

HELP US MEET OUR DECEMBER MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

You Helped Bless so Many this Thanksgiving

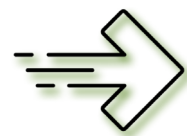
It was a great Thanksgiving (check out the pictures on the right) at the Ogden Rescue Mission. Here are some highlights:

- Organization wide, we served over over 1,400 meals in three hours, including delivering meals to homeless camps, where people were encouraged to leave the camps behind and come to the Mission for help.
- Our homeless and low-income neighbors received winter clothing and hygiene products, along with gifts for parents to give to their children on Christmas.
- Community support, donations, and prayer played a crucial role in making the event successful.

Christmas Outreach and Needed Support

With an awesome Thanksgiving behind us, we are in the throes of Christmas outreach. More people join the New Life Program during the Holiday Season and cold winter months than any other time of year. The Mission encourages people to join the New Life Program for the long-term support needed to get off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing. More important Christmas news:

- Preparation is underway for our Annual Christmas Banquet serving up hot food and gifts to those who may be without a home or family for the holidays.
- A supporter has pledged a \$25,000 matching gift challenge, doubling donations in December.
- Plans include providing 15,000+ hot meals during this Christmas season, and distributing family food boxes, winter clothing, and other essentials.



Give now. Please help us meet our December match challenge by donating today and double the pledged \$25,000!

Check: Payable to the Ogden Rescue Mission
Credit Card: Call 801.746.1006 or use the response card in this newsletter

Online: OgdenRescueMission.org

Scan: The QR code in this newsletter



RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

As a successful salesperson with a wife, daughter, and home, I never thought I would end up homeless, living on the streets of Ogden.

The good news is that when I became homeless, God led me to the Ogden Rescue Mission where I found a true relationship with Him and a new life of sobriety and employment.

While I did some partying in my late teens and early 20s, I settled down. I was married and had a daughter I worked successfully in the car sales industry. It seemed like a good life.

But in 2018 my wife and I were divorced and I turned to alcohol to cope with the pain. Over the next five years, I struggled with sobriety. This struggle impacted my entire life but especially my ability to work. I would get a job, then lose it.

My drinking grew so bad I was arrested several times for alcohol-related offenses. By 2023 I was still working off and on but couldn't gain real stability. My sister would sometimes let me stay with her, or I would have enough money for a cheap motel room.

Eventually, I lost my last job and my sister's patience had run out. With nowhere to go I began living in a Ogden homeless shelter. At the shelter I started drinking more and was even introduced to meth, something I had never done before.

It was the hot delicious food that introduced me to the Ogden Rescue



Brady Scadden and his daughter share a fun photo from one of their many summer hang out sessions. Brady is sober, employed, and is enjoying being an engaged father again after finding a new life at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

GOD WANTS TO FILL THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS

December marks the beginning of the Advent season, and while Advent observances take many forms, one of my favorites is reading a chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day.

There are 24 chapters in Luke (a coincidence?), which is just enough to read one per day, starting on December 1 and ending on Christmas Eve. As I write, I recently finished the first chapter of Luke and was struck by how it helps illustrate the Rescue Mission's ministry.



Luke 1 focuses on two people. One is Zachariah, a priest and John the Baptist's father. The second is Mary, the mother of Jesus. They

were both told extraordinary things by God through an angel. Zachariah was told his wife, who was old and barren, would have a son. Mary was told she would give birth to the Son of God.

To Zachariah, the idea that his wife, Elizabeth, could be pregnant was preposterous. Because of his skepticism in God's promise, he was made mute. Mary, by contrast, believed that she could give birth despite her virginity. "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word," she said. (Luke 1:38). Later, in her song of praise to God for choosing her, Mary noted that God "has filled the hungry with good things." (Luke 1:53).

Join me in considering two things from Luke 1.

First, most of the people who come to the Rescue Mission are more like Zachariah than Mary. Their encounters with God and His promises do not initially produce belief. Instead, they are skeptical until God shows them rock bottom (for Zachariah this was being mute, for many of our homeless friends this can be addiction, homelessness, poverty, and suffering). Yet, God does eventually bring His people to Himself (just like he did with Brady, who shares his life story in this month's *Restored Lives*). Like Brady, Zachariah came to believe God's promises. When both did, they were healed, physically and spiritually. (Luke 1:64).

Second, God desires to "fill the hungry with good things." Whether a person is physically or spiritually hungry, God's heart is to fill them. Your support of this ministry helps fill people physically (through three daily hot meals, family food boxes, and special events like our Christmas Banquet) and spiritually (through chapel services, biblical education, bible study, and connection to solid Christian churches).

Thank you for supporting this ministry. I see first-hand how God uses your support to "fill the hungry with good things" and bring those who initially miss the message, like Zachariah and Brady, to Himself. It is a blessing to see God use your gifts to accomplish His purposes.

Merry Christmas,

Chris D. Croswrite

Executive Director

Brady: Continued from the Front Page

Mission. Living on the streets, I quickly learned the Rescue Mission had the best meals, so I would walk down from my homeless shelter to the Rescue Mission.

One day I was talking with another man who was also eating dinner there. I lamented how I needed a rehab program but had no money or insurance that would pay for one. The man looked at me and asked if I knew that the Ogden Rescue Mission ran a free, faith-based rehab program right out of this building.

I was shocked and that night I talked with Jimmy, the house manager. He told me I would need to come in sober. It was a Friday, and he shared that if I came back sober on Monday, I could join the program. It was a struggle, but I stayed sober all weekend and on Monday began the New Life Program at the Mission.

That was back in April and I am happy to say God has changed my life. The program staff helped me talk about unresolved issues that I had never dealt with. I felt betrayal and unforgiveness in my heart. But when I talked about those issues and learned about how God's forgiveness can free me to forgive others, I found a level of peace I had not experienced before.

I began to not just read the Bible but understand it and build a true relationship with God through His Son Jesus. I could apply the Bible to every facet of my life and leave things I couldn't control up to God.

My relationship with God and continued sobriety,

have helped my relationships get better. I have great communication with my ex-wife. She lets me see my daughter often. In the summer we went swimming almost every weekend and I am looking forward to spending time with her this Christmas.

My connection with my mother has never been better and I talk with her almost daily about the Bible. I caused her many endless nights of grief and worry, so I love bonding with her on a new level. Even my stepdad has started going to church.

I have friends on social media who are still struggling with addiction and when they reach out, I message them about the Mission's program. I share how it changed my life. I tell them how I am working at a good job now and saving up money for a car and an apartment when it is time for me to graduate from the New Life Program.

Thank you for supporting the Ogden Rescue Mission. I had no hope of getting into an expensive recovery program. Your kindness has helped create a free program where people who are homeless and hopeless can turn for the help they need. God has used your support to take me off the streets, enjoy sustained sobriety, and gain employment.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH NOVEMBER



Professions of Faith

45



Meals

71,568



Family Food Boxes

584



Nights of Shelter

12,758



Clothing

8,815



Hygiene Items

37,415



Day Service

1,218



Jobs Obtained

8



Housing Obtained

6



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

OgdenRescueMission.org

[Facebook/OgdenRescue](https://www.facebook.com/OgdenRescue)

[Instagram@ogden_rescue_mission](https://www.instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission)

Email: info@OgdenRescue.org

SCAN OUR QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE TODAY



PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

Main – 801.621.4360

Donor Relations – 801.746.1006

Mail: PO Box 1431 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1431

Volunteer: Email J.Doud@OgdenRescue.org

Physical Address: 2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah