

We getting ready for our Easter Banquet for the Homeless in Pioneer Park. You can help by giving, volunteering and praying!

While Easter is still over a month away, we are already getting prepared. For many of Salt Lake’s neediest people, the holiday will bring an opportunity for a changed life. They can leave the fear of the streets behind and have a changed life of sobriety, employment and faith.

On the Saturday before Easter, April 19, the Rescue Mission will head to Pioneer Park to offer a free hot brunch, free clothes and God’s love to some of Utah’s most hurting and hungry people. There will also be an Easter egg hunt for homeless and low-income kids and carnival games.


We are planning to serve over 1,000 meals at this event, which will include music by local churches and give the homeless in our community an invitation to join the Mission’s New Life Program – a free program that helps people get out of homelessness and into sobriety, employment and housing. We still are low on some items we need to make our Easter Banquet complete so please consider using the enclosed envelope to donated today!

Please also pray for the homeless this month. Pray that they would seek to have their physical and spiritual needs met at the Rescue Mission and that God would change their lives this Easter season. If you would like to help serve at our Easter banquet please give us a call at 801.355.1302 and ask to talk with our volunteer coordinator.



Over 50 homeless and low-income children participated in last year’s Easter Egg hunt at our Easter Banquet in Pioneer Park.

MARCH 2014 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake - March 2014



Eugene Peay:
The Mid-life Crisis that Led to a Changed Life

My name is Eugene Peay and for most of the last decade I have been addicted to alcohol and cocaine, living on the streets of Salt Lake when not in jail.

My life didn’t start out on the streets. I was raised by good parents in South Carolina. They took me to church and encouraged me to live right. When I was eight years old, we moved to the country and I started playing sports. I was on the basketball, football and track teams by the time I reached high school.

An All-American Falls

It seemed like I would be an all-American kid. But as my friends and I became popular jocks, our focus became girls and partying. Soon we were skipping classes, and by the time I was 17, I had quit high school and was smoking marijuana every day.

My parents told me that I couldn’t live with them if I wasn’t going to go back to school, so I moved in with my grandmother. Later, my mother approached me and said she cared for me and wanted me to have a future. She told me about a Job Corp facility in Georgia that could help me get job training and my diploma. I did well in Job Corp and eventually transferred to the Job Corp site in Clearfield, Utah, where they had more advanced auto mechanic training. When I graduated from the Job Corp with my high school diploma, I went to work in the automotive shop at a local Sears store.

Even though I was smoking marijuana every day, my life was going well and I met a girl. She soon got pregnant and we decided get married and move back to South Carolina. We moved in with my parents, trying to build a stronger future. We had a good marriage and another baby, a girl to go with our first-born son. But after five years of marriage, we started fighting. We would fight over little things, things that didn’t really even matter. Our fighting grew so bad that my wife took our kids and moved back to Salt Lake to live with her parents.

While she was gone, I started a relationship with another woman. After a while, my wife and I started to work things out, but I kept seeing this other woman and didn’t tell my wife about it. Eventually, my wife moved back to South Carolina to live with me. I would go out and sleep around with this other woman and then come home and spend time with my wife and children.

Leaving My Wife And Kids

The other woman eventually convinced me to leave my wife for her. I went home and told my wife that our marriage wasn’t



Eugene Peay spent the last decade on Salt Lake’s streets, wasting his life. Today he’s been sober for 14 months and has a great job with a nutritional supply company.

working out and that we should end it. I never told her I was cheating on her.

I moved in with the other woman and we had a son together. Our relationship was good for a while and my family even started to accept her, even though we weren’t married. But again, after about five years together our relationship started to deteriorate.

Please see “Eugene” on Page 3

We want to thank everyone that came to our annual Hockey and the Homeless fundraising event at the Utah Grizzlies game on March 1. For of those who purchased a ticket through our website, half of the ticket price was donated back to the Rescue Mission. It was fund to get out on the ice and skate around with the Grizzlies players after the game too. Thanks again to everyone who supported this great event and we look forward to seeing even more of you out there next year!

Our Stats-How Your Gift Helps

	January	2014
Professions of Faith	17	17
Meals Served	13,902	13,902
Family Food Boxes*	266	266
Nights of Shelter	4,262	4,262
Clothing Given	3,482	3,482
Day Service/Hyiene	408	408

*an additional 5,320 meals

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

I'm sure we've all done it at some point. I know I have. We've looked at another person and a derogatory thought went through our mind.

The object of our distain might have been the person who cut us off in traffic, the person who took credit for our work at the office, or the one who posted something inappropriate on our Facebook page.

I imagine, too, that many of us have looked at

a homeless person and made a similar comment to ourselves. Whether it's the woman holding a sign on the freeway off-ramp or the man passed out at the park lying next to an empty bottle, those thoughts go silently through our mind.

But when we are tempted to think of others in this way, we should remember what God says about people. Many times and in many ways, God states in the Bible that He created people "in His image" or "likeness." These statements about people being fashioned after God's image are universally said about all people. It's not just people who believe in God, or who are being changed by the Holy Spirit through Jesus. It's all people, even those who don't believe God even exists, that bear, at least in some degree, His image (Genesis 9:6, James 3:9).

Of course, there are many ideas about just exactly how we sinful humans bear God's likeness. Is it through our creativity, our emotions, our reason, our spirituality, or all of the above? It's an interesting topic to study. But however it is that we are created in God's image, the fact remains that all people are. It's for this very reason

that murder is a capital offense in the Bible. The crime of murder, as opposed to the killing of, say, an animal, was so bad because murder demolishes something that represents God's image (see Genesis 9). This same principle has fashioned a biblical worldview on abortion and euthanasia, acts that seek moral justifications for ending the lives of God's image-bearers.

So when we make comments to ourselves about homeless people, that they are "worthless" or "a piece of garbage," we must remember that in some way we are making these comments about God Himself. To some degree, we are calling God a piece of garbage, since homeless men, women and children are made in God's likeness. If we can remember that God is beautiful, almighty, glorious and perfect, and that every person bears His image, it will help us check our judgements. It will help us love the unlovable and give hope to the hopeless, instead of looking at them with hearts and minds filled with distain.

At the Rescue Mission, this is our goal: To love those considered unlovable and to see them as people fashioned after God's own image. When we love people, we love God. It's a love God asks from us, and when we can live out this love -- through kind words, hot food, safe shelter and warm clothes -- then broken lives are restored.

Please join us as we remind ourselves that all people are made in the image of a glorious God. And the next time derogatory thoughts go through our minds, let's remember that we're criticizing the value God Himself has placed in His creation. When we see people this way, we can truly love, care for and serve others, enabling them to reach their God-given potential.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

We broke up and I decided to move up to Charlotte, North Carolina to live with my uncle.

I got a job as a welder and did alright for a while, even though I continued to get high every day. I started going out to clubs and was drinking a lot. When I came home drunk one night, my uncle told me I needed to find somewhere else to live. I moved to an apartment in a bad neighborhood. Already nursing a marijuana and alcohol habit, I started smoking cocaine too. My life spiraled downwards. While I was smoking marijuana, I had always been able to have good jobs and support myself. But once I started using cocaine, I found that I couldn't hold down a job and was always begging my family for money.

Extradicted To Utah

In 2002, I went to counseling and was able to quit using cocaine. My life began to stabilize a little and I met another girl. We got married, moved back down to South Carolina and had a daughter together. Even though I had quit using cocaine, I was still drinking heavily, which led to many fights between my new wife and I. One of the fights turned physical and I was arrested for domestic violence. I went to jail, but right as I was about to be released, the jail was notified that I had a warrant out for my arrest in Utah. Apparently, my first wife had filed for child support payments when I had been in the throes of my cocaine addiction. I had never paid any child support to her and it had accumulated so high that the judge had issued a warrant for my arrest.

I was extradited to Utah and spent three weeks in jail. I called my wife back in South Carolina and told her what had happened. That was the last time I would talk to her for the next 10 years, except when she needed my address to send the divorce papers. When I was released from jail on the child support charge, I had nowhere to go, so I went and stayed at the public housing shelter downtown. Before ordering my release, the judge had told me to get a job so I could pay my bills. I followed his advice and soon was welding again. But since I was living at the shelter, I was exposed to drugs all the time, so I turned back to cocaine. While my job paid me \$1,000 a week, my money evaporated almost as soon as I got paid. I would spend it on cocaine and then would get so high, that I would give it away to people, buy drugs for others or just get it stolen from me. Once, I went through an entire \$1,000 paycheck in three hours. For the next nine years, from 2004 to 2012, my life grew worse and worse. I was living on the street, in shelters and was constantly in and out of jail for drug possession and theft.

Mid-life Crisis

I saw it all on the street: people getting stabbed, people being hit in the head with bricks, people getting robbed and worse. When I turned 40 in 2012, it made me look back on my life. I had wasted it. I had been through two marriages, had four children with three different women and was living as a homeless person addicted to cocaine and alcohol. It was hard for me to even know why I was so addicted. My parents had been good to me, loved me and cared for me. It seemed the only person I had to blame was me. I needed someone to help me, someone to save me from myself.

The one place that had shown me love and brought me some peace over the years had been the Rescue Mission. I had eaten there many times and stayed the night there on occasion, but had never thought

of using the resources they had to help people get off the streets. I had never been ready before.

In January of 2013, I walked into the Rescue Mission and talked with Don Hill, the House Manager, and asked for help. I needed to get sober and I couldn't do it on my own. Don had compassion on me and enrolled me in the Mission's New Life Program.

True Change

The Rescue Mission helped me to reconnect with God, whom I had been ignoring for most of my life. In fact, I felt like I had destroyed my relationship with God. But at the Rescue Mission I learned that God was able and willing to forgive even the worst sinners. I learned that having a true relationship with God would change life my life.

I began attending Central Christian Church and learned more about God. While I felt like I have always believed in God, it was only through the New Life Program that I began to realize how important it was for me to have a real relationship with Jesus.

In September I graduated to the job phase of the New Life Program and started working at a nutritional supplement company. I work in the production plant, ensuring that our automated bottling system is stocked with supplies and the supplements needed to fill the orders we get from around the world. I am hoping that with a little more on-the-job training I can become a machine operator.

My legal history is so extensive that I am still on probation from the numerous drug-related charges I incurred while on the streets for the past decade. But my probation officer is impressed with my progress and is pushing for me to be released from probation early next month.

Today I have been clean and sober for 14 months. I couldn't have done it without God's help. As I prepare to graduate from the New Life Program and come off of probation next month, I have many decisions to make and would love your prayers. My family has invited me to come back to South Carolina to live with them. I am trying to decide if I should go or stay here in Utah where I have a good job, some good friends and a support group.

Also, my heart still aches for my children. I have been a terrible father to them and would like to rebuild my relationships with them. My oldest son and daughter both have college soccer scholarships, my son at a university in Washington and my daughter at a university in New Mexico. I watch videos of them playing soccer that are posted on the internet and have reached out to them, but haven't heard any response. My youngest daughter is only 12 and I would love to reconnect with her, but her mother, with good reason, does not want to speak to me. So while these situations seem impossible, I know that with God all things are possible and so I ask for your prayers.

I want to thank all of you who support the Rescue Mission. If the New Life Program didn't exist, I would probably be dead right now. Thank you and praise God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to forgive even the worst of sinners, like me, and for putting a place like the Rescue Mission in Salt Lake City.