

OUR HOMELESS GUESTS AND PROGRAM MEMBERS SHARE THEIR THANKSGIVINGS



Jeffery K-P

To be honest, I am most thankful for my struggles, since without the hard times, there wouldn't be any good times. I am also thankful for my children. I am a better man because of them.



Heather D.
(Shawn's Wife)

I am so grateful for this program because it is helping me to know myself again and learn better coping skills. It is also teaching me how to reach out to God so I can keep Him in my life.



Shawn D.
(Heather's Husband)

I am thankful for my loving and caring wife, Heather. She has stood by my side through so ups and downs. I feel like we have built a stronger relationship with each other and with God.



Carmel C.

Being at the Rescue Mission, I have learned who God really is and how much he loves me. I can't do life without him and never want to again. Thank you, Rescue Mission, for leading me to God.



Kim C.

I am thankful for being in the program and being clean. I am also thankful for getting my life together and back on the right track, sleeping in a bed and taking care of my personal life.



Dee J.

When I was lost in my addiction, the Rescue Mission staff saw hope in me and led me to Christ. I am found, safe, loved, and blessed by the Rescue Mission and my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



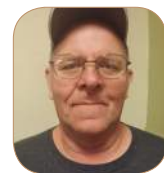
John S.

I am thankful for having a God who is merciful and forgiving, a God who gives second and third chances. I am thankful for the many prayers that have been answered and God's protection.



Shannon W.

I am so thankful to be alive today. I have not felt like this in years, and it's all due to the New Life Program.



Jim H.

In just over two years I lost my wife and best friend and both my parents. I felt like God had left me. I am thankful for the Rescue Mission, where I found out that God loves me and never left me.



Bettejean J.

I am so grateful to be here because this is where I have come to know who God really is and He is healing my shattered heart.



Deeandra
(Laura's Mom)

I am thankful that the Rescue Mission took me and my daughter in when we had nowhere else to go, and for meeting new people. God is working in my life and giving me hope.



Kiara
(Deeandra's Daughter)

I am thankful that the Rescue Mission took us in when we had nowhere to go. God is working in my life and has helped me stay focused and make better choices in school.

NOVEMBER 2015 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

NOVEMBER
2015

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

MICHAEL LEPORE: Finding faith and a long-lost daughter

My name is Michael Lepore and just a few months ago, I saw my 18-year-old daughter for the first time. It's completely my own fault that I never saw her before. She lived here in the Salt Lake Valley for her entire life and I could've reached out to her, but my life was too much of a mess.

I have to give credit to God for making the meeting happen. We met at the Gateway mall in Salt Lake to watch a movie. Even though we had never seen each other, we recognized each other right away. We embraced and even though I tried not to, I started crying. It was a truly happy moment in my life. We watched a movie together and had a great time. Now, I look forward to being part of her life.

God's People Helped Me

I say the credit for that reunion goes to God, and it does. But really, it was God using people to help me that made the difference. First, there was a friend of mine who had previously participated in the New Life Recovery Program at the Rescue Mission. He saw me at the public housing shelter looking run down and skinny from my meth addiction. He told me to try the Rescue Mission if I was ready to quit and get help for a changed life.

His words stuck with me and a few days later I came to the Mission and spoke with Don Hill, who was the house manager at the time. Don said the Mission would help me and always be there for me. I joined the New Life Program and found Don's promise to be true. Whenever I was thinking about using drugs, I could talk to the Mission staff and they helped me. They talked to me, shared Bible verses, and even connected me with my community mentor, Scott Price, who is a good friend to me and helped me learn more about God and the Bible.

Scott was instrumental in helping me reach out to my daughter and assisted in setting up our meeting. Since I was now sober, I wasn't ashamed to meet her. I hope she can accept me and love me, even though I wasn't there



Michael Lepore is sober, has reunited with his daughter after 18 years and has a good job. With a new life in tow, he will graduate from the New Life Program this month.

for her while she grew up. I know that God can restore our relationship even more than He already has.

Besides a newfound relationship with my daughter, I have a new outlook on life. I have hopes, I have dreams. I have a good job at a local fast food restaurant. While it doesn't pay a lot, it is steady full-time work and it is allowing me to save up some money for my own apartment. With over a year of sobriety behind me, I feel like my whole life is in front of me.

The best part is that my new outlook comes with new faith in God. Before I came to the Rescue Mission, I really wondered if God existed. I felt like He had never been there for me and every person I met had mistreated me in one way or another. If there was a God, why didn't He seem to care about me? What I learned through the Bible studies, counseling sessions and by going to church each week at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake, was that everything happens in God's timing. Maybe I felt mistreated my whole life so that I could truly appreciate God's love and the love of His people when I encountered it at the Mission. Maybe I wouldn't have

NO REPAYMENT REQUIRED

We've all done things that we've expected to be rewarded for.

For those with jobs, we work, at least in part, because we expect to get paid. After an argument, a husband might buy his wife a gift in exchange for her forgiveness. And one might pay for a friend's lunch, expecting that next time they go out, the friend will pick up the tab.



Quid pro quo, it seems, is a normal part of life.

Jesus, of course, was anything but normal and He rejected the notion of repayment. Instead, true excitement comes from actions that cannot be repaid. Such actions are what bring thanksgiving and joy to the hearts of

giver and receiver alike.

In Jesus' words: "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (Luke 14:12-14)

When I read this, it reminds me that our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquets follow the model that Jesus outlines for feast throwing here. We give banquets for the poor, crippled and lame, most of whom can physically see, but are spiritually blind. We are able to share the Good News about Jesus, in addition to feeding hungry men, women and children who could never repay us.

Jesus' words also remind me of our faithful supporters (like you) who are living this out by donating to the Rescue Mission. Our homeless friends, after all, have no way to pay anyone back. The homeless could never compensate our supporters for the generous donations that make our holiday banquets and everyday services a reality.

Really, Jesus modeled this type of giving to the end, when

He gave His life so that those who believe in Him could be forgiven. There's no way anyone who has received Jesus' free gift could repay Him for it. Yet Jesus demonstrated the ultimate reality of His gift by His resurrection, and He promises in Luke 14 that His people who give, knowing they won't be repaid, will receive similar repayment from God. Oh, how great a repayment that will be!

When we give to the homeless through time, prayer, finances or by throwing banquets, we all know we will not be repaid here on Earth. But that knowledge is actually the best part. That's the part that creates joy and thanksgiving in our hearts because we get to show love to other people, as God designed us to do. This Thanksgiving, I am so thankful for you and how you help us restore broken lives. I am also thankful for Jesus, who taught us the true way to give.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

P.S. It's not too late to give toward our Thanksgiving Banquet. Please donate today if you are able. We are still trying to gather the food and supplies we need, not only for our great Thanksgiving feast, but also for our Christmas Banquet for the homeless, which is just around the corner.

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Connect with us

MICHAEL: Continued from page 1

realized His love and power in the way I did if I hadn't felt so much pain in the past.

As I saw people follow through on their promises to me, genuinely care about me and take care of all my physical needs, I renewed my faith in God. I have learned so much about God's goodness and the way He works in the world. He has truly changed me.

What Went Wrong

And I needed a lot of changing. Growing up on the west side of Salt Lake City near the Rose Park area of town I had a fairly normal childhood. I went to West High School and was a member of the football team. However, I started using marijuana with my cousins and that led to other drugs. I was just 15 when my daughter was born and I escaped by letting her mother take care of her.

Throughout most of my adult life, I used some sort of drug or alcohol. However, there was a brief period about five years ago when I got sober in order to pursue what most people would consider a strange dream. I have always wanted to be a professional wrestler. I was managing a fast food restaurant on North Temple and would always see this place near the corner of Redwood Road called Utah Championship Wrestling (UCW)-Zero. Curious, I inquired and found it was a training school for people who wanted to become professional wrestlers.

At this point, I should explain that the wrestling I am talking about is the fake, over-the-top cheesy WWE kind of wrestling. For some reason I just like it and have always wanted to be one of the characters on those wrestling shows. I like to make people laugh and I like to entertain people. And I love to travel. So it was pretty much my dream job. My desire to be a wrestler motivated me to quit using drugs and enroll in the UCW training school. I knew I couldn't make it if I was on drugs so I quit cold turkey.

Things were going well and the school picked three students—myself and two other guys—to travel to Florida and try out for a show the WWE was running called "Tough Enough." It was basically a reality TV show where wannabe wrestlers were put through various challenges with the winner getting a contract to be a WWE wrestler.

On the flight over to Florida, one of my fellow wrestlers broke out some meth. We all did some together. Little did we know that when we arrived at the Tough Enough facility we would be given complete physicals, including drug tests. When meth showed up in our systems, we were sent home. Devastated, I went back to my normal existence as a fast-food restaurant manager and turned to drugs more and more. A short while later, my parents died (they were both in poor health and died in short succession of each other) and I fell into an even bigger depression. My drug use grew so bad that I lost my job and became homeless.

God Breaks Through My Stubbornness

I was too proud to ask anybody for help, so I just muddled along, living at the public housing shelter. Whatever money I could cobble together I would use on drugs. I survived like this until that friend of mine, who had been in the Rescue Mission's New Life Program, reached out to me and told me I could get free help. I just needed to ask. It was at that moment that I realized I was tired of being homeless and controlled by drugs. I realized I had seen one too many people stabbed on the streets or beaten up over nothing. I realized I needed to ask for help.

I am so glad that I did. When I came to the Mission, I was on probation for stealing some money from my sister. Today, I am just a few weeks away from getting off probation and I have a great relationship with my probation officer. He respects the work I have done in the New Life Program and can see the change in me. When I graduate from the New Life Program, I plan to move into the Terri Timmerman Freedom House where I can continue to have the accountability and structure I need to stay on track as I grow in recovery and in my relationship with God.

God has truly blessed me since I came to the Rescue Mission. I have gained sobriety, employment, legal reconciliation, a relationship with God and a renewed relationship with my daughter. Today I look forward to life and the future, whatever it may hold. Please pray that I could rebuild trust with my daughter, stay sober and, just maybe, get that chance to get into the professional wrestling ring someday!

Our Stats

how your gift helps

	September 2015	YTD 2015
Professions of Faith	12	132
Meals	15,921	118,534
Family Food Boxes	307*	2,565**
Nights of Shelter	4,372	41,487
Clothing	4,062	83,187
Day Service/Hygiene	566	4,510
	*6,140 meals	**51,300 meals