

# Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 - Phone 801-355-6310 November 2012

## Our community is hurting

Do you know that our community is deeply hurting? How do I know that our community is in pain? I see it in the faces of men, women, and children every day who come to our ministry for some source of hope in the demise and darkness. We see so many who have lost sight of their hope due to a combination of unfortunate circumstances. Despite our judgments and assumptions, many impoverished or homeless persons have not chosen this lifestyle they are only trying to survive and figure a way out.



Just this week alone I visited with a woman and her disabled adult son. They have traveled miles and miles from their hometown in California with the hope of a more fruitful life here in Salt Lake City. So, they packed up what they could carry in a rented RV with hopes to begin their lives afresh. Unfortunately, the mom and son duo were not the only persons riding along on this adventure. Mother, "Mary" had originally intended to bring her adult daughter, two young grandchildren, and adult disabled son from an impoverished state. "Mary's" daughter had invited other unlikely passengers that had influenced every bad decision made thereafter on the highway.

"Mary's" daughter is not only the mother of the two young grandchildren, she is about to give birth to her boyfriend's child and he insisted on traveling with the family. In addition, to the boyfriend, his father was invited to travel along. Now, the additional passengers were not the issue of concern. The horrible choices of these two men are what have placed the children, mom, daughter, and disabled son in significant danger.

Making their way all the miles from California was not the greatest challenge for the family with these dangerous men. It has been surviving the circumstances that each of them placed these women, children, and disabled young man. One man, the boyfriend, has subjected "Mary's" daughter to physical violence where the children were present and he was arrested one year prior to the trip. Since leaving the golden state, he had been chronically abusive verbally to everyone including "Mary" where name calling and verbal threats happened every day. In addition to this abuse, they were subjected to methamphetamine use of the boyfriend's father. So, with his unpredictable moods and behaviors, everyone was walking on eggshells each moment of the day. The final straw was when threats were directed toward Mary and her disabled son more aggressively. She had decided to leave the RV with "Tommy" and take refuge in a homeless shelter. The very next day is when we ran across "Mary" and "Tommy."

One of our disciples in the program seemed to be drawn to the duo knowing that they seemed lost and out of place. He invited them to attend our bible study, receive clothing and food, but mostly unconditional acceptance for their circumstances. "Mary" had then shared her story with me through tears in her eyes not knowing where to turn from here. Again, we were

faced with a difficult hardship where the community has limited resources to assist. The issue had been finding a place for her and "Tommy" who is chronologically an adult with severe disabilities. Several calls later and another 24 hours since meeting the two, an answer to all of our prayers came. They were provided with a place to stay together in Orem because Salt Lake City could not house them. Thankfully, they will rest their heads in a shelter where they won't have to be troubled by being potentially robbed.

Again I say, our community is hurting and we lack the resources to provide for the needs all around us. Hear my heart's cry and make a way for women like "Mary" and her disabled adult son. If we all band together, how much more effective could we serve and provide for those in need?

**Shannon Harrison, MA MFTI CSACI  
Salt Lake City Mission Program Director**

**The bad economy, all the funds raised for elections and the increased homeless population due to foreclosures, the war, etc. has placed us in a dire need for funds. We really need your help to continue holding our feeding events for the homeless and to continue to help and serve the homeless throughout the rest of the year!**

*Here are some simple ways you can help us today!*

## Simple Ways to Help Us Raise The Much Needed Funds

1. Donate \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or more yourself and ask all your friends to match your donation.
2. Ask 20 friends to donate \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or more and encourage them to help raise funds by asking all their friends to match their donation.
3. Ask 10 friends to \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or more each and encourage them to hold a food, clothing, coat, sock, underwear, blanket, hygiene kit, toy, ect, drive explaining why you are why you are donating to help feed the homeless.
4. Pick up our self mailers from our Corporate offices and send them in letters to family and friends, explaining why you are donating and encouraging them to match your donation.
5. Pick up our self mailers and information from our Corporate offices and take a walk around your neighborhood. Visit all your neighbors and ask them for their support encouraging them to match your donation.
6. Pick up our self mailers and information from our Corporate offices and take them to your work or business explain to your fellow workers why you donated to help feed the homeless and encourage your fellow workers' match your donation. Also if your work has a matching donation program encourage all your fellow workers to use it with their donations.
7. Arrange a dress-down day at work. Anyone dressing down will have to pay. Be sure you have a sign that says, "Please excuse our appearance today, we are dressing down to feed the homeless through Salt Lake City Mission . You could request donation of \$25 to \$50 or more per person to dress down. You could arrange these on a weekly or monthly basis.

8. Pick up our self mailers and information from our Corporate offices and take them to your Church, Club, School or any social group and explain to them why you are donating to help feed the homeless and encourage them to match your donation.

9. Pick up our self mailers and information from our Corporate Offices and hold a food, clothing, coat, sock, underwear, blanket, hygiene kit or toy drive.

## TRULY THANKFUL

In September of 1620, 102 individuals left Plymouth, England to find religious and civil freedom in a new land. After facing high seas and bitter elements they arrived in what is now known as Massachusetts. After giving praise to God and signing the "Mayflower Compact" - America's first civil government document, they set foot on Plymouth Rock, December 11, 1620. Most of us learned this story in elementary school. Then we were told how the pilgrims and the Native Americans had a great Thanksgiving feast, which is true but many renditions of the story leave out the prayer service and what everyone was truly thankful for.



The Pilgrims first year in America killed nearly half of the settlers through starvation, sickness and the bitter New England winter. Yet continuing steadfast in prayer, and helped by the generous Indians, the following spring and summer brought great blessings of food, health and friendship. On December 13, 1621, the pilgrims and the Indians celebrated for 3-days, giving thanks to the God who had brought them to their promised land and through the trials that come with God's promises.

When God brought Israel to the Promised Land, many did not enter God's promises because of the fear of the harsh realities of life. They didn't trust God could take care of the giants they had to fight. They were scared of the large walled cities and the seven enemies in the land caused them to feel discouraged, humiliated, shamed, rejected, disconnected, insecure and inferior.

Today we can still struggle with truly being thankful to God for His provisions. Do we trust God to, "still the giant storms" in our life? Are we looking to Him to bring down the barriers of bitterness, regret and unforgiveness we may have built up through the years? Do we realize His Word can encourage us, lift us up and remove the guilt and shame of past failures and let downs? And most important, He accepts us just as we are.

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but they shall have ever lasting life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17).**

**That's something to truly be thankful for!**

# Have A Very Happy Thanksgiving !!!

## Make Your Year End Gift Today! December 31<sup>st</sup> is Near

The end of the year will soon be upon us... and before we know it a new year will dawn. Here are four gentle reminders to help you end the year in charitable style:

1. **Charitable giving benefits you, as well as the charities you care about. A special year-end gift during "The Season of Giving" can bring you added pleasure; especially as you consider the help your gift will give us here at Salt Lake City Mission. You will enjoy knowing that your generosity has made a difference and will help us to fulfill our worthy goals. And, of course, there are usually tax benefits related to charitable giving.**
2. **Appreciated assets can make dandy gifts. For example, if you have owned stock for at least a year and a day, you can receive full value for the gift, including all the appreciation. What's more, neither you nor Salt Lake City Mission will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift. Your tax advisor can spell out the specifics for you. Mutual funds, real estate and other appreciated assets can make great gifts as well.**
3. **Tax-wise charitable gifts often require advanced action. A stock gift usually takes more time to complete than writing out and mailing a check. Real estate gifts require even more time - often several weeks. You should also plan for time to discuss your non-cash gift with your attorney or financial advisor. Getting appointments and handling the paperwork takes time. So... start early!**
4. **A life-income plan may make sense for you at this time. These deferred giving plans allow you to establish a gift arrangement now, obtain current tax benefits, create a stream of lifetime income and provide a future gift to Salt Lake City Mission. They are especially attractive to donors who cannot afford to give up current income from retirement related assets.**

To Learn more, call Steve at (801)-638-1002, or Brad at (801)-355-6310 or visit us on the internet at [www.saltlakecitymission.org](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org)

