HOW WE HELP: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

specializes in homeless teenagers, while the Road Home specializes in housing for people who will never be able to care for themselves. Homelessness is not a simple problem. It is complex and very personal to the specific person being helped. That is why we strive to help people in so many ways. Not just physically but spiritually, emotionally, socially, educationally, and in any other way we can. We do this to restoring broken lives in the name of Jesus Christ via; Rescue, Redemption, Recovery and Reentry.

Thank you for supporting the Mission and enabling all that we do. We could not do this without your partnership. Everything the Rescue Mission accomplishes is because of God and the supporters like you who stand with us. Thanks so much for being one of them.

God bless you,
Chris D. Crosswhite
Executive Director

Bill Lund (left) is sober and enjoying life by taking selfies with his Rescue Mission counselor Greg Sheffield (right). These days Bill is toasting with delicious deli sandwiches instead of alcohol.

Bill Lund:
At 65, He’s Nowhere Near Ready to Retire

Editor’s Note: The Rescue Mission’s New Life Program is normally 15-months long. Yet when men and women need more time, like Bill, we add time and keep going. Flexibility is one of the many benefits of being a privately funded ministry. The government does not tell us when we have maxed out the services we can provide to a person. Thanks to you, we can keep helping until the need is met. We hope you enjoy learning about Bill’s changed life, which was two years in the making at the Rescue Mission. You helped make it possible.

The first time I came to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake I spent just one day. Then, I used some of the money I had left to travel back to Arizona. I believed that a homeless shelter in the middle of downtown Salt Lake was no place for me.

When I arrived back in Arizona I went to another Rescue Mission to get help. But I was grateful that the counselor I was working with in Arizona convinced me to return to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. Upon my return, I came to realize that I, as a life-long alcoholic, was no different from the homeless people in downtown Salt Lake City. They struggled with addiction and mental health just like I did. They are my brothers and I am theirs.

I recently graduated from the New Life Program, live in a good house in the Sugar House area, and have been sober for almost two years. I have gained a newfound relationship Jesus Christ and have a solid job at the University of Utah.

With my life put back together I can take care of my 95-year-old mother, who is in an assisted living center. I have been able to reconnect with my sister who lives here in Salt Lake and just recently retired from the Utah Symphony. And I have rekindled my own musical talents and sometimes return to play guitar at evening chapel services at the Rescue Mission.

Please see “Bill” on Page 3.
With the Rescue Mission’s help, my alcohol-related legal issues have been resolved and I am close to paying off my fine for a DUI I received a few years ago. At age 65, God truly has changed my life. The change began that day I joined the New Life Program.

One of my first days at the Mission they asked me if I believed in God. I told them, “If I believe that God exists, it’s just because I am mad at Him.” I thought a response like that would make the Mission staff reject me, but instead they said just said, “OK, we can work with that.”

My attitude towards God began to change as I went to the daily Bible studies and met with my counselor Greg Sheffield. I realized that alcohol was like a false god to me. In my decades of drinking I would wake up and the first thing on my mind was what kind of alcohol I would drink and how I would get it. Alcohol always occupied my thoughts. At the Mission, I realized I needed to have the real God occupy my thoughts, not alcohol.

I also realized I needed to forgive my father for some things that had happened during my childhood. As I forgave him in my heart, I felt my attitude change. Before, I always thought people, or the world or God Himself were out to get me. I felt I was a victim of countless unfair acts. As God changed my heart, I saw the ways that God had worked to bless me, even keeping me from hurting someone while I was driving drunk. I realized that the bad things that happened to me were usually my own fault, not God’s or anyone else’s.

Seeing God’s goodness freed my soul from its dependence on alcohol, which had ruined so many things in my life. For 20 years I had owned a dental lab business. I would contract with dental offices to make ceramic teeth when needed replacements. But my hands became so shaky because of my alcoholism that I couldn’t make the teeth mold anymore. I had other good jobs that I lost because of my drinking. In Arizona, for instance, I had worked for a rehabilitation company that helped the elderly and others who had physical or mental disabilities. My alcohol abuse cost me that job as well.

But that’s why the change in my life has been so sweet for me and my family. Last month we had a birthday party for my mom. I played the guitar for her—some John Denver songs—and everyone was crying, because they knew how long I had gone without playing due to my alcoholism. At 65, I still do have goals. I quit going to Westminster College when I was just a few credits away from graduating. I would like to go back and finish my degree, which is a double major in music and psychology. I think with that degree I could go into music therapy. I would like to do use music therapy to help Alzheimer’s patients.

Music can bring connection to people with significant memory impairment. You can have other people, even family members, talk to those with memory impairment and see no engagement or recall. But play a Lawrence Welk song and those same memory-impaired people will come to life. There are also opportunities to use music therapy with troubled kids.

It’s fun to be able to dream again. My ability to dream has only been made possible by the relationship with God I gained at the Rescue Mission. I am so thankful God led me to the Mission and used my counselor Greg Sheffield and the other staff to change my life. I also thank you, all the supporters of the Rescue Mission, for helping to make sure there is a place in Salt Lake that can help people like me have a changed life. Your support and God’s help has made all the difference in my life.