

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission

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New Life

I remember the day Larry Neilson came into the Salt Lake City Mission. His daughter brought him to us because he couldn't do it for himself. He was so depressed he didn't know what to do and had been using alcohol and drugs to keep himself numb. His daughter was scared to death at what might happen to him if he didn't get help and Larry was too down cast to realize how bad things had become for himself. This is his story.



I came to the Mission after drinking myself nearly to death. I was depressed, unemployed and suicidal. My daughter brought me because I couldn't see to come on my own. My drinking grew out of control after I had been unemployed for a while and then separated from my wife. I was going from bar to bar to bar, trying to wash away my depression.

As I look back on it now I see that I had become a "wild man" living for the next moment. Not even wanting to look too far a head into the future. When I was sober it gave me too much time to think about what I had lost, who I had become. It seemed easier to stay oblivious to the pain of loss and what I felt was failure.

When I came to the mission it wasn't easy to face reality but I didn't want to drink anymore either. The first people I met seemed to accept me just for who I am. I had nothing to give to these people but they wanted to give me something I never knew I was missing.

I began to have an attitude change because of their unconditional love. After being sober for a few months I became more and more alert to what was really going on in my life. I began to realize God really did have plan for my life and it was to destroy myself and hurt others around me.

What's so awesome is now I am back in the lives of my family and able to be a positive influence on them. I thank God He delivered me from depression, alcoholism and selfishness. It isn't that I "can't have a beer". I realize I don't "need a beer". I'm not mean like I was before. I know Jesus is my "higher power" and He has replaced depression with peace, drinking with joy and self-centeredness with concern for others. It's really good to have real friends. I feel great because I know Jesus loves me in spite of myself and I can't do anything without Him.

It has been over 5 years since I arrived at the mission. I'm no longer afraid to look into the future. In fact I am excited about some things that are happening. August 7th I'll be in Phoenix Arizona visiting with my daughter and grand children. Sometimes it is hard to believe what God can do in our lives if we give Him a chance.

There is nothing I would trade for my life in Jesus. No amount of money, alcohol or anything. God has filled that empty void in me that I used to try and fill with drugs and alcohol. Now I know it is a place that only Him to dwell in. Now I truly have something, or Someone, to share with my family and others.

FAST TIMES

The paradox of our time in history is that people have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider Freeways, but narrower viewpoints. People spend more, but have less, they buy more, but enjoy less. People have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. People have more degrees but less common sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness. People drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. People have multiplied their possessions, but reduced their values. People talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

People learned how to make a living, but not a life. People have added years to life not life to years. Man has been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. People conquered outer space but not inner space. People have done larger things, but not better things.

Humans have tried to clean up the air, but polluted their souls. People conquered the atom, but not their prejudice. They write more, but learn less. People plan more, but accomplish less. People have learned to rush, but not to wait. Man has build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete it...

Remember; spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember, to say, 'I love you' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



Eight Ways You Can Help!

What do you do when you see someone holding up a sign, "Will Work for Food"? Do you roll down your window and give them money? Do you pretend you didn't see them?

Nobody likes to be confronted by the homeless - their needs often seem too overwhelming - but we all want to treat them fairly and justly.

Here are some simple guidelines to equip you to truly help the homeless people you meet:

1. Never give cash to a homeless person: Too often, well intended gifts are converted to drugs or alcohol - even when the "hard luck" stories they tell are true. If the person is hungry, buy them a sandwich and a beverage.

2. Talk to the person with respect: Taking time to talk to a homeless person in a friendly, respectful manner can give them a wonderful sense of civility and dignity. And besides being just neighborly, it gives the person a weapon to fight the isolation, depression and paranoia that many homeless people face.

3. Recognize that homeless people (and their problems) are not all the same: The homeless are as diverse as the colors of a rainbow. The person you meet may be a battered women, an addicted veteran, someone who is lacking job skills...the list goes on.

4. Share God's love whenever you can: If Jesus were walking the earth today, He would certainly spend time with the homeless. He would speak with them, heal them, and help them. Today, Jesus chooses to work through those who believe and follow Him.

5. Pray for the homeless: Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose all drain years from a person's life. God can use your prayers and the brutality and the futility of life of the street to bring many of the broken to Himself.

6. Take precautions for your own safety: Some living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent while talking with street people. Stay in areas other where other people can see you. Don't take unnecessary chances.

7. Encourage the homeless to get help through the Salt Lake City Mission: the oldest members of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions in Utah. We offer immediate food and shelter to the homeless through their emergency shelters. Many offer long-term discipleship recovery programs that deal with the root causes of homeless. Many also offer "tickets" that can be given to homeless person which can be exchanged a the Mission for a nutritious meal, safe overnight lodging, and the option of participating in a rehab program.

8. Support the Salt Lake City Mission: Salt Lake City Mission receives no government funding. We are supported by caring individuals, churches, businesses, and civic groups who see the value of sharing their resources with the less fortunate.

Taking Care of Those You Love

Creating a Will & Appointing Guardians

Those with minor children or a dependent spouse have a mandate from Scripture to take care of their dependents (1 Timothy 5:8). To be able to appoint a guardian for your minor children, so that their lifestyle can continue in a way that is compatible with your values and beliefs is reason enough to create a Will.

If you have not named a guardian for your minor children should you die prematurely, the probate court will provide one for you. Keep in mind that your children's future will be strongly influenced by the one who is appointed to be their guardian. Some things to consider when selecting a guardian are:

- **Will their example continue to reinforce in them the Christian lifestyle and values that you have begun?**
- **Will they give your children the opportunity to grow spiritually?**
- **Are they willing to commit to the role as guardian?**

The Salt Lake City Mission has a program in place that will be able to help you with this important decision and help with the formation of your goals for of an estate plan. You can then meet you're your advisors or be introduced to a Christian attorney in our area. **Please visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org or call Philip Arena at 801-388-1968 or Brad Jaques at 801-673-2622 to learn more.**

