

Victory In Jesus

I was raised in a middle class family with loving, caring parents. My sister is three years older, my first brother was one year younger, and my second is three years younger. We lost our first brother when he was seven years old and lost dad when I was ten (10). Two important people in our family had died within two years of my young life.

I remember mom always working or attending night school at the U of U. She was rarely at home in Park City, living weekdays at her apartment in the valley where she was a hospital administrator. Mom was the sole bread winner, so it was up to us three to take care of the home front. This meant taking care of the chores at home, complete attendance at school, excellent grades and zero trouble with the before mentioned. We were also active in our youth with activities like fly fishing, mountain biking, camping, and the usual neighborhood fun. Mom had introduced all three of us to skiing when we were young because she thought the mountain was the safest babysitter and kept us three busy in the long winter months.

I had a great middle school and high school experience. In high school as a freshman is where I met Holly, the love of my life for the next 32 years. She is a year younger and I was fortunate enough to call this beautiful, caring, patient, and spiritual young lady my wife in our late teens. We were blessed with four healthy, beautiful children—two girls and two boys. During our marriage, I was lucky enough to become a competitive ski racer with more good fortune of receiving a football scholarship for my first years of college. Due to active participation in



these sports, I received injuries all along the way. This led to multiple surgeries, sport rehabilitations, and pain medication. Even with the injuries, these younger years in my twenties through my mid-thirties were nothing short of a lovely dream. I had an excellent marriage and four gifted children. We had it all until an unfortunate day in my mid-thirties.

While I was out water skiing with some friends, I drank some beer while taking my prescribed pain medication. Then, the “monster” was unleashed. This was the beginning of the end of life as I knew it. The next fifteen years consisted of four different drug and alcohol rehabilitation stays, the loss of my business, and finally the loss of my beautiful wife and four gifted children. At age fifty (50), my mom and “hero” passed away suddenly at the age of eighty. I was finally at rock bottom, confused and in need of a miracle.

One morning early in September 2012, I had the honor of meeting a new “hero” in my life at a coffee line. This coffee line is one that the Salt Lake City Mission’s outreach program dedicates to service through coffee, donuts, eggs, or oatmeal every Monday – Saturday each week. However, the most important thing they bring to the coffee line are the fine men that represent that outreach. One of these young men spoke with me that September morning and started me on the greatest journey so far in my life. He spoke great words of wisdom that remain with me. He said, “James, live your life so that those who know you, but do not know Him (Jesus) will want to know Him (Jesus), because they know you.”

Today is mid-afternoon, April of 2013 as I write this brief testimony of my journey thus far. I am proud to say I have been and continue to be one of those fine men that serve the homeless six (6) mornings a week—rain, snow, or shine for almost six (6) months. I have been blessed by being accepted into the Salt Lake City Mission discipleship program. This program is a long-term residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program which I dedicate a minimum of eight (8) months to three (3) years with a commitment to my sobriety. But while I have been a disciple here in the program, I have met the greatest “hero” of my life—our Lord Jesus Christ.

— James H

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 our 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.

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.

Don't Forget to call 1-800-876-7958 and our friends at PhilanthroCorp, would be glad to help in anyway possible.
