

PLEASE HELP US REACH THE HOMELESS THIS EASTER!

THE OUTREACH

As Spring begins to peek around the corner, we will be encouraging our homeless friends to Rise, Renew, and Rejoice at our annual Easter Banquet here at the Ogden Rescue Mission (Friday, April 7, the Friday before Easter Sunday).

At our Easter Banquet, homeless and low-income kids will enjoy face painting, carnival games, and kids' crafts. Our homeless friends will appreciate live music, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, free haircuts, fingernail painting, help writing letters home, crisis counseling, and more.

Our homeless friends can also join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. And most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter – Jesus' resurrection!

With this great opportunity for outreach in front of us, we need your help to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be.

Please pray and give. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change lives of our homeless friends and donate today! We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will Rise, Renew, and Rejoice in the love of Jesus, even as they experience difficult life circumstances. To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, call our donor relations office at **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card over the phone, or visit our website at **OgdenRescueMission.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

TOD OMAN - FROM PANDEMIC DESPERATION TO A NEW LIFE IN SOBRIETY, FAITH, AND EMPLOYMENT

I have struggled with substance abuse for most of my life, but never thought I would end up homeless, until I walked into the Ogden Rescue Mission for help. Since the day I joined the New Life Program, my life has been forever changed.

I grew up here in Ogden, going to Weber High School, but I left my house when I was 18 when I started drinking at parties every weekend, I had a falling out with my dad, who didn't like my partying and walked out of the house. I moved to California and actually had a successful career in the private security business.

A GROWING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM

After working private security, I became a heavy equipment operator. For the past 20 years, I have worked running heavy equipment used to install underground utilities such as water-main pipes. For most of my working life, I continued to use substances, such as: alcohol, marijuana, or meth. But despite my substance use and abuse, I have been able to live what many people might call a fairly normal life from the outside: I had two successful careers in different fields of work. I got married, had children, divorced, but mostly enjoyed the "American" way of life – house, cars, and a good amount of job success.

But as this sin-filled world is destined to create; I began experiencing the pangs of life. As a substance abuser, I couldn't figure out how to go through the pangs, without drugs or alcohol. First, my marriage dissolved, and I was divorced. Next, in 2006, my son was killed. While, those events were devastating, I held on to a sense of normalcy, working in California's Mojave Desert in the water pipe infrastructure industry.

Then the pandemic hit. Many people in Utah might not know it, but the COVID-19 restrictions in California were



Tod Oman lost his job during the pandemic and became homeless. Now he is employed and has found faith in Christ.

Please see Tod on page 3

YOU SUSTAIN THE MINISTRY!

With the 2023 general legislative session wrapped up, you might have read news articles, as I did, about the funding the legislature has put into homeless and low-income services both this year and last.

Here is some of the spending listed in media reports and the legislature’s website.

\$55 million one-time from American Rescue Plan federal funds for households making less than 30% area median income that will serve those who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.



- \$5 million ongoing from the General Fund for Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Restricted Account for cities to mitigate impacts from having a homeless shelter;
- \$5.8 million one-time from the General Fund to assist in repaying a loan for a homeless shelter;
- \$1 million one-time from American Rescue Plan federal funds to provide overflow shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness;
- \$322,200 ongoing from the General Fund for Office of Homeless Services staffing;
- \$6 million one-time from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families federal funds for temporary housing assistance for formerly incarcerated individuals with families;
- \$12 million for dedicated funding for homeless services; and
- \$3 million for domestic violence shelters.

Depending on who you ask, that’s either a significant investment, or not enough to fight Utah’s homeless problem, which, according most recent point-in-time homeless count, continues to increase. Regardless of where you fall on the amounts spent, I want you, our faithful supporters, to know that none of this money comes to the Rescue Mission.

We remain completely privately funded by donations from you and our loyal ministry partners. We operate this way so we can maintain our faith-based mission and be free to share the Gospel with those who come through our doors. If we were tied to government money, we could lose the freedom we enjoy to teach the truth of God’s Word and have local Christian churches come to our building each night to share a Chapel service and pray with our homeless friends. We would

also have to start and stop programs based upon approved funding from government officials. By remaining privately funded we can create programs based on the current needs of our homeless community and what best serves them.

But most of all I appreciate you and your support that allows us to have a place that the homeless can go to get the spiritual help they need for a new life. Along with allowing us to meet emergency needs like food, shelter, and clothing, your support allows us to share the love in Jesus in word and in deed, 365 days a year. The heart of the Rescue Mission continues to be our New Life Recovery Program that helps our homeless and hurting friends address the issues in their life that are causing their life difficulties. In so doing, with can help them become self-sufficient, instead of permanently dependent on a government subsidy.

We continue to depend on God and your support to help us restore broken lives through His healing power and uplifting grace! Thank you!

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2023 YTD
Professions of faith	13
Meals	16,441
Family food boxes	192
Nights of shelter	2,033
Clothing	1,660
Hygiene Items	4,513
Day service	497
Jobs obtained	1
Housing obtained	0

CONTACT US

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OgdenRescueMission.org
facebook.com/OgdenRescue/
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Tod: Continued from the Front Page

much more severe than they were in Utah. Almost all business grinded to a halt, including mine. Soon I was unemployed. There was simply no work for my company anymore.

TRYING TO SURVIVE THE PANDEMIC

Desperate, I started using my truck to transport drugs between California and Ogden. I was able to support myself but felt shame for bringing drugs into the city where I was born. Running heavy equipment for 20 years took a toll on my body and I knew I my shoulder needed medical attention.

I was able to qualify for shoulder replace surgery, but – as a vagabond truck driver – I needed a place to recover. I had stayed at the Ogden Rescue Mission a few times during my trips back and forth to California, and the staff there knew I had a drug problem.

I asked the staff if I could have my surgery and then spend several months recovering there. They initially declined, but then came back to me with a counteroffer. Since they knew I had a substance abuse problem and needed God’s help to change my life they told me if I would join their New Life Recovery Program and seek help for my addiction, I could have the surgery and recovery time while I was on the program.

I agreed to that bargain and it has truly changed my life.

FINDING THE HELP I NEEDED

Today I am 18-months recovered from my shoulder surgery and sober. If you have ever had shoulder surgery or known someone who has, you know it is a hard recovery and massive surgery. But with the Mission’s help I have made it.

When I agreed to the Mission’s offer, I never thought I would ever quit using drugs. But I found the Ogden Rescue Mission just rubbed off on me. Today I know that God protected me by bringing me to the Rescue Mission. I feel His Holy Spirit all the time, helping me.

I attend church at the Genesis Project here in Ogden and feel blessed to learn more about God, his Son Jesus, and the new life He brings. A few months ago, I entered the employment phase of the New Life Program and secured a job through Easter Seals, which pays older workers to do work for nonprofits.

Through this relationship, I am able to be paid to be the full-time night security guard for the Ogden Rescue Mission, while still living here and having the continued support I need to stay sober and in recovery. Because of my background in California’s private security industry, I feel I am uniquely qualified to supply security

for the Mission.

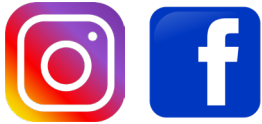
FORGIVENESS AND HELPING OTHERS

As a former drug addict and homeless person, I can relate with all the people I now deal with, but I also have a solution for them. I tell them my story and let them know they don’t have to live outside and stay in their addiction.

They can come inside, have shelter, eat food, get clothing, and have help to find legitimate employment. I love being able to not only protect the Ogden Rescue Mission and the homeless friends we serve, but also to offer those who are living on the streets an option for a changed life. As I have grown in my job as the Mission’s night security man, I have seen the devastating effects that drugs have on people’s lives and see more clearly the devastating effects they had on my own life. I feel guilt and shame when I think about the lives I might have ruined helping to traffic drugs in the past, but I know that God’s grace, through the sacrifice His Son Jesus made for me, erases the guilt I would otherwise face when I finally meet God face-to-face.

God is also rebuilding my family. I talk with my dad every other week and have a good relationship with him. I am grateful to God for restoring my relationship with my dad and with so many other people in my life. I also thank you, the faith supporters of the Ogden Rescue Mission for providing a place where people like me, who were destined for prison or worse, can find a restored life. Thank you so much!

REMEMBER: OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS ARE READY FOR YOU!



Follow us 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.

Facebook.com/OgdenRescue/
Instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission/