

# streetsmart



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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### **AGRM President Visits CEOs/Missions around DC Events**

In between being on Capitol Hill for the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) board briefing last week and AGRM's own DC Forum this week, AGRM President John Ashmen headed north and spent much of Saturday morning visiting with Bob Emberger, executive director of **Whosoever Gospel Mission** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), and Dick McMillen, executive director of **Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

John then went to the shore and spent Saturday afternoon with Dan Brown, president and CEO of **Atlantic City Rescue Mission** (Atlantic City, New Jersey), recording an hour-long radio program to be broadcast later this month. Atlantic City has experienced tremendous job losses, the foreclosure rate is the highest in the nation, and gang violence is on the rise. Dan and his staff are dealing with all of this, plus infamous New Jersey politics.

Yesterday, John spent time with Bob Gehman, executive director of **Helping Up Mission, Inc.** (Baltimore, Maryland). Helping Up has some exciting new projects in progress.

### **Convention Numbers Remain High**

Registration numbers for AGRM's 2016 annual convention, which will be held June 7–10 in Jacksonville, Florida, are actually higher than they were last year at this same point—and last year's attendance was the highest in association history! It seems that the AGRM annual convention remains one of the "hottest tickets in town." This year's conference has many new program features. Learn about them all online at [www.agrm.org/convention](http://www.agrm.org/convention). If you don't want to miss out on anything, jump right to the [online registration page](#).

Be sure to read through all of the "Our Street" section of this issue for a number of important notices and updates about convention events.

### **Women-in-Leadership Breakfast Offers Great Networking Opportunity**

On June 9, during AGRM's 2016 Annual Convention in Jacksonville, women who are in leadership positions at rescue missions will have an opportunity to gather for some exclusive networking and fellowship over breakfast. Penny Kievet, CEO of City Rescue Mission (Jacksonville, Florida) will host the gathering.

If you are a woman working in rescue mission ministry on any level of leadership, you're welcome to join this gathering for breakfast and some heartfelt dialogue. The cost is \$30. If you haven't registered for the convention

yet, you can include the breakfast as part of your registration; if you have registered but would like to add this event, please contact Convention Registrar Marcy Sandoval at (719) 266-8300, ext. 100, or via email at [msandoval@agrm.org](mailto:msandoval@agrm.org).

### **Convention Expo Area Space Selling Fast**

If you're a representative of an AGRM business member—or if you know a business that would benefit from exhibiting at the Jacksonville convention in June—you might be interested to know that more than 90 percent of the planned booths have already sold, and only two product sponsorships are still available. That means if you want to reserve a booth to showcase your products and services to rescue mission leaders, you will want to apply as soon as possible. For all the details about exhibiting, go to [www.agrm.org/exhibitors](http://www.agrm.org/exhibitors) or contact Exhibits Coordinator Beth Hall at [bhall@agrm.org](mailto:bhall@agrm.org).

### **2016 Media Innovation Competition Entry Process Underway**

AGRM's annual competition for member missions—to honor and highlight the work of missions in the categories of annual report, general brochure, newsletter/magazine, website, video, and photography—is now open. In addition, this year there are new categories for mission logo and social media. The deadline for entries is April 15. Winners of the Media Innovation Competition will be honored at the new Awards Reception on June 9 at the annual convention in Jacksonville.

For information including competition rules, judging criteria, a look at winning entries from last year, and the online entry form, visit [www.agrm.org/MIC](http://www.agrm.org/MIC). If you have questions about the competition or encounter any difficulties submitting entries, contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at [blewis@agrm.org](mailto:blewis@agrm.org).

### **Convention Financial Assistance Available for New Missions**

A limited number of convention scholarships are available for new/expansion missions with annual operating expenses under \$600,000. The deadline to return completed convention scholarship applications is April 1. If you have questions and to request an application, please contact Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle at [shayle@agrm.org](mailto:shayle@agrm.org).

### **AGRM Continues Work on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation**

In 2015, 22 teenagers successfully committed suicide on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation after 225 attempts. AGRM responded by requesting your prayers for the youth on the reservation, as we supported the efforts of the local leaders to develop a suicide prevention program to address the issues facing these teenagers.

Last summer we enlisted the help of Dan Adler and the Heart of the City Band, who performed free concerts for

teenagers and their parents. The band featured a Native American singer from Pine Ridge who shared her testimony of abuse while growing up and challenged them to commit their lives to the Lord and let Him give them hope and a future. Janet Napper from Overcoming Abuse God's Way led workshops on abuse recovery and suicide prevention for parents and teens, and provided resources for social workers and youth leaders for follow up.

In September, with the help of two donors, AGRM sponsored performances by Bob Holmes, the "One Man Volleyball Team," in middle and high schools on the reservation. Bob's ministry focused on challenging teenagers to beat the odds and make a difference in the areas of teen suicide and bullying. At the end of every performance he gave an invitation, and many teens accepted Christ to make a difference in their lives. AGRM member mission Lakota Hope Ministries offered to coordinate follow-up efforts with local Christian ministries. Since the last event in September, there have not been any teen suicides on the reservation.

AGRM Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle is currently in Pine Ridge meeting with representatives from the White House, FEMA, the Office of Disaster Philanthropy, and native leaders to discuss how to capitalize on the recent designation of Pine Ridge as a White House Promise Zone. Selena will also be meeting with tribal leaders to discuss final plans for the opening of the first Youth Safe House in the near future.

### **District Conferences and CEO Summit Dates on AGRM Events Calendar**

If you like to plan ahead for AGRM events, please go to [www.agrm.org/Events](http://www.agrm.org/Events) to check out the dates for district conferences this fall, as well as AGRM's annual CEO Summit. More details will be coming as these events get closer, but you can "save the date" on your own calendar now for these important events.

### **AGRM's DC Forum in Full Swing This Week**

A whole slew of mission executives and young leaders gathered yesterday to begin AGRM's 6th Annual DC Forum in Washington, D.C. The event, which runs through tomorrow (March 16), offers an opportunity to discuss and learn more about vital public policy issues facing rescue missions. The forum also allows attendees to meet on Capitol Hill with their own U.S. Senators and Representatives, as well as committee staff, who write the laws the federal agencies carry out. Part of today's agenda includes meeting with officials at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to discuss how federal homeless policies affect rescue missions.

### **Continue Praying in Conjunction with Annual Convention**

This is just a reminder that AGRM is a couple of weeks into its 100 Days of Prayer effort. We've asked AGRM members and Christians across northeast Florida to pray for three minutes a day for 100 days leading up to and through our annual convention. The effort allows everyone connected to AGRM-member missions to have an important part in setting the spiritual tone for the event—even those who can't attend.

We've prepared a [calendar page](#) on AGRM's website that will guide you each day. The prayers focus on the convention theme, the ministry of AGRM's members in the Jacksonville area, the staff and board of AGRM, leaders and businesses in the city of Jacksonville, those on the frontlines of mission ministry across North America, the people served by rescue missions, and the convention event itself.

If you didn't begin on March 3, perhaps pray for two calendar blocks a day until caught up, or simply begin on the current date.

### **Rhett Butler to Move into Significantly Reduced Role with AGRM**

For the past eight years, Rhett Butler has served AGRM in a contractor role as the association's government liaison. Recently, however, Rhett accepted a full-time position with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Starting in April, Rhett will mainly assist AGRM President John Ashmen with special government-related projects and speaking engagements. Government-related questions and concerns for members will be handled by the AGRM member services department, which will utilize Rhett's expertise on certain occasions, but will primarily engage key individuals as needed in the area of religious liberty and federal law. There will be no reduction in the service to members in the area of government relations. Rhett will still be at the AGRM convention in Jacksonville this June, teaching and consulting.

### **Looking Down the Street...**

- Please welcome new AGRM mission member **Haven of Rest Ministries, Inc.** (Anderson, South Carolina). [Stu Butler](#) serves as the mission's executive director.
- Please also welcome into AGRM membership **Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission** (Reno, Nevada), where [Rick Redding](#) serves as executive director.
- Kudos to Herb Johnson, president/CEO of **San Diego Rescue Mission** (San Diego, California), who was named the San Diego Business Journal's CEO of the Year in the Nonprofit Organization category. Check out a brief profile of Herb and other local award winners in the [publication](#).
- Please welcome back into business membership **BMC** (Lansing, Michigan). [Bob Bauer](#) serves as the main contact for AGRM members.
- **City Vision University**, an AGRM contract partner, recently announced a four-year accredited Bachelor's in Business program for a total cost of only \$5,000. The new program was featured in Forbes and several other outlets. Andrew Sears, president of City Vision University says, "Our goal is to

grow to over 10,000 students in the next five years, primarily from developing countries and low-income communities.” For details about the new program, click [here](#).

- Steven Scaffidi, director of marketing and business development at **New Orleans Mission** (New Orleans, Louisiana), provides this update on the mission’s “Photographs and Stories of Hope” project: “We’ve received some wonderful photos and stories from many of the missions across the country. Like you, we’ve all been very busy with our day-to-day activities, and some of you have asked for more time in submitting photographs for this very special project. We encourage you to submit your photos as soon as you can so we can include your mission along with the others who have already sent their pictures and release forms.” If your mission is interested in submitting photographs or stories, contact Steven directly at (504) 669-0189, or via [email](#), to receive guidelines for submissions.
- Consider booking award-winning speaker and author Bill Butterworth to speak at your mission’s next annual banquet or other event. Bill is also available to help write the story of your mission in book form—a good marketing tool especially if your mission is celebrating a milestone anniversary. Contact him at [bill@billbutterworth.com](mailto:bill@billbutterworth.com) or visit his website at [www.billbutterworth.com](http://www.billbutterworth.com).



### **Couple Turns Yard into Homeless Camp**

One act of kindness is improving the lives of 16 people without homes. Kim and Brad Lancaster of Shoreline, a city north of Seattle, have turned their 770-square-foot house and small yard into a homeless camp.

According to a *Huffington Post* [report](#), when the couple learned that a nearby church could not run an encampment for homeless people any longer, they took matters into their own hands and offered the displaced a new place to live—their backyard. The couple was especially motivated when they found out kids were living in the tent city.

Although most neighbors support the Lancasters—some even offering to cook meals and run clothing drives—one neighbor has complained, which prompted the city to investigate. However, the Lancasters struck a deal with the city. The tent city can remain on their property no later than April 1 as long as the couple proves in writing they have another place to go. The campers should be relocated to North Seattle's Haller Lake United Methodist Church in Seattle before the deadline.

## **Pediatricians Add Poverty to Well-Visit Checklist**

Pediatricians in the United States already ask parents about their child's sleep, diet, and developmental milestones. Soon, they'll add poverty to the well-visit checklist.

According to a Philly.com [report](#), the American Academy of Pediatrics says its members can identify children at risk by asking parents a single question: "Do you have difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month?" Those who answer "yes" can then be directed to appropriate community resources.

The AAP points to studies which show that severe and persistent poverty can lead to major lifelong health problems such as infant death, poor language development, and increased risk of asthma, obesity, and injuries. There is also growing evidence that childhood poverty is associated with high levels of stress that can change gene expression and brain function, and contribute to behavioral problems and chronic heart and mental health disorders.

Census data shows that 1 in 5 U.S. children younger than 18 lives in poverty. When families classified as poor, near poor, or low-income are included, the child poverty rate rises to 43 percent, or more than 31.5 million.

## **Denver Joins List of Cities Struggling with Homeless Camps**

People camping near Denver's homeless shelters packed up their belongings last week before city workers started removing bags, tarps, shopping carts, and other items left on sidewalks.

According to an ABC News [report](#), the city has spent months urging campers on the edge of downtown near Coors Field to move into shelters and get rid of makeshift structures that officials say pose a health hazard.

Police accompanied city crews clearing the sidewalks. A half-dozen protesters shouted from across a busy street, accusing the workers of stealing, but no one interfered with the cleanup. Officials stressed that things, not people, were being removed.



## **Churches More Likely to Fear Refugees Than Help Them**

When it comes to helping refugees, Protestant churches and their pastors are often separated by faith and fear, says a new survey from LifeWay Research. According to a *My Christian Daily* [report](#) most pastors say Christians should lend a hand to refugees and foreigners, and believe caring for refugees is a privilege. But pastors also say their churches are twice as likely to fear refugees as they are to help them.



About 20 million people worldwide—including 4 million refugees from Syria alone—are refugees. The United States plans to resettle 85,000 refugees in 2016, including 10,000 from Syria.

Researchers found widespread support among pastors for the idea of helping refugees. More than 8 in 10 (86 percent) agree Christians should “care sacrificially for refugees and foreigners.” One in 10 disagrees. However, researchers found few churches have taken steps to aid refugees. One in 5 pastors (19 percent) say their church is helping refugees overseas. One in 3 (35 percent) have addressed the Syrian refugee crisis from the pulpit. More than 4 in 10 (44 percent) believe there is a sense of fear in their church about refugees coming to the United States.

### **Map Offers State-by-State View of Nonprofit Employment**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released the results of a study combining employment data from state and federal unemployment insurance programs with IRS tax filings to better understand employment in the world of nonprofits.

According to a *Business Insider* [report](#), (where you can also view the state-by-state numbers) employment at nonprofits varies widely from state to state, with the Northeast and Midwest having a much higher proportion of private sector workers employed by nonprofits than the West and South.

### **The 25 Worst States for Health Care Access**

Though the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010, access to health care remains a challenge in many parts of the country. According to a WGN-TV [report](#) the issue is getting more attention this year as a contentious talking point in the presidential race.

Given the controversial state of health care in America, HealthGrove looked to find the states with the worst health care access. The organization used data from the Kaiser Family Foundation to look at the fundamental components, including physician density, dentist density, the percentage of residents insured, the percentage of mental health needs met, and the number of staffed hospital beds per capita.

According to the data, sparsely populated rural counties tend to have the lowest access to health care. The majority of counties on the list have 50,000 people or fewer, and thus qualify as rural. (Be sure to scroll down to view the list of 25 worst states; roll over the counties to get a closer look at health care scores in individual counties.)



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Innovative solutions and ideas

### Major Mission Makeover

Jack Crowley, president of **Water Street Mission** (Lancaster, Pennsylvania), reports that the mission undertook a huge renovation project for their kitchen, dining hall, lobby, and restrooms—but in an unusual way.

On February 29, they launched an event they called “Mission: Makeover—Beat the Clock to Feed the Flock.” In just one week, they completed the renovations, which were initially estimated to cost more than \$850,000 and take six to eight weeks to complete. With support from a general contractor and contributions from every sub-contractor involved, the cost was reduced to around \$500,000 and contributions reduced the cost to WSM to under \$300,000.

The mission also engaged 28 local churches, restaurants, and businesses that helped serve meals three times a day to all the mission’s guests while the project was underway.

To view one local TV station’s reveal of the renovations, click [here](#).

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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.*

[Chief Financial Officer](#), Fresno Rescue Mission, Inc., Fresno, CA

[Crossroads Men's Crisis Center Manager](#), The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

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

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

[Director of Development](#), Bethesda Mission, Harrisburg, PA

[Director of Finance and Business Development](#), Kansas City Rescue Mission, Kansas City, MO

[Director of Men's Mission](#), Bethesda Mission, Harrisburg, PA

[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 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

[Program Director](#), The City Mission of Findlay, Findlay, OH

[Residential Coordinator\\_Cornerstone Manor Facility](#), Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Residential Coordinator\\_Mens Facility](#), Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Staff Relief](#), Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

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

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

[Web Content Specialist](#), Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO



## **A People of Grace**

*"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4).*

It's hard to imagine why Paul told the Church at Corinth that he was thankful for them. The church in Corinth had serious "issues." Among them, a man was sleeping with his father's wife (1 Corinthians 5:1), fellow believers were suing each other (1 Corinthians 6:1), people were getting drunk off of the communion wine (1 Corinthians 11:21), and the list went on. What did Paul see in them that made him thankful?

He saw what only a follower of Jesus Christ could see: God's grace at work in their lives. Generally, the more time a person spends with another, the more obvious sin in his or her life becomes. This can either bring the two individuals closer together, or rend them further apart. Unfortunately, in many relationships it does lead to great mistrust and a pride in one's life as they judge the other person's faults—and sometimes it leads to total separation.

As we look for God's grace in the lives of those around us rather than their faults, we will begin to view them as a blessing in our lives instead of a curse. Seeing God's abundant grace in others should be what separates the church from those outside of it. We are sinners full of grace, instead of sinners full of pride.

Look for God's grace in the lives of those around you today.

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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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