

SUPPORT OUR EASTER BANQUET



It's not too late to support or participate in our annual Easter Celebration for homeless and low-income families here in Salt Lake.

Set for March 26—the Saturday before Easter—we are planning to serve over 1,500 meals. There will be free clothes, an Easter egg hunt and carnival

games. We will also have music by local churches and an invitation for the homeless to join the Mission's New Life Program—a free program that helps people get out of homelessness and into sobriety, employment and housing.

We're still low on the items we need to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be, so please use the enclosed envelope to donate today! If you want to volunteer, please call our volunteer coordinator at 801.355.1302.

DECISION AMERICA TOUR 2016



Please join us for the Decision America Tour 2016. This effort, led by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, encourages people to seek God's will for their lives and the nation.

This nationwide event will be in Utah on March 29 (the Tuesday after Easter), so mark your calendar. At noon there will be rally on the steps of the Utah State Capitol that will include a speech by Association President Franklin Graham (so come spend your lunch break with us!). In preparation for the rally, please continue to pray for the Decision America Tour.

For more information about the Decision America Tour 2016, visit DecisionAmericaTour.com.

RESCUER

MARCH 2016

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DANIEL WISDOM: Finding a true father who will never leave

My name is Daniel Wisdom and, after spending the last nine months at the Rescue Mission, I can truly say I have a mother and a father. My mom was always there for me. She loves me and cares for me more than anyone. My father, on the other hand, left when I was two years old and I never saw him again. I don't know if he is alive or dead or what he looks like. The emptiness of not having a father gave me a gnawing sense that something was missing. It really hurt and is probably what led me to fill my life with alcohol.

Finding a Father

But at the Rescue Mission I learned that I do have a father. God is my true father. He is better than any earthly father could be. I have always called myself a momma's boy, but my mom told me the other day that I can be a "daddy's boy" now, too.

Since coming to the Rescue Mission last May, I have been able to forgive my dad for leaving. His absence was the biggest contributor to my emptiness, and my inability to forgive was shutting God out. Once I realized that Christ forgives me and takes care of me, the bitterness I felt towards my dad began to fade. Now I don't feel the emptiness, so I don't need to fill that emptiness with alcohol.

A Passion to Help

I have been sober for seven months and am currently doing an internship here at the Rescue Mission. I am working with one of the counselors to create a student-to-student mentoring system for the New Life Program. The idea is that a person in the program who has been sober for at least 90 days can take a few classes on listening and being a friendly





Daniel Wisdom always struggled with not having a dad. Since coming to the Rescue Mission, Daniel has realized that God is his true father—one that will never leave him.

helper. Those who complete the classes can then become peer mentors to people who are brand-new to the New Life Program. They can help people who are just off the streets with only a few days of sobriety under their belt.

We hope the mentoring structure will help new people stay in the program longer and help their sobriety to stick. The mentors, in turn, will get an idea of what discipleship looks like. When my internship ends in two months, I plan to move to the employment phase of the New Life Program. I will get

please see "Daniel" on Page 3

MARCH 2016 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

Connect with us

Web: RescueSaltLake.org
 Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)
 Email: 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

THE DUAL BENEFIT OF GENEROSITY

Recently, I have been reading a good book about generosity.

This book has challenged me to think about generosity not just in the physical realm—the giving of finances, or nutritious meals, or warm clothes—but to think about generosity in the emotional and spiritual realms as well. A kind word that fills the heart of a disheveled, broken person who is experiencing homelessness (whom many of us would rather avoid) can be one of the most generous things we can do.



A kind word makes a person feel better and fills his or her heart with dignity and self-worth. Yet I have

found that this kind of generosity has a dual benefit. Not only does the receiver feel joy, but also the giver. In fact, the giver is often more blessed than the person who receives the generosity.

This is a lesson one of our key volunteers, Carl Hadra, has learned over his years of service at the Mission. Carl has served meals in our kitchen, preached the Good News in our nightly Chapel services, shared hopeful messages during our Thanksgiving banquets and even played Santa Claus at our annual Christmas Banquet, sharing Jesus' love for children. Carl, an airline pilot who lives in Utah but travels around the world, recently told me why he is so generous with his time, talents and treasures.

"It just starts with something from deep inside me. It's almost like a need or compulsion to help," Carl said. "Then, after I am able to help, that feeling transitions to a great joy when I walk out of the Mission's door. I help because it puts joy in my heart." Several times after the evening Chapel Service, Carl has called me on the phone, eager to share: "God got two; He changed lives, changed eternity tonight," in reference to men and women who have approached Carl wanting to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Who doesn't desire joy? It seems as though God has given each human heart the ability to experience it—and the means is through being generous. When I experience a lack of joy in my life, I need to realize there is a God-given way to revive that fire in my heart—by being generous, just like Carl.

I want the joy I see on the faces of children who bring donations to the Mission. Oftentimes kids and teens will make Easter baskets, empty out a piggy bank, organize clothing drives or bring other gifts for the homeless children we serve at the Mission. The joy I want is that of the homeless person who gives her coat away to an even needier person. It's amazing to see the love—felt by both giver and receiver—when one child gives a generous gift to another child, when one person helps another person.

Jesus modeled this joy-filled generosity. He told us to love our neighbor and to remember the poor. If we aren't persuaded to be generous for the good of another person, then we should show generosity because it is God's desire for us to do so, and because showing love brings personal fulfillment, our own joy!

As I am finishing this book, please join me in a re-commitment to generosity—generosity for the benefit of us all! There are many ways we can bring fulfillment to ourselves and others through generosity. Giving money, organizing food or clothing drives, volunteering or just saying a kind word to one of our downtrodden homeless friends—these are all generous acts that will bring us true joy.

Thank you for helping people and helping the Rescue Mission to restore broken lives through spiritual, emotional and physical generosity. The students in our New Life Program and our homeless friends desperately need to experience joy in their life. Through your generosity, their joy becomes a reality.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	January 2016	YTD 2016
Professions of Faith	42	42
Meals	17,180	17,180
Family Food Boxes	299*	299**
Nights of Shelter	4,891	4,891
Clothing	10,025	10,025
Day Service/Hygiene	307	307
	*5,980 meals	**5,980 meals

Our Stats
how your gift helps

DANIEL: Continued from Page 1

a job and pursue schooling to get into social work. I would like to help at-risk youth who are struggling because they don't have a father in their life.

How It Started

For most of my life I hated not having a dad. And in 2008, when my girlfriend told me she was pregnant and I faced the prospect of becoming a dad myself, I started drinking. While we eventually gave up our baby for adoption, my drinking didn't stop once the specter of being a father was gone. I realized I had a problem and needed help.

I tried rehab a couple of times, but it didn't last. Things got really bad in early 2015 when I was working at a computer server facility. I worked the night shift, making sure none of the servers went down or had issues overnight. I would stop by the liquor store before my shift and drink a bottle while driving to work. It got so bad that my boss and one of my coworkers found me passed out at the facility. I wasn't fired, but when my mom found out I had been drinking and driving in her car, she told me I had to leave her house.

On the Sunday before I came to the Rescue Mission, I was desperate for a drink. My boss, who was a good guy and wanted to help me, let me stay at his place while I tried to stay sober and get back into my mom's good graces. But I wanted a drink so bad, I couldn't resist. Since it was Sunday, I couldn't buy any liquor. So I went into the bathroom, drank half a bottle of rubbing alcohol and blacked out.

My boss, my mom, my friends and I knew that I needed help. I decided to try the Rescue Mission. I knew I needed to rebuild my relationship with God. Still, I didn't want to accept that I was like "those people" who frequented the Rescue Mission. In all honesty, the real reason I came to the Mission was because my mom told me that if I just gave it a shot, she might let me move back in if things didn't work out.

After one week at the Mission, I called my mom to see if she would take me back, but she said no. I resigned myself to stay at the Mission, but I wasn't fully committed. I got drunk once, but nobody found out. Then, after I had been in the New Life Program for about two months, I went out and bought a pint of vodka. I drank most of the bottle and came back to the Mission for my volunteer work shift. But I was too drunk and, eventually, I told people what I had done.

The Mission's counselors told me I had to leave the Mission for 48 hours. After that, if I still wanted to, I could come back. That was the first night I ever spent on the streets. I had nowhere to go and ended up sleeping in the driveway of a downtown building. I bought another bottle and got really drunk again. I remember walking the streets of downtown Salt Lake, belligerently yelling things at people. I walked into a bar, got a drink and then walked out without paying. It was only the next day that I realized I had left my ID at the bar and had to go back and get it, all while apologizing and pleading with the bar staff not to call the police.

The next night I spent on the front lawn of the church I had been attending, Missio Dei, near 200 North and 500 West. Church staff woke me up at 5:30 a.m. to let me know the sprinklers were about to come on. Later that evening, as I was heading back to the Mission, my 48 hours complete, I remember saying out loud, "I am broken." And at that point, I really was. That's when everything changed. I realized that whatever my situation in life, Jesus was always going to be there for me. He would never leave me like my dad did.

From Broken to Whole

As I walked back to the Rescue Mission, I remember thinking how glad I was to be coming back. Just two months earlier, I thought I was too good for the Mission; now I was happy to have a loving and safe place to go. I was surprised that when I returned, everyone embraced me. After that, I started opening up with people in a more honest way. I talked about struggling with never knowing my dad. And as I opened up, I didn't feel alone anymore.

One of the best things that happened to me while I was at the Rescue Mission was getting connected to a really great discipler named Cody. We started meeting together and studying the gospel of John. It's been great just to have him as a friend. I love going to Missio Dei each Sunday and learning more about God's goodness and greatness.

I truly believe I can stay sober now. I have never experienced the hope that I have now for the future. I have never had a vision for where my life will go like I do today. Jesus cares for me, so there is no fear of what's coming and no bitterness about what's passed.

I look forward to completing the New Life Program, staying sober and seeing how God might be able to use me to help others in the future. Please pray for me. Ask God to keep me close to Him and continue to give me a thankful and loving heart. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. Without the Mission, I don't know where I would be today.



Daniel's mom, Kris, has always been there for him. Today she supports his sobriety by having a commitment to the tough love Daniel needs.