

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 - Phone 801-355-6310 February 1, 2008

“Most people feel anything but spiritual when they hit bottom”



**“ When a Christian hits *Rock Bottom*,
The finds that Christ is a Firm foundation.”**

At first I was not sure I could *trust* others to know the reasons as to the why's, where's or even the who's, when it came to opening up about what I had been through. In fact, I had a tough time even trusting myself. I thought the Mission had heard all the hard luck stories before and mine wasn't important. That was one of the reasons that I held back at first. To me I had the same story as everyone else, just a different time and face. What I found was that the people at the Mission did care what my personal story was. All I needed to do was to tell it and here it is.

When I was in my late twenties, early thirties, I was a dedicated husband, and father. Not a completely committed Christian, by a long shot, but, I was trying. Inwardly I found myself on a trip nobody wants to take. A trip downward, heading for that sort of breakdown that most of us resist. The breakdown of my self-sufficiency and isolation. Booze and lust contributed to me losing my wife, my kids, my home, even the trust of others. Mostly of my family though..

Finally, I experienced the odd relief of hitting *Rock Bottom*, not really caring anymore whether I lived or died. Ya know, that ol' Rock and hard place, this time - - - for real.

That is where I made an unexpected discovery : The ***Rock*** on which I had been landed was none other than, Jesus Christ Himself, my Rock of Salvation.

On Him, I was in a position to rebuild the rest of my

life, this time as a person completely dependent on God rather than remaining the self-dependent person I had been. My *Rock - Bottom* experience became a turning point and one of the most vital spiritual developments of my life.

Most people feel anything but spiritual when they hit bottom. Their misery is often reinforced by people who take a very shortsighted view of what the sufferer about or why it's happening. But our heavenly Father is happy, well - pleased with what He intends to bring out of such a painful process.

A person who knows the truth of the *God-dependent-life* can say, “ It's good for me that I have been afflicted. Now I am delivered and whole. The Lord has changed my heart.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I pray that no one has to go through what I did, just to find out how simple it is to have a good night's sleep and the Lord, *Jesus Christ* as their savior.

God bless and keep you safe in His arms. Amen.

James Beckham 01/14/08

The Way Out of the Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A sympathetic person came along and said,
“I feel for you down there.”

An analytical person walked by and said, “It's logical that someone would fall down there.”

A religious person said, “Only bad people fall into pits.”

A mathematician calculated, “How did he fall into the pit?”

A news reporter said, “I want an exclusive story on the pit.”

A self pitying person said, “You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit.”

A fire-and -brimstone preacher said, “You deserve your pit.”

A psychologist observed, “The pit is just in your mind.”

A counselor said, “Your mother and your father are to blame for you being in your pit.”

A self-esteem therapist said, “Believe in yourself and you can get out of your pit.”

An optimist said, “Things could get worse.”

A pessimist said, “Things will get worse.” Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.”



WATCH

Watch your "Thoughts," they become words;

Watch your "Words," they become actions;

Watch your "Actions," they become habits;

Watch your "Habits," they become character;

Watch your "Character", for it becomes your "Destiny"

GET OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY!

**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he -
Proverbs 23:7**

Other Mission Needs

Fund Drives - All types of financial donations needed & accepted!

Clothing Drives - coats, hats, gloves, pants, socks, underwear, shirts, tee shirts, sweaters, thermal, etc.

Food Drives - can goods of all types, meat, ect.

Hygiene Kit Drives - soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, wash cloths, tooth brush & paste.

Salt Lake City Mission Offers Estate Planning Services

Estate planning is a very easy task to procrastinate on but it is a very, very important task. If you do not have an estate plan in place that protects your family and protects your estate from unnecessary taxation or if your estate plan is out-of-date, we urge you to take action and correct this situation.

For Christians, there is an added dimension to estate planning Christians recognizing that God is the owner of our estate places us in a responsible position as a steward. It is important that we use our estate assets to their fullest potential during our lifetimes for our personal, family, business and for His glory. As a steward, we must also arrange for the most efficient and effective transfer of our assets at death to individuals or charitable interests who will continue to use them to reflect biblical values.

While almost all of the reasons for procrastinating are understandable, none will serve to lessen the reality that the absence of an estate plan can have devastating impact on an estate. A proper estate plan should accomplish the following:

- Express God's plan of stewardship.**
- Provide for all financial and guardianship needs for all dependents.**
- Transfer the assets God has entrusted you to individual and charitable beneficiaries.**
- Transfer your estate in a tax efficient manner with the least possible amount of heartache, cost or delay.**

To learn more about this confidential service, please visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org or call Philip Arena or Brad Jaques 801-355-6310. We do hope that you will find this service a blessing to you and your family.