

Gospel Gazette

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

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IN HIS GOOD TIME

Larry Williams

I knew about God as a little kid. I just knew He was there for me and I knew He'd take care of me.

When I was little my life was like crap. I lived in a dope house. My mom and dad were drug addicts. They used heroin, which they had me preparing for them by the time I was eight years old. I watched them do drugs as long as I can remember. My dad was in the military for 23 years. He served in Vietnam as an aircraft carrier pilot, where he flew F4's off the Essex aircraft carrier. Being a Lt. Colonel did not prevent him from becoming a heroin addict, and leading my mom into it also. So many strong, patriotic Americans, fell prey to the horrors of war. The apparent "escapes" from the reality of evils of that age.

I remember moving around a lot until I was 14 or 15 years old. When I was about 15 years old, I was somewhat adopted by one of my "part-time friends" family. Being on the move always meant friends who could relate to me but were not around very long. These families helped me out when my own could not help themselves. This happened for about three or so years.

After this, I was on my own. I moved to Montana to work on the oil fields where I started drinking and fighting nearly every day. It isn't that I liked the lifestyle I lived, it's just who I was at the time; It's what I knew. I remember one time when a guy owed me money for dope I sold him, I broke into his house to get my money back and show him a lesson. I was later arrested and went to prison for nearly four years. After prison I tried life again. I worked on an oil rig in Wyoming and then Texas. It was very hard work. We dug the wells and then capped them. It seems like there was always drinking, fighting, and drugs for me. Life went on like this for the next 10 or so years. Drinking, drugs, fighting, and jail.



One day I received a phone call from my dad. I was about 30 years old and had not seen him for years. He said that he was going to change his ways and stop using drugs. He asked me to come and work for him. My dad did quit doing drugs, but the job was working in a bar that he just bought. I worked there for a while but it was too much. My dad and I both kept drinking. Needless to say, we didn't get along very well so we went our separate ways.

I continued to drink, use drugs and sell drugs to buy more drugs. Even though there were times when I wanted to quit, it seemed that everyone I knew used drugs also. I continued the cycle of drug abuse, jail time, sobriety, then back round again for years. One time I in jail I ended up meeting a man named Wayne Wilson. Wayne kept telling me that God could help me. He continued to tell me for years. After the last time I got out of prison, I tried to give Jesus a chance but no matter how hard I tried I never felt like I was good enough. I would go into the mission program for a few days or weeks, but I always ended back out on the streets, in trouble or in jail. But every time things would fall apart, I would see Pastor Wayne Wilson, some other Christians, or those Salt Lake City Mission people somewhere else on the street. I decided to give Jesus a try again.

I never knew how God "the Father" could ever love someone like me. So I always went back to the streets. But from those same streets, time and time again, there would be someone else who knew Jesus. They'd bring me back to the Salt Lake City Mission and I'd try again.

It's now been over two years since the last person brought me back to Jesus at the Mission. I believe I'm where I need to stay. Thing is, now I bring others in. I guess I've learned, and am learning, God loves everybody, no matter what they've done or how they feel about themselves. And God's love continues to change people over time, whether we know it or not.

The Christian's Declaration Of Independence

I am free from failure for "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Phil.4:13

I am free from want for "my God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Phil:4:19

I am free from fear for "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2Tim1:7

I am free from doubt for "God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Rom. 12:3

I am free from weakness, "the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Ps.27:1

I am free from the power of Satan "because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1Jn.4:4

I am free from defeat "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." 2Cor.2:14

I am free from ignorance, "for Christ Jesus is made unto me wisdom from God." 1Cor.1:30

I am free from sin "for the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth me from all sin." 1Jn.1:7

I am free from worry "for I am to cast all my cares upon Him." 1Pet.5:7

I am free from bondage "for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2Cor.3:17

A Matter of Stewardship

We want to take this opportunity to address a matter of deep spiritual significance: **Christian Estate Planning.**

If stewardship is "human responsibility to manage resources God has placed in one's care," then we really don't "own" anything - not our time, our talents, our abilities, or our money. God is the owner; we're His managers. Only by His grace do we have anything. He trust us to manage His resources in a way that furthers His kingdom. When we fall for the temptations of the world and become poor managers, we disappoint God.

At its core, **Christian Estate Planning** is unique and distinct because it is a spiritual, not a tax-bases decision. Yet, the vast majority of estate planning done in America, and even among Christians, is driven by tax avoidance, inheritance and financial products, not by stewardship.

Certainly, we should be wise as serpents. Yes, we should maximize available tax benefits, but at the end of the day, we will be held accountable for how we steward what He has given us.

Too often, Christian ministries have been passed over when it comes to estate gifts. Despite the fact that many supporters may have made regular and generous gifts for many years, they are more likely to leave their estates to their college alma mater or worse yet, the federal government, than to their favored ministries.

Salt Lake City Mission offers a comprehensive program of estate stewardship information estate planning support. Please visit the Christian Estate Planning section of our web site at www.saltlakecitymission.org

Salt Lake City Mission encourages and accepts gifts through Christian estate planning that will be used to extend our programs and ministries beyond what is now possible because of current budget limitations. You may either endow your gift (a perpetual fund) or designate that it be used immediately for one of the ministry's priorities.

I urge you to prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit is leading you to update your estate plan (or establish one for the first time) and consider a gift to Salt Lake City Mission in the gift portion of your plan.

Please contact Philip Arena @ 801.355.6310 For More Information on Planned Giving.