

Gospel Gazette

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

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Faith Reborn

My name is Steve and I am 45 years old. My mother was a victim of alcohol and drug abuse at the hands of my father. My siblings and I were subjected to abuse due to my mother's paralyzing circumstances. We, as children, didn't understand what was happening in our lives. We were subject to alcohol abuse and were not aware what was about to happen that would change our lives forever.



Steve Madrill

My father was a hard-working and loving father who had a serious alcohol problem. I remember the abuse beginning at the age of six. My father was very strict and the monster he became never hid or cowered. Can you imagine children who had to deal with things that scared them beyond their understanding and at the same time made you afraid of what you might become? This was my experience and yet, all my life all I ever wanted was to have the picture perfect family. However, somewhere along the line I fell short due to my drug and alcohol abuse along with my anger issues. I have struggled my entire adult life to make my life work. I have been through so many programs and doctors that diagnose you with problems that you don't even have. I have felt pushed aside like I don't even matter. Still, I pushed on for years feeling inadequate and that became a normal feeling for me. Once I hit a certain line of distinction, such as "rock bottom". I had to take a look at my life and wonder if there was something better than this. I pondered the idea that there has to be something beyond the life I was living. As I went through life I kept hearing of God and even as a child I learned from the people around me that there was someone bigger than we can imagine. As I look back at the things that I have been through and consider all the hurt I have caused others I know I felt like I deserved everything I was dealt due to my own choices. When I became homeless I was so lost I truly thought my life was over so I began to destroy my mind so I wouldn't have to feel the reality. The alcohol and drugs became a temporary solution.

In the last three years of my life I knew about a place called the Salt Lake City Mission. I had been there a few times, but didn't know what it was really all about. I knew that it fed the homeless and I thought that was outstanding. I remember thinking to myself that it was such a blessing. I began to feel that I wanted to be a part of something like

that so I hopped on the bus to go. As time went forward I found God again through this family who truly cares about one another. I have been serving God and have reborn my faith in Jesus.

So, I ask you to take the time to love your savior and find love for one another. In that way, you will bring peace to yourself and to the people need it in their hearts. God Bless Everyone who wants a love better than the imagination can possible show you. Faith!

- Steve Madrill

God and Lawn Care

GOD:

"Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles."

ST. FRANCIS:

"It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass."

GOD:

"Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?"

ST. FRANCIS:

"Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn."

GOD:

"The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy."

ST. FRANCIS:

"Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week."

GOD:

"They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?"

ST. FRANCIS:

"Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags."

GOD:

"They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?"

ST. FRANCIS:

"No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away."

GOD:

"Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?"

ST. FRANCIS:

"Yes, Sir."

GOD:

"These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work."

ST. FRANCIS:

"You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it."

GOD:

"What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life."

ST. FRANCIS:

"You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away."

GOD:

"No!?! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?"

ST. FRANCIS:

"After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves."

GOD:

"And where do they get this mulch?"

ST. FRANCIS:

"They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch."

GOD:

"Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?"

ST. CATHERINE:

"'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about...."

GOD:

"Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis"

Mission Needs

Thank you so much for all you do to help us, help them!



Financial Donations

Donations are always needed, accepted and greatly appreciated! We are presently in need of donations of all types. Our cupboards are nearly bare and the pantries almost empty. We must get ready to serve the over 143,000

meals we will server this year.

Ranch

Hay, feed, bottled water, Gator-aid, fly strips, soups, laundry soap, building materials and anything else you can imagine a working farm could use.

Fund Raisers

Salt Lake City Mission needs energetic people to plan, recruit, chair, organize and carry out successful fund raising events throughout the holiday season and beyond!

Food Drives

In addition to serving meals we will also give out thousands of food boxes that are desperately needed this holiday season. Canned goods, packaged foods and dry goods of all types our needed to fill our pantries.

Clothing Drives

We are in dire need of **spring and summer clothing of all types**, jackets, shorts, shirts, pants, shoes, socks, underwear, sportswear, tee shirts, work clothing, etc...

Blanket Drives

We always have great need of blankets of all types, comforters, sleeping bags, mummy bags, tents, tarps, etc. Winter is just around the corner one short seasons away and there is not enough shelter space for the approximately over 4,000 homeless on the streets last winter, 53 homeless died needlessly on the streets of Salt Lake.

Please Help Today!