RESCUER
The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake

OCTOBER 2018

MARIE IRVIN:
Three children get their mother back

A year ago, when I called the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake for help, I was desperate. I was a single mom to three children and had lost both my jobs. It was my fault. I just quit going to work after my meth and heroin addiction got so bad I couldn't even show up.

While we had been living in my mother's basement, she was about to sell her home and my three children, ages 15, 12, and 9 were about to be on the street. I had five warrants out for my arrest, was an atheist, and was using drugs each day.

Desperate, I searched the internet for in-patient rehabilitation programs. The only place I could find was the Rescue Mission. I called, and within a few days they had a spot open for me. My children's paternal grandmother agreed to take care of my kids for the 13-months it would take for me to finish the New Life Program. It was hard to leave my kids for over a year, but I knew I needed help, so I joined the New Life Program.

My life has changed dramatically since that day. Through the counseling at the Rescue Mission I came to realize that I had never forgiven the people who abused me, like my stepdad and my children's father. I lived in unforgiveness and pain from that abuse and, to cope, I used drugs to mask the hurt.

But understanding the pain and unforgiveness was just the start. The real change came when I believed in Jesus. I started off as a self-proclaimed atheist. I knew the Rescue Mission's New Life Program on

Date: November 10, 2018
Address: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake - 460 W. Century Drive
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Yes, please register me for the Rescue Mission’s New Life Banquet on November 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake.

Name _______________________
Number in Your Party ____________
Email _________________________
Phone ________________________
Address _______________________
The late, great evangelist Billy Graham noted, “Our world today so desperately hungers for hope, yet uncounted people have almost given up. There is despair and hopelessness on every hand. Let us be faithful in proclaiming the hope that is in Jesus.”

Our homeless friends who walk into my office, or those I meet while out walking around or those I see as I peer out my window at the Rescue Mission are the uncounted people who are struggling not to give up. They represent the ultimate effects of hopelessness and helplessness. People walk by with their heads down. They haven’t showered in days, have no permanent place to live, no job, and are often oppressed by addiction, mental illness and past abuses. Many of the men and women living on our streets are truly hopeless.

With so much hopelessness all around, our work here at the Rescue Mission is to restore hope. It’s no easy task, but the one thing we do know is, “With Christ there is HOPE.”

That truth from the 19th Century theologian Charles Spurgeon is as true today as it was in the 1800s. We remain faithful in proclaiming this hope, while showing love to the hopeless. We listen to people who aren’t used to being heard. We give freely to people who are accustomed to being shamed for asking. We offer safe shelter to people who are used to being mistreated on the streets.

In all these ways we proclaim Christ with our actions, the streets. Shelter to people who are used to being mistreated on the streets. We give freely to people who are used to being heard. We give freely to people who are often oppressed by addiction, mental illness and past abuses. Many of the men and women living on our streets who so desperately need it.

Sharing Jesus in word and deed is the only way we know how to restore hope. And when Jesus is shared and received, hope is restored. Like it was for Marie, who gives her testimony in the Rescuer this month. She told one of our staff members about the hope she has now. She said that the Rescue Mission was “the light at the end of the tunnel that I had been praying for. I love how alive I feel!”

The restored hope that faith in Jesus brings makes a person come alive. Thank you for investing in restoring hope, praying for us and our homeless friends and volunteering alongside us. Your support is helping to restore the broken lives of uncounted people on Utah’s streets who so desperately need it.

With my warrants cleared up, I secured a good job at a local call center. By working, I have been able to save up enough money to get an apartment in West Valley that is big enough for me and my kids. We spent the last part of September moving our stuff into our new apartment.

I asked my son Odin what it felt like when I was on drugs and detached and then later when he was living with his grandma away from me. He said, “It was lonely.” I am glad that my kids have their mom back and don’t have to feel lonely anymore. We owe the Rescue Mission and its supporters a huge debt for making our reunion possible.

It was really the Rescue Mission’s comprehensive plan that made the difference. As part of my recovery strategy I found a good Christian church to attend. I started attending Calvary Baptist because of the intense enthusiasm, joy and knowledge they have for God. I was baptized there recently and have already mapped out the bus route I need to take to get from my new apartment to church.

As I look forward to this coming year, my No. 1 goal is to continue to stay sober. I have a lot on my plate as a single mom and want to continue to take my worries and concerns to God, instead of turning to drugs. I want to continue to progress in my job and save up enough money so we can move into a better place next year.

I am so thankful for the apartment God has provided, especially since it is nearly several family members, but I would like to afford something a little nicer for my kids. Please pray for my kids and me. Pray that after a year apart, and so much change in me, that we will make a great family.

Please also pray for my youngest daughter. She is developmentally delayed and has some eye issues that make it hard for her to read. They are trying some new therapies for her and I pray that they will help her learn and grow. I hope my sober love will mean a lot to her development as well.

Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. This was really the only place that could’ve saved me, from having their mom back. I would like to afford something a little nicer for my kids. Pray that after a year apart, and so much change in me, that we will make a great family. Please also pray for my youngest daughter.

Hope can begin with a meal.

Our homeless friends will pour into the Rescue Mission for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. While everyone comes for our “street-famous” Thanksgiving dinner, we offer much more than a hot, fresh turkey dinner with all the trimmings. There is live, God-honoring music, warm clothing, showers and hygiene items, haircuts and flu shots. Most importantly there are staff members and volunteers, all smiling and showing love to our homeless friends and providing crisis care when needed. Our goal is to create such a wonderful experience that our homeless friends will stay and join our New Life Program, which provides a pathway off the streets into employment and permanent housing. When one of our Thanksgiving guests makes the decision to join our New Life Program then we can truly say that their restored hope began with a meal.

So please support our banquet by using the envelope included with this newsletter. You can also call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone or visit RescueSaltLake.org to donate online. We do not want to turn anyone away and want to ensure that, at least for this Thanksgiving, no one will go hungry in the Salt Lake area. Hope begins with a meal. Hope begins with you. Please help today.

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>August 2018</th>
<th>YTD 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professions of Faith</td>
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<td>Meals</td>
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