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Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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**ourstreet**  
News from AGRM and our members

### **Pastor Loggins Represents AGRM at NAE Conference**

AGRM's Minister-at-Large Robert Loggins recently represented AGRM at the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) Lift Your Voice Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Many political figures were in attendance, including Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) and Senator James Lankford (R-Oklahoma). Robert was able to talk about AGRM during both seminar Q&A times and in many networking opportunities he had over the two days. Robert also spent significant one-on-one time with Leith Anderson, NAE's president. Dr. Anderson expressed great appreciation for AGRM and for AGRM President John Ashmen, for his out-front leadership on several difficult issues that all ministries are facing these days.

### **AGRM Has Record Number of Business Partners**

AGRM's business membership has grown to a current 83 members, representing a whopping 276 percent increase from 2009 when we began tracking business membership more closely. (For our newest business members, see "Looking Down the Street..." below.)

What are business members and why does AGRM have them? Business members are companies and organizations that believe in the ministry of rescue and that choose to come alongside rescue missions by providing products, programs, and services that can save rescue missions money, increase their effectiveness, and even boost their capacity.

Keep in mind you can go to [www.agrm.org](http://www.agrm.org) and choose Directories>Business in the top menu bar at any time to search among all of our current business members.

### **Critical *Same Kind of Different as Me* Release Update**

As we let you know last Thursday, Paramount Pictures has announced just a day prior that the motion picture *Same Kind of Different as Me* will not be released until the fourth quarter of 2016. Because an AGRM member mission is the setting for this heartwarming story, we still strongly believe the film will present some amazing opportunities for rescue missions to connect with their communities, donors, and volunteers.

With this increased lead-time, the studio will be able to generate more excitement. Moreover, it will give AGRM and member missions extra time to promote and make plans using the trailer and sizzle reel that we have not had up to this point.

For the latest information on AGRM's involvement with the movie—including the opportunity to sign up for a movie premier to be held in your city—be sure to bookmark and frequently check [www.agrm.org/same-different](http://www.agrm.org/same-different).

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## **IMPORTANT AGRM EVENT REMINDERS**

### **AGRM's Annual Convention Registration Price Increases March 1**

Are you planning to join other rescue mission leaders at AGRM's 2016 Annual Convention in Jacksonville, June 7–10? Bringing a carload or planeload of staff members with you? Catch a price break that ends February 29 by registering for the convention [online](#). Rates increase \$30 per person beginning March 1.

The schedule for the event is jam-packed, with all of the education, networking, and fellowship you've come to expect at AGRM conventions—with a few new twists thrown in as well. Get all the details at [www.agrm.org/2016convention](http://www.agrm.org/2016convention).

By the way, sales for the Expo Areas (exhibits) at this year's convention are brisk as well. If you're a business member, don't miss the opportunity to meet face-to-face with attendees. For all the details, click [here](#).

About 60 percent of our larger-than-usual room block is already gone. We keep raising the room block for our conventions and you keep filling the rooms! Of course, that's excellent, but we are way ahead of last year. So don't delay in booking your rooms at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront at [www.agrm.org/2016hotel](http://www.agrm.org/2016hotel).

**THIS JUST IN!** Country music star Tracy Lawrence (“Paint Me A Birmingham,” “Time Marches On,” “Alibis” ) will be joining the program at our special opening night session at Jacksonville’s historic Florida Theatre! Tracy is a regular at **Nashville Rescue Mission** (Nashville, Tennessee) and hosts their annual Tracy Lawrence “Mission Possible” Turkey Fry. [LINK]

At the convention, Tracy will share his music and why he believes in rescue missions, and will also talk about how you can do a turkey fry at your mission (possibly with his participation). More details to come soon!

### **DC Forum Registration Approaches Important Deadline**

If you are thinking of attending the 2016 DC Forum March 14–16 in Washington, D.C., you’ll want to register by Friday, February 26 to ensure that arrangements can be made for meetings with your elected leaders on Capitol Hill.

CEOs, executive team members, and Emerging Leaders from AGRM missions are welcome to attend the event, which will be held at the well-appointed and hospitable Kellogg Conference Hotel on the historic campus of Gallaudet University, just north of Capitol Hill. Go to [www.agrm.org/DCForum](http://www.agrm.org/DCForum) to register, and remember that leaders age 31 and under can register for half price.

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### **100 Days of Prayer Begins March 2**

AGRM will be undertaking a special effort to bathe this year’s annual convention in prayer. Expanding on last year’s Pray3D31 plan, this year’s prayer emphasis, led by Minister-at-Large Robert Loggins, will begin March 2 and include 100 days of prayer topics that lead through June 10, the final day of the Jacksonville event. AGRM members (and we hope your guests, donors, and volunteers as well) can again pray for three minutes a day on a specific topic related to the convention. Watch for more details in an email from Pastor Loggins and in the next issue of *Street Smart*.

### **Charlotte CEO ‘Pays’ Super Bowl Wager**

As you might recall, Tony Marciano and Brad Meuli, the CEOs of **Charlotte Rescue Mission** (Charlotte, North Carolina) and **Denver Rescue Mission** (Denver, Colorado) respectively, had a bit of fun rivalry when their respective teams played in Super Bowl 50 on February 7.

Because the Broncos won the game, Tony Marciano fulfilled his part of the wager by heading to his mission’s roof and doing a touchdown dance wearing a Manning jersey—and our cameras were there! (Just kidding—Tony is a great sport and sent us this video himself.) To

watch, and to read a bit more about why the wager was made, click [here](#).

## Looking Down the Street...

- **InChrist Communications** ( Mooresville, North Carolina). The company's president, [Palmer Holt](#), is AGRM's primary contact.
- **The FOCUS Group** (St. Augustine Beach, Florida). The company's CEO is [Brad Layland](#).
- **PLANET GAIN, LLC** (Houston, Texas) President [Shehzad Khemani](#) serves as the main contact for AGRM members.



### **San Francisco's Super Bowl Spending Ignites Protests Over Homelessness**

Hundreds of San Francisco residents swarmed streets on the Wednesday before Super Bowl 50 to protest the city's treatment of homeless residents around the hosting of celebrations for the event, [reports](#) *Huffington Post*.

The protests came after Mayor Ed Lee's August proclamation that the city's homeless would have to leave the area hosting Super Bowl City, the pop-up "fan village" that blocked off portions of downtown, though the actual game was played at Levi's Stadium, some 45 miles away in Santa Clara. The mayor has disputed claims that police were pushing the homeless out amid rumors that said otherwise. He countered that the city provided alternatives after opening additional shelter spaces.

Though there is no proof that the city swept the streets to remove unwanted residents, the money spent on Super Bowl 50, nearly \$5 million in city funds, has struck a cord with many residents. Advocates say it is money that could have been used to help homeless residents.

### **New TV Show Focuses on Addiction Recovery**

*Recovery Road* airs on Freeform, formerly known as ABC Family, and stars Jessica Sula as Maddie Graham, a high school student who has been smuggling vodka into her water bottles and going on blackout benders underneath her mother's nose. This is a theme in many teen dramas, but things change when Maddie faces a choice between expulsion or rehab. Viewers get to see something rarely shown on television, the work of recovery.

According to a [report](#) from *The Guardian*, the show is based on a 2010 novel by author Blake Nelson. *Recovery Road* is about recovery, but also how drugs and alcohol can be a wild card in a teenager's already turbulent existence and how a volatile adolescence can dramatically affect the rest of someone's life. Producers of the show hope that it will start a lot of conversations between friends and families, de-stigmatize addiction, and give hope that there is help available.

### **Seattle Continues to Address Homeless and Encampment Crisis**

Seattle's Mayor Ed Murray recently declared the city to be in a homeless state of emergency, helping put in motion \$7.6 million to be spent on alleviating the crisis (in addition to \$40 million already budgeted for homeless services this year).

According to a [capitolhillseattle.com report](#), City Council members are currently reviewing a plan on how to spend the funds. Using a mix of mayor-directed emergency funds and City Council-added money, the draft plan is broken into three categories:

- Prevention efforts: \$2.9 million
- Supporting people to move out of encampments: \$2.5 million
- Meeting basic needs: \$2.2 million

The human services committee advanced its \$2.3 million emergency funding package to the full Council earlier this month following a wide-ranging and impassioned discussion of how the city is currently serving those sleeping outside. Added to the mayor's \$5.3 million (to create the total of \$7.6 million), the funds will be used for homeless services like child care, day labor programs, emergency shelter for kids and adults, and diversion from encampments; \$500,00 will be used for a mobile medical van expected to rollout this spring.



### **New York City Does Annual Count of Homeless**

Thousands of volunteers hit the streets across New York City for the city's annual one-night count of homeless people living on the streets, [reports](#) ABC News. The canvass, known as the HOPE Count, is getting extra attention this year due to an increase in homelessness.

City officials trained more than 3,500 volunteers to be dispatched to the city's streets and subway stations. Last year, volunteers counted 3,182 people living unsheltered. Many city officials believe the number is higher now. An additional 58,000 people are living in the city's homeless shelters.

Now entering its 12th year, the HOPE Count is a nationwide estimate that cities must do to



qualify for certain types of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding. In New York, it's usually done on the last Monday of January, but was delayed this year because of a massive blizzard.

Some advocacy groups have questioned the count's methodology, saying many homeless people are missed during the two-hour count, but city officials say the sampling method has been approved by HUD and is used across the nation.

### **Report Finds Los Angeles County Spends \$1 Billion a Year on Homeless**

Los Angeles County spends close to \$1 billion a year caring for and managing homeless people, with a majority of the money going to health needs, [reports](#) the *Los Angeles Times*.

More than half of the \$577 million in health spending went to mental health treatment, the county study found. Another \$294 million was for cash benefits and food stamps for homeless individuals. While much of the health-related costs are covered by the state through the Medi-Cal program, welfare payments and food stamps are not. The county's biggest payout from its own general fund, \$176 million, goes to the department of public services. Law enforcement costs come in at \$41 million.

Nan Roman, president of the National Alliance to End Homelessness in Washington, D.C., believes the study is the most comprehensive examination of the costs of homelessness ever conducted among single adults, which make up 80 percent of L.A. County's 44,000 homeless people. The study examined costs for 150,000 single adults who experienced homelessness during a 12-month period in 2014–2015. The county board of supervisors is scheduled to meet to consider adopting a plan developed by the homeless initiative.

### **U.S. Charitable Giving Increases, Especially Online**

Americans gave more than \$18.2 billion to charity in 2015, a 1.6 percent increase over 2014 that reflects the strengthening economy, according to a new report from nonprofit services Blackbaud. This is the fourth year in a row an increase in giving has been charted, [reports](#) *Desert News*.

The percentage of donations made online was up 9.2 percent, with online donations accounting for 7.1 percent of all fundraising in 2015. International affairs organizations and faith-based organizations saw the largest increases in giving overall. The report found that more than eight in 10 people report giving money each year, while nearly six in 10 report volunteering.

The most popular months to donate are December and June, the end of the calendar year and fiscal year, when fundraisers are pushing to meet year-end goals.



**easystreet**  
Innovative solutions and ideas

## Dual-Purpose Business Cards

Here's an idea to extend the ministry of your mission for almost no cost. You probably already print business cards for a number of staff members at your mission containing the usual business card info. But what's on the back of the cards?

**Los Angeles Mission** (Los Angeles, California) lists the hours and some other basic information about a few of their key programs on the backs of their business cards, including what time guests can check in for emergency overnight services and what times meals are served. This not only gets the word out about the mission's services, but guests entering the building have a personal connection in the form of the card as well.

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Employment and product ads

*The following job positions are currently open at AGRM member missions. Please visit [www.agrm.org/careers](http://www.agrm.org/careers) to view full descriptions and to apply. Click [here](#) for instructions on using AGRM's Recruiting Center to post open positions for your mission.*

[Data Administrator](#): Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, NV

[Development Associate](#): The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, FL

[Development Director](#): Salina Rescue Mission, Salina, KS

[Director of Development](#): Albuquerque Rescue Mission, Albuquerque, NM

[Director of Development](#): Union Gospel Mission of Salem, Salem, OR

[Executive Director](#): Gospel Center Rescue Mission, Inc., Stockton, CA

[Executive Director](#): Victory Mission, Springfield, MO

[Facility Property Manager](#): Oliver Gospel Mission, Columbia, SC

[Female Resident Assistant](#): Capital City Rescue Mission, Albany, NY

[Food Service Attendant](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY



[Major Gifts Officer](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Manager-Donor Relations](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Men's Case Manager](#): Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, NV

[Men's New Life Program Manager](#): The Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA

[Men's Recovery Program Counselor](#): Spokane Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

[Nurse for Free Medical Clinic](#): Capital City Rescue Mission, Albany, NY

[Operations Manager](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Residential Coordinator - Cornerstone Manor Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Residential Coordinator - Mens Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Short-Term Volunteer Coordinator](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Substance Abuse and Addictions Counselor](#): Hope Ministries, Pleasant Hill, IA

[Vice President of Advancement](#): Springs Rescue Mission, Colorado Springs, CO

[Vice President of Shared Services](#): Springs Rescue Mission, Colorado Springs, CO

[Weekend Supervisor – Champa House](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO



## **A Call to Courage**

*“Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’” (Matthew 14:27).*

Does life frighten you? Do you feel surrounded by those who would do you harm—computer hackers, dishonest business people, and even neighbors who take advantage of you? The easiest thing in this type of environment would be to hide behind the walls of our homes and protect ourselves from the dangers that lie in wait.

But Jesus called His disciples to something different. He asked them to have courage and strength in the face of some very frightening situations. When Jesus walked on the water toward them as they sailed across the sea, He asked them to believe that this ghost-like figure was really their Savior. He asked them to go out in pairs and preach in His name. And finally, He asked them to go to Jerusalem with Him for His final days.

The opportunities that God wants to bring your way will take courage. When faced with

opportunities that frighten us, we should remember that God makes us strong in our weakness. God uses the very challenges that make our knees tremble for greatness, as His hands and feet on earth. Step out today in courage, no matter what you're facing, and know that God has you.

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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](#).

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