

A SHELTER FROM THE STORMS

In December, sadly, five unsheltered people passed away on Utah streets as temperatures began to plummet. January is the coldest month of the year in Utah, with an average daily temperature across the state of just 25 degrees Fahrenheit, with even lower temperatures at night.

With your support the Ogden Rescue Mission is striving to help people stay warm and safe this winter. It is our desire to be a Shelter from the Storms - Winter storms that rage outside and the storms of life that rage within a person's heart. We invite people to enjoy our warming center/day room, nightly shelter, meals, and vital care so people are not living on our streets and freezing to death outside. Our ultimate goal is to encourage people to join our New Life Recovery Program so they can leave their life on the streets behind them.

The New Life Program heals people from the storms of life that keep people in the bondage of addiction, mental illness, and hopelessness. A new life instills hope for a future, which is off the streets and has achievable life goals.

Day or night the Ogden Rescue Mission is open and available for people who need a Shelter from the

Storms. We provide hot meals, warm blankets, listening ears, and caring hearts to help save lives. Of course, saving lives has two meanings for us and we seek to accomplish both. We seek to save people from freezing to death on our streets, and we seek to save lives for eternity as people embrace the truth of Jesus and build a lasting relationship with Him.



Please support our Shelter from the Storms Campaign this January and February. As costs go up, people who have never been homeless before are calling us to set appointments to stay with us (knowing the date they will be evicted from their apartment). Our costs to provide meals, shelter, a warm place to stay day or night, showers, restrooms, and individual counseling are rising too. We estimate it costs around \$15 to provide emergency services (meals, dayroom, and nightly shelter) for one person. Please help as many people as you can both in January and February!

Use the enclosed envelope, give securely online at OgdenRescueMission.org, or call our donor relations line at **801.746.1006** for credit card giving by phone.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR HOLIDAY OUTREACHES - VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

Thank you for supporting a great Thanksgiving and Christmas season for our homeless friends. So many donors and volunteers came together to make it special. For example, the volunteer holding a low-income couple's baby (pictured below at left) so they could enjoy a parenting break for a peaceful Christmas meal together. Or our volunteers who donned aprons and faithfully served food (pictured below right). And while we love all our Holiday volunteers, we still need your help in January and February. If you can volunteer at the Rescue Mission, please email Eddrena at E.loveland@OgdenRescue.org.



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/OgdenRescue/

Instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission/

RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

JIM FILGER - A ONE-TIME ALCOHOLIC IS TRANSFORMED FOR GOD'S SERVICE

Editor's Note: People ask about the long-term success of our program graduates. On occasions we like to share updates on our graduates. This month we share Jimmy Filger story and his long-term partnership with the Ogden Rescue Mission.

Just before the turn of the century I was a hopeless alcoholic. Then God led me to the Ogden Rescue Mission.

My years as a young man in the United States Navy in Northern California were full of good work and hard service. In those days the Navy was also filled with hard drinking while off duty. Unfortunately, when I left the Navy I kept living the life of a strong drinker.

I was in and out of many jobs. I was a good worker but when I drank too much I would do things like not show up for a shift and get fired. Then 1983 happened.

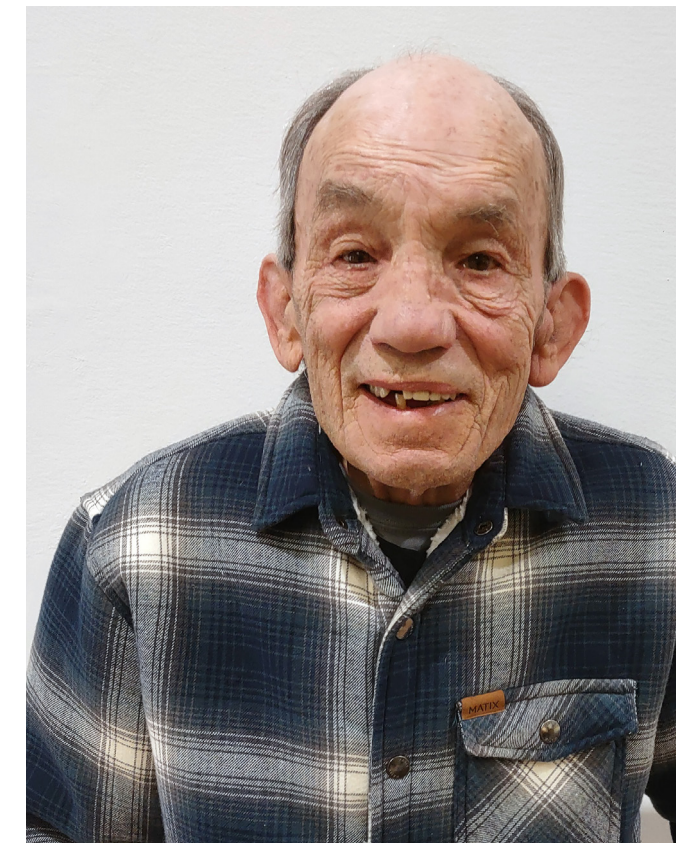
MOVING ON FROM PRISON

I was in a bar with a buddy and suddenly he told me he was going to rob the place and pulled out a gun. I was viewed as an accomplice and spent six years in prison.

After I was released, my life continued mostly as it had before, with me getting jobs and then losing them due to my alcoholism. I ended up in Reno, Nevada, and started working in the catering division at the large Marriott hotel. That's when God reached down and sent a miracle into my life.

I had worked at the Marriott for five years, but my life was a mess. I followed my typical pattern of drinking more and more. I would take leaves of absence from work to try and get sober and then have trouble paying rent. That's when two guests of the hotel happened to strike up a conversation with me.

We started talking and I shared with them that I had a drinking problem. The two guests told me that they also had problems with alcohol in the past but had both gone to the Ogden Rescue Mission, graduated from the Mission's



Jim Filger found new life at the Ogden Rescue Mission. Now he helps others get off the streets.

COMING IN FROM THE COLD

These past few weeks as winter storms rolled in, many of us, including myself, were up early to shovel our driveways and navigate snow covered roads to make it into work. People in my neighborhood were up early digging out or out for their morning run or walk with the dog. I live in a caring neighborhood and inevitably conversations start about how the homeless navigate such severe weather and how snow, wind and rain impact their lives.



When this happens my mind flashes back to conversations, I have had with friends I have met at the Rescue Mission, who share their stories with me.

One man, Don, shared how one winter night the wind was so strong it blew his shelter apart. Crawling out from underneath his shelter he tried to set it back up in the freezing rain that was not only drenching himself but his sleeping bag and his limited possessions. With the wind preventing him from setting his shelter backup he just started walking. He was walking away from everything he owned, eventually finding shelter by sitting in an open carport to get out of the rain. Once discovered, thankfully the homeowner allowed him to stay in the carport, out of the weather. Don eventually came to the Rescue Mission and had his life changed.

Angelo and Dawn are an unmarried couple that refuses to use overnight shelters like the Rescue Mission. Angelo and Dawn would rather sleep outside in the cold together than have Angelo go to the men's side of our shelter and Dawn go to the women's side. We have been able to build relationships with them though. They will come to the Rescue Mission in time for breakfast, stay all day in our day room for lunch, and into the evening for chapel and dinner. Then they would walk out the door to their camp, rather than being apart.

Kurt tells me how he would find a safe place to sleep during the day (yes during the day) with his back against the wall so there was no way for a person to get to him from the sides. If a person was going to get to him, they would have to come across his outstretched legs before they got to his head and body. In this way, he could wake up and help protect himself before they hurt him. He would sleep during the day so he could

walk around all night to stay warm and not freeze to death, fearing if he fell asleep at night he would never wake up.

While I am praising God for the winter storms that are bringing so much needed moisture, I am worried about what the winter storms and bitter cold mean for our homeless friends. If I am grateful to step into my home to get warm after clearing my driveway, how much more grateful are our homeless friends to step into the cozy Rescue Mission, especially when they are being shut out of many other places in town. As we continue to build relationships with people like Don, Angelo, Dawn, and Kurt, we increase the chances our homeless friends will seek safe, warm shelter, and begin a path to a new life. Thank you so much for enabling the Rescue Mission to be a Shelter from the Storms - Winter storms and the storms of life as well. Your support is making a difference and saving lives.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 Totals
Professions of faith	147
Meals	88,565
Family food boxes	740
Nights of shelter	17,105
Clothing	7,812
Hygiene Items	24,582
Day service	3,758
Jobs obtained	14
Housing obtained	13

CONTACT US

Web & social:

OgdenRescueMission.org
facebook.com/OgdenRescue/
Instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission/

Contacts:

info@OgdenRescue.org
801.621.4360

Send mail to:

PO Box 1431 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1431

Location:

2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah

Jim: Continued from the Front Page

recovery program. and were now sober and doing well. They told me if I truly desired sobriety, the Ogden Rescue Mission could help me.

GOD LEADS ME TO THE PLACE I NEEDED

Looking back, I wonder if those two men were angels, sent by God to help me. I took their advice, and headed to Ogden, Utah where I asked the Rescue Mission for help. As I went through the counseling, Bible studies, and work therapy as part of the Mission's recovery program, I was able to gain true faith in God through His son Jesus and found that I could stay sober.

When I graduated from the program, the Mission hired me as an office coordinator, and I was able to get a mobile home in Pleasant View. As office coordinator I was the first face people would see when they came into the Mission. If they were a volunteer, I would direct them where to go. If they were one of our homeless friends, I would share about the services we offer. It was a great time and I enjoyed helping people.

But in 2015, tragedy struck our Mission. Our long-time director, the head of our whole organization, passed away. It was a hard blow and the Mission could no longer afford to keep me on as a coordinator and I was laid off. By that time I had started taking Social Security. I was OK financially, but it was getting harder and harder to pay all the bills. I began renting out rooms in my mobile home to some people I shouldn't have. My life headed back to addiction and loneliness.

So a year later, I returned to the Mission and asked if I could rejoin the recovery program, to get back on track again. Going through the program for a second time, after working at the Mission for 15 years, was humbling, but I learned new things about God and myself. I learned to trust God in all ways and go to Him for help when I had problems. I realized I couldn't deal with all of life's problems by myself, where before I had an attitude that I could solve things and didn't need anyone to tell me what to do.

HEALED TO GIVE BACK

When I graduated from the Recovery Program for the second time the Mission still needed an office manager, and since I was taking Social Security, I didn't need a lot of money. They offered me my old job back.

So, today I am the live-in House Manager here at the Ogden Rescue Mission. I give tours to supporters who come by and want to see our operation. I help our homeless friends check into the Mission and give them information about our recovery program, which can get them off the streets and into faith, employment, and housing. When people have a question or problem, they

come to me, and I help solve it for them.

It's great work and I feel like the Lord has called me to do it. The best part is seeing life transformations. We had a man come into our program two years ago. He kind of had a "too-cool, gangster" mentality when he walked in the door. But he joined the program, and it was awesome to see God change his heart. He changed from a hardened street guy to a compassionate, joyful Christian brother.

He recently moved to another state where he has family and now has a job, is doing well, and is connected to a local church there. But seeing God work those miracles in people's lives is what makes my job worth it.

MY NEW LIFE

And all the while, I remind myself that God did that same miracle in my life. Today I have a great church family at the Genesis Project nearby the Mission and the people there help keep me on track and help me not to lie to myself or others. I am also able to lead several of the daily Bible studies here at the Mission, so it is a blessing to be able to regularly share God's Word with other people.

I am blessed to still feel needed, wanted, and depended on to do work that God has enabled me to do. As someone who was once a hopeless alcoholic, I cannot thank you enough for what your support has meant to me and how it has impacted my life, and how I now am able to give back. Without your support of the Ogden Rescue Mission and God's enabling power, I do not know where I would be today. Thank you and God bless you!

OK, OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS ARE READY FOR YOU!

We realized recently that we have been asking you to follow us on slightly incorrect



Facebook and Instagram links.

We are sorry if you have tried to follow us on social but haven't been able to access our content. We've fixed the issue in this month's newsletter. So give us a follow and like our posts! Ask us questions! We have great vides, photos, and other ministry content that we hope will bless and encourage you, as you see how your support helps our homeless friends in Ogden.