

## YOU HELPED US MEET OUR DECEMBER MATCH!



**Mission accomplished! You raised \$50,000 for the Mission**

Thank you for helping us meet our December matching gift challenge! Your support raised thousands of dollars for our homeless friends and made a Merry Christmas and joyful holiday season possible for many. We are deeply grateful for your generosity. Please take a moment to enjoy the pictures from our holiday outreaches on the right.



**Data shows that more help and love are still needed**

Despite this wonderful blessing from God, it was sobering to read the January HUD annual report on the number of individuals experiencing homelessness. For Utah, the report found:

- **A 5% increase in homelessness over the past year.**
- **Looking back to 2007, homelessness in Utah has risen by 28.5%.**

At the Rescue Mission this December:

- **71 people who had never walked through our doors before came in and asked for help.**

At the Mission, our facilities are among the few faith-based programs dedicated to helping people transition into faith, sobriety, employment, and permanent housing. We are able to boldly offer faith-based solutions because we receive no government funds and rely entirely on the generosity of donors like you. By choosing not to accept government support, we can provide free, Bible-centered programs to our homeless friends. Whether they need rapid rehousing, a short-term stay after a job loss, or a life-transformation program with God at the center, we are here to help.

Please prayerfully consider the statistics above and how you might get involved. Whether through volunteering, praying, donating needed items, or giving financially, your support is essential as we continue to tackle this growing issue in a God-centered way.



# RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

*It was the “Jesus Saves” sign that first caught my attention. Driving through Ogden with my sister, I noticed the sign and asked her to pull over. Without hesitation, I walked inside and shared my struggle with a 30-year meth addiction.*

They welcomed me into the New Life Program—the Ogden Rescue Mission’s long-term life transformation program for people like me who had struggled for years with substance abuse. I told my sister I was staying at the Mission, and she drove away in my car.

A few days later, I learned my car had been impounded. I was upset, and I decided to leave the New Life Program to see what I could do to get it back.

But then, a friend of mine stopped me. He looked me in the eye and asked, “What’s more important to you—your car or the Lord? Do you want to find your car, or do you want to find the Lord?”

His words hit me hard. When he put it that way, I knew what my answer had to be. I let my car go and chose to stay in the New Life Program. For the first time in my life, I began to develop a real relationship with God through His Son, Jesus.

### A LIFE DEFINED BY ADDICTION

I grew up in California during the ‘80s and early ‘90s. My parents were deep into the meth scene, and my family—two brothers, two sisters, and I—were all caught up in it. It was a difficult childhood. My father was abusive, often



Dustin Reynolds has struggled with addiction, incarceration, homelessness, and abuse for most of his life. Today he is sober and is working towards a career in homeless services, so he can use his story and expertise to help others off the streets.

## HELPING THE HOMELESS THROUGH COLD AND DARKNESS

*As we navigate the long, dark winter, it's important to remember that for our homeless friends, the darkness of this season can be even more acute.*

The lack of shelter, warmth, and basic necessities deepens feelings of isolation, despair, and hopelessness. The cycle of addiction often thrives in these conditions—darkness becomes a place of

numbing, where pain is avoided rather than confronted.

Additionally, the literal cold can mirror the spiritual coldness that many homeless individuals feel as they disconnect from society.

In contrast, it's striking that God's first act of creation was to speak light into existence: "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). His

first creative act wasn't just to bring physical light, but to dispel the chaos of a formless, dark world. This light represented God's presence and order, a theme reiterated in the Gospel of John when Jesus declared Himself to be the "light of the world" (John 8:12). Like God's first creative act, Jesus' light seeks to dispel chaos and disorder (this time caused by the fall in Genesis 3).

God desires that all of us experience spiritual light rather than spiritual darkness. At the Rescue Mission, we strive to carry out that divine desire, especially during this season. We take deliberate steps in the dark winter months to help our

homeless friends navigate both the literal and spiritual challenges they face.

Providing safe, warm shelter during the coldest months not only saves lives, but also creates a space for spiritual healing. Our programs combine one-on-one therapy, group discussions, nightly chapel services, work therapy, and Bible studies. We use proven principles to help individuals break free from the cycle of addiction. (Please read Dustin Reynold's life story to learn how the New Life Program helped him overcome this cycle.)

As winter's darkness continues, it's important to remember that the Bible assures us that darkness cannot overcome the light. For our homeless friends struggling with addiction, the light of God's love and the practical support of the Rescue Mission provide both warmth and hope this winter. As the light of Christ dispels spiritual darkness, our actions are a tangible reflection of that light, offering healing and restoration to those in need.

Thank you for supporting our ministry. Your prayers and support are "letting there be light," dispelling the chaos and disorder in the lives of our homeless friends here in Utah.

God bless you,

*Chris D. CroswHITE*

Executive Director



### Dustin: Continued from the Front Page

beating me, and I started using meth at an early age.

When my father was murdered in 1994, my family moved to Northern Utah, but my addiction to meth didn't stop. I spent 10 years in prison for distributing meth, and when I got out, I returned to using. I convinced myself I was a "functional addict" because I could hold down jobs for a while, but the truth was most of my jobs didn't last. My addiction often led to me being in and out of jail for minor, drug-related offenses.

Growing up, my family wasn't religious, and I wasn't taught much about the Bible. So, I was just as surprised as anyone when the "Jesus Saves" sign at the Ogden Rescue Mission seemed to call out to me. I can't explain it, but something in me urged me to have my sister stop the car and let me go inside.

#### A NEW HOPE

I had seen people who go to church have a joy that I lacked. I knew I had been trying to fill the emptiness inside with drugs, but they never worked. They never filled the void.

At the Ogden Rescue Mission, I attended Bible studies, chapel services, and church. I also had individual meetings with the staff. Through all of this, I came to know Jesus as my Savior.

Today, I attend church every Sunday with Pastor Greg, the Mission's chaplain. He has been a great mentor to me, as has Ms. Judy, who guided me through the Genesis Process recovery curriculum.

#### A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

This past Christmas was the first time I was able to spend the holiday with my family. My sister invited me over, and it felt like a blessing. When I was using meth, she wouldn't even tell me where she lived. But this Christmas, my adult nephew and his three children were there, calling me "uncle." It felt like a godsend.

#### A NEW PURPOSE

Today, I genuinely care for others. I'm working as an intern at the Mission, where I help people who come in for the night. I direct them to where they can eat, give them gloves, offer advice, and listen to their struggles. I try to let them know they don't have to be out on the streets alone; they can join the New Life Program, just like I did.

My hope is that my internship will lead me to a place where I can continue helping the homeless. But, ultimately, I know it's up to God and His plan for me. I ask for your prayers that God's will would be done in my life and that I would continue to build deeper relationships with my family and my church family at North Park Church in Roy.

#### THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Ogden Rescue Mission. God changed my life here, and your generosity has meant, and continues to mean, the world to me.

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS FOR 2024



Professions of Faith

59



Meals

78,471



Family Food Boxes

624



Nights of Shelter

14,513



Clothing

9,802



Hygiene Items

39,247



Day Service

1,234



Jobs Obtained

8



Housing Obtained

6



#### WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

[OgdenRescueMission.org](http://OgdenRescueMission.org)

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

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Email: [info@OgdenRescue.org](mailto:info@OgdenRescue.org)

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#### PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

Main – 801.621.4360

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Volunteer: Email [J.Doud@OgdenRescue.org](mailto:J.Doud@OgdenRescue.org)

Physical Address: 2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah