upon His love and desire for me. I don't want anything more than to experience His love, and I look forward to what God has in store for me. Please keep me in your prayers as I look for an apartment and graduate from the New Life Program. Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission and helping to change my life!