



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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It's now or never for the CEO Summit

The CEO Summit, which will be held September 9–11 at the Mount Hermon Conference Center in California, is just a week away. But you can still [register](#)!

Please note: Some have asked if there will be recording of the sessions at this event. Unfortunately, AGRM doesn't make recordings at CEO Summits because there is so much participant involvement—and we want CEOs to be able to express themselves freely without worrying about being quoted later.

Tribal leaders excited about possibilities

AGRM President John Ashmen and Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle met this past week with 15 different representatives from the Oglala Sioux tribe at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. (The Oglala Sioux are one of the seven sub-tribes of the Lakota people, who along with the Nakota and Dakota, make up the Great Sioux Nation.) Selena and John were there to talk about how AGRM can assist in bringing help and hope to the 40,000 people living in what is generally considered to be the worst poverty in the Western Hemisphere outside of Haiti. This was a major step forward in this North Central District project because all of the meetings up to this point have been primarily for non-Indians who want to provide different “pieces of the puzzle.” This meeting was attended by just Lakota from various social agencies, the Oglala Housing Authority, and even a representative from the Lakota Tribal Council. The group voted to welcome AGRM's assistance—a huge step—and is working with Selena to craft a mission statement. This is a very unusual project for AGRM as Pine Ridge is not a city, but the “door” seems to open wider each time AGRM connects with the people there. More information will be coming soon.

Loggins joins AGRM team as minister-at-large

Rev. Robert Loggins Sr. has joined the AGRM team as minister-at-large. Many AGRM members met and engaged with Robert at the convention in St. Louis. He spoke briefly in the first general session and was visible at various times throughout the event. As minister-at-large for AGRM, Robert will focus on five areas:

- Being a pastor-at-a-distance for members who need divine guidance and would like to process heart matters with someone who is both spiritually savvy and “safe.”
- Overseeing a healthy prayer network throughout AGRM, keeping us focused on the purpose and power of prayer, and keeping us informed and encouraged by regularly communicating what God is doing in our association.
- Representing AGRM at various denominational and quasi-denominational meetings, ensuring that the cause of the poor and powerless is a priority “agenda item” in the work of the church in North America.

- Preparing the cities where our annual conventions will be held by connecting with pastors and Christian organizations' lay leaders, and forming prayer teams to support our events in critical behind-the-scenes efforts.
- Contributing to AGRM publications by writing white papers, articles, and columns on subjects that pertain to matters of the heart.

You'll see Robert at various AGRM events. In the meantime, you can connect with him at rlogins@agrm.org, or call him at (573) 301-7439.

Heads-up on AGRM's annual Snapshot Survey

The time of year is approaching fast to participate in AGRM's annual Snapshot Survey. This is a valuable tool for gathering national data about rescue ministry, as well as for helping you communicate your mission's efforts to local media. Details will be available soon, but mark your calendars now for the week of October 6–10 as the official survey week so you can plan to gather the data needed. For more information, email Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.

Looking down the street...

- **Mel Trotter Ministries** (Grand Rapids, Mich.) has opened a four-bedroom recuperation center, which provides homeless individuals a place to go when discharged after a hospital stay. The center, paid for in part by partnerships with area hospitals, offers extended stays with 24-hour care. A 2009 study found that cities with similar recuperation centers saved area hospitals up to \$6.2 million. If the center proves successful, Mel Trotter Ministries plans to build a new 36-bed unit across the street from its current facility.
- Rick Denny is now serving as executive director at **Trinity Rescue Mission** (Jacksonville, Fla.). Jim Kilpatrick was the former executive director.
- John T. LaMantia is the new CEO of **Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission** (Anchorage, Alaska). John has been the chaplain at the mission since 2012. He is a former teacher and professional musician with church and prison fellowship background. John follows Don Bettis.
- Frank Baldwin has been named executive director of **Muncie Mission Ministries** (Muncie, Ind.). Frank will be just the fifth director to lead the mission in its 84-year history. He replaces Ray Raines.
- In August, Mark Criss celebrated 10 years as executive director of the **City Rescue Mission** (Lansing, Mich.). During these 10 years, the mission has increased its ability to shelter and feed their guests. In 2004, the mission sheltered an average of 47 men, women, and children and provided 104 meals a day. So far, in 2014, the mission is averaging about 150 women, children, and men every night and providing nearly 300 meals a day. Next step for the mission includes a much-needed expansion of their men's shelter.



The face of hunger differs from the face of homelessness

"The face of hunger in America is not a homeless guy," Tom Henry, executive director of Feed America First says in a [trailer](#) for the new documentary *Hunger in America*. Instead, he says, the true face of hunger is children, single mothers, the elderly, and the disabled. The problem with confusing the homeless with the hungry is that we aren't seeing how massive the hunger problem is.

The film, which airs on Food Matters TV this month, touches on many issues, including the prevalence of cheap, unhealthy calories in America's food deserts, and the lack of access to healthier foods—such as whole grains and fresh fruits and vegetables—despite a national food surplus. Our hunger crisis both contradicts and is in part driven by our ability to produce fantastic amounts of cheap (and largely unhealthy) food.

The premise of the film isn't new, but that's part of the problem. Despite researchers showing that hunger in children has a long-term impact on their ability to learn and succeed in life, most people still picture a homeless man as the face of hunger.

Ice Bucket Challenge changes how nonprofits raise funds

Ever since golfer Greg Norman challenged NBC's Today host Matt Lauer to toss an ice bucket over his head to raise money for the Hospice of Palm Beach County in Florida, the Ice Bucket Challenge has become a social media sensation.

According to a [CNBC report](#), aside from raising awareness and millions of dollars for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, over the past month, the challenge also may be unleashing a new model for the \$300 billion-a-year business of charitable giving.

"This campaign is a real breakthrough," said Melissa Berman, president and CEO of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, which advises charitable donors and foundations. "It's raised a huge amount of money for something that's an ongoing condition, not a natural disaster or immediate crisis. That's a very fundamental shift. And I think it should cause the nonprofit world to take notice."

She said that the challenge is successful because it combines something that's real, tactile, and fun—throwing ice on your head—with social media and digital reach. "That's a very powerful combination," she said.

Majority of violent crimes involve alcohol

Which intoxicating substance is associated with the most lethal violence? You might think that cocaine or heroin would top the list, especially regarding violence in poor, minority communities. But the correct answer, by far, is alcohol, says a [Washington Post report](#). It's involved in more homicides than almost every other substance combined. Drinking is especially common among perpetrators of specific crimes, including murder, sexual assault, and intimate-partner violence.

Of course, alcohol doesn't necessarily cause violence, but it does play a distinctive role. It lowers inhibitions and, among some people, fosters aggressive behavior that ratchets up the risk that violence will somehow occur. Surveys of people incarcerated for violent crimes indicate that about 40% had been drinking at the time they committed these offenses.



Data shows decrease in number of homeless vets

The number of homeless veterans in the U.S. has dropped by one third over the past four years, according to data released Tuesday by the federal government and [reported](#) by *The Wall Street Journal*. According to the annual Point-in-Time Count, the number of homeless veterans fell to just under 50,000 in 2014 from nearly 75,000 in 2010—a drop of 33 percent.

The announcement from the federal agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs, attributed the drop to several strategies, including reducing prerequisite "barriers" to get veterans in permanent housing more quickly and focusing housing efforts on chronically homeless and "vulnerable" veterans.

Meanwhile, funding has increased for veterans' homelessness programs; however, they have a long way to go to meet the goal of ending veterans' homelessness by next year. Nationally, homelessness has declined in recent years but not at the same rate as veteran homelessness.

Fewer deaths result from opioid overdose where marijuana is legal

Researchers aren't sure why, but according to a new analysis in the 23 U.S. states where medical marijuana has been legalized, deaths from opioid overdoses have decreased by almost 25 percent.

According to a [Toronto Globe and Mail report](#), researchers used state death-certificate data for all 50 states between 1999 and 2010. In states with a medical marijuana law, overdose deaths from opioids such as morphine, oxycodone, and heroin decreased by an average of 20 percent after one year, 25 percent by two years, and up to 33 percent by years five and six compared with what would have been expected.

Meanwhile, opioid overdose deaths across the country increased dramatically, from 4,030 in 1999 to 16,651 in 2010, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Three of every four of those deaths involved prescription pain medications. The CDC also reports that of those who die from prescription opioid overdoses, 60 percent have a legitimate prescription from a single doctor.

'Light' cigarettes might help smokers quit

Some smokers who try to quit switch to "lights," which contain lower levels of nicotine. But doing so could result in smokers puffing more cigarettes as they adjust their intake of nicotine, which could also lead to increased exposure to cancer-causing smoke.

According to a [Tech Times report](#), however, a new study suggests that cigarettes with very low levels of nicotine may actually help lower addiction without increasing a smoker's exposure to toxic substances and smoke.

One study monitored the smoking behavior of 72 adult smokers as they gradually switched from their usual cigarette brand to three cigarettes containing progressively reduced nicotine levels. The researchers found that there were no significant changes on the smoking intensity and frequency of the subjects when they switched to a cigarette brand with lower levels of nicotine. The subjects, on average, consumed 20 cigarettes per day when using their usual brand with nicotine content of 12 mg, and smoking increased to only 20.3 cigarettes per day when they used the cigarette with the lowest nicotine content of 0.6 mg. The researchers likewise observed that there were no changes in the subject's puffing behavior, the number of cigarettes they smoked, and the level of toxic chemicals in their system.

The findings may pacify concerns that smokers would smoke more cigarettes or puff harder if the nicotine levels in their cigarettes are reduced to negligible amounts.



Food Trucks and Canned Veggies

The Downtown Raleigh Food Truck Rodeo featured more than 50 food trucks in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina, including American Meltdown, Dump Pho King, Barone Meatball, and Chirba Chirba. Rodeo organizers urged participants to bring canned vegetables to donate to the **Durham Rescue Mission** (Durham, N.C.) and a local food bank.



Alta Loma, California: Senior Account Manager—Strategic Consulting is seeking a person who feels called by God to serve rescue missions in the area of direct mail fundraising. Contact Kenneth Click at (909) 268-8895. *Added 9/2/14*

St. Paul, Minnesota: LifeNet Instructor—Implement integrated learning programs for adult students. Will assess, evaluate, instruct, monitor, counsel, and manage. Visit www.ugmstpaul.org. *Added 9/2/14*

Victorville, California: Director—The Victor Valley Rescue Mission (VVRM), under the umbrella of Rescue Mission Alliance (RMA), is a Christian nonprofit organization that has been serving the less fortunate in Southern California through emergency and long-term rehabilitation services since 1972. The VVRM Director is responsible to oversee the development and implementation of all services provided through VVRM in planning, goal setting, program organization, budgeting, decision making, personnel recruiting, motivation, training, and ministry development. Collaborate with local churches, agencies, school districts, government boards to affect an integrated program capable of meeting the needs within the community, facilitate and model commitment to the ministry of fundraising. FT/Exempt position, report to regional vice president of ministries. B.A. (Bible school/seminary) or equivalent in related field plus five years ministry, management, supervisory, and nonprofit experience. Must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and active in a local Christian church, compatible theology with RMA core values and Statement of Faith, burden to have people come to Christ, committed to serving God and the body of Christ, teachable spirit, team participation. Must be an initiator, work under deadlines, good leadership abilities: motivation, communication, judgment, coordination, measuring results, and reporting. Excellent people skills, with proven ability to motivate staff, pastors, and community leaders. Valid California driver's license, lift up to 30 pounds. Email cover letter and résumé to vortiz@erescuemission.org or fax to (805) 385-4126. *Added 9/2/14*

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Program Support Staff—Light of Life Rescue Mission is seeking a mature Christian to assist with daily operations of our men's residential program; to work with people in varied circumstances related to homelessness, recovery, and mental illness; and to handle unexpected situations with dignity and respect. Visit www.lightoflife.org; send résumé to pbryner@lightoflife.org. *Added 8/15/14*

Tacoma, Washington: Executive Director—The Rescue Mission is seeking a great leader as its next executive director. Visit <http://bit.ly/1q42Z94> or email frank@hagel.net for a full position profile. An exciting opportunity with a forward-looking mission! *Added 8/15/14*

To advertise in future Market Street Classifieds:

Members of AGRM can place a 30-word classified ad listing available positions in two consecutive issues of Street Smart at no charge; additional words will be charged at 50 cents per word. Non-members can place an ad for \$25 per issue for a 30-word ad; additional words will be charged at 50 cents per word. AGRM members can renew ads after the second placement at \$15 per issue for a 30-word ad (plus 50 cents per additional word). Ads are also placed on the AGRM website. AGRM business members can also sponsor Street Smart for \$350 per issue. Email desired ad placement to [Brad Lewis](#) (subject line: Street Smart advertising). Ads are subject to editing to conform to Street Smart style, and AGRM reserves the right to reject any ads or sponsorships it deems inappropriate for members. All ads are due one week before issue date.



Our Life's Work

“Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent’” (John 6:29).

Have you ever had someone ask you what your life's work is, or what type of work you would like to spend the rest of your life doing? That can be a difficult question, especially today, when the average worker will have had 10–14 jobs by the age of 38!

We quickly move from task to task, even job to job, and often times there is little sense of continuity.

Jesus gives us some great insight on what our answer should be while we are here on the earth. Jesus' answer to the question, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” (John 6:28), is still the same in this age of rapid change: “to believe in the one he has sent.”

So the primary, overarching work of our life is believing in Jesus Christ, and walking as he walked. That is our daily agenda.

No matter what job you find yourself in, you still have your life's work at hand, believing in him who was sent.

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To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

Is something unique and exciting going on at your mission? Share your news with fellow AGRM members by emailing items for "Our Street" to [Brad Lewis](#).

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