

STOP PANHANDLING - GIVE THE SECOND ENVELOPE TO A FRIEND!

If you're a regular reader of the Rescuer, you know we've talked a lot about downtown homelessness and panhandling during the past year.

Again this summer, if you read the headlines, panhandling and the question of homelessness downtown are front and center in the public discourse. As always, we try to support civic leaders in the effort to end homelessness and we remind everyone that we have free Help Cards that people can give to panhandlers instead of cash. These cards let people know about the free food, shelter, and clothing available at the Mission.



This month, however, we want to encourage our supporters to do something new. We have included two return envelopes in this month's newsletter. Many of our supporters use these envelopes to send checks or other donations to the Mission. They are postage paid and self addressed, so it's easy to support the Rescue Mission.

What we want to encourage our supporters to do, is share the second envelope, and maybe even this newsletter, with a friend, neighbor or colleague. If a watercooler conversation comes up about panhandling or the state of homelessness downtown, share the envelope (the one that has "For a Friend" in red letters). Encourage the receiver to do something positive to help the homeless situation and support the Rescue Mission, as opposed to giving money to a panhandler.

Our New Life Program is one of the best paths available for our homeless friends to get out of homelessness and into housing and employment. This free program is only available because of the generous backing we receive from the community and our faithful supporters. So use the extra envelope and encourage someone to help the homeless by supporting the Rescue Mission, which has been dedicated to ending homelessness and restoring broken lives since 1972.



AUGUST 2017 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

AUGUST 2017

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

ALVIN FOTUALII: From Samoa to Utah, a Journey to Change

Growing up in American Samoa, I started drinking and smoking marijuana when I was just nine years old. Now, as a 27-year-old man, I am sober for the first time since coming to the U.S. when I was 17.

It was the relationship with Jesus I found at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake that changed my life. I have actually given my life to Him, so I am not the same person I was when I started the New Life Program. And, now that I know God, I do believe it was divine intervention that led me to the Mission a year ago.

Today I continue to work on my relationship with God. I have learned a lot about Jesus. He's amazing. He's life. He's my only focus right now. He's the one I can I can talk to and ask to help me with my struggles. When I wake up in the morning and go to work, I ask Him to protect me and to give me strength and energy. I need Him to keep me strong, so I never look back and keep moving forward.

And God really has blessed me. In addition to my sobriety, I have a good job at a donut bakery. I am able to use TRAX to get out to my bakery and even though I do work early hours (as all the baking needs to be ready for customers first thing in the morning) I still love my job and am thankful to be working. That job is important for me because ever since I left Samoa ten years ago I have struggled with employment and homelessness.

When I was boy I had to work at the local market everyday selling coconuts, bananas, and the other produce we farmed. Right after school I went straight to work. It was a hard life, made harder by the physically strict way my parents raised me. I don't know if it was this early life



Alvin Fotualii is sober and employed for the first tme since he left Samoa 10 years ago

experience or just my addiction that soured me on work, but I have never been able to hold down a job and support myself for long.

please see "Alvin" on Page 3

Connect with us

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DESIRE - WHAT DO YOU WANT?

This week I have had an unusually large number of life moments!

In my view, a life moment is an opportunity to touch another person's life. Life moments are important because all too often they can determine if a person heads further down the road (in either a positive or negative direction). And, in some cases, these small blocks of time can influence if a person lives or dies (as we see often on the streets from the consequences of addiction).



This week a handful of people each day have stopped by my office or asked to talk when I was out and about. These people have ranged from professionals at the top of their career, to men and women on the New Life Program (some who are earnestly struggling for recovery and others who are figuring out if they really just want to go back to using), to homeless men and women sitting in the summer swelter in need of some motivation to change.

As the week progressed, my conversations with this diverse group seemed to focus in on desires – the things people want. And through these life moments, I came to a greater realization of the power of desire!

My conversations centered on people's desire to make a difference and help others. There were conversations about the desire to help a person's own children, spouse or other family member change their life. I talked to people about their desire to love and forgive their own self. While other people talked to me about the desire to avoid pain and avoid responsibility.

Certainly, desires can be good and desires can be bad, but the reality is, desire is a key determiner of human life and behavior.

Often, for the homeless, the desire to avoid pain and responsibility creates apathy. If a person's goal in life is to avoid pain and responsibility (two things that are ultimately unavoidable in this fallen world) then that person takes no risks, gives up, and falls into almost inescapable depression. It is really this apathy that we fight against most here at the Rescue Mission.

During our life moment opportunities, we fight to convince people that good, godly desires, like helping

others, believing God, contributing to His plan for the world or simply the dignity of taking care of yourself are the desires that bring life. These are the desires that bring hope and satisfaction. When our desires are right, then our three most important relationships – the one we have with our own self, the ones we have with others, and the one we have with God – will be right. And when these three relationships are right, a person can be at peace, will still striving to be the individual they are supposed to be

So, pray with me that the life moments we all have – the times when an encouraging word or godly piece of advice might alter the course of someone's life – will be meaningful. We should all pray that God will use us to encourage people to seek good desires and run away from desires that create apathy.

I encourage you to look for the life moments God might bring your way and, when they come, inspire people. Pray for us here at the Rescue Mission, that we would have the courage and inspiration to do the same.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswite

Executive Director

Job Openings

The Rescue Mission is looking for an executive assistant and administrative assistant with responsibilities in grant writing, data entry and media coordination. Applicants must be Bible believing Christians who are actively involved in a local Christian church. Ideal candidates will have a bachelor's degree and strong writing, verbal and computer skills.

Questions? Email Eileen Crist at: Eileen@RescueSaltLake.org.

ALVIN:
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So it has been a real blessing to feel joy in supporting myself and taking care of my needs through honest work. It was the New Life Program that instilled this new work ethic in me. When I arrived at the Mission I was given a work therapy job in the Mission's kitchen. There I would help cook and serve meals to the hundreds of homeless men, women, and children that sought food each day.

Serving in the kitchen gave me a good feeling. I looked forward helping hungry people. It made me feel good inside because I had been there. I had been homeless and hungry on the streets. I liked helping people who I could understand and relate to, all while giving them hope that change is possible.

He told me I was an inspiration to his team and made them feel fulfilled in doing their job.

After all, I have been in and out of jail for the last five years – ever since I began using meth. A year ago, I had been in jail for seven months and was facing two years in prison for drug possession when I asked my attorney for help. I told him that even if I got out of jail, I had nothing going on in my life that would stop me from going right back to being homeless and addicted. But, while I knew I couldn't stay sober, I had heard there were programs that could help people who were addicts like me.

My attorney did some internet searches and when he returned he showed me some information about the Rescue Mission. He said he thought the Rescue Mission's New Life Program would work for me, as long as the judge in my case would sign off.

The judge agreed. My attorney picked me up from jail and dropped me off at the Rescue Mission, where I learned

– for the first time – that the New Life Program was a 13-month commitment. I got my attorney on the phone and told him I needed something a lot shorter, I was thinking three months. He told me I had two choices, do the New Life Program or spend two years in prison.

So I stayed.

Eventually, I came to realize it was really God working to put me in the place I needed to be. He led my attorney to recommend the Rescue Mission and caused the judge to accept the New Life Program instead of prison. God knew where I needed to be.

I have done so well on the New Life Program that a few months ago my probation officer sat me down and praised my performance. He told me I was an inspiration to his team and made them feel fulfilled in doing their job. My probation officer wrote a letter to the judge in my case and the judge lifted my probation and now I have no remaining legal issues left to clear up. I am free legally and spiritually. In fact, I am no longer legally required to be in the New Life Program. But now I want to stay. I want to finish what I started.

In a month I will be graduating from the program with a fresh start. I will be debt free and even have some money saved up to get my own apartment, or to use to move into the Terri Timmerman Freedom House (the Rescue Mission's transitional housing unit).

I want to thank the Rescue Mission, its supporters, and everyone who helped me change. Most of all I thank God for leading me to the place where I could give my life to Him and allow Him to change me. Please pray for me as I prepare to move out on my own. Pray that I would continue to find joy in my relationship with God, in my job, with my church family, and in sobriety. I feels great to finally have hope for the future.

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	June 2017	YTD 2017
Professions of Faith	50	225
Meals	12,300	84,421
Family Food Boxes	243*	1,127**
Nights of Shelter	3,912	27,619
Clothing	3,466	35,435
Day Service/Hygiene	978	4,664
Jobs Obtained	6	21
Housing Obtained	4	29
	*4,860 meals	**22,540 meals