

# Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission

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## Under New Management Doug Matthews



I first arrived in Utah April, 2000, by Greyhound bus. I was stripped of everything that I had as far as earthly delights and possession were concerned. To God, our character development is more important than us enjoying the pleasures of this life. At that time there was a brief period of sowing righteousness in my life followed by another relationship with another woman. You cannot just jump into a relationship without waiting on God to make it happen. That is really all that I understand about that.

During the time period of around 1998 I was diagnosed "bipolar".

So from 1999 to the year 2009 I was a patient from various clinics and experimented with several different "bipolar" medicines. Some of those made me feel good and some of them didn't. During that time, everything in my life went from bad to worse. Although I enjoyed some short lived good times in the Word of God, I still had not completely let Jesus have control of my life. I still wanted to take the wheel and do the driving for Him and for me. Why is it that we cannot see it? Its all part of His process in our lives. So after close to 10 years of all of those meds and 10 years of disobedience, I was none the better. I desperately needed His power in my life and I needed obedience to what He wanted me to do. Simply "Do the Word."

My 2nd marriage lasted almost 5 years. From 1992 until 2009, I struggled with various vices and addictions. I desperately needed the Power of Jesus Christ to "make me free." You absolutely cannot mix the ways of the world with the Narrow way of Jesus Christ. It really is "all or nothing." You absolutely cannot let Jesus have the wheel of the ride for only some of the time. It truly must be that He will either have full control of your life or none of it. Praise God for His sovereignty in all things for He works all things out for our good. Even in the darkest days of our lives even when we cannot see His mighty hand, we must know and understand that He is still orchestrating the events of our lives for our good. He is the grand masterpiece artist composing the symphony of our lives, He is the master painter who is displaying His work upon the canvas of our lives. He is so good!

Until early August this year with no money, no hope, no passion for life, no life. All I had is Jesus. I came to the place where I realize that He is all I need. He will bring us to that place. I thank Him for showing me that. To get the deliverance and the breakthroughs in my life that I needed its been a continuous cycle of praying in the Holy Ghost, fasting, worshiping Him, and witnessing to all sorts of people. Telling them of the goodness of Jesus Christ and what He has already done for them through the Cross of Calvary and the Resurrection from the dead. He has shown me that is how to keep the river and flow of the Holy Ghost working in my life and how to keep the victory. These are the fundamental things of our faith that should be adhered to constantly. He is teaching me how to be responsible financially. Faith works by Love, and Faith without works is dead. He is Love, He is Hope, He is Victory, He is the Resurrection and the Life, He is the Head of all Principality and Power. He is Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**"A New Life In Christ"**

## New Year's Customs

Not all countries celebrate the New Year at the same time or in the same way because of different calendars and customs.

- In **Ancient Egypt**, the holiday was celebrated when the Nile flooded, usually near the end of September. This flooding made it possible to grow crops in the desert, and the people celebrated by taking statues of the god Amon, his wife and son, up the Nile by boat. Singing, dancing, and feasting was done for a month, then the statues were returned to the temple.
- **Babylonia's** New Year was in the Spring. During the festival, the king was stripped of his clothes and sent away, and for a few days there was a relaxation of laws. Then the king returned in grand procession, dressed in fine robes. Everyone returned to work and behaved properly. Thus the New Year gave people a new start to their lives.
- The **Roman** New Year festival was called the *Calends*, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts. It was Emperor Julius Caesar who began the calendar system in which the first month is named for the two-faced god Janus.
- The **Celtic** New Year festival took place at the end of October, at summer's end. The Celts gathered mistletoe to keep ghosts at bay, for this was the time when the dead were thought to return to haunt the living.
- The **Jewish** New Year, *Rosh Hashanah*, is a holy time when people consider things they have done wrong in the past and promise to do better in the future. Special services are held in synagogues and the *Shofar* is blown.
- The **Muslim** Calendar is based on the movements of the moon, so the date of New Year is eleven days earlier each year. In some Islamic nations, people put grains of wheat or barley in a little dish to grow. By New Year's the grains have produced shoots, reminding the people of a new year of life.
- **Hindus** do not all celebrate New Year in the same way or at the same time. The people of West Bengal wear flowers of pink, red, purple, or white. In Kerala, mothers put food, flowers, and little gifts on a special tray to surprise their children. In central India, orange flags are flown from buildings. In Gujarat in western India, small oil lamps are lit along the roofs of buildings.
- In **Vietnam**, the New Year is called *Tet Nguyen Dan*, or *Tet* for short. It begins between January 21 and February 19, the exact date changing from year to year. The Vietnamese believe there is a god in every home who travels to heaven (traditionally on a carp) to report how good or bad each family member has been in the past year. Live carp are often purchased and set free in a river.
- In Shinto families in **Japan**, a rope of straw is often placed across the front of houses to keep out evil spirits and bring happiness during the coming year.
- The **Chinese** New Year is celebrated some time between January 17 and February 19, at the time of the new moon, and is call *Yuan Tan*. It is a time of parades and street processions involving large costumes and thousands of lanterns which light the way for the New Year. Firecrackers are used to frighten the spirits away.
- In **Greece**, New Year's Day is also the Festival of Saint Basil, who was famous for his kindness. Greek children leave their shoes by the fire on New Year's Day with the hope that he will come and fill them with gifts.
- In some villages in **Scotland**, barrels of tar are set afire and rolled through the streets, signifying the burning of the old year.
- In the **United States**, New Year's Eve is celebrated with parties and champagne by some, and by prayer and worship by others in traditional "watch night" services. January 1st is devoted to parades, football games, and for some, black-eyed peas.

Salt Lake City Mission appreciates your part in supporting our mission of the least, the lost, and the lonely. Because we value your support, our goal is to ensure your contributions are beneficial to you as well. This is why we would like to share a few options for giving that provide advantages to you. By giving creatively, in this New Year!

You Can:

- 1 Realize *larger tax savings*.
- 2 Make a gift that costs you *nothing* during your lifetime.
- 3 Increase *your income* for life.
- 4 *Avoid capital-gains tax*.
- 5 *Preserve your estate for heirs while providing years of income to further God's Kingdom*.
- 6 *Give your house, take a tax deduction now, and continue to live in it rent-free*.
- 7 *Convert additional life insurance coverage into a gift*.
- 8 *Achieve no-cost, worry-free asset management*.

*There is a section on our website designed specifically to help you plan your charitable gift. Check it out at [www.saltlakecitymission.org](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org) and click on "Estate Planning". While you are there, sign up for a phone seminar and gain planned giving insight from estate specialists, at no cost. You can also try out the Estate Plan Organizer, a tutorial designed to walk you through the estate planning process.*

*Or, if you would prefer, you may dial 1-800-876-7958 and our friends at PhilanthroCorp, a Christ-centered charitable planned giving firm, would be glad to send you a paper version of the Estate Plan Organizer or inform you of upcoming phone seminar dates.*

*Learn how a gift Salt Lake City Mission can work for you and increase your retirement income, provide benefits to your family and loved ones, or realize additional tax savings.*

*Sincerely, Philip Arena SLCM*

## **Prayers That Really Change Everything!**

Yes, there are prayers really change everything. When we pray to the only true God and follow His guidelines.

First, we must get every hinderance to prayer out of the way. For prayers are denied to those who: Ask amiss. Jas 4:3; Regard iniquity in their heart. Ps 66:18; Live in sin. Isa 59:2; Joh 9:31; Offer unworthy service to God. Mal 1:7-9; Forsake God. Jer 14:10,12; Reject the call of God. Pr 1:24,25,28; Hear not the law. Pr 28:9; Zec 7:11-13; **Are deaf to the cry of the poor. Pr 21:13**; Are blood shedders. Isa 1:15; 59:3; Are idolaters. Jer 11:11-14; Eze 8:15-18.; Are wavering. Jas 1:6,7; Are hypocrites. Job 27:8,9; Are proud. Job 35:12,13; Are self-righteous. Lu 18:11-14; Are enemies of saints. Ps 18:40,41;

Then we must pray sincerely and earnestly in faith, with nothing wavering. Prayers are received by those who; Seek God. Ps 34:4; Seek God with all their heart. Jer 29:12,13; Wait upon God. Ps 40:1; Return to God. 2Ch 7:14; Job 22:23,27; Ask in faith. Mt 21:11; Jas 5:15; Ask in the name of Jesus. Joh 14:13; Ask according to God's will. 1Jo 5:14; Call upon God in truth. Ps 145:18; Fear God. Ps 145:19; Set their love upon God. Ps 91:14,15; Keep God's commandments. 1Jo 3:22; Abide in Christ. Joh 15:7; Humble themselves. 2Ch 7:14; Ps 9:12. Are righteous. Ps 34:15; Jas 5:16.

Jesus told us how to pray in Mat 6:9-15; and then a secret to prayer. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24.

### **Try these simple prayers below:**

**Father In Heaven**, I want to know you intimately. Thank you for sending your Son to die on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my heart and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for Jesus dying on the cross for all my sins, forgiving me of all my sins and giving me eternal life. Please sit upon the throne of my heart and take control of my life. Make me the child of God that You want me to be. In Jesus Name. Amen

And **Jabez** called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested. I Chr 4:10

