

Gospel Gazette

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

June 2012

A Better Way

Kevin Flores



It was probably the worst day of my life, October 15, 2007. The state came to take my children away. It came after my continued drug use. I begged them not to and told them I was the only one that was using, not their mom. They told me I had to leave right then and there. So I left with the clothes on my back so my kids could stay home with my wife. I thought I would be home soon but to my surprise that day just never happened. My wife didn't want me back and the state said I couldn't come back either.

I was a suicidal mess and didn't want to continue with how things were and thought there was only one thing left because there couldn't be a heaven or a God. If so he didn't want me or was getting even with me for the life of sin I had lived. The two things that mattered most to me, my wife and kids, were taken from me to punish me for who I was. The pain was so horrible I didn't want to feel that no longer so I tried to overdose on heroin. I almost succeeded with that when I stopped breathing. I was later told I was found by a friend who called the ambulance.

I remember waking up in the hospital and being so upset that God had saved me or for just being saved for some reason, which I only knew as being against me. I was upset that I was alive. I was living in a field, using meth, broke, hungry and tired. After a few weeks I was sick of my life and decided something had to change.

I decided to check into a rehab. center that taught me life skills. I met with the therapist who made me promise to try things her way. I really wanted to change my life and better myself. I started by believing in a higher power and staying positive. After some time of learning new ways of thinking and hearing about God I was approached by a fellow member who was amazed at my changes and how I was gleaming with a new light nobody had seen in me before. I was so surprised that in a small amount of time how good and happy I felt with my new life. I continued to stay positive and finish out my time in the program.

After I left I got an apartment and continued to see the joy and wonderful things that life could bring me if I just noticed. Things like sunsets, mountains, the joy of being around people and giving back instead of taking and having negative thoughts about others. What really made me stop and give thanks is seeing other children and how much joy and peace they have. That is when I had realized I had opened up and accepted God's grace into my life. It had happened even though I didn't completely realize it. I had such a sense of joy and peace and it hit me that I was finally happy.

Instead of evil thinking I had a new perspective and a chance to live a better life. Since then my whole way of acting, living and thoughts have

grown immensely. I know God saw me at my worst and came to forgive and save a wretched soul like me. From the time I was born until 29 years later I know how I felt and from then to now, it's really an unexplainable thing to say how He changed me. I know someone had to intervene and change the person I had been. Changed into the person God intended me to be all along. Everyday I see and learn that there is a correct way God expects His children to walk in. I am totally, fully grateful for Him to loving me so much to give such great promises to someone like myself. God has truly shown me a better way and I am forever His.

House Behind The Weeds

Sherri Puckett

Just two little boys...
Walking down a dusty lane...
They came upon this old white house...
With broken windowpanes.

The paint was faded; the shine was gone...
The grass had grown so high...
Still they made their little feet...
Go see what was inside.

They opened up the squeaky door...
And then it came to light...
This must have been an old church house...
Once upon a time.

Dirty, dusty wooden pews...
A pulpit that still stood...
A bible lay upon it...
Though the pages weren't too good.

An offering plate and song books too...
Were lying on the floor...
They must have left this old church fast...
The day they closed these doors.

And over in the corner...
A piano was still there...
It must have played a pretty tune...
But I guess nobody cared.

So little Bill looked up at Tommy...
And Tommy looked at Bill...
"Why don't we clean this old church up?
And get these old pews filled?"

They took a rag and wiped the dust...
To try and make things shine...
And then they took the offering plate...
And put in it their last dime.



They took a broom and swept the floor...
And picked up broken glass....
They got it all so nice and neat...
And then they mowed the grass.

They lifted up the old church sign...
And stood it by a tree...
Right down by that old dirt road....
Where everyone could see.

They ran back home, to find Daddy gone...
But their Momma was inside...
Just to find her hurt again....
Where Daddy had made her cry.

"Don't cry Momma, wipe those tears,"
Little Bill and Tommy smiled....
"Cause we have a big surprise for you....
Just down the road a mile."

Hand in hand they tugged at her...
Until they made her run....
"What is it Bill, Oh Tommy,
Just what have you two kids done?"

And then they came upon the house...
Once hidden by the weeds...
And there it stood, a country church...
Just like it used to be.

"But what is it, Mother? What's with your tears?
We thought this would bring you joy."
"Yes, but hush kids now and listen close...
My two sweet precious boys."

They both got quiet and stood real still....
For the words they heard so true....
Was Daddy praying in the church...?
With his head bowed on the pew.

"Forgive me Lord! Forgive me Lord!
Though I'm not worthy of Your love...
But shine down on this sinner man...
Sweet Salvation from above."

"For I've been out in the world, You know....
Living my life all wrong....
Until I came upon this church;
The place where I belong."

"I never noticed it before...
All those times I passed it up....
I guess I wasn't looking, Lord....
Or maybe I was drunk."

"Bless oh Lord, yes, bless oh Lord...
The one who made me see....
This little church that used to hide...
Behind all those tall weeds."

And then he raised his head and stood....
With his hands high in the air....
To find two, dirty, tear-faced boys...



With Momma standing there.
They ran up to him, hugged him tight...
As their tears fell on the floor....
"Don't worry kids, I'm not the Dad,
The one you've known before."

Things are different for us now...
So keep on those pretty smiles...
And let's go gather people in.
To walk down these church aisles."

Then Bill looked up at Tommy...
And Tommy looked at Bill...
"Come on brother; let's get to work....
To get these old pews filled?"

"For we need no special blessing...
For cleaning up this church...
'Cause, God gave us back our Daddy...
And that's more than gold is worth."

Sunday morning, pews all filled...
And smiles on every face...
Especially two little country boys...
The ones who found this place.

Though it was hid back in the weeds...
And so far out of sight...
Nothing's ever hard to find...
If you're walking toward God's light.



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.

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 a few months away and there is not enough shelter space for the approximately 3,500 homeless on the streets this winter.