

THE REAL NEED: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

appreciate is its focus on addiction and mental health. In my experience, hurts run deep, and people often turn to substances to escape pain. Substance abuse often leads to a life on the street.

That said, there is no one single strategy God uses to change lives, so the Rescue Mission uses multiple tactics:

- 1. **Faith in Jesus Christ.** We share the Gospel. Everyone needs Jesus for transformation in this life and for eternal hope. Real change doesn't happen without spiritual renewal.
- 2. **Support for Situational Homelessness.** Some lose housing due to job loss or rising rent. Our transitions program helps people get back into housing once employment and affordability return.
- 3. **Comprehensive Healing for Chronic Homelessness.** Most people need more than just shelter. Our New Life Program includes counseling, prayer, journaling, work therapy, forgiveness, Bible study, life skills, and healthy relationships. Ruth 2:20 shares how God used Ruth's relationship with Boaz to bless Naomi and Ruth, who could have slipped into poverty and homelessness.
- 4. **Outreach to Camps and the Streets.** We meet people where they are. Outreach teams connect with individuals living on the streets and guide them to the help we offer.
- 5. **Jail and Prison Transitions.** We support those who are in poverty and walk out of jail or prison with literally no place to go. The Mission provides accountability, addiction support, and stability to reduce recidivism.
- 6. **Medical and Mental Health Care.** Some need clinical treatment and behavioral health support. We partner with organizations such as the Fourth Street Clinic, Sacred Circle Healthcare, Valley Behavioral Health, and the Salt Lake County Health Department to meet these needs.

Government alone can't heal all the pain and problems of homelessness. But God can. Jesus is the one true Executive Order we all need.

Please join me in prayer—for wisdom among elected leaders, for policies rooted in compassionate accountability, and for our homeless friends to find healing and new life through the Gospel and the work of the Rescue Mission.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite

Executive Director

While this summer has been one of the hottest and driest in Utah's history, your generosity is helping to transform it into a season of relief and hope for many. Outreach teams have connected with 826 unique individuals on Utah's streets so far this summer. More than 3,000 people walked through our doors for a bottle of water or to ask for help. In total, we served 3,953 individuals so far this summer. Thanks to your support of Operation Hydration, you are making a life-saving difference for our homeless neighbors. Through the end of July, you helped:

Provide 15,954 bottles of water

Distribute 3,717 reusable water bottles

Refill 12,000 water bottles at our hydration station

Hand out 962 hats

Share 1,736 sunscreen items

Deliver 1,463 sticks of lip balm



Most importantly, your support has shared the love of Jesus through action, compassion, and just being there. You are helping reach those in need and shine a light during a difficult season. From all of us at the Rescue Mission, thank you for standing with us this summer. Your kindness is saving lives and renewing spirits!



RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission



Paul Martinez, an Ogden native, served in the military for years both stateside and abroad. Today, he has been able to reconnect with his family in Ogden and start a new life away from homelessness, thanks to the help he recieved at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

I was born in Ogden, Utah, and after all these years, I've found myself right back where I started—but not the same man I used to be. Life took me all over the place. I served in the Air Force, got reactivated after September 11, and spent time stateside and abroad. I've seen some hard things, things that stick with you. But no matter where I went—Los Angeles, Vegas, Texas—I kept seeing those old "Jesus Saves" signs in the rougher parts of town. They were like little reminders from the Lord, nudging me, saying, "I'm still here."

About a year ago, I felt that nudge stronger than ever. I was 60 years old, and something in me said it was time to come home. My mother was getting older, and I knew I needed to be close. I was close to broke, so I packed up and bought a ticket back to Ogden, hoping to reconnect with family and maybe find a place to settle down. But when I got here, the homes I remembered were empty. My dad had passed, my sisters were married and moved on, and my older brother had started his own life. I felt like a stranger in my own hometown.

I didn't have a place to stay, and I didn't know where to turn. I was just as much on the streets as anyone else. In the past I had struggled with drinking too much, but I thought I was past all that. Still, alone and with nowhere to go I felt desperate and didn't want to turn back to past dependencies. I was looking for something temporary, saw that

# JESUS CHRIST IS THE EXECUTIVE ORDER WE ALL NEED

Many people have asked me about President Trump’s July 24, 2025, executive order titled “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets.”



When asked, I emphasize that the Rescue Mission strives to remain apolitical. We don’t endorse candidates or suggest how anyone should vote. However, we do offer our thoughts on public policies that affect our homeless friends. In my reading, the July executive order is an attempt to address chronic homelessness by reevaluating previous government strategies. Past approaches, while well-intentioned, have not worked because homelessness, at its core, is not a problem the government can solve alone. Chronic homelessness is a spiritual issue—rooted in trauma, abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, and broken relationships. No government, no matter how capable, can mend what is wounded in the human heart. Only Jesus Christ can truly change hearts. Faith in Him for forgiveness and new life is the true solution. When I first joined the Rescue Mission two decades ago, “Housing First” was emerging as the dominant philosophy to address homelessness. It began in Seattle and was adopted nationwide by the Bush–Cheney administration. Subsequent administrations continued to embrace it. Housing First is built on the idea that homelessness

equals chaos, and housing removes chaos. Once housed, individuals are expected to voluntarily focus on employment, healthcare, and recovery. Utah was praised as a national model. Outlets like The San Francisco Chronicle, NPR, and The Washington Post shared glowing reports about Utah’s Housing First successes. However, the model seemed to miss the point that there were reasons a person becomes homeless in the first place. Years later, reality caught up. Utah’s “success” proved largely overstated. According to a 2023 Cato Institute report, homelessness in Utah remained virtually unchanged between 2005 and 2022. In reaction to Housing First’s eventual shortcomings, many cities pivoted and adopted libertarian-style policies. These de-emphasized enforcement of trespassing laws and allowed homeless encampments to grow. While motivated by compassion and respect for personal liberty, such approaches often backfired. Frustration grew. Property owners felt ignored, public health concerns increased, and communities struggled with safety. All this led to the July 2025 executive order, emerging from two key realities: First, the failure of non-enforcement policies and the growth of homeless encampments across the country. Second, the disappointing results of a primary focus on Housing First investments that had not sufficiently addressed root causes such as historical abuse, mental illness, addictions, and a lack of life skills. One aspect of the July 2025 executive order that I

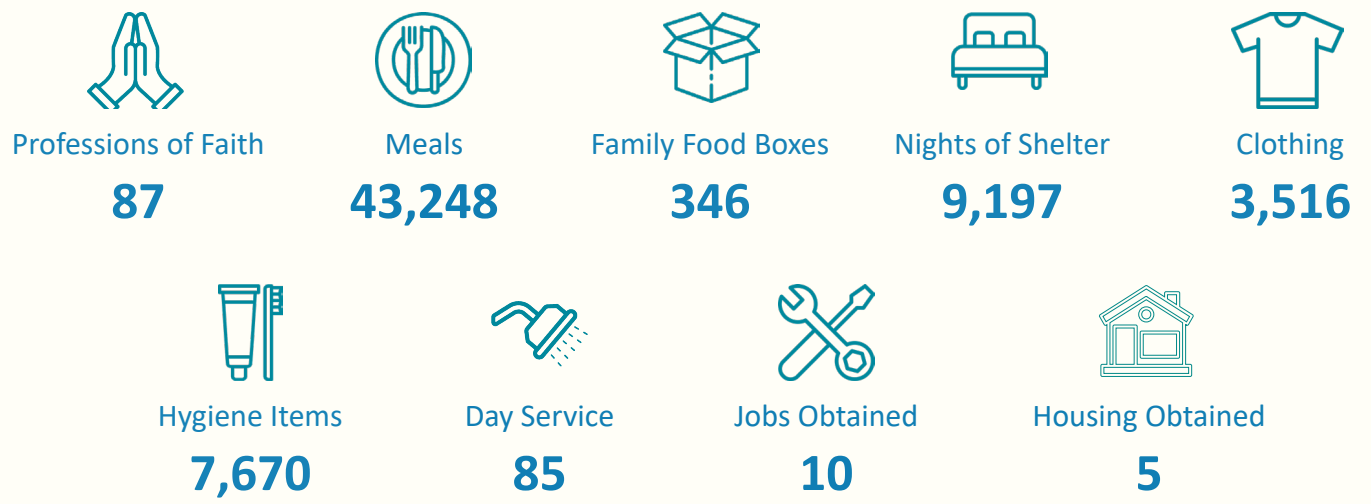
Please see “The Real Need” continued on the back page.

## Paul: Continued from the Front Page

familiar “Jesus Saves” sign and walked into the Ogden Rescue Mission. That decision changed everything. I’d seen that “Jesus Saves” sign in so many cities before, but this time it hit different. It was like God was saying, “This is your stopover. This is where you start again.” I checked in and began the New Life Program, and from that moment on, it was one success point after another. The Bible studies and Genesis Process classes helped me grow in ways I didn’t expect. I started discovering things about myself—character traits and patterns I thought were normal but may have been holding me back. One lesson hit me hard. I felt like it was written about someone I knew. It helped me understand a past relationship that had always been strained. That kind of insight was a blessing. Work therapy was another turning point. I started serving food at night and washing dishes in the morning. It might not sound glamorous, but it gave me purpose. I was able to bless people with a hot meal and then clean up after the next day. It was fun, and it reminded me that even small acts of service matter. People still ask me when I’m going to get back up and share my testimony again in chapel. That means something to me. Through the Mission, I became connected with a local church—more social, more family-oriented—and I started building real relationships again. I tracked down my mother, who’s now in her 90s and physically struggling. She’s been the guiding force in my life, and I thank the Lord that He allowed us to meet again. I found my siblings, met nieces and nephews I didn’t even know I

had, and also learned that some of my closest relatives had passed on. That was hard, but it reminded me how precious time is. I’ve seen a lot in my life—riots, war, loss—but I’ve also seen the hand of God move in powerful ways. There is a God. There is an afterlife. There is a purpose to life. And I know now that Jesus is faithful to complete what He starts. The Mission gave me a stable footing in my hometown, and Jesus gave me the strength to stand. Now I’m in the employment phase of the program. I have a good job at a medical supply company and I’m saving up to move into my own apartment once I graduate. I’m just waiting on confirmation for the move-in fees, and then I’ll be set. I’ve got a base of support, a spiritual foundation, and a good relationship with the Lord. Had the Mission not been there, I don’t know where I’d be. I might’ve gotten back on the train and headed somewhere else, just drifting again. But that “Jesus Saves” sign—it was a beacon of hope. It anchored me. And now I can help others who are wondering if they should stay in the program, wondering if it’s worth it. I tell them, “Stick it out. Any hesitancy is just a passing moment. You’ll overcome it.” I thank God for the Ogden Rescue Mission. I thank God that He never gave up on me. And I thank God for you, the faithful supporters of the Ogden Rescue Mission. Without you I don’t know where I’d be.

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH JUNE



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