

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 - Phone 801-355-6310 April 1, 2008

Joy Unspeakable!



CHUCK SIMONSON

Before I came to Christ, I was what I called a beer-a-holic and pot head. This self destructive behavior went on for more than 35 years. I finally gave up the pot in 2000, but would not give up my beer. I was a so called, "functional" alcoholic. But in the quiet times I was very lonely, and confused. I felt, **"LOST."**

But in 2002 I received Jesus Christ as my Savior was born again. At that time I was living in the streets and decided to join a rehab program. I did ok through the help of fellow Christians. But then I left, thinking all was well. **"WRONG,"** I fell into the same old trap for two more years. It was then that I realized I needed God more than ever. I could not do it myself.

God has given me a second chance at becoming whom and what kind of person He wants me to be. He is teaching me how to develop self control and confidence to do His work. The position I have now in the Mission as a staff/mentor to the men, teaches them about responsibility, accountability and honesty as it continues to teach me more about who I am, and what my character is. I can only give praise and glory to God for what He has done so far. I am thankful in every way for the group of people in this Mission that are helping me see my purpose through God's guiding hands.

Who Are The Homeless?

Contrary to popular belief, children account for 15% of the homeless population. Indeed, the average age of a homeless person in the United States is 9. Families with children make up the fastest growing segment of homeless Americans. In addition, many older children are alone and homeless, either runaways or "throwaways". Approximately 25% of the total homeless population is mentally ill. Thirty percent of the homeless are employed on a full-time or part-time basis. In fact, nearly all of the homeless want to work, but don't have the job skills, tools, education, home address, and self-confidence to do so (although a sizable minority of the homeless, as mentioned above, are working they just don't earn enough to both feed and house their families).

Recently, it seems that homeless are more violent, lazy and bent towards alcohol and drug abuse. **However, if you look at the facts, crime is much more prevalent by "non-homeless people."** In working with the homeless one on one and then working with the general public there is much difference. Homeless people may carry more shame because they are constantly stereotyped as under-achievers or trouble makers.

Certainly, be careful with all strangers you don't know, but don't become one of the many who kicks those who are already down. Jesus instructs us that it is really Him we are doing it too!

Matthew 25:34-37 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?"

Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

“Remember the poor.”

— Galatians 2:10

Why does God allow so many of his children to be poor? He could make them all rich if he pleased; he could lay bags of gold at their doors; he could send them a large annual income; or he could scatter round their houses abundance of provisions, as once he made the quails lie in heaps round the camp of Israel, and rained bread out of heaven to feed them. There is no necessity that they should be poor, except that he sees it to be best. “The cattle upon a thousand hills are his”—he could supply them; he could make the richest, the greatest, and the mightiest bring all their power and riches to the feet of his children, for the hearts of all men are in his control. But he does not choose to do so; he allows them to suffer want, he allows them to pine in penury and obscurity.

Why is this? There are many reasons: one is, *to give us, who are favoured with enough, an opportunity of showing our love to Jesus.* We show our love to Christ when we sing of him and when we pray to him; but if there were no sons of need in the world we should lose the sweet privilege of evidencing our love, by ministering in almsgiving to his poorer brethren; he has ordained that thus we should prove that our love standeth not in word only, but in deed and in truth. If we truly love Christ, we shall care for those who are loved by him. Those who are dear to him will be dear to us. Let us then look upon it not as a duty but as a privilege to relieve the poor of the Lord’s flock — remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Surely this assurance is sweet enough, and this motive strong enough to lead us to help others with a willing hand and a loving heart—recollecting that all we do for his people is graciously accepted by Christ as done to himself.

Spurgeon, C. H. (1995). Morning and evening : Daily readings (March 17 AM).

Things to remember on Resurrection Sunday

- His Forgiveness
- His Friendship
- His Spirit
- His Leadership
- His Hope
- His Knowledge of our Needs
- His Plan for Our Lives
- His Glory and Praise when we Honor Him

SOLID AS A ROCK

You can depend on your Salt Lake City Mission Charitable Gift Annuity to provide payments that are:

- **Fixed** – Whether the markets rise or fall, your payments will always be the same.
- **Regular** – Whether by direct deposit or check, your payments will be delivered on time.
- **Enduring** – Whether you live to be 100 or 125, your payments will continue for life.

Here are some sample rates*:

Single Person

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
65	6.0%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%

*Two-life rates are slightly lower.
Rates are subject to change.

For more information about gift annuities, please contact: Philip Arena at: 801-388-1968 or Brad Jaques at: 801-673-2622