

TIME IS RUNNING OUT—WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP THIS EASTER!

We still need help to make our Easter Banquet for our homeless friends on April 4 a truly special event. If you haven't yet contributed, or if you can give again, please do so today. Here's how you can make a difference:



Prayer and Support

First and foremost, we ask for your prayers. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change the lives of our homeless friends. We're working hard to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families, and we need your

help to bless them. Our goal is to help people have **Restored Hope and Restored Lives** from the love of Jesus, even as they navigate difficult life circumstances.



Donations for Kids' Baskets and Giveaways

One of the most exciting parts of our Easter celebration is the Easter egg hunt and giveaways for the kids. These events remind us how Jesus seeks and saves all, even those who think they are hiding from Him. We need plastic Easter eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (please no chocolate or nuts), as well as Easter baskets, stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other small prizes for the carnival games.



Preparation Help

We also need volunteers to assist with meal preparation a day or two before the event. If you can help, please email Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org.

We'll distribute **1,100 free pairs of shoes to our homeless neighbors**, host our annual Easter egg hunt, where hundreds of homeless and low-income children will enjoy egg hunting, face painting, and carnival games. Parents will enjoy live music and a delicious hot meal, along with access to free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, free haircuts, fingernail painting, letter-writing assistance, crisis care, and more.

Our homeless friends can also learn about our New Life Program, which offers a way out of homelessness. Most importantly, they'll hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter—Jesus' resurrection!



Ways to Give

Your generosity can make this Easter outreach unforgettable. To donate, you can:

- Send a check using the enclosed envelope
- Scan the QR code on this newsletter
- Call our donor relations office at **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card
- Visit our website at RescueSaltLake.org

Together, we're making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.



Your business or employer can partner with the Mission. Here's how:
Host a food or clothing drive • Volunteer • Sponsorships • Workplace giving
Get your company involved by emailing Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org

RESCUER

MARCH
2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



Larry Clubbs lived on the streets of Salt Lake for almost 20 years before finding faith, sobriety, employment, and new life at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

At 53 years old, I can say something I never thought I would be able to say: I am sober, I am working, I have a stable place to live, and God has given me a new life. For decades, I lived in a cycle of addiction, homelessness, jail, and self destruction. Today, I live with hope. The only reason I am here is because God saved me through the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

I grew up in Missouri with a childhood that wasn't perfect, but wasn't terrible either. I went to church, but I never really believed in God or His Son, Jesus Christ. I loved bowling (enough to obtain my PBA card) and I spent most of my working life as a truck driver. But even with those good things, something inside me always felt broken. In 2000, my best friend died in a DUI related car accident. He wasn't even the one driving, just a passenger. I didn't know how to deal with the pain, so I turned to drugs and alcohol. I told myself it was just to numb the hurt, but it quickly became a lifestyle that took over everything.

My life spiraled until I ended up in jail. While I was there, volunteers came in to share the Gospel. I had heard about Jesus growing up, but this time something was different. I listened. I felt something stir in me. In that jail cell, I believed in Jesus for the first time. But when I got out, I didn't know how to follow Him. I went right back to my old ways.

Eventually, I left Missouri altogether, leaving behind my parents, my younger brother, and my son, who was just a little boy. I ran from everything. I bounced from Dallas to Phoenix to Las Vegas, and finally ended up in Salt Lake City in 2008. That's where I stayed, living on the streets, homeless and hopeless.

I was consistently in and out of jail. Looking back, one of the things that bothers me is how much I seemed to like failing. I sabotaged myself repeatedly. I kept myself homeless. I kept myself broken. I would ask myself, "Why is failure so attractive to

Please see "Larry" on page 3.

EASTER TEACHES US THAT IF IT'S NOT GOOD, THEN IT'S NOT OVER

One of the songs I've been enjoying recently is "These Are the Days" by Christian artist Lauren Daigle. A line repeated throughout the song has stayed with me: "If it's not good, then it's not over." It echoes the truth of Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."



Because God works all things together for good, His people can take heart. When life feels painful, confusing, or broken, God's people can trust that God is not finished. It will not be over until He brings about His good purposes.

For myself, and I think most of us, we need this reminder often. We live in a sin-stained world marked by suffering (abuse, illness, job loss, broken relationships, and death). Jesus' earliest followers needed the same reminder when they watched Him die on the cross. In that moment, nothing about His death looked good. They could not yet see that Jesus was taking the punishment for sin upon Himself.

But it wasn't over. When Jesus rose from the grave on the day we celebrate as Easter, He showed His followers that death is not the end. For God's people, death is a doorway to eternal life with Him. Death may feel final, but it is not the good ending God has promised. Just as Jesus was raised, all who trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins will be raised to eternal life in God's perfect Kingdom.

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This is the hope our ministry points people toward. Many of our homeless friends come to us carrying deep wounds—abuse, tragic loss, addiction, shame, guilt, and years of feeling like life will never get better. Their stories, up to the moment they walk through our doors, often do not feel good.

But we share the same message Lauren Daigle sings: **If it's not good, it's not over.** There is new life available now, and eternal life to come, but only through a relationship with Jesus. We never promise the journey will be easy, in fact, it rarely is, but God can use all things for good.

This Easter, we invite you to join us in thanking God for the incredible gift of His Son. Jesus not only took the punishment for our sin; He also secured the hope of resurrection, eternal life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because of Him, pain and death do not have the final word.

Yes, death is not good. But praise God, **death is not over.** That is our hope this Easter. Join me in thanking God for that truth and know that He truly will work out all things for good for those who love Him.

Happy Easter!

Chris D. Croswrite

Executive Director

LARRY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me?" I didn't have an answer, so I asked God for help. And He answered. God made me tired: tired of jail, tired of the streets, tired of destroying my own life.

Last year, I again faced jail. I told the judge, "Jail is never going to help me." I knew it was true. The only way my life was ever going to work was if God helped me. I had been on the streets long enough to know that out of all the recovery places in Utah, the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake was the only one that had Jesus at the center. So I asked the judge to sentence me to probation, on the condition that I completed the Mission's New Life Program.

On January 8, 2025, the judge agreed. He gave me three years of probation and released me to the Rescue Mission. I have been sober and off the streets ever since. People ask me how I have been able to change, and I tell them the truth: With God's help. That's the only way this worked. The Lord had to be involved in everything I was doing. When I forget that, when I start thinking I can do it on my own, that's when things get squirrely.

At the Mission, I assisted in the kitchen for work therapy. I loved serving the homeless guests who came in for meals. It reminded me where I came from and showed me that a life with God is about service (serving God and serving people). That became meaningful to me in a way I had never experienced before.

I also learned that anger and fighting don't solve anything. I used to think fighting made me strong. Now I know better. I tell people, "If someone punches you in the mouth and you fight back, even if you win, you lose, because of the emotional and physical toll it takes on you." God has taught me a different way.

Today, I have a good job with a concrete company. I go to church at The Conversation in Midvale, and enjoy

the fellowship there. I recently moved into Freedom House, the Mission's transitional housing unit. It gives me accountability and support as I take steps toward independence. I hope to move into my own place soon and maybe buy a truck again.

Soon, I will be off probation after 15 months. My probation officer told me I've been doing so well that I don't need the full three years. That is nothing but God's grace.

I pray that one day I can have a relationship with my son. I know I wasn't there for him, so I'm not trying to force anything. I leave it in God's hands and in my son's hands. I trust that if God wants that relationship restored, He will make a way.

One of the biggest blessings God has given me is my younger brother. When I left Missouri, he stayed. He took care of our dad until he passed away in 2022. He lives two blocks from our mom and takes care of her too. He even looks after my son and gives him fatherly advice. I call my brother several times a day. God blessed our relationship, and I'm grateful for every conversation. I'm also thankful for my niece, who has become a big part of my life.

Today, I see how God rescued me through the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, through the staff who cared for me, and through the donors who make the Mission's ministry possible. I don't know where I would be without this support. God gets all the glory. Every success I've had—sobriety, work, housing, restored relationships—has come from His enabling help.

As I look ahead, I desire to live at a slower pace. Maybe join a bowling league again or even form a team. But whatever I do, I want to keep serving God and walking in the new life He has given me.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH JANUARY



Professions of Faith

59



Meals

25,904



Family Food Boxes

249



Nights of Shelter

5,559



Clothing

5,442



Hygiene Items

6,533



Day Service

2,571



Jobs Obtained

4



Housing Obtained

5



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Volunteer: Email Brandon at Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org

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