

Gospel Gazette

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

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"If it wasn't for Jesus Christ, I'm sure I would be dead! Praise the Lord Jesus!"



I grew up in Southern California, in a middle class upbringing. Throughout school, I was in a band and took as many music classes I could find. Music was my life. But the more involved I got into the fast-paced world of rock and roll, the more I drank. Soon I was introduced to drugs.

At 23 I joined the Air Force band for 2 years. After the Air Force I formed more and more bands and continued to drink more and more. Soon the bottle was the center of my life. I didn't know why I kept drinking, but I couldn't stop. As the years passed, the drinking got much worse. I was married in 1994, to a beautiful Christian woman, she loved me very much but left me after 4 years of my uncontrollable drinking.

I went to Pittsburgh, I tried to quit drinking, but it did not work. I left Pennsylvania headed back to California. On the way I went into an alcohol related coma from all the Vodka I was drinking on the bus. The next thing I knew, I woke up in the VA Hospital close to death. After a month in the hospital I was put on a city bus with no known destination. I was completely homeless, lost and without a clue of what to do. So I ended up in the public shelter.

Across the street from the shelter was the Salt Lake City Mission. I heard the Mission had coffee so I went to get a cup. As I entered the building I was warmly greeted and sat down in the middle of a Bible study.

After the class I was invited into the office and the instructor asked me ***"Would you like to join a program to learn more about Jesus Christ who can redirect your life?"*** Right then, I felt a million pounds fall off of my shoulders. I made the choice right then, to learn the Word of God and to get to know Him. Since that day I've done my best to follow the Lord.

That was 10 years ago. Jesus took me from an addicted, screaming drunk, to a Minister and Pastor of men that are where I have been.

The Word of God works and changes any willing person forever. If you would have told me I'd be a Pastor in the Salt Lake City Mission 10 years ago, I would have called you crazy. Since that first day in the Mission, the Holy Spirit has filled the hole in my heart with joy. There is nothing else I'd rather do with my life, than to serve the homeless and teach men, right off the streets, the Word of God.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ANCIENT NEW YEARS

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, The Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).



The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

Today, the new year is often considered a time to make positive changes. Lets remember to be thankful for another year to experience the blessings of life and consider one another with love. P.S. We don't have to wait for New Years Day to start living healthy, fulfilling lives. With God, all things become new everyday.

AULD LANG SYNE

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

Good Will

We like people of good will. They are positive, generous and enjoyable to be around. They are cheerful and optimistic. People of good will make life more enjoyable and satisfying for others.

The term “good will” also applies to businesses and organizations. This intangible asset adds value to the more measurable aspects of facilities, programs and personnel. A business with good will enjoys a positive presence in their community.

The same is true of non-profit organizations like Salt Lake City Mission. Each of us is continually seeking to expand our good will among our constituencies.

“Good will” can also apply to estate planning. We express our good will through a good Will. And a good Will is a whole lot better than a careless or faulty will. Or worse yet, no will at all.

Here is a list of items a good Will can accomplish. Does your **WILL** do these things?

- **Name your personal representative.**
- **Likely reduce or eliminate taxes.**
- **Establish children’s trusts and name trustees.**
- **Name guardian(s) for minor children.**
- **Designate who will receive personal items.**
- **Make charitable gifts to charities of your choice.**
- **Reduce stress for grieving loved ones.**

By creating good Wills, we can create good will among those we love and honor through our wills. They will remember us for our foresight, generosity and thoughtfulness.

An ineffective, out-of-date Will is a bad Will. And such a will can create bad Will among others, especially family members. It’s much better to take the time and effort to make sure a good Will is in place.

As a person of good will, you want a good Will. Salt Lake City Mission is committed to help you with creating or updating your Will. To learn more about our offered service, visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org. We believe you will find this service helpful and a blessing to you and your family.

For A Fresh Start Read Joshua 1:1-9

Be strong and courageous Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go Joshua 1:9

Why have we created a holiday over such a nonevent Other holidays celebrate famous birthdays or document signings or something New Year s Eve just celebrates the passage of time

One of the reasons we make such a fuss is that this holiday signals the end of an old era and the beginning of a new one The old year s problems and struggles become a dim memory and we think about getting a fresh start

It must have been something like that for the Israelites who stood with Joshua and looked at the new era ahead for them Behind them were 40 years of wandering in the desert Ahead was a land of milk and honey And best of all they had God s promise that He would be with them.

As we stand with our back to 2007 and our face toward the new year we can have hope because we too can be sure of God s help!

Please Pray For Philip!



Philip Arena & Family

Philip Arena our Assistant Director/Development Director, was diagnosed with cancer on April 2007 and was operated on May 17th 2007 at the Huntsman Cancer Center. He is still on the long road to recovery. He finished the radiation and chemo therapy and returned to work at the mission in September. Please prayerfully consider an extra donation for Philip’s Medical bills. Any donations toward his medical bills will be greatly appreciated. The Huntsman Cancer Center and the University Hospital has agreed to match any donations toward his \$300,000 + medical bills dollar for dollar. As we lost our medical insurance due to the seriously increased demands for our services during the 2000 - 2002 Olympics. Philip, has a wife, Gidget and 4 small children. He has turned down many job offers at 3 times his present salary to continue helping the homeless of Salt Lake for over 9 years. Offering his life as a living epistle, sacrifice to the Lord and an example.