

PROVIDING DIGNITY AND RESPECT THROUGH FACILITY UPGRADES

Thanks to Crump Insurance and private donations, we have been able to make several important upgrades to our facilities. We are hoping these upgrades will build dignity and respect for our homeless friends and those in our inpatient recovery program.

Dignity and respect are often hard to come by for the homeless. People look down on them, say unkind things, avoid eye contact and walk on by. And while these reactions might seem reasonable to the "normal" person looking at a homeless one, the result to the person being ignored is the same—an experience devoid of dignity and respect. How people feel about themselves and how they perceive others feel about them can play a large role in their desire to change.

So when our homeless friends come to the Rescue Mission, we try to show them as much respect as possible. While respect largely comes from how people are treated by others, respect and dignity can also come from the physical surroundings people live in.

Giving a homeless person a nice, clean toilet to use can provide dignity and respect. Allowing the women in our New Life Program to use a new stovetop to cook on can build dignity and play a large role changing their life.

Too often, however, our facilities wear out and are worn down by the seemingly countless number of people who come through our doors. While we love serving people,

we wish we had the resources to stay on top of the wear and tear that take place in a facility that never closes.

With dignity and respect in mind, we were excited to receive a few special donations that allowed us to make some important facility upgrades. First, we were able to install a nice new stove in our women's facility, and the ladies in our New Life Program have been excited to try it out. Additionally, we were able to lay new carpet in our women's facility to replace the mismatched carpeting that has been in place longer than any of our current employees know.

At Freedom House, our men's transitional home, we installed new cabinets to replace the existing ones that had been in the home since it was built in the '50s and replaced the carpeting. And at our downtown men's facility, we are working on some bathroom upgrades that we think our homeless friends will enjoy.

While these may seem like simple necessities, which they are, they also serve as small comforts: Comforts our homeless friends are not used to enjoying. Comforts that can lead to dignity and respect. So join us in praising God and thanking our donors who have made these changes possible. Also join us in praying that God will use these facility improvements to change lives. Pray that our homeless friends would be so blessed by walking through our doors that they will not want to leave.

AUGUST 2015 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
|  | | | | | | 1 Bible Baptist Kitchen: South Valley Community Church |
| 2 Gospel Grace - Chapel and Kitchen | 3 Road to Freedom Biker Mission | 4 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth | 5 South Mountain Community Church | 6 Salt Lake Christian Center Kitchen: Korean Presbyterian Church | 7 Mt Olympus Presbyterian | 8 Berean Baptist |
| 9 Calvary Chapel Salt Lake - Chapel and Kitchen | 10 Intermountain Baptist | 11 Unity Baptist | 12 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group | 13 Millcreek Baptist | 14 Hilltop United Methodist Church | 15 Southside Church of Christ - Chapel and Kitchen |
| 16 Alpine Church | 17 Bennion Christian Center | 18 K2 - The Church | 19 Capital Church | 20 Wasatch Christian Kitchen: Capital Church | 21 Discovery Christian | 22 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake |
| 23 Grace Community Bible 30 RMSL | 24 Living Waters Christian Fellowship 31 Gateway Community | 25 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele | 26 First Methodist | 27 Tooele Christian Fellowship | 28 Midvalley Bible | 29 Capital Church |

RESCUER

AUGUST 2015

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

**DERRICK MORRISON:
A simple act of kindness changes a life**

About a year ago I was sitting in a coffee shop in Orem, Utah. Little did I know that God was about to change my life.

Truthfully, I wasn't really sitting. I was hunched over with my face on the table. I had spent the last four days high on meth and heroin and, now, with no more money for drugs, I was struggling.

The coffee shop was packed, so a young couple took the table next to me. After a while, they got my attention and asked if I needed anything. At first I thought they were cops looking to bust me, but after a while, I realized they truly wanted to help.

God Sends Angels

I told them I was starving and had no money. It was the truth; I hadn't eaten in four days. This couple got me some food and asked me if I needed a place to stay. I told them that I was homeless and addicted to drugs; they said they would help me.

They started searching around on their phones for somewhere I could go. They found a place in Provo, but when we drove there, it wasn't open. Finally, they bought me a hotel room for the night. They even gave me some toiletries and told me I would feel better if I cleaned up and shaved.

Before they left, they told me they would be back in the morning. They said they would help me find a more permanent place where I could get the help I needed. They gave me specific instructions: go straight to bed and don't invite any of my druggie friends over to the hotel room.

Of course, the first thing I did was try to call my friends on my hotel phone. For some reason (I now believe it was divine intervention), I couldn't figure out how to get the calls to go through. Eventually I gave up, lay down and fell asleep.

When morning came, I was surprised to see that the couple had returned. They said they had discovered a place in Salt



Derrick Morrison has a good job with a truck rental company. He takes his bike and TRAX to work each day and is living a sober, productive life.

Lake called the Rescue Mission that would help me.

At first I was hesitant, but as we started driving towards Salt Lake, they looked at me in the back seat and asked me if I was ready for change. I said "yes." As we drove, I learned more about them. It turns out they weren't even from Utah. The husband was a minor league baseball player from Arkansas and they were only in town for a couple of nights while his baseball team played the Orem Owlz.

They told me they believed in God and wanted to help me because of what God had done for them. They said they were so thankful for God's love that they wanted to share it with

please see "Derrick" on Page 3

**CONNECT
with us**

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TRUSTING THE GOODNESS OF GOD IN HARD TIMES

I often marvel at the great faith and tenacity of the Apostle Paul.

He went through so many difficult times, but never lost hope in the goodness and purposes of God.

He was stoned, attacked by wild animals, left for dead, falsely imprisoned, bitten by a poisonous snake, shipwrecked and ultimately executed. While many doubted God in hard times, Paul knew that God was good. Ultimately, he saw that the proof of God's goodness was not built into earthly circumstances, but



on the reality of what Jesus did through His death and resurrection. The hope of forgiveness through Jesus and the promise of eternal life in Heaven carried the day in Paul's heart.

I wish we could all be like Paul, myself included. I especially pray this for our homeless friends. Most of our homeless friends have had the opposite reaction to hard times. They've suffered through physical and sexual abuse, the death of loved ones and countless other traumas. But instead of fixing their hope on Jesus like Paul did, they doubt the goodness of God and turn to alcohol or drugs to cope.

I really can't be too critical. I know it is hard to fully trust the goodness of God in hard times. Yet, it is so important to changing hearts.

The men and women who engage in our New Life Program will face even more difficulty, beyond the lifetime

of hurts and pains that lead them to the streets. We ask them to give up drugs and alcohol as a crutch for pain and instead engage in real life.

And real life is painful. Oftentimes the only thing that sustains us through life is a trust in the goodness of God and a belief that no matter what happens, God is in control, has a plan and will work it out for good for those who love and put their faith in Him. Our homeless friends must believe this in order to give up drugs, alcohol and their past lives. But the journey towards this truth means facing fears, giving and receiving forgiveness, and relying on other people for love and help. For those who are suffering through addiction, these changes can be as difficult as fighting off a wild beast or floating aimlessly in the open ocean.

So join me in praying for the homeless men and women who are trying to get out from under addiction's thumb. This is the most difficult thing they will do in their lives. It's their version of surviving a shipwreck and a venomous snake bite. Pray that they would see the goodness of God without reservation and trust that He has great things in store for them, in this life and in the next.

I thank each one of you who prays for and supports our work here at the Mission. Your support is truly making a difference in so many lives.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

| | June 2015 | YTD 2015 |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Professions of Faith | 10 | 100 |
| Meals | 8,963 | 75,850 |
| Family Food Boxes | 335* | 1,607** |
| Nights of Shelter | 4,442 | 28,241 |
| Clothing | 5,448 | 68,688 |
| Day Service/Hygiene | 412 | 2,860 |
| | *6,700 meals | **32,140 meals |

OUR STATS

how your gift helps

DERRICK: Continued from Page 1

other people by helping them.

When we arrived at the Rescue Mission, I enrolled in the New Life Program, which we all agreed was what I needed to change my life. It was a rocky start. At first, I was scared and didn't fit in. I had never been to Salt Lake before and the unfamiliarity made me nervous. Also, I wasn't used to being homeless. I was used to living in a house, often a nice house, and having people take care of me.

God Slowly Changes Me

Besides my apprehension, I had some outstanding legal issues from my years of drug abuse. During my first four months in the New Life Program, I relapsed on drugs twice and had to go to jail for past legal issues. One time, I even overdosed on heroin and had to be revived by paramedics. The Rescue Mission worked with me through it all. When I was in jail for my relapse, a violation of my probation, the Rescue Mission held my spot in the program till I returned.

With God's and the Rescue Mission's help, I steadied back on track. After I had been at the Rescue Mission for about four months, I got a call. It was the same couple that had helped me and taken me to the Rescue Mission in the first place. The husband's minor league baseball team was back in the area, this time playing the Ogden Raptors. The couple wanted to come visit and see how I was doing.

They took me miniature golfing and while we were out, they shared the Gospel with me. They told me how Jesus came to this world, lived a perfect life and then took God's wrath on the cross. They explained how Jesus, since He was perfect and deserved no punishment of His own, was the only one who could take my place. He was the only one I could believe in to have forgiveness for the wrong things I had done. That day was the first day I truly trusted in Jesus to save me from my sins and make a way for me to go to Heaven when I die.

From that point on, I had a real relationship with Jesus. The Rescue Mission connected me with a great counselor, Chris Beane, who challenged me and helped me see some of the reasons why I was constantly using meth and heroin. The Rescue Mission also connected me with a community mentor named John, who goes to the same church I do, K2 - The Church. John is a former addict who has been sober for many, many years. He was able to help me in many ways, not the least of which was helping me understand the Bible.

A Life That Needed Changing

A true knowledge of the Bible is what I needed most, since I grew up in a home that really didn't teach the truth about God. My grandfather gave me shots of scotch when I was in grade school, but it wasn't until I was in my late teens and early 20s that I developed a drug problem. I used drugs off and on, but was often able to quit for extended periods of time and I never really felt debilitated because of drug or alcohol abuse.

But that changed in 2012 when I came out to Utah County to live with my aunt and uncle. I had been sort of a deadbeat, living with my parents in Northern California and figured a change of scenery might light a fire under me.

My aunt lived in Alpine and I enjoyed her spacious home. I got a job at a busy grocery store in Provo and made a lot of friends with the young adults in Provo who were my age.

I stayed sober for about two years, until I was promoted to manager at the grocery store. I started stressing out about my work responsibilities. Soon, I was in over my head and really couldn't cope. In my stress, I turned to meth and heroin.

I began using every day and lost my job. I kept my addiction hidden from my aunt and my cousin, who also lived with us, until one fateful day in 2013. It was fairly late in the evening. I had a warrant out for my arrest for removing a tire boot from my car when I was illegally parked. The cops came to my aunt's house looking for me.

I heard a knock and expected my aunt or cousin to answer. After the third knock, I decided I would get the door. When I opened it, there was a couple of cops on the porch. Since I was on drugs, I instinctively ran and the police instinctively chased me into the house. Once they tackled me and cuffed me, they found drugs and drug paraphernalia on me. The police arrested me, all while my aunt and cousin looked on in shock. They had never suspected I was a drug user. I went to jail and even faced prison time. It was when I was out awaiting my fate that the couple approached me at the coffee shop in Orem.

I realize now that this couple was Heaven-sent. At first, I thought they were cops looking to bust me since I had been using drugs. In the end, I couldn't have envisioned something I needed more than them. It was amazing that they showed up right in my time of need. It couldn't have been a coincidence.

The Fruit of a New Life

Today, I have been able to repair my relationships with most of my family members. There are a few who, understandably, are still reluctant to trust me, but I hope they will see a change in me. I talk to my mom and dad on a regular basis and they often send me care packages with little treats and goodies to show their support. My cousin, the one who was shocked to see me arrested, talks to me every day and encourages me.

It's amazing to see how my relationships have changed since I became sober. A few months ago, I entered the job phase of the New Life Program and am happy to report that I have a job working with a rental vehicle agency. I clean vans, trucks and cars when they are returned. I help make sure they are completely refreshed before our next customer takes them out.

While I appreciate this job, I have higher aspirations. With God's help, I hope to get a career-building job and start a family. I realize I need to be stable and secure a long period of sobriety before a family can happen, but I am committed to using the tools I gained at the Rescue Mission to make sure that it does. My legal issues are almost resolved and when I graduate from the New Life Program I have a good chance of getting off probation.

I can't say how much I appreciate the Rescue Mission and the people who support it. In all honesty, I don't know where I would be without the help I received from the Rescue Mission. Actually, I probably do know where I would be: either dead from an overdose or serving a long-term sentence in prison. Instead, I have a good job, good relationships with my family, a connection with my church and hope for the future. I can't believe how God has changed my life and I thank all of the people He has used to save me - from that couple who rescued me at the coffee shop in Orem, to every donor who prays for and gives \$20 to the Rescue Mission. Thank you!