

# Gospel Gazette

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



DAVID TALBOT

## HUMBLE POWER

For many years I worked jobs in rural areas. I hired to ranch work for a few years, taking care of the animals and crops and other assorted duties. I have worked in the oil fields for multiple years, hard work but good money. Most of all I worked construction. All of these jobs paid well and things seemed fine for awhile on each of them but the usual evening way of relaxing and passing time was drinking beer or any other substance that came our way. I found myself feeling empty and without direction. It was soon after I realized, I had become an alcoholic, which left me always in want. One day after work, I picked up a bible in Springfield, Utah. After reading a few verses I prayed "Lord there has got to be something better than this."

Not long after that encounter and prayer to God I was taking a bus to a new work site. As we neared the site, something told me to, "stay on the bus." I did, not knowing where I was headed but I had to do something different to get different results. I arrived in Salt Lake City right before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I was walking by Pioneer Park because I was told, "that's where you can find what your looking for!" Well they were right, I didn't find alcohol or drugs but the

Salt Lake City Mission was serving people at there gigantic picnic for the 4<sup>th</sup>.

I listened to the music and speakers who were speaking about having a new life with direction and purpose. I knew I was being led there by God as I had prayed. I spoke to someone about the Mission and they told me about the Mission's long term programs. There and then I decided to jump in whole heartedly.

After a month in the city residential facility I went to the Second Chance Ranch where I found true brotherhood after a few months and received Jesus as my Savior and became a new person. The real me was revealed. I went through the eight month program and decided to stay on as a mentor.

I look back now and say, "God has been so good to me." He took me from a wanderer without direction to a real person with a steadfast heart, who has a purpose beyond my wildest dreams and good friends who care for each other genuinely. Thank the Lord for that bible I found years ago, answered prayer, the Salt Lake City Mission and most of all His only begotten Son who died and arose for me. I am free to be me in Him. I encourage everyone to seek God's will for yourselves and find the true reason for living.

## Dirt Roads



Paraphrased by Paul Harvey

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many dirt roads have been paved. There's not a problem in America today, crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency-that wouldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character. People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride. That it can jar you right down to your teeth

sometimes, but it's worth it, if at the end is home...a loving spouse, happy kids and a dog.

We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along. There was less crime in our streets before they were paved. Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape, if they knew they'd be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun. And there were no drive by shootings. Our values were better when our roads were worse! People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust & bust your windshield with rocks.

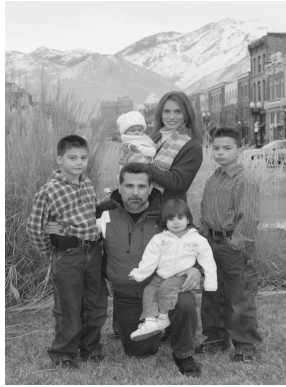
Dirt Roads taught patience. Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly, you didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk-you walked to the barn for your milk. For your mail, you walked to the mail box. What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped pop corn and pony ride on Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody.

At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap. Most paved roads lead to trouble, Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole. At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini. At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra spring time income, from when city dudes would get stuck, you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road.

# Please Continue To Pray For Philip Arena



**Philip Arena**  
**Development Director**



It has been one year and four months since his major cancer surgery. Where they removed a large portion of his jaw bone, the surrounding tissue, part of his throat and the roof of his mouth. He has made tremendous strides in his recovery; returning to work one year ago. He has finished chemo therapy and radiation. A prosthesis was made for the hole in the roof of his mouth and a tube inserted into his ear to restore his hearing. He now only sees the doctors every three months for followup.

I will never forget the day that Philip told me he had been diagnosed with stage 4 Squamous Cell Carcinoma Cancer. We lost all of our medical insurance during the 2002 Utah Winter Olympics which left us \$286,000 in debt. Philip told me that he wanted to see his young children grow up and make sure they have a good life. We prayed and felt a peace and the presence of God in the situation. We wrote a letter "To Whom It May Concern" explaining our loss of all medical insurance and that we only had a small medical pool that the employees pay into a few hundred dollars a month. We gave the letters to the Huntsman Cancer Center, the doctors, hospitals, labs, etc., that Philip was seen by.

So far there have been approximately 22 doctors involved with Philip's surgery, treatment, recovery, and aftercare. His medical bills were to be about \$350,000 at this point. After his surgery we begin receiving medical bills for his treatment and there were amounts listed as donation on the bills. \$10,000 donation on one, \$5,000 on one and more on another, etc. Praise the Lord!

To date through your very generous donations we have raised and applied toward his medical bills about \$15,000. Presently, he only owes a little over \$100,000 and the Huntsman Cancer Center will match dollar for dollar every dollar we raise for his medical bills.

Please consider a generous additional matching donation for Philip's remaining \$100,000 in medical bills.

## Special Thanks to:

### **CHICK'S TRANSMISSIONS**

for their generous donation repairing the Mission's Natural Gas Bus - Completely Rebuilding the Automatic Transmission - Full Engine Tune Up and Replacing the Entire Engine Wiring Harness.



# December 31<sup>st</sup> is Nearing!

The end of the year will soon be upon us... and before we know it, a new year will dawn. Here are four gentle reminders to help you end the year in charitable style:

1. **Charitable giving benefits you, as well as the charities you care about.** A special, year-end gift, during "The Season of Giving" can bring you added pleasure; especially as you consider the help your gift will give us here at Salt Lake City Mission. You will enjoy knowing that your generosity has made a difference and will help us to fulfill our worthy goals. And, of course, there are usually tax benefits related to charitable giving.
2. **Appreciated assets can make dandy gifts.** For example, if you have owned stock for at least a year and a day, you can receive full value for the gift, including all the appreciation. What's more, neither you nor Salt Lake City Mission will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift. Your tax advisor can spell out the specifics for you. Mutual funds, real estate and other appreciated assets can make great gifts as well.
3. **Tax-wise charitable gifts often require advanced action.** A stock gift usually takes more time to complete than writing out and mailing a check. Real estate gifts require even more time - often several weeks. You should also plan for time to discuss your non-cash gift with your attorney or financial advisor. Getting appointments and handling the paperwork takes time. So... start early!
4. **A life-income plan may make sense for you at this time.** These deferred giving plans allow you to establish a gift arrangement now, obtain current tax benefits, create a stream of lifetime income and provide a future gift to Salt Lake City Mission. They are especially attractive to donors who cannot afford to give up current income from retirement related assets.

To Learn more, call Philip at (801)-388-1968, or Brad at (801)-355-6310 or visit us on the internet at [www.saltlakecitymission.org](http://www.saltlakecitymission.org)

