

Thankful For A New Life!

I have been through many life events over the 37 years of my life. I come from a broken home where my dad abandoned my mom and I when I was about three years old. He had always struggled with alcohol and really that's the last memory I have of him is the smell of alcohol on his breath before he said good-bye to me. I have spent many years very angry with him for leaving my mom and I where I had my fill of psychologists, psychiatrists, and other therapists telling me that all of my problems were a result of my dad leaving us. I can see their point to some extent, but I don't believe that all of what has transpired over the years is because of his abandonment.



My mom has always been a big part of my life. But, as a single mom, she had to work many jobs and I stayed with a variety of babysitters. She has truly been through a lot over the years with my dad, having my older brother die as an infant, and all that I have put her through over the years.

In school, I was always in trouble with my teachers or the administrators because of my extreme anger. I would have fits of rage directed at teachers where I spent a lot of time in the office or would get suspended. I remember the consequences I received from school would be so difficult to bear because I knew I had broken the rules and had to be away from school. Even though I felt like my anger was justified, I was very grieved because I had disappointed my mother once more.

For many years, I have struggled with addiction to alcohol and marijuana where I would try to drown my sadness and run away from the problems I had faced. And really, I believe I was running away from God. I had come to know Him in my early adulthood but ran away because I felt unworthy because of all I had done. Really, I still feel unworthy and have a difficult time knowing that He loves me unconditionally. But, there is nothing like the emptiness and sadness of knowing God then turning away from Him. I felt so many years of darkness and deep pain during that time I spent running away. I did my best to try to kill myself through more and more alcohol and

marijuana and had lots of thoughts of dying or killing myself. Later, I ended up checking myself into a hospital for treatment then knew I needed something more. Something told me to leave Las Vegas and come to Salt Lake City. I didn't know then, but I know now that it was God's direction pulling me to the Mission in Salt Lake City.

At one of the events over the summer, Pastor Wayne approached me and I knew God had sent him to me. I prayed that God would bring pastor back to talk to me if God wanted me to join the mission. He answered my prayer and brought him back to speak to me once more. I know now that God has placed Pastor Wayne in my life to help me overcome so many of the things I have been running away from and beating myself up over. I thank him for his patience with me and know that I am in the right place.

Currently, I have made it through the first phase of the mission program totaling eight (8) months and have entered into the mentorship phase. It hasn't been an easy transition because I still have some things to overcome, but I know that I've been making progress all along the way. I am also beginning a bachelor degree program in biblical studies through Liberty University and can't wait to see where God will use me after I finish. I am just so very grateful to God for His unconditional and unfailing love every time I make mistakes. He is so faithful to forgive and give new mercies each day. I now know that I will never run away from His arms of mercy or the challenges that continue to come.

— Robert Joiner

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 nearly 28,000 meals this holiday season.

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 are needed to fill our pantries.

Clothing Drives

We are in dire need of warm clothing of all types, hats, coats, gloves, shirts, pants, boots, socks, underwear, thermal underwear, insulated coveralls, ski suits, sweats, etc...

Blanket Drives

We have great need of blankets of all types, comforters, sleeping bags, mummy bags, tents, tarps, etc. Winter is coming fast and there is not enough shelter space for the approximately 3,500 homeless on the streets this winter. 53 homeless died needlessly on the streets of Salt Lake last year.

Please don't let any more die needlessly this year!

Street News Volunteers

Salt Lake City Mission is in need of volunteers to help us recruit, train and employ the homeless, poor and unemployed to sell the Salt Lake Street News to become self-sufficient and own their own small business.

Volunteers - Building Ranch Facilities

We are in great need of volunteers to help us raise the funds necessary to build permanent program facilities at our 640 acre Second Chance Ranch, chapel & class rooms, housing units, supporting facilities, barns, work shops, training centers, etc.

Warehouse, Processing Storage Facilities

Salt Lake City Mission is in dire need of warehouse, processing and storage facilities for food, clothing, toys, hygiene kits, furniture, appliances, beds, etc. Any help, helps so many.

To Volunteer or for more information please contact Steve Larsson at 801-638-1002 stevelarsson@saltlakecitymission.org.

---Steve Larsson

Dear Friends and Mission Partners:

Salt Lake City Mission appreciates your part in supporting our mission to 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, 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-gain 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 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 to the 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.

