

A GREAT THANKSGIVING, NOW ON TO CHRISTMAS

It was a fabulous Thanksgiving (check out the pictures at right) at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. We provided over 1,900 Thanksgiving meals with help from Smith's Food and Drug, who donated turkeys and R&R Barbeque, who smoked them for us. We were also blessed to have Gov. Spencer Cox and his family and staff help serve our Thanksgiving Banquet to the homeless.

With that awesome outreach behind us, we have just a few weeks to prepare for a Christmas season of outreach, including our Annual Christmas Banquet for our homeless community.

Many of Utah's homeless don't have anywhere to go for the holidays. We want to be a "family" for those who have none. We are planning to serve another 1,500 meals at our Christmas Banquet and provide over 15,000 hot meals and hundreds of Family Food Boxes to needy families this Christmas Season. Our food service is in addition to distributing warm winter coats, new socks, hats, gloves, and thousands more items of clothing. Additionally, our Seek and Rescue Teams are going out twice a week to help people in the homeless camps and encourage them to come to the Rescue Mission.

We hope that our great food, warm clothes, and smiling faces might be the encouragement a person needs to join our New Life Program, which changes lives by helping people off the streets and into employment, housing, faith, and restored family relationships. Please pray that our Christmas outreach would touch many lives this year—and make sure to be a part of our December matching gift program!



RESCUER

DECEMBER
2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JACOB MILLER: A broken heart is healed at the Mission

Two years ago, I was hopeless, but that all changed when God providentially led me to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake 10 months ago.

My spiral into hopelessness started on January 1, 2021 when my wife passed away. She had a seizure and fell and hit her head hard and the injuries she sustained ended her life. While I had been drinking alcohol since I was in middle school, my drinking elevated to a new level as I tried to deal with the tragedy of losing my wife.

I was living in Flagstaff and working as a restaurant cook. The restaurant bar tenders would make me drinks every night during my work shift and then I would drink even more when I went home. Soon I started skipping meals. Sometimes I would eat two meals a day, sometimes one, and sometimes I would eat nothing at all, as my depression and addiction grew worse.

I didn't want to deal with the pain of losing my wife and when I drank it felt like I was evading pain's grasp. When I started getting bills I couldn't pay, I drank even more and, when I drank, I quit worrying about the bills and my wife's passing.

I wasn't living anymore, I was only surviving. My depression grew so bad that I started taking steps to hurt myself, to end my life. I am grateful that none of my attempts were successful, but there seemed to be no way out of my spiritual and emotional hole.

It was at that point that I asked God for help. While I feel like I have believed in the idea of God for my whole life, I had never really trusted Him or known His



God lead Jacob Miller to the Rescue Mission where he found hope and healing.

promises. But at my lowest point I pleaded with God to point me to somewhere that could help me.

A few days later I made the decision (and in hindsight I see it was God's hand guiding me) to leave Flagstaff. I felt that if I stayed in Flagstaff I wasn't going to

Please see "Jacob" on page 3.

DECEMBER 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL

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ENCOURAGING HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION

Christmas is a season of anticipation. Most of us look forward to Christmas morning, or Christmas Eve, or maybe both depending on personal and family traditions.



We anticipate traditions such as a warm fireplace, children playing with toys around the Christmas tree, reading scripture together, or exchanging gifts. We look forward to time with loved ones and then we enjoy those moments we have looked forward to.

It was no different in the First Century when God's people anticipated the coming Messiah. They did not have a specific date to look forward to. It just seemed like an unending anticipation for years upon years. When would the promised Messiah, the Deliver, come and set His people free? In the First Century no one could imagine the way Jesus came into this world: born of a virgin, into a poor family, and from a town in the sticks.

With years of anticipation, no one imagined that Jesus wouldn't set His people free from the reigning military occupier. Instead, He came to set them free spiritually and emotionally. No one imagined that He would be the likeness of the living, Old Testament God, being "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature . . . uphold[ing] the universe by the word of his power." Hebrew 1:3 (ESV).

How could the God who upholds the universe be born as a human being in poverty in a Bethlehem animal shelter and then be sent running for his life to a foreign country when an evil king wanted him murdered? The reality of what happened did not meet people's expectation of what they thought the coming Messiah would be. But Jesus is so much better than anyone's anticipations.

Every day we strive to create an anticipation of hope and Jesus' love. At both our downtown Salt Lake and Ogden facilities we have an illuminated sign that reads "Jesus Saves." These signs exist as a light (a Christmas star, if you will) to encourage hopeful anticipation for our homeless community. Hopeful anticipation is powerful. It gives people the

courage to keep going in difficult situations, striving for the joy of reaching their goals, becoming the men and women they are truly meant to be.

For people who have been living on the streets hopeful anticipation is progressive. It builds slowly starting with the most basics of life; a hot meal and warm safe shelter. Hope builds to a healthy life free from addiction and other life disabling issues. Hope builds to anticipation for meaningful employment that enables self-sufficiency, a home to rest at night, and a place to be – a place to set up a Christmas tree and celebrate the joys of Jesus birth.

Please join us in praying that our homeless friends would look with hopeful anticipation to the light of Jesus. Pray they would know that inside our doors there is love, healing, and a pathway into faith, sobriety, employment, and a home of their own to build their family traditions. Please also take a look at our stats section to see how you have already changed so many lives this year.

Finally, join me in praying that all of us would know and believe in Jesus, the exact imprint of God who upholds the universe by His power. Pray that we would anticipate that this world is not our final home, but that Jesus is preparing a glorious place called Heaven that awaits those who believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins. That kind of anticipation brings joy and new life to us all.

Merry Christmas,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

| OUR STATS | 2022 TOTALS (THROUGH OCTOBER) |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Professions of faith | 266 |
| Meals | 186,656 |
| Family food boxes | 1,267 |
| Nights of shelter | 55,026 |
| Clothing | 60,026 |
| Hygiene Items | 63,580 |
| Day service | 22,034 |
| Jobs obtained | 52 |
| Housing obtained | 46 |

JACOB: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

survive.

I didn't have much money, but I pulled up the Greyhound bus app on my phone and, considering my options, decided to go to Oregon. However, when I arrived at the bus station I was drunk and I accidentally clicked the wrong route on my phone and bought a ticket to Salt Lake by mistake.

When I arrived in Utah, I again made attempts to take my own life and was hospitalized. After several days, the hospital released me and referred me to the Fourth Street Clinic for follow up mental health care. The clinic serves the homeless and other low-income individuals and is across the street from the Rescue Mission.

When I walked out of the Fourth Street Clinic, I had made up my mind to use my remaining money and purchase a bus ticket to another state. That's when I looked across the street and saw the "Jesus Saves" sign in front of the Rescue Mission.

I said to myself, "you know what, I am going to walk in there and see what they are about." That cold February night I slept on the Rescue Mission's chapel floor. The next day, they asked me if wanted to volunteer at the Mission, helping out in the kitchen. I spent the day volunteering and at the end of my shift the Kitchen Manager, Steve, pulled me aside. He told me his story of how the Rescue Mission had helped him. He said he was once homeless, addicted, and hopeless, just like me. But after working through the Rescue Mission's New Life Program he had gained faith and sobriety. He told me he thought the New Life Program could help me too.

I decided to join the New Life Program and since that time, my life has radically changed. It was challenging working through the counseling curriculum and

dealing with the pains I had suffered, especially related to my wife's death. Still, I have learned that it is actually easier, with God's help, to face my problems, rather than run from them. As my faith in God increased, He helped me break the bondage of depression I was stuck in, and I found I didn't need to drink alcohol anymore to escape my feelings.

I have discovered a great home church at The Adventure in Draper. My church family has helped me in so many ways and I am so grateful. They are a support system for me along with my weekly recovery classes and the friends I have here at the Rescue Mission.

A couple of months ago, I transitioned to the employment phase of the New Life Program and got a job at a popular downtown Mexican restaurant. I enjoy cooking and am good at it, so I am glad God provided the right job for me. I want to save up money until I can afford to get an apartment or place of my own. I love living here in Salt Lake and want to become a part of this community.

As I look back at what brought me here, I can see God's hand guiding me to the place I needed to go. He worked it out that I mistakenly bought a bus ticket to Utah instead of Oregon. God led me to the Fourth Street Clinic, just across the street from the place where I found the help I needed.

I never expected that God would lead me to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, and I thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission, which is the exact place God picked out to save my life. Without your support I do not believe I would be alive, much less sober, today. I can't thank you enough for how your support has helped me get out of addiction and hopelessness.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION SO WE CAN RAISE \$80,000 IN DECEMBER

You can help us gain \$80,000 for the homeless this December! Generous Rescue Mission donors have provided a dollar-for-dollar matching grant challenge that will double your December donations up to a total commitment of \$40,000. Any gift you give in December will be doubled!

Help us meet this matching gift challenge so we can help more people off the streets. If you give during December, we can provide twice the hot meals, twice the nights of safe shelter, and twice the HOPE—to end homelessness and restore lives. If we meet this match it will mean \$80,000 for the neediest people in our community and the need is greater than ever this year.

Will you help us reach our goal of matching this gift and providing twice the help? If you have the opportunity, please help us to do good for to our homeless friends this Christmas season. (Galatians 6:10). You can give using the enclosed envelope, calling our donor relations office at 801-746.1006, or by going online at RescueSaltLake.org. You may even be able to triple your donation by seeing if your employer participates in matching gift programs. Thank you in advance for your generous gift that will help twice as many people!