

## The Journey

My journey to healing and restoration has taken many turns over the years. Let me start at the beginning. I come from a broken home where my mother and father did not raise me together. I am the youngest of all my siblings. Eventually, my mother remarried my abusive step-father. I tried living with one of my older sisters, but I know now that my behaviors and drug use was too much for her. I ended up living on my own at about age 15 due to some financial arrangements that were made through a company I had gotten injured on the job with. The money was coming in and I had access to whatever pain medication I could get my hands on. Soon after, my mom had gotten really sick and passed away. I have spent many years in regret and guilt over not going to see her before she died. I just could not stomach facing my step-father because of the trauma he put me through day after day, year after year. This was the beginning of the end of my train wreck.



I spent more than twenty years addicted to one substance or another ranging from opiates, meth, other stimulants, alcohol, and more. These addictions led me down the path of incarceration in jail and eventually I would have ended up in prison. I have come to realize that my addictions range further than just substances where I now can admit my addiction to women and the affection and attention I receive from them. It all comes down to running away from my painful past that I gave you a brief look into and numbing myself from all of those painful memories so I didn't have to re-experience the level of hurt that each of them had caused. Granted, I caused some of those painful memories myself. But, I know that a lot of My childhood, teenage years, and early adulthood have suffered because of someone else.

My life has taken many turns since then. One of which led me to an accident where I ended up in a coma and nearly died. You would think that this would have woken me up to change my life, but I had gotten in trouble with the justice system once more and earned a lengthy stay in jail. I will say to this day that I am thankful for this last stay in jail. This is where I met the Lord for real and He let me know He heard me and loves me. This is where He gave me the Scripture Jeremiah 29:11 that reads, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future." That same day, there was a sermon with this same Scripture and I knew it was a message from the Lord just for me. During my time incarcerated, I felt so close the Lord that His Spirit was always upon me and using me to reach other young men in there. We held bible studies and were always in the Word. It was an amazing time I spent with the Lord knowing me and me knowing Him. This is where I finally knew that I am forgiven for all of my past and am a new man in Him. Another favorite Scripture of mine comes from 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" The old man is gone from my life and the new man has come all because of my healing through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

My life is now lived out through the new creation where my addictive cravings have been taken from me and I have no desire to return to that same life. I have my kids back in my life and have received their forgiveness. I now serve as a mentor through the Salt Lake City Mission where I completed the discipleship program and am an example to those who come into program after me. Just recently, I have obtained my Associates degree through the Sure Foundation and am working toward my Bachelor degree. Ultimately, I would like to attend the University of Utah to obtain my counseling degree to help troubled teenagers. Right now, I serve the homeless and impoverished through SLC Mission and love our outreach every morning. It's the best hour of my day! I have also been entrusted with an operational area in the Mission through our In-Kind donations and have plans to serve our homeless, impoverished, and youth for many years to come. I am so thankful that the Lord waited on me and came to meet me in that jail yard. He knew just how to reach me and just when to reach me so I could receive complete healing and serve Him for the rest of my life. No amount of money, pills, alcohol, women, or anything else in this world could make me as fulfilled in life as the one I now live in the Lord Jesus and for Him. — **Jerry Rider**

# 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.

## Fund Raisers

Salt Lake City Mission needs energetic people to plan, recruit, chair, organize and carry out successful fund raising events throughout the "Summer Slump 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 spring and summer clothing of all types, jackets, shirts, pants, tee shirts, shorts, shoes, socks, underwear, suits, sweats, etc...

## Blanket Drives

We always have great need of blankets of all types, comforters, sleeping bags, mummy bags, tents, tarps, etc. Winter is only a few months away and there is not enough shelter space for the approximately 4,500 homeless on the streets this winter. 58 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, 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.

# Philanthropic Bites

## Estate Planning:

While planning the distribution of your estate, many complicated questions arise. Our desire is to take this complex process and simplify it for you. To discover resourceful ways you can be a good steward, visit us at [www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html) and click on the link to read our pages on What Do Other People Do?

**How we steward the assets God has entrusted to us matters a great deal to Him who owns it all.** To discover creative ways you can be a good steward, visit: [www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html) and click on "Secrets of Giving Wisely" section.

Did you know that by establishing a gift arrangement now you can obtain current tax benefits, create a stream of lifetime income and provide a future gift to **Salt Lake City Mission**? To learn more about **life income gifts**, please visit the "[www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html)" pages of our website and click on "Secrets of Giving Wisely."

Did you know that with a **retained life estate** you can donate your residence, vacation home, or farm to **Salt Lake City Mission** and retain full lifetime use of the property? Not only are you establishing a future gift for **Salt Lake City Mission**, you will receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the fair market value of your property.

To learn more, visit the "[www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html)" pages of our website and click on "Secrets of Giving Wisely."

You can maximize the positive effect of the dollars left in your **tax deferred retirement accounts** by specifying **Salt Lake City Mission** as a contingent beneficiary (after your spouse). Simply obtain a "change of beneficiary designation" form from your account administrator, and list **Salt Lake City Mission** on the form as the sole contingent beneficiary, or as one of several charities you care about, in whatever percentage you desire. To learn more, visit the "[www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html)" pages of our website and click on "Secrets of Giving Wisely."

Avoid **capital gains tax** on your property - steward all or a portion of it to **Salt Lake City Mission** either as an outright gift or in exchange for a lifetime of income. To learn more, visit the "[www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org/pcx.html)" pages of our website and click on "Secrets of Giving Wisely."