

PEOPLE NEED HOPE THIS THANKSGIVING

Placing a hot Thanksgiving meal in front of hurting and homeless men, women, and children in our community is just one way your support is helping to change lives.

Thanks to your support, we'll give those in need with so much more—a free addiction recovery program that leads to sobriety, employment, faith, and housing, plus: crisis counseling, warm clothes, hot showers, haircuts, vaccines, and (most of all) God's love and compassion.

It's no secret that this year has been hard for our local communities, but it's also proven that with your support, we provide true change and restoration for the most vulnerable among us. As of the end of August, together we have placed 49 people into full-time employment and helped 37 people obtain housing of their own. These are men, women, and children who are no longer on our streets and are providing for themselves.

Last Thanksgiving, we were blessed to have Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and members of his family and staff help serve the homeless at our annual

Thanksgiving Banquet.

"I'm so grateful for this Mission and what it does to change lives and bless people," Governor Cox shared with KSL.com while volunteering.

It all starts with God's enabling power and your donation today. The Mission's services and programs are even more essential this year as more people are struggling. Each Thanksgiving meal we provide brings hope and dignity to one of our homelessness neighbors.

Please give as you are able as we prepare to serve thousands of meals through the Thanksgiving Season. Please give by using the envelope included with this newsletter or call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone. You can also visit RescueSaltLake.org to donate online. Thank you for helping to change lives this Thanksgiving season!



Gov. Spencer Cox serves at our Thanksgiving Banquet last year.

RESCUER

OCTOBER
2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DAVID BENSLEY: Gaining sobriety, employment, and faith

At the beginning of 2022 I had been homeless (or in jail) for over three years. I had lost all hope. Today I am sober, have a job, and a relationship with Jesus, all because of the help I received at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

I grew up in a gang in Los Angeles and sold and used meth when I was a teenager. It was a hard life, and I spent several years in jail and prison. I ended up in a maximum-security prison in Arizona. It was there that I developed faith in God and His son Jesus. I put my faith and trust in Jesus and when I was released from prison I moved to Las Vegas and did well.

My mother, whom I grew up with, also had given her life to Jesus and she encouraged me to stay sober and live for God. I got a job in sales, was married, moved into a house, bought a motorcycle, cars, and other nice things. I was active in the local Christian community and participated in outreach and ministry. I was sober for over 10 years and had a good life. One day, a "friend" pulled out some meth and suggested we do it together. I was working a lot of hours, staying up late, and thought, "why not just this once." That decision ruined my life. I spent the next several years abusing meth. I lost my marriage, my house, everything.

Destitute in Las Vegas, I needed a change, so I decided new scenery might be the ticket. I traveled to Salt Lake, but nothing changed except the city. For the next three years I was either homeless or in jail. I remember first meeting a Rescue Mission New Life Program member named Kurtis when I popped my head up out of the Rescue Mission's dumpster one




David Bensley is experiencing healing and a new life since coming to the Rescue Mission

morning and scared him half to death.

But that was my life, scrounging for money to get drugs and rummaging through dumpsters for food or

Please see "David" on page 3.

OCTOBER 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Chapel: Bible Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
2 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Gospel Grace	3 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	4 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake	5 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: SMCC	6 Chapel: Antioch Community Church Kitchen: Antioch Community Church	7 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	8 Chapel: Adventure Church Kitchen: Calvary Chapel
9 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	10 Chapel: Discovery Christian Church Kitchen: Discovery Christian Church	11 Chapel: Unity Baptist Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	12 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	13 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	14 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	15 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
16 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	17 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	18 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Compassion Call	19 Chapel: Missions Door Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	20 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	21 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	22 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake Kitchen: Email to Schedule*
23 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Grace Community Bible	24 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	25 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	26 Chapel: K2 - The Church Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	27 Chapel: Missions Door Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	28 Chapel: Midvalley Bible Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*
30 Chapel/Kitchen: Grace Community Bible	31 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*					

*Email Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org to schedule your volunteer request.

CONNECT WITH US

Web: RescueSaltLake.org

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GOD WANTS TO SEE US BE BRAVE

The English word “bravery,” is not necessarily found in the Bible. However, God’s Word encourages His people to have courage, stand strong, and not fear (e.g., 1 Corinthians 16:13, Deuteronomy 31:6; 2 Timothy 1:7). To me these charges are a call to be brave in the face of doubt, shame, and anxiety – not because of anything in ourselves, but because “the Lord Your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9.



Throughout each week, I have regular conversations with our program members, homeless friends, and the counselors on our New Life Recovery Program. Often, the Staff Team shares how impressed we all are with the bravery that God gives the men and women on our New Life Recovery Program.

Cassie Warner, one of our New Life Program counselors, recently recorded a “Minute at the Mission” Facebook post detailing the inspiring bravery she sees on a regular basis. Cassie shared that the men and women on the recovery program are the bravest people she has ever met in her life, “because they are addressing their life challenges, abuse, destructive family situations, physical pain, emotional pain, and other situations that have defined their life and who they are.” With God’s enabling grace and power, our New Life Program members bravely “confront those life-defining issues to be on the recovery program,” Cassie said.

If you don’t follow the Rescue Mission on Facebook, please follow us, so you can check out inspiring content like our Minute at the Mission videos that will encourage you as you hear testimonies of how God works at the Mission.

One example is David Bensley, who shares his life story in the Rescuer this month. David was born into a life of drug abuse and later incarceration, but God reached down and saved him, giving David 10 great years of sobriety, employment, and family life in the Las Vegas area. But David lost everything when he was reintroduced to meth by a “friend.” Trying meth again led to several years of street life and eventually landed David in Salt Lake where he would regularly

scrounge through dumpsters to find the things he needed to survive.

After 10 years of victory and then falling so far again, it took bravery for David to ask the Mission for help. Then more God-enabled bravery helped him to confront his past mistakes and destructive behaviors. Through it all, David now understands that God can (and did!) restore even him.

Honestly talking through abuses and pains that have been committed against a person, or that a person may have committed against others, takes a lot of bravery. It also takes trust in the Rescue Mission and our Staff Team—trust that we are here to help them and not condemn. We are here to believe in people and help people become the men and women God intends them to be.

As you remember, please pray for our counselors and our New Life Program members as they engage in our life-changing counseling ministry. Pray that God would give all involved the bravery needed to find healing, shed shame, and gain new life in Jesus Christ. Pray for our homeless neighbors that they would have the bravery to ask for help—the real help they need change their lives. This brave work is the key to all we are trying to accomplish at the Rescue Mission and your support helps make it happen.

God bless you,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 TOTALS (THROUGH AUGUST)
Professions of faith	212
Meals	147,714
Family food boxes	1,025
Nights of shelter	43,458
Clothing	48,212
Hygiene Items	49,805
Day service	17,706
Jobs obtained	49
Housing obtained	37

DAVID: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anything I could sell for money. To be honest, I had lost all my dignity. I gave up on my life. I had no hope. There was no light.

Later, I was arrested for trying to get money so I could buy drugs and subsequently was diagnosed with a type of schizophrenia that placed me into the Mental Health Court system. Homeless and needing to pass multiple drug tests each week or go back to jail, I urgently needed someplace that could help me stay sober and give me stability off the streets.

I was standing out in front of the Rescue Mission wondering what to do, when Kurtis, the New Life Program member I had once scared after popping out of the dumpster, stepped outside and asked me a question that would change my life, “Do you want to join the New Life Program here at the Rescue Mission?” “Yes,” I heard myself say.

Since that time, God has been restoring my hope and my faith. The first thing that helped me was the work therapy I did in the Mission’s kitchen. I served the homeless men and women that come to the Mission for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Working in the kitchen showed me how to help people again and removed my doubts that God could ever use me again or that He didn’t want me.

Today I believe there is a better life for me, a better day ahead. Meeting with my counselor for these past nine months has helped me address many of the things that happened to me in my past and I have learned (at least to some degree) to let go of bitterness and pride.

The Bible studies and chapel services here at the Rescue Mission have also helped me to reestablish my relationship with God. While I felt hopeless, ashamed, and worthless, I never stopped believing in God. I just felt I had turned my back on Him in such a significant way that there was no way He could take me back. I know now that I was wrong and His forgiveness is real and deep. I am blessed to have a great support system of friends here at the Rescue Mission and a good church family at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake.

When I moved to the employment phase of the New Life Program I was further blessed to get a job with Maverick Country Stores. It’s a good job with benefits that will allow me to save up money so I can get into a place of my own when I graduate the New Life Program in about a month.

I have made good progress working through Mental

Health Court. When I first came to the Rescue Mission I had to go before the judge once a week and take two drug tests a week. Now, I only report once a month and while my initial sentence would keep me in Mental Health Court for another two years, my judge says I am doing so well that I could end my supervision a year early. I am also working with the doctor who supervises me to reduce the amount of medication I take for my schizophrenic disorder.

I honestly believe I am not schizophrenic, but that my symptoms and delusions were part of my years of meth use. Now that I am sober and connected with God, I do not believe that I need to be on medication anymore. Still, I am working with my doctor who is slowly reducing the amount of medication I take. I trust my doctor and God and when I am ready will accept whatever the right outcome is, whether I need to continue to be on medication or not.

I talk with my mom every day. She lives in Illinois and encourages me in my relationship with Jesus. I have two boys from a previous relationship that I am proud of as well. They both live in Dallas with their mother and are doing well, one is in sales and the other just finishing school. It is great to be reconnected with my boys.

I want to thank everyone who supports the Rescue Mission. When I work at Maverick, I can smile at my customers. I go to work happy each day that I have a job and can support myself again. Thank you for supporting this ministry that literally dug me out of their own dumpster, welcomed me in, and helped change my life.



Read our back page for information on how you can share hope with the homeless this Thanksgiving.