

TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all of you who have already supported our Easter outreach, but we still need help. If you haven't supported our outreach yet, or if you can give a second gift, please do today. Here is some of the help we need:

**Prayer and support.** 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.

**Clothing and food.** Support this event by donating your old clothes or by giving hams or other items needed for our Easter banquet.

**Preparation help.** We need volunteers to come to the Mission a day or two before the event to help with meal preparation. Please call Judy at 801.621.4360 to volunteer.

At our Easter Banquet, our homeless friends will appreciate the loving atmosphere, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, and the ability to 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!

To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, Scan the QR code on this newsletter, 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 to donate online.

Easter is a blessed time to help our hurting friends Rise above their difficulties, Renew their life and Rejoice as they become the people God truly intends them to be. Thank you for your support that keeps our doors open every minute, every day!

We need your help! We want to bless our homeless and low-income friends this Easter but we can't do it without your support. Please consider giving today to make this Easter a life-changing one for those struggling on our streets.



RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

*In June 2023, I was living in the back on my son's Jeep, which was parked at his apartment complex. It had been a long road to that point, my rock bottom.*

I started drinking and using drugs when I was 14, shortly after my father was killed by a drunk driver. Whatever faith in God I may have once had left me. I thought, "How could God allow this to happen to someone as young as me." Alcohol and drugs helped me deal with the pain of losing my dad. Still, as an adult, I usually held down jobs. I often hated getting off work because I knew I would head straight to the liquor store or to buy drugs.

Then I would be intoxicated all night, wake up feeling horrible and have to get up and go to work again. It was a horrible cycle.

BEGINNING LIFE ON THE STREETS

About 10 years ago, I started experiencing homelessness due to my addiction. I lost my job and lived on the streets. At times I would get sober, but I ended up going back to my addiction. I wasn't ready to quit, yet.

But finally, when I was living in the back of my son's Jeep, I realized I needed help. I had tried unsuccessfully to take my life two times. I woke my son up on the morning of June 11, 2023 and told him I was leaving. I called the Ogden Rescue Mission and they said I could join their New Life Program. Since that time, my life has radically changed.



Curtis Stack is sober and has a good job, less than one year after he was living in the back seat of his son's Jeep. Today he has faith in God and connection at a local church.

## WHAT GOD SEPARATE GOD’S PEOPLE FROM HIS LOVE?

Do you truly believe that **nothing** can separate you or someone else from the love of God? Keep in mind that **nothing** includes homelessness, addiction, mental illness, and a criminal record. It is with that belief that the Ogden Rescue Mission operates our New Life Program. We seek to help people understand that their past cannot thwart God’s desire to be connected to His people who find joy in following Him.



After all, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Moreover, “Who shall separate us from the love of Jesus?” The answer is **nothing** and **no one**. To paraphrase: Neither death nor life, not angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers or anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God . . . that is in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:31-39).

I love this Bible passage. One reason I enjoy it is that I have confidence that believing this passage is the only way we can fully appreciate the Easter season. When we think that Jesus endured a horrific death on the cross (so His people can experience the mercy of God) it is amazing to ponder whatever separation happened between Jesus and His Father during his death was overcome by His amazing resurrection, which gives hope to all who seek Him.

At the Ogden Rescue Mission, we see every person as someone created in God’s image (Gen. 1:26) endowed with innate dignity and worth, thus

deserving love, compassion, and a future where each person can be the person God created them to be. We strive to see people as God sees them. We can only accomplish this goal because of the hope we have in the resurrection. In knowing what God did for us, we can truly serve in humility and consider other’s needs above our own. We when do, we strive to have the same attitude as Jesus (Philp. 2:1-5).

This Easter Season, as we remember Jesus’ death and celebrate His resurrection with joy, all of us at the Ogden Rescue Mission seek to become closer followers of Jesus. And we know that a key way to accomplish that goal is to serve those most of us would call the least and lost. The ones whom Jesus calls “brothers and sisters of mine.” (Matt. 25:40).

As you join us in this work by investing in people’s lives and the work of the Ogden Rescue Mission, you are joining with God in the work He is doing to restore lives and end homelessness in Northern Utah. Your support shows hurting people that they are loved, valued, and that nothing can separate God’s people from Himself. Nothing, not even a teenager losing his father to a drunk driver, as you can read in Curtis Stack’s life story.

May God’s grace and peace be yours this Easter Season!

*Chris D. Croswhite*

Executive Director

Curtis: Continued from the Front Page

### FINDING FAITH

Through the bible studies and group classes, I came to see God in a different light. I believed He could help me get sober and He did. I knew there was no way I could stay sober on my own but with God’s help I found that I could. His help made me believe He was real. While I still struggle with my father’s death, I know that God is real because He changed my life.

It was good to engage in work therapy at the Mission. I helped clean the Mission doing janitorial work during the day and then helped with evening security at night. I needed to get back into the swing having work to do each day and responsibilities.

### READY TO WORK AND TO REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS AGAIN

When it was time for me to enter the employment phase of the New Life Program, I was ready. I had made new friends who cared about me and one man who gets a small social security check each month but still needs help from the Mission for food and other necessities, gave me \$150 one month so I could buy the tools I needed for a potential job.

The job offer was for apartment maintenance and while the apartment complex supplies all the materials, I had to have my own tools. No one had really done anything like that for me before and I felt so blessed. I bought tools, got the job, and have been

working for a couple months now. I plan to save up money so I can get my own apartment when I graduate from the New Life Program this June.

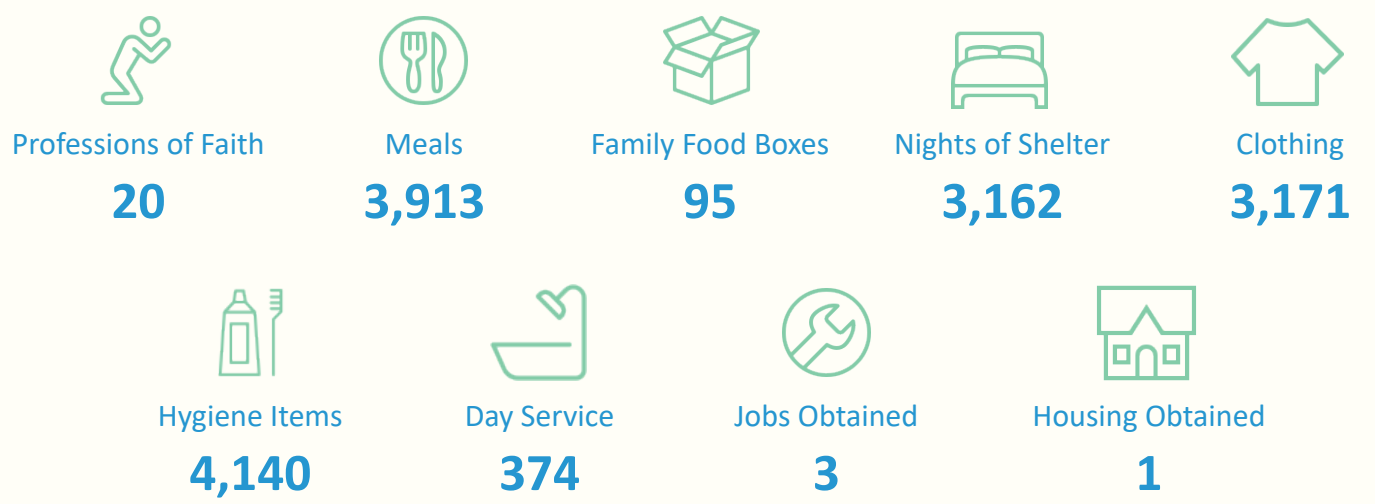
The best part is that my son is proud of me now, instead of being embarrassed to have me around and living in the back of his Jeep. I now know there is more to life than getting high. I look around and see the earth, people, animals, and everything and know that all this stuff didn’t just create itself. There is a God who created it all and loves me and helps me.

### THE MAN MIRROR

Today I am happy when I look in the mirror. I am not ashamed like I used to be. Before I blamed all my problems on other people or on God. Now I realize I was the one causing most of my problems.

Thank you so much for supporting the Ogden Rescue Mission. Without your support I am sure I would be dead. You helped create a place where God changed my life and for that I am eternally grateful.

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH FEBRUARY



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL  
OgdenRescueMission.org  
Facebook/OgdenRescue  
Instagram@ogden\_rescue\_mission  
Email: info@OgdenRescue.org

SCAN OUR QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE TODAY



PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS  
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Volunteer: Email Natalie at N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org  
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