

# Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0142 - Phone 801-355-6310 March 25, 2010

## Real Change - Life Transformed!



I never realized or believed that for more than fifty years I was living in the darkness. I was blind to why God put me on this Earth. After wondering through life, trying different things, I never seemed to fit in. I tried alcohol and drugs, I tried finding my identity in my work. Nothing seemed to be fulfilling.

I came to Utah one and one half years before the Olympics in 2000. I found a job but ended up living on the streets. I started using alcohol and drugs again. I knew I was looking for something better but I didn't know what it was or where to look for it. I would stop in the Salt Lake City Mission to eat, get warm and maybe drink a cup of coffee. As I was sitting in the Mission, I would hear the word of God shared and it started me to think about my life. After I heard it though I would go back to the streets and soon forget what I had heard. This went on for years until I decided to make a commitment to serve God and join the Salt Lake City Mission's Second Chance Ranch program.

It was at the ranch that I started to find out why I am here on this earth. God has a plan for me and if I was going to have a good life I had to obey God and live for Him. I'm still putting my life back together, through the grace of God, but everything is new. With God's help and those who love Him, I know why I live and have peace in my heart.

That was over 2 years ago. So how is Manny Serna doing today? Over the years Manny has continued to grow and see the Lord work in his life. One difficulty Manny has had is getting his ID paper work taken care of. Manny was born in Peru and came to America when he was 6 months old. He grew up as any other American child but when he lost his identification papers it became nearly impossible to get proof of his birth information.

Manny has lived in America for 62 years, been a business man, had a family, owned property and everything you can think of living in America but when he lost his proper ID it

took going to the California Naturalization Department to help him get a simple drivers license. He says his case is not rare and makes it very difficult for people to get basic needs met with problems like this. Mr. Serna never gave up though and is thankful God always makes a way where it may seem impossible.

Today Manny still serves the Lord by serving sandwiches to the homeless every morning at our outreach. He wants to encourage anyone going through tough times right now to never give up. Don't look to your own ways to try to fix everything, especially if you're thinking of taking a short cut. Work hard at whatever the Lord gives you to do, without complaining, and let God take care of the "too big" stuff. Manny will be 63 this August.

## Bulletin Board Advice for young people:

**Rule 1:** Life is not fair - get used to it!

**Rule 2:** The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

**Rule 3:** You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

**Rule 4:** If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

**Rule 5:** Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

**Rule 6:** If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

**Rule 7:** Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

**Rule 8:** Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you

want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

**Rule 9:** Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

**Rule 10:** Television is NOT real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

**Rule 11:** Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

## Dirt Into Treasure

Barnabas is introduced to us in Acts 4:36-37 as a man with a generous and faith-filled heart. He provides us with a great example of a way of giving that is not widely recognized – gifting assets rather than cash. Acts tells us that “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas, sold a field he owned and brought the money and laid it at the apostle’s feet.” What’s remarkable about this example is that Barnabas did not choose to increase his giving from his harvest, say from 10 percent to 20 percent. He found what God was doing in the first century church so compelling that he desired to be a part of it by giving not the first fruits of his labor, not the harvest, but the field itself – the proceeds from the sale of his land - to the work of Christ.

In Barnabas’ day, he could sell his field and give all of that money to the church without any tax penalties. However, modern day giving is quite different – and more complicated. The laws in America make it more tax efficient at times for someone to give an asset such as a field or stock or other assets rather than giving cash. By avoiding long-term capital gains tax, you not only receive more tax benefits, but more of the gift goes toward the Lord’s work.

What about you? Do you have any “fields” that you would like to see invested into ministry? Samples of modern day “fields” can be: investment real estate, public stock, property/land, business inventory, stock in a family business, or an IRA.

God calls us to steward all that He gives us; not just our income. But giving assets can be complicated – that’s when we need trusted advice. If you would like to find out whether or not this makes sense in your situation

**Please visit our website at:** [www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html) and click on and read our “**Secrets of Giving Wisely**” section. Here you can learn more about gifting stock, real estate, and retirement assets. From there, if you would like more personalized assistance, submit a contact form and a representative from our friends at PhilanthroCorp, a Christ-centered estate and gift planning firm, will be in touch with you.

## Mission Needs

**With only one month left to raise funds for the Feinstein Match Grant.** The Salt Lake City Mission is in dire need of your help in raising funds in the following areas:

Volunteers Needed To Get Involved, Having Fun Chairing, Planning, Recruiting, Supporting and Accomplishing Successful **Fund Raising Events** In The Community Throughout the Feinstein Match as well as throughout 2010 And Beyond.

- Monetary Drives.**
- Building Fund Drives.**
- Food Drives.**
- Clothing Drives.**
- Hygiene Kit Drives.**
- Daily Household Needs**

All of these can be done in your Neighborhood, at Work, Church, School, Clubs, Social Groups, Facebook, or with Friends & Relatives

## Other Needs!

- Warehouse Space.**
- Buildings of all Types**
- Building Materials.**
- Solar Panels & Wind Turbines.**
- Hay, Grain & Feed.**
- Diesel Fuel, Gasoline & Various Oils.**
- Cold Storage Space.**
- Professional Services**