PROJECT RESCUE
Gal 6:1

A work of the churches of Christ

(256) 616-1522

Over the past 5-years, this ordinary Verizon phone line has developed into an extraordinary spiritual reconnection life line, serving members of the church of Christ whose loved ones are lost.

Here is how this line typically reconnects a soul to the Lord: After quitting the church in his late teens and spending his twenties living among the lost, our typical program member falls within the realm of Galatians 6:1 and James 5:19,20. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness..." Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19,20   It is typically at the end of his twenties when he hits bottom and asks for help. His loved one dials our line, he enters Project Rescue, and begins the process of being restored and reconnected to the Lord.   This reconnection to the Lord began and continues to begin with a phone call.

Over the past five years, 256-616-1522 has been published in all Project Rescue promotional material: It is listed on our web page, our Newsletters, brochures and business cards. One of our earliest reconnection examples went like this: One of our foreign missionaries, who had a daughter married to an alcoholic, came across one of our brochures in Africa which had been given to a preacher attending the Freed-Hardeman lectureship. Winning Michael back to the Lord is one of our best stories!

Yes, much effort has gone into spreading the news of this line both latitudinally and longitudinally throughout the world and our brotherhood of churches of Christ in America. Many ministers have this number, ready to share it with a member in need!

Therefore, this line receives many calls in a day, and about 2,000 voice minutes every month! When I (Ronnie Crocker) take a week vacation, this number must be forwarded to Cecil Green.   We just cannot let this line go unanswered!

These days, when my phone rings, my heart skips a beat. **This is because we are at full capacity!** When I see the call is from another city and state, I know as soon as I answer this call, I am going to hear a sad, tragic story about a man who once had so much potential in the Lord, but is now sitting in jail on DUI charges or in a detox center withdrawing off drugs. It is the mothers who can literally reach right through my phone with their arms and pull me into their crisis!

When this mother learns of Project Rescue, she is so happy to hear that there is a drug recovery program run by members of the church of Christ! Then, she is devastated to hear the news, we do not have room for her son. We are filled up!

Schindler's List

"I could have saved so many more!"

The award winning film *Schindler's List* tells the story of how Oskar Schindler, a German entrepreneur, employs Jews at his kitchenware factory. When the tide turns on the Eastern Front and German forces retreat, Schindler conspires with his Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern, to employ Jews from Plaszow, hence saving them from extermination. When Germany finally surrenders, Schindler knows he is a wanted man for wrongly using Jews as slave labor. As he prepares to flee, Schindler is surrounded by over 1,000 Jews whose lives he saved. His accountant turned friend, Itzhak, hands Schindler a piece of paper and says, "We've written a letter trying to explain things in case you were captured. Every worker has signed it." Weeping, Schindler cries out, "I could have got more! I could have got more!" Itzhak reassures him, "Eleven hundred people are alive because of you." Schindler laments, "If I made more money…I threw away so much money. You have no idea. If I just…." Again, Itzhak emphasizes that Schindler has saved generations because of what he did. "I didn't do enough," Schindler says. "You did so much," Itzhak reaffirms. Emotionally undone, Schindler muses, "This car…what use is this car? Why did I keep this car? I could have saved ten more people." Then taking off his Nazi lapel badge, he guiltily says, "This is gold; I could have saved more." The film tells us that today there are more than 6,000 descendants of Schindler's Jews living in the USA and Europe, and many in Israel. **Couldn't this be compared to yours and my lifetime efforts in the salvation of souls? I want to play as big a part as I can in God's efforts to save souls! I want to make sure I am not disappointed with a realization that I could have saved so many more!!**

The purpose of Jesus words in Luke 15:4 is to show that **drastic times call for drastic measures!**

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

**The drastic time was one lost sheep!
The drastic measure was leaving the ninety-nine for the one.**

The Godhead saw and sees the salvation of lost souls as deserving of a drastic measure! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

At Project Rescue our drastic times involve our having to turn away lost souls who are calling us for help! What drastic measure can we take together to open the way for more to be reconnected to the Lord?!?!