

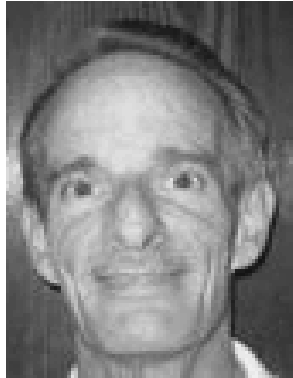
Gospel Gazette

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

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Life Transformed By God

Born in 1952, I grew up in Southern California. All through elementary school I was in a band and all of the music classes I could find. I didn't start to drink alcohol until I was 18 years old. Music was my whole life and the more involved I got in the environment of that world the more I drank and finally I was introduced to drugs.



At 23 I joined the Air Force Band, got out two years later and formed more bands. My addiction to alcohol grew more and more. Gradually the bottle was the center of my life and I didn't even know why I kept drinking, but I couldn't stop! Years passed and the drinking got worse. I got married in 1994, to a beautiful Christian woman named Kathi. She loved me very much but left me after 4 years of addictive lies and deceit.

I went to Pittsburgh to quit drinking, thinking that a change in geography would work, but I only got worse. Then I left Pennsylvania to head back to California {to where I did not know}. I fell into a coma, induced by alcohol withdrawal because someone stole my bags {filled with all my alcohol} in the bus depot, in Pittsburgh. The next thing I knew I woke up in the Veterans Hospital in Salt Lake City - a place very foreign to me. I was in the hospital for a month, finding out how close I was to dying. After a month I was put on a city bus into town and now I'm homeless in a cold place that scared me to no end.

I was homeless for one day and right across the street was the Salt Lake City Mission. I saw that the Mission had coffee and I went over to get some. I was greeted at the door, very warmly, I went in to see a bible study in progress and I sat down.

After the Bible Study I was invited into the Missions' office and the instructor asked me "Would you like to join a program to learn about Jesus Christ and redirect your life?" Right then, I felt a million pounds of fear fall off of me! I made a choice, right then, to learn the Word of God, one day at a time, and try my best and see where the Lord would take me. To make a long story short, it has been over 9 years since I have been convinced that the Word of God is true and Jesus took me from being a screaming drunk to a Pastor.

The calling God has for me, now, is to train up men just like me to learn the Word of God. 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 a liar or thought you were drunk. Since

the first day in the Mission the Holy Spirit has filled a hole in my heart that was only for Jesus. The Joy of the Lord is now my strength and I am very thankful that He was mindful of me.

My job is not always easy, but there is nothing else I'd rather do with my life, than to serve the homeless and teach men, right off the streets, the life changing Word of God.

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

Homeless Credited With Saving Woman, 93, From Burning Car

LANTANA, Fla. -- Three homeless people who pulled a 93-year-old woman from her burning car Thursday are being credited as heroes.

"We just happened to be in the right place. I believe God put us there for a reason," said Renee Streisant, a homeless woman who helped with the rescue.

Streisant said she and two other homeless individuals were standing in front of The Lord's Place thrift store on Hypoluxo Road in Lantana around 3:15 p.m. Thursday when a traffic collision caused the elderly woman's car to catch fire. Streisant said she and the other two individuals pulled the woman out of the burning car before rescue workers arrived.

You don't hesitate. You don't think this car is going to burst into flames and kill me, or burst into flames and kill her," Streisant told WPBF News 25.

Streisant said the elderly woman, whose name has not yet been released by police, was a well-known helper of the homeless and a volunteer at a center in West Palm Beach.

"I didn't even know who was in the car, to be honest, and then I found out it was someone near and dear to the area," Streisant said.

The woman was taken to Delray Beach Medical Center for treatment. She was listed in critical condition Friday.

Streisant said she is currently looking for a job as a nanny, and just happened to be in the right place at the right time to help. She told WPBF she hoped people would look at the homeless a little differently from now on.

"All people do good deeds everyday -- we just happened to be three people that are homeless. We aren't homeless people first -- we are people," Streisant said.

Eight Ways You Can Help!

What do you do when you see someone holding up a sign, "Will Work for Food"? Do you roll down your window and give them money? Do you pretend you didn't see them?

Nobody likes to be confronted by the homeless - their needs often seem too overwhelming - but we all want to treat them fairly and justly.

Here are some simple guidelines to equip you to truly help the homeless people you meet:

1. Never give cash to a homeless person: Too often, well intended gifts are converted to drugs or alcohol - even when the "hard luck" stories they tell are true. If the person is hungry, buy them a sandwich and a beverage.

2. Talk to the person with respect: Taking time to talk to a homeless person in a friendly, respectful manner can give them a wonderful sense of civility and dignity. And besides being just neighborly, it gives the person a weapon to fight the isolation, depression and paranoia that many homeless people face.

3. Recognize that homeless people (and their problems) are not all the same: The homeless are as diverse as the colors of a rainbow. The person you meet may be a battered woman, an addicted veteran, someone who is lacking job skills...the list goes on.

4. Share God's love whenever you can: If Jesus were walking the earth today, He would certainly spend time with the homeless. He would speak with them, heal them, and help them. Today, Jesus chooses to work through those who believe and follow Him.

5. Pray for the homeless: Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose all drain years from a person's life. God can use your prayers and the brutality and the futility of life of the street to bring many of the broken to Himself.

6. Take precautions for your own safety: Some living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent while talking with street people. Stay in areas other where other people can see you. Don't take unnecessary chances.

7. Encourage the homeless to get help through the Salt Lake City Mission: the oldest members of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions in Utah. We offer immediate food and shelter to the homeless through their emergency shelters. Many offer long-term discipleship recovery programs that deal with the root causes of homeless. Many also offer "tickets" that can be given to homeless person which can be exchanged at the Mission for a nutritious meal, safe overnight lodging, and the option of participating in a rehab program.

8. Support the Salt Lake City Mission: Salt Lake City Mission receives no government funding. We are supported by caring individuals, churches, businesses, and civic groups who see the value of sharing their resources with the less fortunate.

Taking Care of Those You Love

Creating a Will & Appointing Christian Guardians

Those with minor children or a dependent spouse have a mandate from Scripture to take care of their dependents (1 Timothy 5:8). To be able to appoint a guardian for your minor children, so that their lifestyle can continue in a way that is compatible with your values and beliefs is reason enough to create a Will.

If you have not named a guardian for your minor children should you die prematurely, the probate court will provide one for you. Keep in mind that your children's future will be strongly influenced by the one who is appointed to be their guardian. Some things to consider when selecting a guardian are:

- **Will their example continue to reinforce in them the Christian lifestyle and values that you have begun?**
- **Will they give your children the opportunity to grow spiritually?**
- **Are they willing to commit to the role as guardian?**

The Salt Lake City Mission has a program in place that will be able to help you with this important decision and help with the formation of your goals for of an estate plan. You can then meet you're your advisors or be introduced to a Christian attorney in our area. **Please visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org or call Philip Arena at 801-388-1968 or Brad Jaques at 801-673-2622 to learn more.**