

APPRECIATION BANQUET

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving Banquet for the homeless, we want to take time out to say a big thanks to YOU, our faithful supporters. So please let us say "thank you" by attending our appreciation banquet on Friday, November 7 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8575 S. 700 East. Cut out and return the registration ticket below or RSVP to masha@rescuesaltlake.org or by calling 801.746.1006.



Yes, please register me for the Rescue Mission's Appreciation Banquet on Friday, Nov. 7

Name _____

Number in Your Party _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

USE AMAZON SMILE WHEN SHOPPING

Do you shop on amazon a lot or even a little? Now you can help the homeless when you make purchases through the world's largest online retailer. When you are ready to shop, go to **smile**.



amazon.com and log in to your amazon account. Once logged in, you will have the option to use the search bar at the lower right to find a charity. Type "Rescue Mission of Salt Lake" into the search window and choose "Rescue Mission of Salt Lake Inc" from the search results.

Once you've selected the Rescue Mission, amazon will donate half of a percent of the total of your purchases to the Rescue Mission. And if you forgot to start at **smile.amazon.com** and there are things already in your cart, just leave them there, log out, then log back in using the **smile.amazon.com** portal, choose the Rescue Mission and you will be set. It's a great way to give to the homeless while you're doing your shopping. It costs you nothing and is a great opportunity to give back.

RESCUER

OCTOBER 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DOUG MACMILLAN: After Years in Prison, God Changes a Heart

My name is Doug MacMillan, and as I work flagging cars through road projects, I spend at least three hours a day talking to God. I talk to Him about my desires, my needs and how He has given me what I don't deserve. I thank Him that He's restored me and thank Him for the cool scenery He created all around me. I'm not sure that the things I talk to God about are the right things, but I figure as long as I'm having a conversation with Him, He's happy. I think He's OK with whatever my weird head comes up with to talk about.

Learning to Forgive

I wasn't always one to constantly talk to God, but because of the help I received at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, I feel like God is now my friend. The Rescue Mission helped me realize that God could forgive me, even for all the wrong things I have done. And once the Rescue Mission's counselors helped me understand the forgiveness God offered by believing in Jesus, it freed me to forgive people who had wronged me. Maybe most of all, I needed to forgive my parents. Even though both of them are dead - my dad died when I was 10 and I found out my mother had died when I was in my twenties - I still hated them for what they did to me when I was a child. I won't go into the details, but I was treated in a way that no child should be, ever.

The Rescue Mission helped me understand that one of the reasons I used drugs was to cover up the pain of my childhood. It's weird to think about forgiving dead people, but by forgiving my parents, it freed my soul of a good chunk of the pain, so much so that I now believe I can get through life without using drugs.

A New Ma and Pa

Maybe the greatest thing the Rescue Mission did for me was giving me "new parents." The Mission introduced me to two of its volunteers, Jim and Claire Devore. They have basically adopted me as a son. They take me to church on Sunday and let me come over to their house to watch television and eat dinner. When I can't get a ride to work,



Doug MacMillan has a job, is getting his driver's license back after 20 years and has been sober since October of 2012. Since coming to the Rescue Mission, God has changed his life.

Jim drives down and takes me. They have lovingly showed me there is a different way. They have taught me what a real family is about. Even though I only have a fourth grade education, Jim sits down with me and patiently teaches me the Bible. My new Ma and Pa are a big reason I have been able to stay sober.

Until I came to the Rescue Mission, drugs were a huge part

OCTOBER 2014 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

REJOICING EVEN IN THE HARD TIMES

I recently heard a sermon about rejoicing. The sermon didn't focus on being thankful for all the good things we have in life, but instead focused on God's desire that His people rejoice even when times are bad.

When we are sick, have problems at our workplace, struggle with our marriages or have loved ones who pass



away – God still calls those who trust Him to rejoice. So, yes, thanksgiving can and should happen even through hard times. This message is important because we all face these struggles.

After all, if thankfulness can't happen in hard times, then no one would ever truly be thankful. The reason that believers can rejoice through suffering, according to the Bible, is because God uses suffering for our good. While many Bible

verses talk about this principle, Romans 5:3-5 comes most to mind: "...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (ESV)

Like the rest of us, the homeless suffer daily. Many endure constant hardships, feel the pain of a lifetime of abuses and have almost no worldly possessions. Yet many of the homeless men and women I meet are very thankful. They look at their lives and see God's hand guiding them through the very toughest of times.

As I considered being thankful amidst suffering, I gained a greater appreciation for why Thanksgiving is such an important holiday here at the Rescue Mission. It gives our homeless friends the chance to sit down, catch their breath, enjoy a bountiful meal and express their deep thankfulness to God and the people He uses to bless them. In fact, it's probably the day that our homeless friends look forward to the most.

So as we prepare for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet, please consider praying for and supporting this outreach, coming up on Wednesday, November 26. Like any other cold November day, the homeless will experience suffering through chill, hunger and pain. But, as God would have it, people who trust Him can rejoice that He will work these sufferings out for good. A hot meal, warm shelter, fresh clothes and a haircut are simply great additions.

Feel free to use the enclosed envelope to support our Thanksgiving outreach. You can also call our finance office at 801-746-1006 to make a donation over the phone or visit www.RescueSaltLake.org. Suffering will always be a part of life on earth. Our desire for our homeless friends – and, really, for all people – is that they would see God's hand working in that suffering, rejoice in Him and strive to reach their God-given potential. Thanksgiving provides a great opportunity to do just that.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director



These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	August 2014	YTD 2014
Professions of Faith	27	221
Meals	13,828	105,540
Family Food Boxes	338*	2,152**
Nights of Shelter	4,031	32,858
Clothing	5,770	61,362
Day Service/Hygiene	428	2,941
	*6,760 meals	**43,040 meals

Our Stats

how your gift helps

DOUG: Continued from page 1

of my daily life. I began shooting heroin intravenously when I was just 10 years old, when my brothers taught me how. Later, I started injecting meth to go along with the heroin. I was a big kid and growing up in a family of bikers, I was rough, tough, angry and mean. When I was 14, I beat an adult with a pipe until he almost died. I was sent to juvenile detention until I turned 18.

When I got out, I sold drugs, used drugs and robbed people. I spent many years in prison for selling drugs and other crimes. While I grew up in California, I moved to Oregon to avoid California's Three Strikes law, which puts you in prison for life if you are convicted of a felony three separate times. But in Oregon, I just kept piling on the legal problems.

Crashing at 100 mph

I was used to dealing with probation and parole officers, and in Oregon in the '90s they all drove Jeep Cherokees. Once, when I was high on meth, I looked in my rearview mirror and saw a couple of Cherokees behind me. In my meth-induced paranoia I thought there was a group of cops following me. I pushed the pedal down and soon was traveling over 100 mph through Medford, Oregon. By the time I blew through Medford, I had several real police officers chasing me. Out of control, I rolled my car and woke up nine days later in a hospital bed. I suffered severe nerve damage to the left side of my body and to this day have very limited use of my left hand and arm. I also suffer from significant daily nerve pain in the left side of my body.

When I was released from prison following the high-speed chase, I eventually made my way to Salt Lake because I felt like I needed to go somewhere where I didn't know anybody and nobody knew me. I don't know why I picked Salt Lake. It just seemed like somewhere that was close enough to get to but far enough away to escape my problems. Unfortunately, my drug addiction followed me to Utah.

In Salt Lake I kept using drugs, lived on the streets and was in and out of homeless shelters. I was so down-and-out that I once put water from a mud puddle into a syringe to mix with the methamphetamine I was injecting. It's truly a miracle that God kept me alive. But just like everywhere else I had lived, I eventually ended up in prison. When I got out, I counted them up and realized that I had spent 17 years behind bars, more than half my teenage and adult years.

I decided I needed to change my life. I did my best to quit drugs and actually succeeded for six months. Though I was still living on the streets, I was sober. But after the sixth month I could literally hear the meth and heroin calling my name. I was hanging on to sobriety by God's grace and the skin of my teeth. It was at that point, February 2013, that I crawled into the Rescue Mission and begged them to let me join the New Life Recovery Program. I had stayed at the Mission before, but had been asked to leave for multiple incidents of fighting and insubordination.

The Help I Needed

While the Rescue Mission was skeptical, my desperation was so total that they took another chance on me. When I joined the New Life Program, I realized I didn't need to change my life: God needed to change it. And, praise Him, He did change me. The Mission gave me the structure of daily Bible study, chapel services, one-on-one counseling and the peaceful environment that I needed. I learned not just to believe in God, but to put my trust in Him and have a real relationship with Jesus.

As I prepare to graduate from the Rescue Mission's New Life Program and move into the Terri Timmerman Freedom House, I have a changed life. This month will mark two years of sobriety for me. I will also get my driver's license back for the first time in 20 years. I even have communication with my daughter and am working to build a relationship with my grandson, who is a toddler.

I made the decision to work and got a good job as a construction flagger. Previously, I had waffled back and forth about whether I should apply for government disability payments because of my arm and hand. But here at the Rescue Mission, God gave me the direction that He wanted me to work, not sit around and collect checks. It feels good to work and support myself. I do feel nerve pain after a day's work, but God helps me get through it.

I am thankful to God, the Rescue Mission and all of the Mission's volunteers and supporters. The help I received is a true blessing. It's great to not wake up with a needle in my arm or be a slave to meth and heroin anymore. If you remember, please pray for me that God would hold me close and continue to work in my heart to change me. I know I still have a long way to go.

Web: RescueSaltLake.org

Social: facebook.com/RescueMissionofSaltLake

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

Connect
with us