

SUBWAY IS ONCE AGAIN OFFERING A \$10,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE



For the fifth year, Subway Restaurants of Utah have pledged up to \$10,000 in May for our life-changing work at the Rescue Mission. Just like in past years, Subway Restaurants will match every donation made to the Rescue Mission, dollar for dollar, until they have reached their \$10,000 limit – so every dollar donated turns into two. This incredible opportunity means Rescue Mission donors can double their impact in May, having their gift go twice as far to feed the poor and help men, women and children off the streets.

If Mission supporters can match Subway's \$10,000, it will mean \$20,000 for the Mission in May. That amount would mean a lot, especially during the summer months when donations to the Mission fall off and costs, like fuel and electricity, soar.

Additionally, the Mission and Subway Restaurants of Utah are partnering for Subway Day 2014. Mission volunteers and employees from Subway restaurants across Utah will head to Pioneer Park on **Wednesday, May 28**, to serve free six-inch subs to the hungry and homeless. Hopefully, Subway Day will provide not only food, but also encouragement for the homeless in our community. We want them to take advantage of our life-changing services, designed to get people off the streets and into housing and employment. Please pray for Subway Day and consider donating to meet Subway's \$10,000 dollar-for-dollar challenge. The Rescue Mission and our homeless friends send a big THANK YOU to Subway – and to all Mission supporters – for assisting the homeless and restoring broken lives.



MAY 2014 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

MAY 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



VALENTE GONZALES:
A former gang member breaks free

My name is Valente Gonzales and at 36 years old I have spent less than five years of my adult life outside of prison. I wouldn't know my father if he came up and shook my hand, and my mother died when I was 15.

Since I never knew my father, and my mother was addicted to crack, I spent most of my childhood without much positive guidance. Growing up on the west side of Salt Lake in Magna and Kearns, I was raised by relatives and the gang I joined when I was a teenager.

Cocaine at Age 9

It was common for the adults I lived with to party, drink alcohol and do drugs. So it's probably not surprising that I took my first drink at age 8 and did cocaine for the first time at age 9. Somebody had left a line of cocaine sitting out on a table at my house and, since I had seen many adults do it, I snorted it. Snorting cocaine gave me a good feeling, like I was a man and could do anything I wanted.

I used drugs off and on as a child, whenever they were left around the house. With little direction, my first arrest was for car theft at the age of 14. I was walking through my neighborhood, saw a car with keys in it and went for a ride. When I was 15, I joined a gang. The initiation process was to allow the other gang members to "jump you in" by beating you up.

As a budding juvenile delinquent and gang member, I was arrested numerous times for fighting and petty theft. When I was 16, the authorities sent me to a wilderness camp in hopes of changing me. The therapy didn't help much and I was sent back to juvenile detention until I was 18. Just before I turned 18 and became a legal adult, I did something in detention that earned me a trip to adult prison.

There were several fellow gang members in detention with me, and one of them said that he wanted out of the gang.



Valente Gonzales has spent most of his life behind bars. Since coming to the Rescue Mission, he has remained sober, found a good job and even spoke recently at the University of Utah.

From our perspective, this would have spelled trouble for him, since the gang doesn't take kindly to people leaving. So our solution was to "jump him out." Just like people were beat up when they joined our gang, they had to be beat up to leave, so other gang members would accept it. A fellow gang member and I "did the honors" of jumping him out.

In our minds, we were doing this young inmate a favor. We would beat him up in detention, the word would get out on the street that he had been "jumped out" of our gang and people would leave him alone on the outside. This way he

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Connect
with us

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ED CARNELL - A LIFE WELL LIVED



In the early 1980s, Ed Carnell was over 60 years old, living in Arizona and pondering the future of his golden years.



What happened in Ed's life over the next two decades was probably not what he envisioned retirement looking like. But, of course, God's plans are almost always different than ours.

In 1983, the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake's Board of Directors asked Ed and his wife, Shirley, to move to Salt Lake. They came to take the reins of the Rescue Mission, which had suffered through lean times and uneven management during its first decade of existence. Their assignment was supposed to be short and temporary, until a new executive director could be found. Instead, for most of the next 20 years, Ed Carnell led the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. He provided the constancy and spiritual leadership that the Mission needed to become a stable place where the homeless could get help.

A few months ago, just after Christmas, Ed Carnell passed away in Tennessee, where he had moved several years ago to be near his family. He was nearly 90 years old and, even to the end, had a strong commitment to serving God and people. After he retired from the Rescue Mission in 2003, Ed maintained a strong ministry to prisoners, writing letters and encouraging the incarcerated to follow Christ. Ed is a great example of someone who finished strong and never stopped serving.

I think the neatest story of Ed's ministry came in 1984 when Rescue Mission leaders, including Ed and Shirley, saw the need for a place where homeless women could stay overnight and get help. With barely enough funds to cover the operating budget of the Rescue

Mission's ministry to men, Ed and other Mission leaders decided to purchase a home on State Street. That home would eventually become the Rescue Mission's Women's Facility.

It was a huge step of faith for Mission leaders to take out the \$90,000 loan they needed to buy the property (a hefty sum in the 1980s, especially given interest rates back then). However, a mere three days later Ed received a letter that nearly knocked him over. An elderly woman – who was previously unknown to the Mission – passed away and left the Mission almost the exact amount of the loan in her will. Ed took the money and paid off the building, which has been a place where homeless women and women with children could seek food, shelter, clothing and a changed life for over 30 years now.

Even after the Women's Facility was paid for, Ed and Shirley worked tirelessly to alleviate the concerns of neighbors who worried about having homeless women around. They went so far as to live in the back portion of the Women's Facility to ensure that there was supervision on the scene around the clock. It was this kind of dedication – to both homeless women and men – that made Ed the perfect person to lead the Mission.

Please join me in thanking God for Ed's life and consider how his life might influence you. Maybe you are nearing the golden years. As Ed showed, age really doesn't matter when it comes to serving God. And if you are looking for somewhere to serve, please consider the Rescue Mission. We have many, many places where volunteers can help. If you are interested, please send me an email or give me a call and we can talk about how you can serve like Ed did.

Ed will be missed, especially by his wife Shirley and their children. Please keep them in your prayers. I look forward to seeing him again one day in Heaven and trading stories about the Mission.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	March 2014	YTD 2014
Professions of Faith	16	46
Meals	11,744	36,201
Family Food Boxes	257*	743**
Nights of Shelter	4,255	12,191
Clothing	4,135	7,617
Day Service/Hygiene	296	1,101
	*5,140 meals	**14,860 meals

Our Stats
how your gift helps

VALENTE:
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would not be beaten up as bad. Of course, the authorities had different ideas about beating someone up, and I was sent to adult prison for two years.

The Prison Life

While I was used to being locked up, Utah State Prison was a different story. There were murderers and rapists there. You had to be tough just to survive. Over the next 12 years, I spent maybe a total of one year outside of jail or prison.

I was arrested over 15 times for doing drugs, selling drugs, stealing or assault. Every time I was released from prison, I would be sent back a couple of weeks or months later. I was your stereotypical gang-banger and a menace to society.

It was 2011 when I was released from prison for the last time. I felt like I was finally ready to leave the gang lifestyle behind. At the same time, I was not employable. I had never held a real job and my rap sheet was as long as your arm. With few employment options, I became a panhandler. I figured begging for money was nobler than selling drugs.

I lived in a public housing shelter and, while I made decent money panhandling, I spent it all on cocaine, meth, alcohol and synthetic marijuana. While I wasn't a gang-banger anymore, I had become an addicted street person with no direction in my life. The best days of my life were when friends invited me to sleep on their couch so I didn't have to sleep on the streets or in the homeless shelter.

God Changes Me

Then, in 2013, I felt something (I realize now it was God) calling me to a changed life. A friend of mine had joined the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and suggested that I join him. He said the program could change me. I decided to follow his advice. After all, if I didn't do something, I knew I would end up back in prison or dead.

Since coming to the Rescue Mission in April of last year, God has transformed my life. Through Bible studies, attending K2 the Church, personal counseling sessions and nightly chapel meetings, I have been learning who God is. I have come to be-

lieve that the Rescue Mission is where God wanted me to be. He has shown me that there is more to life than committing crimes, selling drugs and getting high. Learning to follow God is giving me the direction I have never had in my life before.

Today, I am a new person. I don't think about getting high anymore. I don't think about committing crimes. The Rescue Mission helped me get a good job working for a company that builds foundation molds for construction companies. It's been a nice experience to work at a real job. I have a checking account and a savings account and have saved up \$2,000 that I can use to get an apartment when I graduate from the New Life Program.

I am completely off of probation and am working towards getting my GED and my driver's license. Each week I attend a Bible Study and an AA meeting so that I can keep focused on God and recovery. God even allowed me to speak to students at the University of Utah a couple of months ago. Students in University Housing had a "Social Justice Panel" and wanted to learn about homelessness and how they could help. It is amazing what God can do, He took my life of drugs, prison and homeless and used it to teach college students how they can help other people who are still homeless and addicted.

Later this month, I will move to the Terri Timmerman Freedom House where I will start to pay rent, utility bills and manage my own finances. I am looking forward to taking care of myself instead of relying on other people. Now I rely on God to help me. I know He has forgiven me for the many things I have done wrong because I believe in Jesus and follow Him. I want to thank everyone who gives to the Rescue Mission. It is awesome that people are willing to shell out their own personal money to help people like me. Please pray for me as I move to Freedom House, that God would continue to help me and provide for me. I know I still have a long way to go, but I am really excited and full of hope, because this is the best my life has ever been.

A Great Easter!

Thanks to all who supported our Easter outreach to homeless men, women and children in Pioneer Park this year. We served over 1,000 meals, gave away thousands of items of clothing and held an Easter Egg Hunt for 150 homeless kids. It was an awesome event that blessed many low-income and homeless families here in Utah. For more pictures and details, visit our facebook page or rescuesaltlake.org.

