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Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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Today Is the First Day of a Major New Undertaking!

Six-figure funding has been secured for a project to determine how much of charity work—specifically services to hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted people—in the United States is done by faith-based organizations (versus secular organizations and the government). There have been huge variances and great discrepancies in the estimates given by public officials and the media.

We believe religious organizations in the private sector are still leading the charge to help poor and powerless people in most cities, and we think accurate data will help AGRM better represent you in the halls of government and with the media, plus it will help you get more attention in your local community and your state.

We have selected 12 cities that will be proxies for cities throughout the rest of the country. We have teamed up with research heavyweights for this project, including folks at the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion. As early as next week, some of you will be contacted by researchers who will be traveling to your city to start working. This is exciting—and it's another way AGRM is working on your behalf. We'll keep you posted.

2016 Annual Convention News

AGRM's 2016 Annual Convention is about two months and two weeks away! The staff continues to put finishing touches on the event. We hope to see you there June 7–10. Keep track of all the latest news at www.agrm.org/2016convention. Here are some new things you need to know as well as some important reminders:

Complete Seminar Listings Now Available Online

If you like to map out the education component of the convention in advance, check out our new [seminar page](#). You'll find the revamped educational tracks, the seminars planned for each track, as well as presenter information.

An Opening Night Like Never Before

The convention's Tuesday evening general session, which we're calling "House Party for the Neighbors!" will feature Mark Lowry, Charlotte Ritchie, Tracy Lawrence, Greg Sykes, and a host of others, along with the Andrew Landers and the Mainstreet Struggleville band. This kick-off event at the historic Florida Theatre—just a block from our convention hotel—will also include key leaders and formerly invisible neighbors from City Rescue Mission, Trinity Rescue Mission, and Mercy Support Services.

Make Your Hotel Reservations

There is every indication that this year's convention is going to have another big crowd! One sign is that our room block is almost at 100 percent (so we recently came to an agreement with the hotel to extend our rates for additional rooms). Make sure you've made reservations for your stay. To book your room at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, visit www.agrm.org/2016hotel or call (888) 421-1442. The AGRM convention rate is \$121 per night (single/double). State and local taxes apply. For those driving, parking is \$5 per day.

Getting to the Hotel

If you are flying to Jacksonville, you need to get from the airport to the Hyatt. One very easy option is using SuperShuttle. The rate is \$22 one way for the first person and \$8 for each additional person per party. To make reservations, just click [here](#).

Be a Moderator, Get a Break

We're looking for a few good men and women to serve as seminar moderators. These

individuals serve as host of a seminar track or other educational session, greeting attendees, ensuring the presenter has what's needed, handing out evaluation forms, directing the flow of any discussions or questions, and, essentially, helping attendees get the most out of each seminar.

Those who agree to moderate all five seminars in a single track can register for the convention at the special moderator rate of \$395, which will save money or allow more room for some of this year's outstanding program add-ons. Speaking of add-ons, you can also choose to moderate one of our three "Culture Changer Seminars," which you'll be able to attend for free if you moderate that session. These extended seminars are typically \$49 and include lunch on Tuesday, June 7.

To learn more, download the [moderator packet](#), complete the agreement form, and return to [Justin Boles](#). After you've been approved to moderate (moderator roles are filled on a first-come, first-served basis), you'll get additional instructions on how to register. If you've already registered, no worries, we can refund the difference between your registration fee and the moderator rate. Please be sure to get approval to be a moderator from your supervisor or executive leader before submitting your form.

Convention Expo Area Adding More Booths

Our planned Expo Areas have already sold out. But based on previous years, we kind of guessed this might happen. So we're adding up to 10 additional booths. If you're a representative of an AGRM business member—or if you know a business that would benefit from exhibiting at convention—there is still a chance for you to join us!

If you are interested in signing up for the waitlist for one of these booths, or you would like information about the two product sponsorships still available, please contact Exhibits Coordinator Beth Hall at bhall@agrm.org. For more information on this year's Expo Areas and details about exhibiting, go to www.agrm.org/exhibitors.

Media Innovation Award Submissions

If you plan to enter AGRM's Media Innovation Competition, which honors work by member missions in both print and electronic categories, you have just two weeks remaining! The entry period closes April 15. For more information on categories, judging criteria, how to enter, and more, visit www.agrm.org/MIC. The awards will be announced—along with a number of other honors—at the new Awards Reception on Thursday, June 9 at the Annual Convention.

Prayer Calendar Reminder

Just a reminder that we are in the midst of 100 Days of Prayer for this year's convention. For more information, go to our [prayer calendar](#). This endeavor undergirds the entire event with prayer and 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.

Convention Scholarships

Today (April 1) is the final day for submitting an application for a convention scholarship. If you are a new member or if you have misplaced your application or don't remember receiving one, please contact Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle at shayle@agrm.org. We want to help you get to Jacksonville!

So Be Sure to Register Now!

As you can see, plenty is taking place at this year's big event. If you haven't registered yet and want to be a part of it all, head to our [online registration form](#) right now so you don't miss a single moment.

Check Out *Rescue* Magazine's New Look

Rescue, AGRM's award-winning bi-monthly magazine, is celebrating its 30th birthday this year (although a regular publication goes way back to the association's founding more than 100 years ago). To mark this milestone, the magazine has undergone a redesign that gives the content "room to breathe," with additional pages and a design driven by graphics.

If you haven't seen the latest issue of the magazine yet, check your mailbox (or check out our [page-flipping version](#) (which is typically only available in the magazine's archives on the members side of the website). We'd also like to hear what you think about the new look. Please email Director of Communications [Brad Lewis](#) with your comments.

Save the Dates for AGRM's CEO Summit

AGRM's Annual CEO Summit is headed "home" to the association's mother ship. Well, close anyway. The event will be held in Colorado Springs August 23–25 at Glen Eyrie, the spectacular conference center owned and operated by The Navigators. Watch *Street Smart* and AGRM's Events Calendar for additional details. CEOs, in the meantime, set aside those dates (plus travel days) to make sure you can attend to network with your peers.

DC Forum Featured Key Meetings with Lawmakers

AGRM's DC Forum, which was held March 14–16 on Capitol Hill, resulted in some significant outcomes. The AGRM staff booked 100 percent of the desired Capitol Hill appointments with lawmakers. More than 70 meetings were held with U.S Senators and members of Congress. Additionally, the entire AGRM delegation had a noteworthy, one-hour meeting with senior officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor for Housing and Services; and Ann Oliva, Director of the Office of Special Needs Assistance.

Earlier this year, AGRM weighed in on a proposed rule from the Department of Labor (DOL) to expand the overtime threshold from \$23,660 to \$50,440 (meaning employees making less than \$50,440 could not be considered exempt and would be subject to overtime regulations). The rule did not consider the consequences to nonprofits such as rescue missions that use case workers and chaplains who work unusual schedules. Many rescue missions surmised that this new rule would adversely affect them financially, causing them to ultimately have to cut services. Several of the AGRM members visiting Capitol Hill discussed this with their representatives, and reported to us that the congressional staff involved took copious notes. Almost immediately, a bill was introduced by H.E.L.P Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to block the DOL rule. You can read more [here](#). This is not to say that AGRM was primarily responsible for the bill, but the testimony AGRM members gave did provide helpful case-study examples and factual support.

Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome into AGRM membership **The Open Door Mission** (Oakland, California). [Shondrel \(Shon\) Slaughter](#), serves as executive director.
- Please welcome AGRM's newest business member **MATS—Cars for Ministry** (Indianapolis, Indiana). [Jessica Patterson](#) is the company's director of development.



Homeless Man Receives More Than Spare Change at Coffee Shop

A homeless man in Minneapolis walked into a local coffee shop to beg for change, but he

walked out with a job, [reports](#)9News. A Facebook post about what happened to him has gone viral.

Cesia Abigail, 25, owner of Abi's Café, explained in a post that a homeless man named Marcus came in asking for change. She asked him why he didn't have a job, and he explained how previous felony convictions have made it difficult for him to find work. Abigail was short staffed, so she decided to take a chance on Marcus and offer him a job. "His eyes opened wide and his smile made my day!" Abigail wrote.

Abigail ended the post by asking people to "do something nice for someone today and don't judge them just because they're out there asking for money." She set up a GoFundMe page for Marcus to help him find permanent housing and has already exceeded her goal of \$1,000 by raising more than \$2,100.

Plans to Ease Privacy Rules on Addiction Treatment Spark Debate

Questions are being raised amidst the Department of Health and Human Services' recently proposed update to guidelines that govern the release of patient records about treatment for alcohol and drug use, according to a [report](#) by NPR.

The biggest issue is what would be more harmful to patients being treated for drug or alcohol use: Risking their health by keeping other medical providers in the dark about their treatment; or risking the patients' jobs, homes, or child custody arrangements by allowing potentially damaging details to be shared widely among providers.

The one thing those on both sides of the question agree on is that protecting the privacy of people being treated for substance use is critical. The mere threat that treatment details might be disclosed can be enough to deter some people from seeking help. Under the current rules, providers can't disclose treatment information unless patients give their consent to release it to a specific health care provider. Those in favor of loosening the rules say not having access to all the relevant medical information of a patient can be difficult and even dangerous. The hope is to find a balance between getting additional access to information while still protecting patients' privacy.

Hawaii Working to Improve Mental Health Care for Suicidal Teens

In Hawaii, one of the leading causes of death for citizens under the age of 18 is suicide, [reports](#) *Capital Berg*. But the state is hoping to change that.

The House Judiciary Committee is considering a bill that would lower the age of consent for receiving mental health care from 18 to 12. Hawaii would not be the first to pass a bill of this kind, with nearly 20 other states passing similar laws. This bill would allow mental health professionals the right to decide whether to involve parents in the therapy sessions or not when dealing with minors seeking treatment.

Some say this would further enlarge the rift between parents and children, but others feel it could help children talk more freely during therapy sessions without the fear of judgment from their parents.



Researchers Link Consistent Use of Marijuana to Social Problems

People who smoke marijuana on a regular basis for years are significantly more likely to have economic and social problems at midlife than those who use it only occasionally or not at all, [reports](#) *Newsweek*. This new research also shows the longer people regularly smoke, the greater their chances of having these troubles are.

The study does not prove that marijuana causes these problems, but it does go further than other research has done before to demonstrate a probable link. People in the study who smoked regularly, defined as at least four times per week over the course of several years, had significantly more economic problems, such as high levels of debt, poorer credit ratings, limits on cash flow, and difficulty paying for food and rent. They were also more likely to exhibit antisocial tendencies in the workplace and have conflicts in their intimate relationships.

One of the strengths of the study was to show that people generally began to have economic and social problems after smoking regularly and were not different beforehand as teens on measures of IQ, motivation, impulsivity, or likelihood of using other drugs.

Group Predicts Revenue Growth for Nonprofits This Year

According to a new survey by Capital One, more than 80 percent of nonprofits anticipate growth and increased revenues in 2016, [reports](#) *Accounting Today*.

Of those who responded to the survey, 83 percent anticipated increased revenues in 2016,

an increase from 77 percent from the prior year's survey. Despite this positive outlook, nonprofits still face challenges and risks. Nearly 40 percent of respondents expect fundraising to be their greatest challenge in 2016, followed by keeping up with technology (23 percent), attracting and developing new business (17 percent), risk management (13 percent), and financing operations (8 percent).

The most significant business risks, according to those surveyed, are compliance risk (29 percent), cyber fraud (29 percent) and operation risk (28 percent).

Glass of Wine at Dinner Might Not Improve Health

While many people believe that having a glass of wine with dinner can help them have a longer and healthier life, a new study suggests that much of the evidence in favor of moderate drinking may be shaky at best.

According to a Fox News [report](#), researchers took a closer look at findings from 87 previously published studies on drinking and death from all causes. They found that all but 13 of the studies had a critical flaw. Most compared moderate drinkers, who had one or two drinks a day, with current abstainers. However, the studies didn't account for medical reasons that might have driven abstainers to avoid alcohol, potentially exaggerating the health benefits associated with moderate drinking. None of the 13 studies that did account for abstainer bias found any health benefits associated with moderate drinking.

The analysis didn't look at whether certain types of alcohol, such as red wine, might be tied to longer life. It also focused on mortality from all causes, which means it's still possible that drinking could be associated with a longer life for people with certain conditions like heart disease. Even so, the evidence to date suggests that the safest level of alcohol consumption could be none at all.



Summer Care Kits

Your mission can use or adapt the guidelines in this [article](#) from the *Huffington Post* to urge volunteers to make summer care kits for homeless people. Individuals can give out the kits individually, or participate in an event where your mission goes out into the community to connect with homeless people who don't visit your facilities.



The following job positions are currently open at AGRM member missions. Please visit 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.

[Case Manager](#): Muskegon Rescue Mission, Muskegon, Michigan

[Chief Financial Officer](#): Phoenix Rescue Mission, Phoenix, AZ

[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

[Executive Director](#): Turlock Gospel Mission, Turlock, CA

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

[Night Manager](#): Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

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

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

[Recovery Program Coordinator](#): Westminster Rescue Mission, Westminster, MD

[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

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



The Homeless King

“Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head,’” (Matthew 8:20).

Most homeless people have strong feelings of isolation and aloneness. In words and actions, they express a sense that they are somehow less than everyone else—that they are beneath others. So different, so unlovely, so small that even God couldn’t possibly love them.

But Jesus clearly stated that he had no home on earth: “The Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Not even an abandoned foxhole or a bird’s nest. This Scripture is a powerful tool for breaking through to those who, isolated in life due their homelessness, also imagine they are isolated and cut off from God’s mercy, love, and compassionate care.

Jesus, our merciful and compassionate Savior, not only lived among us and died for us all; He even lived as a man without a home—a wanderer with no place to lay His head. Here is a King from whom no one need feel isolated! Our Lord and King is the King of those who are homeless, too.

As we serve those who are lonely, defeated, and in despair, may we always remember whose precious people they are, and share the good news of their King.

*By John Howze, director of community engagement at **Idaho Falls Rescue Mission** (Idaho Falls, Idaho). Used with permission from Daily Devotionals, www.shortdailydevotions.com.*

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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