

## SUPPORT OPERATION HYDRATION AND HELP USE MAKE SURE OUR HOMELESS FRIENDS STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER!

Did you know that our homeless friends can die in extreme weather, be it super cold or super hot? It's true, and as daily temperatures reach triple digits this summer, the Rescue Mission has plans to save lives and keep people safe.

Knowing the danger of the heat, we have special efforts planned. We have purchased thousands of refillable water bottles so our homeless friends can stay hydrated. Our "Operation Hydration" program also supplies hats, sunscreen, and non-perishable snack items to those who come through our doors in need of help. We want to turn this hot dry

summer into a Summer of Hope. Our efforts supply hope for a new life, as we seek to fill our homeless friends with faith, sobriety, and positive futures.

This is another way the Rescue Mission, because of your partnership, is trying to build relationships with our homeless friends so we can permanently help them off the streets, as well as build a better community for us all.

Thank you in advance for your support of our Operation Hydration efforts during what we expect will be one of the hottest Utah summers ever.

Please help with and support our summer outreaches as you are able. Our current needs list is on our website, OgdenRescueMission.org. You can also get updates by following us on our Facebook page. With your support, we commit to doing our best to ensure we don't lose any of our homeless friends due to heat and dehydration this summer.



## CONTACT US

### Web & social:

OgdenRescueMission.org

Facebook.com/RescueMissionOgden/

Instagram.com/ogden\_rescue\_mission/

### Contacts:

info@OgdenRescue.org

801.621.4360

### Send mail to:

PO Box 1227 Salt Lake City Utah  
84110-1227

### Location:

2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah

### CONNECT ON SOCIAL

We have great content on Facebook and Instagram, including video testimonies and more. Check us out on the platforms you use.

Facebook.com/Rescue-MissionOgden/

Instagram.com/ogden\_rescue\_mission/

# RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

## JOSEPH BURKE—A FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER FINDS A NEW LIFE AT THE OGDEN RESCUE MISSION

From the time I was a child I was great at sports. My ability took me places I didn't think I could go and people respected me because I was a good football player. I received a football scholarship at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga and I believe I still hold the single-season record in college football for yards-per-reception at 28.1. In 1990 I was inducted into the University of Tennessee Chattanooga Hall of Fame.

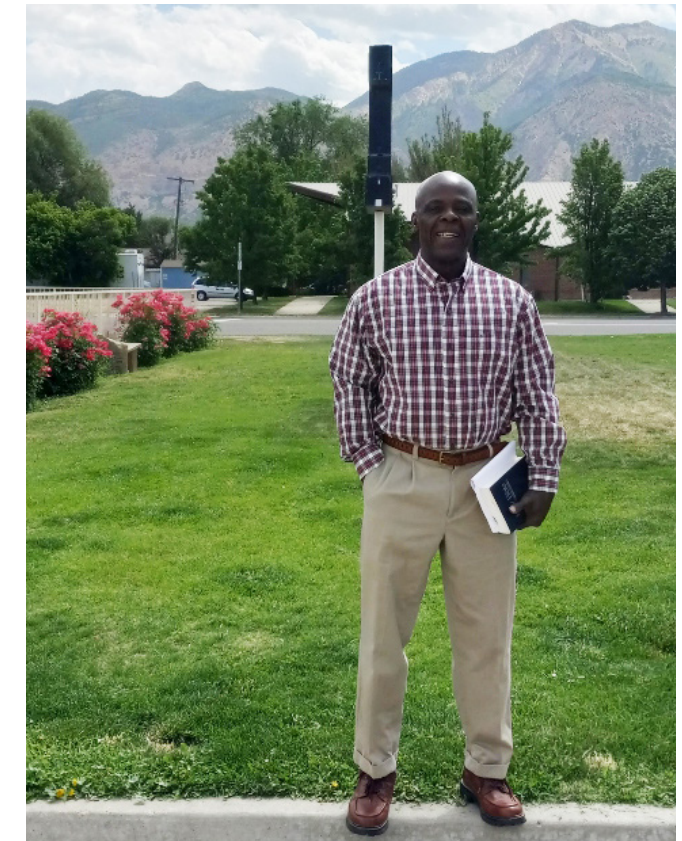
Professionally, I played a bit with the Oakland Raiders in the NFL (this was in the early 1980s) and then a few years in the Canadian Football League with the Montreal Canadians, before a knee injury ended my football career. When my football career was suddenly finished, I didn't know what to do so I joined the Army for four years. I did well in the Army and it reinforced the work ethic and discipline that my parents and athletics had taught me.

### TURNING TO DRUGS

After my four years in the Army, I moved back home. It was the late 1980s and a street drug called Crack had recently become popular as a cheap alternative to cocaine. Because I was still viewed as a famous football player, people wanted to be with me. They invited me to parties and they introduced me to Crack. For a while, because I was well known, people would give me drugs for free. But after a while, people started asking me to pay. Since then, I have struggled with addiction and its consequences.

For most of the past 30 years I have abused drugs and struggled. My life of addiction and pain came to a head in 2021. I had lost everything and was living on the streets homeless.

As a homeless person I started traveling across the country and ended up in Utah. Someone told me about the Ogden Rescue Mission and how they had a program that helps people get off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing. I was hopeless and needed help so I



Joseph Burke was a star football player. When he became homeless he found a new life at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

## JOIN US IN PRAYER AS WE FACE A 44% INCREASE IN HOMELESSNESS

Some of you may have seen the 2022 homelessness report released last month by the Utah Department of Workforce Services' Office of Homeless Services.

While the report focuses on 2021 data, it amplifies what we have been seeing at the Rescue Mission in 2022. The



bottom line is that homelessness is impacting more and more members of our community.

Joseph Jensen, data manager for the Office of Homeless Services, told local news outlets that skyrocketing home prices and ever-increasing rents are fueling Utah's increase in homelessness. It's important

to note that all of the 2021 data was developed prior to inflation taking a grip on our country. So in addition to rising housing costs, inflation has forced even more families and individuals into homelessness.

As an example, between our shelters in Ogden and Salt Lake, we provided 19,178 nights of shelter through May 2021. Through May 2022, we have provided 27,617 nights of shelter, a 44% increase. Not only do these numbers reflect the recent reality, but people are calling the Rescue Mission asking for shelter starting on the specific date they know they will become homeless. Others are coming to us, letting us know they are living in their car, and asking for food and a place to shower.

I share this with you, our faithful supporters and partners, so that you are aware of the escalating need. I also want you to know that we have strategies in place to address these growing needs and that your support is critical to helping poor families and individuals escape homelessness. The first part of the strategy is prayer. Please keep us and people struggling in homelessness in your prayers.

We are working with individuals and families who are newly homeless to get them rapidly rehoused. As part of this effort, we connect with partner agencies to link

people to housing opportunities. We also have in-house employment coordinators who connect people with jobs. Of course, for those who are homeless because of addiction, we have our New Life Recovery Program, which is a holistic, God-dependent approach to life change.

But for those who are situationally homeless simply due to economic factors, our Transitions Program provides quick access to employment and housing. As needs grow and economic situations change, our efforts are evolving to meet the numbers of people who come to our doors needing help.

During this time, we need your prayers and support as much as ever. In the face of this urgent situation, we are dependent on God and your support to meet the need. We continue to offer the levels of support our homeless friends need to get off the streets. Sometimes it is a quick connection to a housing or employment opportunity. Sometimes it is a life-transforming recovery program.

We offer all these services under the banner of sharing the love of Jesus. This means our services are compassionate but are also delivered with the understanding that this world is not our home. We serve with love knowing that having a relationship with Jesus, who has provided the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life, is what truly matters.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission during this time of tremendous need. We covet your prayers and gifts as you are able to give them.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

| OUR STATS            | 2022 Totals (through May) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Professions of faith | 69                        |
| Meals                | 33,580                    |
| Family food boxes    | 276                       |
| Nights of shelter    | 7,860                     |
| Clothing             | 3,357                     |
| Hygiene items        | 10,807                    |
| Day service          | 2,342                     |
| Jobs obtained        | 6                         |
| Housing obtained     | 5                         |

## Joseph: Continued from the Front Page

figured I would give the Ogden Rescue Mission a shot.

### FINDING THE HELP I NEEDED

At the Ogden Rescue Mission I found faith in God. There are regular counseling sessions where we talk about how God and His Son Jesus can help a person out of addiction. When I began a relationship with Jesus my life changed 100 percent. I asked God for forgiveness and He forgave me. When God's forgiveness came into my life I quit having nightmares about doing drugs.

As my life changed, I have been able to reconnect with my daughter who lives in Dallas. I was not a good father to her because I was stuck in my addiction. But by accepting God's forgiveness, I have been able to reconnect with her and am happy to have a relationship with her again. I also praise God that she had a great mother and stepfather who helped shape her into the awesome woman she is today.

I have a tight church family at Emmanuel Church, which is across the street from the Rescue Mission. It's a small church and they accepted me and offer one-on-one support when I need it.

When I entered the employment phase of the New Life Program, I was able to work with Easter Seals, which hires older Americans so they can do work at charities. I chose to do my Easter Seals service at the Ogden Rescue Mission as a way to give back to the Mission and our homeless community. At the Ogden Rescue Mission I serve as the evening desk man. In that position, I see people who come through the door who were in the same position I was. When I walked into the Ogden Rescue Mission I had no shoes, no money, and no hope. Now I see people who were just like me walk through the door and I have compassion for them.

I talk to them about the services the Rescue Mission offers and share about how God changed my life at the Ogden Rescue Mission. I explain that without God, I would still be out on the street, chained to my addiction. If God can change my life, He can change yours, I say.

Now I have great support from my brother, who is a retired police officer and currently works for the Sheriff's Office in my home county. Additionally, my longtime girlfriend has been my biggest supporter, encouraging me in my journey to faith, sobriety, and employment. As I serve at the Ogden Rescue Mission

through Easter Seals, I am saving up money so I can return home where I will have the support of my brother and my girlfriend.

At age 62, I realize now that it would honor God if I married my girlfriend. So marriage is one of my top priorities after I graduate from the New Life Program. She believed in me when I didn't believe in myself, so I want to be there for her in whatever ways I can.

I also have the goal of maintaining a close relationship with God, finding a good local church to attend, staying sober, and finding employment. I know that being connected to a church family and helping people through employment are things that God will use to help protect me from temptation.

I want to thank all you supporters of the Ogden Rescue Mission. This place took me in when I was desperate, wandering, and broken. They loved me and gave me everything I needed to be mentally and physically strong in my recovery. Your support and God's enabling power has helped me towards my greatest accomplishment—faith, sobriety, and a new life.



### Hall of Fame



JOE BURKE

CLASS: 1980

SPORT(S): Football