

PRAISING GOD FOR JANUARY COLD AND 2015 MINISTRY

Last month we asked you to pray that God would make it an uncomfortable January for our homeless friends out on the streets. Why? So that discomfort would drive people to seek the warm, safe shelter and hot food inside the Mission's wall. Then maybe, just maybe, some of those who took refuge from the cold would decide they wanted more. They would decide they wanted to join the New Life Program and change their life at the Rescue Mission.

Well, thanks for praying because 13 people joined our New Life Recovery Program in January! We are excited that God has brought these formerly homeless and addicted people to us and ask for prayer that they would finish the program and stay sober.

These 13 souls are just a few of the thousands we get

to serve each year. Indeed, we have recently been able to calculate our statistics for 2015 and the numbers are staggering.

We served 166,825 meals, hosted 55,048 nights of shelter, distributed 115,418 pieces of warm clothing, and gave out 3,376 family food boxes, which provided 67,520 meals. Most importantly, we saw 190 people give their lives to Jesus in 2015. All this makes us want to praise God and thank you, His people, who selflessly give to the Rescue Mission throughout the year. Without God's enabling support through you, none of this would be possible. So thank you and please rejoice with us for what God did this past January and also for what He did throughout 2015!

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

Our Stats

how your gift helps

	December 2015	Total 2015
Professions of Faith	22	190
Meals	15,388	166,825
Family Food Boxes	238*	3,376**
Nights of Shelter	4,528	55,048
Clothing	14,997	115,418
Day Service/Hygiene	314	5,905
	*4,760 meals	**67,520 meals

FEBRUARY 2016 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

FEBRUARY 2016

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DILLON NEWMAN: An addict since sixth grade, a son gets sober

My name is Dillon Newman and I am 28 years old. It might sound strange, but, if I am being totally honest, I have spent more days of my life high than I have sober. That's why I'm so happy to share that for most of the past year I have been stone cold sober and have loved it.

A Brand New Life

So many amazing things have happened to me since I came to the Rescue Mission in April, it's hard to know where to begin. First and foremost, I now believe in God and His Son, Jesus. Before I came to the Rescue Mission, I sort of believed that God existed and I knew a little about who Jesus was, but I had never followed Him.

Still, I had this gnawing feeling that God wanted me to come to the Rescue Mission. I really felt like it was the only way I could turn my life around. When I came to the Rescue Mission, I was broken and ashamed. I had spent the last three years in a homeless shelter or in jail. My family had cut ties with me because of my drug-fueled life. It was fair to say I was at rock bottom.

At the Mission, however, I started learning about God. I went to Bible studies and heard sermons at the nightly chapel services. One chapel preacher really made sense to me. I went and talked to him after the service and it was then that I really started believing in God and Jesus. I wasn't raised in a family that went to church. Although my family tended to believe in God, nobody seemed to have a personal relationship with Jesus in my home.

But as I built a relationship with God at the Mission, my mind seemed to grow clearer and I gained a strength to stay sober that I hadn't had before. As I stayed sober, my whole personality started changing. I was becoming myself again, instead of the shell of a person I had



Dillon Newman used meth and other drugs for 15 years. Today he is sober, believes in God and is rebuilding relationships with his family.

become from years of meth use.

And as I began to change, my relationships changed too. When I came to the Mission, my entire family had pretty much cut ties with me. I had stolen from them and had broken one too many promises, so that they no longer trusted me. But as the new, sober me developed, I found my family was willing to engage with me and even forgive me.

Brand New Relationships

My father, for instance, started believing in God about five years ago. He is a former addict, too, and for the last five years has been attending the Salvation Army Church downtown. As I stayed sober, I was able to start going to church with him. Now we go together every week. I get to hang out with him and I feel like we have a real father-son relationship, which we never really had after he and my mom got divorced.

Please see "Dillon" on page 3.

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with us

Making a Commitment to Commitment



Last month I wrote about how January is the month (probably more than any other) when people resolve to change. Well, if we are being honest, February is the month when people give up on change and revert back to their normal way of life. In short, most New Year's resolutions are abandoned by February.

But this is not what God would have for us. When God looks

at change, I think he desires profound, long-lasting, sustaining change in our lives. God is not looking for resolutions that last one month, but change that lasts a lifetime. And this is what we strive for at the Rescue Mission. We want to be a ministry that instills lasting change in the hearts and lives of the people we serve.

If a person is to maintain a resolution, or if a ministry is to create lasting change, there needs to be a focus on commitment. Certainly, the Bible has much to say about commitment and God's desire for His people to have it. Most famously the Apostle Paul was excited about the commitment—or endurance—that God had given him when he told Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7, ESV)

I pray that we can fight the good fight all the way to the end, just like Paul and Jesus. They showed true commitment. Of course, the reason that so many people give up on their resolutions (or show a lack of commitment) is because they don't have God's help to sustain them. Without God's enabling, of course our frail hearts and weak minds and tempted flesh will give up and give in to the latest thing that we think will bring us happiness.

Instead, we need to fill ourselves up with God's Word, prayer, fellowship, honesty about our sins and shortcomings, and worship. These five things are the cornerstones of the Rescue Mission's New Life Program. The formerly addicted and homeless men and women in our New Life Program actively engage those five things every day. They go to Bible study, they attend chapel services and church, they live in a house with other believers, they get called out on their sins and confess them, sometimes in front of the entire house. They actively spend time in prayer and praise God each day.

This is a life of commitment and change. It's a lifestyle God has laid out before us and asks us to participate in if we want lasting change. I have seen no better way to succeed in keeping personal resolutions and commitments than through a close relationship with God and His people. Indeed, there is no way for the homeless to change, except by seeking God and gaining His help for sobriety and a new life.

And if this is true for the homeless and addicted, it is also true for you and I. So join me this February in committing to God and keeping resolutions for 2016. If you need help, just follow the example of the men and women in our New Life Program. Study God's Word, fellowship with other believers, confess your sins and shortcomings, spend time in prayer and praise God. These are five simple things, but not many accomplish them. Yet, if you want to stay committed, I believe they are among the most important five things you can do.

God bless you and thank you for supporting our ministry,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

DILLON: Continued from Page 1

My relationships with my sister, mom and grandparents, who have always tried to help me, are also repaired. I can visit my grandparents and talk with my sister and my mom any time I want. I even connect with my brother from time to time. He has been homeless for four years and is an addict. When I see him on the streets I tell him, "Hey, if you ever want to get back up on your feet, come join the Mission's New Life Program; it will help you."

Besides my restored relationships, I have a good job working at a nice downtown restaurant. I am saving up money so I can get my own place when I am ready to graduate from the New Life Program in a few months. I feel successful, happy and blessed by God. Today, my life is nothing like it was when I was a drug user.

Divorce and Drug Abuse

If I had to point to one thing that made me start using drugs, it would probably be my parents' divorce. I know a lot of kids go through divorces, but my parent's divorce destroyed me. To this day, I am not sure why they divorced. I know they fought a lot but, as a sixth grader, I really couldn't understand why they would want to split up. My father left our home and my mom tried to raise us. I was the oldest and, still in sixth grade, I was pretty upset about it. I decided to start smoking cigarettes, marijuana and eventually meth, all while in sixth grade. By seventh grade, I came to school high on meth almost every day.

I got kicked out of two high schools and bounced around between several others as we moved around the Sandy area of the Salt Lake Valley. My mom would try to make it and take care of us kids, but then we would struggle to make ends meet and would have to move in with our grandparents until my mom could save up enough money for us to move out on our own again.

I finally dropped out of high school during my senior year. I was literally using meth every day. I lived off my mom for a few years before I started working at fast-food or retail jobs. Eventually, my meth addiction became so bad that I really had no desire to work. I stole things to get money for drugs. I lived with family members for a while, but they all eventually grew tired of my laziness and drug abuse. The last straw was when my dad kicked me out of his place. I had burned all my other bridges: with my mom, my sister and my grandparents.

Living on the Streets

So I was officially homeless for the first time in the spring of 2013. When it was warm enough, I stayed outside, but mostly I stayed at one of the public housing shelters. I cried throughout the first night I spent at the shelter. It was crazy there. Guys would allow their girlfriends to have sex with other men in exchange for drugs. People would shoot up heroin or meth right there in the open.

It is demoralizing to live in a public shelter and be homeless. You have nowhere to go and everywhere you do go, you are not wanted. I know it sounds strange, but once you get that low, it's hard to recover. People say, "Why don't you do something to get yourself out of that situation?" But you just have this overwhelming sorrow inside of you and you don't want to do anything because of where you are. I literally felt like there was nothing I could do, on my own, to change my life. But that's when God stepped in.

God Saves Me

I truly believe that God sent two police officers to arrest me early last year. I had been convicted of shoplifting and drug possession, but had ignored my probation requirements and now had a felony warrant out for my arrest. The police came to the public housing shelter where I was staying, looked over the roster, saw my name, realized I had a felony warrant and promptly took me into custody. It was the best thing that could have happened to me.

My arrest got me out of the shelter and, since I was locked up for the next three months, it forced me to be sober. Eventually, my attorney said I could get into the Drug Court program, but I would need to enter a residential treatment center. They gave me a few options and I chose the Rescue Mission, knowing it was a faith-based program. I think it was God tugging at me, telling me what I needed.

And it's true: the New Life Program was exactly what I needed. Looking back, I can see God leading me here, being faithful to me even when I was faithless. I am hoping to start school soon. I think I will have the opportunity to get into a computer technician program that will help me learn how to set up and repair computers and computer systems.

In April, I will graduate Drug Court and be off probation. Then, in May, I will graduate from the New Life Program. In the meantime, I am focused on saving money, staying sober and living life with my family. I am so thankful that all the people I have hurt have been willing to forgive me and that they can enjoy the real me, not the meth-addict me. Please pray for me. Pray that God would continue to keep me sober and that I would continue to have a passion to grow my relationship with Him. I thank all of you for supporting the Rescue Mission and giving me a place that could save me from the pit I was in.