

Gospel Gazette

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

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HAD ENOUGH?

Albert Maul

I was broken from the sin of gambling and much more.

I was working and living in Las Vegas for a while but my gambling habit had become so bad I didn't know what to do to stop it. I figured I would go down to Tucson Arizona and try to start again. Walking



home from work one day I finally broke and I called on the name of the Lord in despair. At that time I heard a still small voice come clearly to my heart. Finally, I was really ready to listen.

The Lord said at that moment, "Do you want to leave Las Vegas?" Yes Lord!, I sighed. Then the voice said to me, "Do You want to leave this bondage of gambling and such?" Yes Lord, I said. Help me to do what you want me to do? At that time I made up my mind I was going to start doing whatever the Lord wanted me to do.

This started a journey that would take me 600 miles north to Salt Lake City, Utah. I had no idea of what laid in wait ahead of me. I only had faith with God it would be better than what I had been through.

Weeks latter I was at a Easter Sunday Outreach at Pioneer Park, still not knowing what I was going to do. That day the Salt Lake City Mission was serving and ministering in the park on God touched my heart. The things that were being said and said seemed to draw me closer to God and confirm to me what He had said to me weeks before about helping me.

That day things started to come together. I spoke with some of the ministers there and was asked if I wanted to get off the street and join the mission program. I excitedly said yes and experienced a big relief. I felt like I was in the right place, where God wanted me, for the first time in a while.

I thanked God and remembered Psalm 40 I waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of a miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock.

I've been in the program for over three months now and have been filled with hope and encouragement.

It is awesome to be able to participate in the Salt Lake City Missions ministry to others as I learn and grow myself.

So god is restoring me. The best part is I'm not alone. The Mission is used of God to guide me to the word of God and all kinds of good opportunities.

A Very Interesting Story . . .

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry.

The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

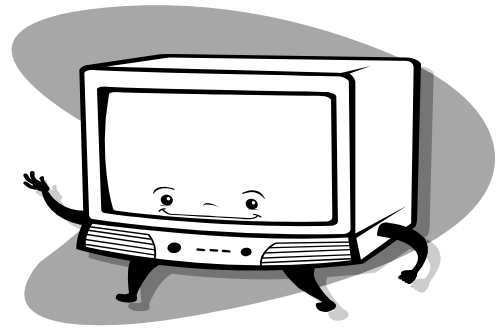
Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... Not from us, our friends or any visitors.

Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely)! about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, so matinees suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked...

And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.



His name? We just call him, "TV."

He has a younger sister now. We call her, "Computer."

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 women, 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: We offer long-term recovery programs that deal with the root causes of homelessness.

8. Support the Salt Lake City Mission: Salt Lake City Mission receives no government funding. We are supported locally 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 Guardians and Estate Planning

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 you should do so very soon rather than the probate court. Your children's future is of the highest priority. Some things to consider when selecting a guardian are:

- **Will their example continue to reinforce in them the lifestyle and values that you have begun?**
- **Will they give your children the opportunity to grow spiritually?**
- **Are they whole heartedly 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 with your advisors and choose a plan in accordance with your wishes. Please visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org or call Philip Arena at 801-355-6310 to learn more.