

with Salt Lake County made direct communication with our civil leaders possible in the mist of this emergency. I praise God for them, their availability, leadership, service, and provision with a temporary location.

Additionally, our ministries at our other four locations (the Ogden Rescue Mission, the Rescue Mission's Women's Center, and our two transitional housing homes) continue as usual. These sites were unharmed by the earthquake and are operating at full capacity. We praise God for that.

I am especially grateful that God ensured that no one was injured at the Rescue Mission during the earthquake, which could've easily happened (as Dan explains in his testimony this month). There is no logical reason the sidewalk was empty on the morning of March 18. There is no reason why greater damage did not occur to our facility, which is taller and older than our neighbor's building whose front parapet fell while ours did not (all while people were exiting our building). It is simply the mercy of God to protect lives in His providence.

Fourth, I want to thank QFactor Solutions and Makers Line, owners of adjacent buildings to our downtown location, for their immediate help in shoring damaged parts of our building and recommending options for repair. Providentially, they are undertaking a complete remodel of their facility and had work crews on hand to help almost immediately.

Fifth, as I suggested previously, the coronavirus situation is creating unique challenges for our recovery program, homeless friends, and staff. Please pray for us. Pray that God would protect from this virus as we have little to no ability to isolate while we serve those whose

HOME is the Rescue Mission.

Sixth, please know that we need your prayers and financial support more than ever. We are in the middle of a pandemic and are trying to understand how this virus will impact our homeless friends. Almost unbelievably, this is all happening while we are displaced from our flagship and primary location and are in desperate need to repair the facility as soon as possible. We need to ensure we can continue to serve people striving to leave homelessness and rebuild their lives, even as we work to keep everyone safe.

Additionally, as we consider the future, we are looking at one of the most unique economic situations I have ever seen. It's a situation that seemingly will impact low wage earners and those seeking to reenter the job market more than other segments of society. That's not even to mention an expected surge of people affected by recent unemployment. Please pray and consider ways you can partner with and support us. The best way to contact us and generously give is via our website: RescueSaltLake.org. Please help where you can!

It will be a complex situation for weeks, if not months. We will need your help. Seek God's guidance, even as we are, and know that your support is helping to change and sustain real lives of real people.

God bless you and your families,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Where's the Calendar?

With staff-led, twice-daily bible studies and nightly chapel services, there may be no place in Utah that preaches the Gospel more than the Rescue Mission. For nearly 50 years, churches have come to our locations to share the message of Jesus' sacrifice, and faith as the path to forgiveness. Allowing churches to share a nightly chapel with the homeless is a core part of our ministry.

However, for the first time that we are aware of, we are temporarily suspending nightly chapel services as performed by local churches. We will continue to use resources at the Mission—the staff, along with New Life Program members who have a relationship with Jesus, key volunteers, and the Public Reading of Scripture website and app—to share the Gospel. These resources will allow us to still have nightly, Gospel-filled worship services at our facilities.

The suspension of church-lead worship services comes after we received guidance that if the coronavirus enters the homeless community, it will spread rapidly and could cause deaths and serious illness, especially given the poor health of many our homeless friends. We are taking this precaution to protect both the homeless and our volunteers. Thank you for your support during this suspension and please continue to pray for our program members and staff as they share the Gospel with our homeless friends during this time.



Earthquake damage to the outside of the Rescue Mission. See inside damage on page 3.

DAN FRAZIER: God's love through earthquake and pandemic

While I grew up with a fairly normal childhood, graduated college, and even played football at Weber State, I ended up walking into the Rescue Mission last June, asking for help with my alcohol addiction.

Since then, God has shown me some remarkable things. I have achieved sobriety, worked with homeless friends through the coronavirus situation, and survived an earthquake where part of the Mission was damaged.

I was helping to prepare breakfast in the Mission's kitchen when the 5.7 earthquake hit Salt Lake on March 18, 2020. The kitchen is the lowest spot in the Mission, slightly below ground, and I remember thinking, "If this old building comes down, it's all coming down on top of me."

As the shaking stopped and I emerged up the steps through the outside door, I saw that part of the building next to the Mission had crumbled and there were piles of heavy bricks just to my left. I remember thinking that the sidewalk area where those bricks fell is often crowded with homeless people, waiting for the hot Rescue Mission breakfast. That morning, however, no one was there, and I wondered if God had made it that way for a reason.

Throughout my time at the Mission, I have wondered if I have seen God's hand working to make things happen. It's something I considered on the first day I came to the Mission. I had recently been evicted from an apartment after I found out my roommates, who I had been paying rent to, hadn't been passing our rent on to our landlord.

After being evicted, I still had my job as a shift supervisor at a retail and grocery store near downtown. Since I had a job, I was able to put myself up in a downtown hotel that had an affordable monthly rate. But I was drinking daily and was overindulging more and more.



Dan Frazier is happy to have a place to stay at the old Marv Jensen Recreation Center. He is sober and has a new perspective after surviving Utah's recent earthquake and negotiating through the pandemic.

Please see "Dan" on page 3.

Connect
with us

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PANDEMIC, EARTHQUAKE, AND GOD'S GRACE

This will be a longer message than usual, but I have a lot to share about the recent earthquake and coronavirus pandemic and the impacts on the Rescue Mission.

Similar updates have also been posted on our social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, but I know readers of the *Rescuer* might not connect with the Mission on social media, so I wanted to provide up-to-date information here as well.



First, please consider how your life has been impacted over the last several weeks. Most of us are probably staying at home, venturing out only for necessities like food or toilet paper (if you can find it!). While not an ideal lifestyle, I know we are all very grateful for a home to “shelter-in-place” within.

Now, imagine you are homeless and have no place to shelter into, even if you wanted to. Imagine that access to many of the services you need, like bus routes, food pantries, health clinics, and employment agencies have been greatly reduced, if not closed all together.

Consider, for a moment, the impacts a homeless person has experience in recent weeks. Think about the anxiety you would feel if you had no place to wash your hands, use the restroom, or even practice social distancing. Instead, imagine you had to live in a dorm or out amongst other people in the elements. As much as us “normal people” have been impacted, those stuck in the cycle of poverty and homelessness have had it much worse. And as job losses and unemployment increase, we will see a corresponding increase in homelessness and addiction in the months to come

So please pray for the homeless and empathize with

their current situation. These are men and women devested by poverty and, in many cases, unspeakably difficult family histories. During this time, please pray for our friends who are homeless and also give to the Rescue Mission as we try to help with jobs, faith, housing, and sobriety.

Second, even as I ask you for more support to meet this unique need, I want to recognize God and His people for the great provision the Rescue Mission has received. As noted in Dan Frazier’s testimony in this month’s *Rescuer*, many businesses, Mission board members, church groups, and individuals have come to our aid. Vegan Bowl, Chick-fil-A, McDonald’s, Village Inn, and R&R Barbeque are just a few of the businesses that have supplied food to feed our guests and program members since we have been displaced to the old Marv Jensen Recreation Center, which doesn’t have a working kitchen.

Many of our partner church groups have pitched in by cooking and providing meals. We are so grateful.

As our guests and program members sleep on cots in the middle of former racquetball courts, these great donations of food and other provisions have sustained us. Because of you, our New Life Program continues with people requesting to join the program daily, and our emergency homeless services carry on, even while not at full strength.

Third, as alluded to above, our downtown Salt Lake City ministry has been diverted because of the magnitude 5.7 earthquake (and subsequent aftershocks) that damaged our building on March 18, 2020. Our downtown building is old and is left temporarily structurally unsound while we await repairs. I want to thank Salt Lake City and County leaders, including Mayors Jenny Wilson and Erin Mendenhall, for coming to the RESCUE of the Rescue Mission and for making the old rec center available on a temporary basis. Longstanding relationships with David Litvak with Salt Lake City and Katherine Fife

Please see “God’s Grace” on page 4.

Our Stats

how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

| | February 2020 | YTD 2020 |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Professions of Faith | 151 | 246 |
| Meals | 22,496 | 45,775 |
| Family Food Boxes | 172 | 268 |
| Nights of Shelter | 6,385 | 13,557 |
| Clothing | 2,581 | 6,439 |
| Day Service/Hygiene | 11,076 | 21,967 |
| Jobs Obtained | 0 | 5 |
| Housing Obtained | 1 | 5 |

DAN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I have always struggled with daily drinking, but I convinced myself that as long as I was working and making money, my drinking didn’t really matter. If I was a functional alcoholic, everything was OK, I told myself. But living in a hotel, and working at a low paying job, while drinking all the more, it seemed inevitable that my life would unravel.

The morning I came to the Rescue Mission I had been hanging out at a coffee shop waiting for the liquor store to open. When the time came, I hopped on a bus headed for the liquor store, which was just one stop before the Rescue Mission. Since I lived downtown, I was familiar with the Rescue Mission and knew it had a program that could help the addicted. For some reason I didn’t get off at the liquor store like I had planned but kept riding.

I got off at the next stop, right in front of the Mission. I found myself, as if controlled by some outside force, walking into the Rescue Mission and asking for help. I haven’t left the Mission since.

I have learned a lot about God since that time. My community discipler and I have read through the C.S. Lewis book *Mere Christianity*, and my home church, Fresh Life, helps me learn more about who God is. I know I need to submit my life to God each day, if I am going to stay sober. Working through the New Life Program, with bible studies, chapel services, and one-on-one counseling has helped me achieve 10 months of sobriety now.

With all the progress I have made, the coronavirus and Salt Lake’s earthquake have impacted my growth on the New Life Program. Before the earthquake, we had just begun taking steps to protect against coronavirus at the Rescue Mission. We had set up hand-washing stations throughout the Mission. We were beginning to take temperatures as people entered the building, were asking medical questions, and were taking extra cleaning measures.

“I found myself, as if controlled by some outside force, walking into the Rescue Mission and asking for help.”

But after the earthquake, the Mission needed some repairs before it could be structurally safe. Thankfully Salt Lake County provided a place where members of the New Life Program and some of our homeless guests could stay. It’s at an old recreation center in South Jordan. While we don’t have a working kitchen at the rec center, many businesses such as Vegan Bowl, Chick-fil-A, McDonalds, Village Inn, and R&R Barbeque have shared food with us. The three meals per day for program members and guests alike must be catered in.

At the same time all the earthquake and virus circumstances happened, it was the time when I was moving to the employment phase of the New Life Program. I had just updated my resume with Steve Spiess, the Mission’s job placement coordinator, and was ready to start working.

Before the virus, the economy was going well and it seemed like it would be easy to find a job. Now, with most of my experience in retail or restaurant service, I am

worried about finding employment. Because of government directives to stay at home when possible, I haven’t gone out and looked for work yet. I will need to trust that God will guide my steps in employment, even as He seemingly has by leading me to the Rescue Mission and protecting me through coronavirus and the earthquake.

Please pray for me (and many others like me who may need jobs soon) that I would trust God to find the right employment for me. I know the main thing I need is God’s continued help to stay sober, so please pray for my continued sobriety. While I know I can continue to learn more about God, I do feel like He has guided me in some important ways up to this point. Pray that my faith stays strong and that God continues to help me.

It Will Still Be A Joyus Easter!

It’s pure comfort to know that Jesus Christ rose from the grave and that we can celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. This comfort will be especially important this Easter, as we prepare for a Resurrection Sunday in the era of social distancing.

Due to coronavirus direction from the State of Utah, Salt Lake City, and Salt Lake County, the Rescue Mission will not be holding its annual Easter Banquet, carnival games and egg hunt for the homeless. Instead, each of our five locations will be marking the holiday with private celebrations, that will no-less celebrate our Risen Lord! These celebrations will occur even as we continue to provide daily food, shelter, clothing and our transformative New Life Program through the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake (temporarily relocated to the old Marv Jensen Recreation Center in South Jordan), the Ogden Rescue Mission, and our Women’s Facility.

We thank you so much for supporting the Mission and look forward to Easter 2020, even as we look forward to Easter 2021, when we hopefully can once again gather in downtown Salt Lake City for a community celebration.



Earthquake damage to the inside of the Rescue Mission. See outside damage on page 4.