

(Yohan's testimony continued)

"I have a big family and began to worry they would follow in my footsteps of living life doing the wrong things as I was doing. But the wrong side of life already had a grip on me and it was hard to break free. I saw no way out or end in sight. It was when I got into trouble for breaking the law that I met a friend who suggested Salt Lake City Mission.

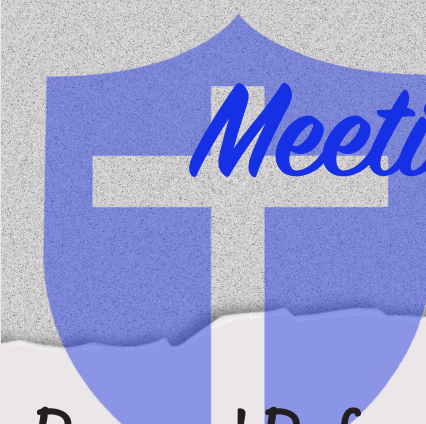
"After coming to the Mission and got

away from the negative and enticement of my lifestyle, I began to hear God's voice inside me. He help me realize my sins, which brought me to repent, and live with Him fully in my life. I am thankful to God for the gift of His Son Jesus, and knowing what Christ Jesus has accomplished and sacrificed for me.

"Serving others through the food pantry and various outreaches has become a part of my new life here at the Mission as I continue forward in the recovery

program. I am on my fifth month. I am thankful God has found a way to bring my children back into my life in new and exciting ways. I am thankful for my family in Christ here at the Mission, brothers who I love and work alongside in serving others. I consider it a great privilege to get to know the Lord Christ Jesus more and more during my time here at Salt Lake City Mission.

"All the glory be to God!"



Meeting Their Greatest Needs!

Newsletter From Salt Lake City Mission // September 2023
www.saltlakecitymission.org

(Dylan's testimony continued)

me how the Mission changed his life and helped him get close to God. He told me about the men's program and how much it helps.

"Now I have been in the Mission almost eight months and the program has really helped me in the way I approach things and situations in my life. I am also learning how to treat family members and others in a more positive way. I feel I have my humility back, love and truth, and the things that matter in life. The closer I get to God the more I value others and

the things around me. I have a renewed outlook on life. As long as I get closer to God and gain more knowledge from "The book of life" I will grow stronger and life will become more positive. I will also help others do the same.

I am still building my relationship with God and will for a long time. I am learning more about his heart and everlasting love for all people. His mercy is so amazing and real. I never experienced joy, happiness, love, reassurance like I am now since finding God and getting closer to Him. It has changed my approach on life, and I feel like I navigate through life in a better

way. I am not looking too far ahead. I want to continue growing in Christ, at some point find a good job, get transportation, and a decent place to live, save some money. It will happen as I know God will help. I would like to go back to school and get my G.E.D. too. Right now I just want to enjoy my transformation and growth process in God. I just love the positive growth I am seeing in myself and love knowing I will make it through life as long as I have my focus on God. I also enjoy giving back by helping others in exchange for all the wrong I did in my life. God bless everyone!

Rescued Refugee: Yohan's Testimony

Yohan grew up in North Sudan. In 1983, when he was ten years old, a civil war broke out in the Country. During that time, houses and churches were burned to the ground in Yohan's village, with many being killed for not conforming to Sharia Law. Three years later things had only gotten worse. In 1986 SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) had all Christians in the area walk to Ethiopia. It took a month to reach their destination.

Three years after that, trouble then broke out, this time by way of The Ethiopian Civil War (1974-1991), causing his family to be on the move again across different regions of Ethiopia until they finally reached a place called the Bonga Refugee Camp. It was from there that Yohan's family was resettled in Baltimore, Maryland in

the year 2001. Yohan was twenty-five years old. He had three children at the time, two girls (ages 6 & 4) and a one year old boy.

After moving to the United States, Yohan and his family lived in many different parts of the country before finally arriving in Salt Lake City eight years later. During this period his family had grown to seven children, three girls and four boys.

Shortly after, Yohan began working for a window company. He worked there for thirteen years. During that time, he received a diploma from Horizonte Training Center. Sadly, after finishing school, Yohan's wife decided to divorce him. Because of the divorce, he sank into depression, anxiety, and excessive drinking which led to unemployment and trouble with the law.

"I discovered the wonders of this new place and I began to live



"These pictures deeply move me, as I realize that many from my native land are being persecuted for their faith".

the life I wanted to and apart from the way God wanted me to live. After a while, it became extremely difficult for me. I had trouble understanding the meaning for my life and the path forward in this new land.

"I was living in things I knew to be wrong. Drunkenness, pride, sinful anger, and hanging around people I called friends who had a bad influence on me.

(continued on page 4)

Harvest Season Is Approaching Fast

With the Fall season approaching quickly, we are starting to look forward to our busiest time of year.

October marks the beginning of our month long community wide food donation drive, but it is never too late to get a head start on collecting the large amount of food and other essentials we will need to provide an estimated 90,000 meals, or more, during the holiday seasons. Along with our ongoing daily food programs our food storage units need to be well stocked for the rest of the year.

The "Call to Action" is asking for our Donors and the community to donate or collect the items we need to fill up our pantry and food storage areas.

The food items we need donated will include:

- A variety of non-perishable food items (for weekly food boxes/distribution)
- Frozen Turkeys and whole chickens
- Canned veggies and fruits
- Boxed stuffing and mashed potatoes
- Holiday pies and rolls we can freeze
- Canned yams, cranberry sauce
- Gravy mix and other holiday items
- Financial donations



Donation drop off location:
Salt Lake City Mission 1151 S
Redwood Rd #106, SLC UT 8410.



Mike loves telling people what God has done for him and serving others thru the food pantry program.

Facedown No More: Mike's Testimony

I was raised by my Grandparents because of the troubles my parents had in their marriage. My Grandpa was a Baptist preacher, and Grandma was the Sunday school teacher. I was brought up with the Bible and learning about God. When I was able to move back with my parents at age 13, I started to attend a church that made me feel at home.

Life did not get better living with my parents. They still had a lot of problems and ended up getting divorced. I went to live with my mom. My dad tried to buy my love and encourage me to go live with him so

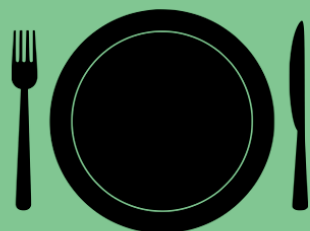
(continued on page 2)



801.355.6310 www.saltlakecitymission.org
1151 South Redwood Road, #106, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

So Far This Year...

Over 52,000 Food Boxes Given Away



Over 27,000 lbs of Clothing / Other Essentials Given Out



120,000+ Lives Impacted With Positive Change



Link here to view a detailed pdf of the Mission's 30th year milestones

<https://saltlakecitymission.org/30th-anniversary-milestones/>



(Mike's testimony continued)

he wouldn't have to pay child support. It all became a big mess. My mom even took me to drug deals and got me high for the first time when I was 17. I moved out when I was 18. Got a job, an apartment, and did drugs on the weekend.

As I got older, I included drugs and bad habits more into my lifestyle, especially trying to numb the pain and heartbreaks of losing my Grandma and Grandpa who died, suffering through a bad marriage that ended in divorce (we had two children together), and my mom dying from a drug overdose. I basically gave up on life and tried to numb the pain of everything away by consuming drugs. I ended up in jail for several years. After jail I met another woman. The relationship went badly after she started cheating. We had four kids together. Three were given up for adoption.

My life got to a point I couldn't mentally handle it anymore. I tried to commit suicide and ended up in ICU for three days. After that I tried to change, mainly in hopes of getting my girlfriend to change. We moved to Ogdon trying

to heal from attempted suicide and heal our relationship. Things only got worse from there as I caught her cheating again. I decided to leave and chose to be homeless rather than go through the lying and cheating any more.

I spent three years on the streets as a drug addict, putting everything I could into my veins. Attempts after attempts of suicide. Rock bottom finally came. With a broken heart, broken soul, and broken life, I had no want or drive to live at all. Face down in a ditch, I remembered from childhood where I learned that God does answer prayers. I cried out to God for His help knowing I couldn't do this by myself, and I didn't want to die like this. I didn't want the drugs anymore, the hurt, the suffering.

Within hours God delivered me from the drugs, the needle, the heartaches, and I immediately recognized it was Him answering my prayer. I picked myself up, looked up to Heaven and cried a river of tears yelling 'thank you' repeatedly. I knew I had to get back to God and live the way He wanted me to. Soon after I discovered Salt Lake City Mission at one of their outreach meal programs, talked

with Pastor Tom, and then joined the recovery program and started learning to live a more positive life. I grew spiritually more and more as time went by. My life was changing, my heart was healing, my hurt was going away.

As I became stronger in God and life, I was given important Mission responsibilities which included outreach servant leader and being given the position of house leader of the program residential units. God saved me from what I was, and I am thankful for that because I could not do it on my own. I also have my family back in my life in a positive way who also love what God is doing in my life.

God is so amazing! I love Him and trust Him with all my heart. One of my favorite Bible verses is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust the Lord with all your heart and don't lean on your own understanding". I enjoy life so much now, and what I love the most is telling people what God has done for me and how He changed my life. I want to continue the positive path forward and I hope someday to become a staff member of the Mission in helping others. And, show everyone how much I love God.

Wrong Life Going Right: Dylan's Testimony

It was a little rough growing up with two parents who were addicts at one time or another. After my dad sobered up he joined the Navy for five years. It helped him get over his struggle with addiction. My mom got help with addiction when I was about eight years old but she would sleep a lot because of the medication she also had to take.

After the Navy my dad became an OTR trucker and wasn't home a lot. Me and my sister had to take care of our two younger brothers. They were half-brothers. They had a different dad. My dad would come home once a month when he was a trucker and would take me and my sister camping, four wheeling, and on other trips, and even sometimes to other states in his semi.

As I grew older I got into my own messes, addictions, and doing the wrong things. As most people do, I reached the point of rock bottom and had to get help - more



Dylan has a positive future ahead of him as a changed man.

than once. My wife separated from me six years ago and for the last four years I have really struggled with addiction and in and out of places trying to get help. I would always relapse. Right before coming to the Mission I was living in my car, depressed, and really stressed out. I was in and out of First Step a few times, then I went V.O.A and detox. When I heard about the Mission I decided to go there.

My life is much different after finding the Mission. Getting closer to God has really filled my soul. The weight of depression that has been sitting on me for such a long time is being lifted more and more. I am giving my all to God now. I wish I would of went to the Mission when I first heard about it two years ago, but it wasn't until I was I detox that I actually decided to go. And it was only because a friend I made when I was at V.O.A told

(continued on page 4)

Summer Outreach Wrap-up

During this year's Summer season Salt Lake City Mission took the opportunity of the warm weather to host their annual "Putting for Pencils" Charity Golf Tournament in support of our annual "Back to School Giveaway" in August. During the event we equipped over 550 children with school supplies, clothing, and other essentials. 400 meals were also served.

Additional events included special outreach activities held on major holidays like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Juneteenth Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day. Additionally, the Mission continued it's daily ongoing programs that feed and care for the homeless, and food insecure families, as well as providing many other life essentials. Multi thousands of meals and food boxes were distributed over the Summer.

Along with our amazing and committed monthly Donors and Volunteers, we would like to also give a HUGE shout of THANKS to The food bank of Utah, Smiths, Jumpolines Party Rentals, Amazon, Rose Park Golf Course, Iglesia Centro de Vida Cristiana, and Christian Life Center. God bless all of you.

