

# streetsmart



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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### **New Convention Scholarship Grant Announced**

Just this morning, a very generous donor who believes in AGRM and in the value of professional education has made available full-ride scholarships for *60 more people* to attend the 2016 AGRM Annual Convention! The scholarship includes the registration fee, hotel for three nights, plus up to \$450 in transportation. What an amazing and unexpected blessing! As you are reading this, we are frantically negotiating with The Omni (the convention overflow hotel) to open up another block of rooms.

***Here's your chance!*** This scholarship will first be extended to:

1. Member rescue missions with annual operating expenses of less than \$600,000 that are not able to afford to send anyone to the annual convention.
2. Member rescue missions with annual operating expenses of less than \$600,000 that are sending one person and would like to send a second or maybe even a third person to the convention in order to double or triple their capacity-building by having other staff share in the inspiration and information.
3. Other member rescue missions that have special circumstances prohibiting them from sending anyone

to the convention this year.

If you are interested, click [here](#) to apply for the scholarship.

Don't delay, these will go quickly—plus there isn't a lot of time before the event. Drop what you're doing and talk to whomever you need to talk to right now, and then complete the application.

### **AGRM CEO to Visit Ontario and Quebec Missions This Week**

Recent connections with Canadian rescue mission leaders has led to invitations for AGRM President John Ashmen to visit several organizations north of the 49th Parallel. Wednesday through Friday of this week, John will be touring seven rescue missions in Ontario. Joining him will be Bill Mollard, president of **Union Gospel Mission** (Vancouver, British Columbia), who is a member of the AGRM board. None of the missions that John and Bill will be visiting are currently AGRM members. On Saturday, John will be joining Cyril Morgan for a tour of **Welcome Hall Mission** (Montreal, Quebec); Welcome Hall is a long-time member of the association.

### **Be Sure to Reserve Your Room Right Away**

Our overflow hotel in Jacksonville, The Omni, could potentially end our contracted convention rate as of May 6—that's this Friday! If you are attending the convention but don't have a room yet, be sure to book your room right away. Just click [here](#) to reserve rooms at The Omni; the rate is \$139 per night.

Also, if you have a room at the convention hotel, the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, make sure you have also registered for the convention! [Register online](#) now! **IMPORTANT:** Because there is now a scramble to find hotel rooms for many people who are still registering, if you have reserved one or more rooms at the Hyatt but now do not plan to use them, please contact Meetings and Events Manager Lisa Miller by phone at (719) 266-8300, ext. 107, *before* you make any cancellations. Please do this ASAP!

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## **PRICE BREAK REMINDER!**

The last price-break deadline for the 2016 Annual Convention in Jacksonville is May 10, one week from tomorrow! Visit our [online registration page](#) today and save!

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### **We're Asking You to "Think. Outcomes"**

Last week, you should have received an email from AGRM Director of Member Services Justin Boles, describing the new focus the association will be putting on the study of ministry outcomes. Faith-based organizations are

often quick to produce *output* statistics, but *outcome* data has been minimal. While output data describes needs, it is the outcome data that turns the heads of major donors, foundation trustees, civic leaders, government officials, and lawmakers. They want and need to know about return on investment and results. Moreover, outcome data is a prime motivator for improvement and refinement, which will enable rescue mission ministries to have an even greater Kingdom impact.

If you didn't see what Justin sent, you can find it [here](#). At the AGRM convention, AGRM will introduce the five questions members will be encouraged to ask clients entering and then exiting their programs.

### **Transgender Accommodations Seminar Added to Convention Line-Up**

With issues related to transgender bathroom choice and sheltering dominating headlines and affecting almost all rescue missions, AGRM has added an important seminar to the annual convention June 7–10 in Jacksonville, Florida, to help members grapple with the significant issues and respond appropriately. The session will address these topics from both legal and philosophical angles. The latest addition joins a powerful lineup of workshops designed to equip rescue missions to engage culture with confidence, conviction, and compassion. You can get all the latest convention information at [www.agrm.org/convention](http://www.agrm.org/convention).

### **Women-in-Leadership Breakfast Filling Fast**

If you are a woman working in rescue mission ministry on any level of leadership, there are a few spots left for the Women-in Leadership-Breakfast on Thursday, June 9, at the annual convention in Jacksonville. If you haven't registered for the convention itself yet, click [here](#) and be sure to include the breakfast as one of your optional events. If you have already registered but didn't sign up for the breakfast and would like to, contact Convention Registrar Marcy Sandoval to add the event to your schedule. The cost is \$30 for breakfast; the heartfelt dialogue around the tables is free!

### **AGRM Partners to Open Emergency Home for Youth at Pine Ridge**

AGRM is pleased to announce the grand opening of the first ever Emergency Placement Home for youth on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. An opening ceremony will be held Monday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m. This home will serve as a safe haven for youth who are experiencing abuse issues at home, or who do not have proper residential facilities while attending school.

AGRM has partnered with the Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing in its vision to restore hope to the Lakota nation by providing the necessary social and economic programs that will create better living conditions for residents. The Emergency Placement Home is one of seven planned facilities that will soon be available to serve the nine districts that make up the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Special thanks to Candace Gregory and her staff at **Open Door Mission** (Omaha, Nebraska) for generously supplying all the furniture, appliances, and household

items needed to furnish the home, and for making the 18-hour round-trip drive to deliver the items to Pine Ridge.

For more information on how you may help with the Pine Ridge efforts please contact Selena Hayle, AGRM's director of member engagement, at [shayle@agrm.org](mailto:shayle@agrm.org).

## **Become a Seminar Moderator and Get a Convention Registration Discount**

We're still looking for a few more people 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.

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

- Clair Weaver, executive director of **Jubilee Ministries, Inc.** (Lebanon, Pennsylvania) retired last month. Ryan Newswanger, the mission's former operations director, is now the executive director. Read more in the mission's [April newsletter](#).
- Congratulations to Patrick Hayle, executive director of **Mercy Support Services** (Jacksonville, Florida), who won the Exceptional Executive Director Award at the annual Reinhold Foundation's Annual Celebrate Clay award ceremony on April 26. In addition to receiving an engraved plaque, Patrick also received a check for \$5,000 for the mission.
- A public service announcement produced by Viamedia for **Allentown Rescue Mission** (Allentown, Pennsylvania), titled "The Least," received a bronze 2016 Telly Award in the Local TV & Local Cable—Cause Marketing category.

- AGRM continues to grow! Please welcome the following new mission members: **Good News at Noon** (Gainesville, Georgia), [Alejandro Oropeza](#) serves as executive director. **Adventures in God's Creation** (Jacksonville Beach, Florida). [James "Jimbo" Stockton](#) is executive director. And **The Guest House** (New Castle, Indiana). [Bruce Aaron](#) is executive director.
- AGRM members **Brewer Direct, Inc.** (Monrovia, California) and **ENEX GROUP** (Colorado Springs, Colorado) have announced plans to merge. The transaction, slated to close in early May, brings the faith-based fundraising specialists together under the Brewer Direct banner. For more information, read the [press release](#) announcing the merger. Brewer Direct will acquire Colorado Springs-based ENEX GROUP, along with several top rescue mission clients throughout the country. Those nonprofits join a nationwide roster of missions and other charities already represented by Brewer Direct. Combined, the two agencies raise nearly \$33 million annually to support the growth of their clients' programs and services.
- Please welcome the following new AGRM business members: **Relief Bed International** (Tacoma, Washington). Contact Scott Smalling, the company's founder at [scott@reliefbed.com](mailto:scott@reliefbed.com). **National Health Care for the Homeless Council** (Nashville, Tennessee). John Lozier, the organization's executive director, can be reached at [atjlozier@nhchc.org](mailto:atjlozier@nhchc.org). **B.A.C. & Associates, Inc.** (Fresno, California). Contact Woody Wojdylak, president/CEO, at [woody@bacpromo.com](mailto:woody@bacpromo.com).



## Officials Place Rocks Below Overpass to Deter Homeless Camps

Jagged rocks installed to deter homeless encampments below a freeway overpass in San Diego have sparked a debate between people arguing for compassion and residents demanding safer and cleaner streets, [reports](#) the *Los Angeles Times*.

City crews installed the riprap next to the walls of the Five Freeway overpass late last week at the request of Sherman Heights residents, who had complained that homeless encampments on Imperial Avenue made it difficult and sometimes dangerous for pedestrians.

The decision to put in hardscape—which cost \$57,000—was criticized in some quarters. The homeless advocacy nonprofit Amikas held a news conference outside City Hall on Tuesday to protest the hardscape and to petition for another solution, including a request for the city to set aside land for temporary, affordable tiny houses for



those who are homeless.

### **Hawaii Church Uses Igloos to House Homeless Families**

A church in Hawaii looking to address the state's ongoing homelessness crisis has settled on a solution that on first look appears better suited for the frigid winters of Alaska than the islands' tropical climate: igloos, [reports](#) the *Chicago Tribune*.

The igloos are made of fiberglass and their construction keeps the interior about 10-15 degrees cooler when the hot sun is blazing down, officials at First Assembly of God in Honolulu said. Church officials plan to order a dozen homes, each of which can house four people, and erect them on the windward side of Oahu on land that the church had planned to use as a retreat for its members.

The igloos are the latest idea in the islands as the state struggles to deal with the nation's highest per capita homelessness rate. The 20-foot-wide, 314-square-foot domes will cost the church about \$9,500 each, not including a floor or base, plus \$800 each for shipping. The church has raised about \$100,000 for the project so far through donations from its members and other churches, and it's seeking corporate sponsors.

### **Bedbugs Found to Gravitate to Particular Colors**

Apparently, bedbugs—just like flies and other insects—have favorite colors. They really like dark red and black, and they shun dazzling white and bright yellow, [reports](#) CNN.

Researchers placed bedbugs in Petri dishes that contained little bug-sized tents made of different colored paper. The bugs quickly crawled to the shelter, but when given the chance, they gravitated toward the tents that were black and red instead of the white, yellow, or green shelters. The new study could provide some fresh insight into how to prevent bedbugs.

These apple seed-sized insects probably instinctively prefer black and red shelters over white and yellow ones because they offer better protection from predators such as ants and spiders. Bedbugs might also gravitate to black and red shelters because they mistake the colors for fellow bedbugs, and they generally like to stick together for protection. Yet another reason could be that bright colors make the insects more exposed to light, and the more exposed these insects are, the more they lose water; if they lose too much, they have to feed again or will die.



## Health Care Costs Vary Greatly from State to State

Need knee replacement surgery? It might be worthwhile to head for Tucson. That's because the average price for a knee replacement in the Arizona city is \$21,976, about \$38,000 less than it would in Sacramento, California. That's according to a report issued Wednesday by the Health Care Cost Institute.

The report used claims and payment data from three of the largest insurance companies in the U.S. to analyze how prices for procedures vary from state to state, and city to city, according to an [article](#) by NPR. The takeaway from the report? Health care prices are crazy. The reports compare average state prices for 242 medical services—from primary doctor visits to coronary angioplasty to a foot X-ray—to the national average price for those services. It shows that states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin have higher than average prices while others, such as Florida and Maryland, were cheaper overall. Prices vary within states, too.

The HCCI data is some of the most detailed and complete information available on health care prices paid by private insurance companies. The price variations show that the health care market is not following traditional economic and market rules. The new data may give insurers and consumers better ammunition to shop around for lower prices or to negotiate better deals.

## Mindfulness Therapy May Help with Depression

Mindfulness therapy may help reduce the risk of repeated bouts of depression, according to an [article](#) in *U.S. News & World Report*. "Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy enhances awareness of thoughts and emotions being experienced, and enables development of skills to better cope with them," said Dr. Ami Baxi, a psychiatrist who directs adult inpatient services at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

In the new study, a team at the University of Oxford in England analyzed the findings of nine published studies. The research included a total of almost 1,300 patients with a history of depression. The studies compared the effectiveness of mindfulness therapy against usual depression care and other active treatments, including antidepressants. After 60 weeks of follow-up, those who received mindfulness therapy were less likely to have undergone a relapse of depression than those who received usual care, and had about the same risk of those who received other active treatments, the team reported.

## British Medical Group Urges Smokers to Switch to E-Cigarettes

Taking a stance at odds with most American public health officials, a major British medical organization urged smokers to switch to electronic cigarettes, saying they are the best hope in generations for people addicted to tobacco cigarettes to quit, [reports](#) *The New York Times*.

The recommendation, published by the Royal College of Physicians, summarizes the growing body of science on



e-cigarettes and finds that their benefits outweigh the potential harms. It concludes that, at least so far, the devices are helping people more than harming them, and that the worries about them—including that using them will lead young people to eventually start smoking traditional cigarettes—have not come to pass. That conclusion is likely to be controversial among public health officials in the United States.

E-cigarettes reportedly deliver nicotine without the harmful tar and chemicals that cause cancer. Some public health experts see e-cigarettes as the first real chance in years for 40 million addicted Americans to quit. But others, including the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have focused on the potential dangers of e-cigarettes: that they could extend smoking habits, that they could be a gateway to traditional cigarettes for children, or that their vapor could turn out to have other long-term health effects.



### **Pop-Up Restaurant**

Where do you go when you don't feel like cooking after a long day's work? Do you pick up fast food on the way home? Stop in at the local pizza shop? What if you could pick up a home-cooked meal and help your mission raise money at the same time? The online fundraising site Salsa [suggests](#) that you can with a pop-up restaurant fundraiser.

Organizers should pick a busy weeknight, like Thursday when there's more work the next day and people are already tired from the first half of the week, and cook a meal to sell for an affordable price. The meals can either be premade and easy-to-heat, like roasts and casseroles, or freshly made and ready for serving, like hamburgers. Cook meals that a 75-year-old and a 12-year-old would both be glad to eat. Think home-style and traditional. People will be lining up to have dinner taken off their hands. And with these events, you can host them over and over again with new food each time.



*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.*

**Case Manager** : Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, NV

**Chaplain**: Rescue Mission of El Paso, Inc., El Paso, TX

**Crisis Intervention Coordinator, Social Worker**: The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

**Development Associate**: The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, FL

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

[Director - Safe Harbor](#): Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, WI

[Director of Development](#): The Shepherd's House, Bend, OR

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

[Director, Food Services](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

[Director, Major Gifts](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

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

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

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

[Front End Developer](#) : Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Housekeeping/Maintenance Manager](#): Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, WI

[Human Resources & Training Coordinator](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Major Gift and Planned Giving Manager](#): San Diego Rescue Mission, San Diego, CA

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

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

[Partner Services Representative](#): Mission Resource Alliance, Cleveland, OH

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

[Principal - Cross Trainers Academy](#): Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, WI

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

[Vice President of Administration](#): Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, WI



**streetlight**  
Words to brighten your passage

## Comfort or Calling?

*As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:57–62).*

Every day is full of decisions:

- Wake up or hit the snooze button.
- Whole grain cereal or pop tarts.
- Dress for comfort or for style.
- Go to the gym or take a nap.
- Turn on the TV or read a book.

In fact, life is full of decisions and some of these decisions will determine the course of our life. Who will I marry? Where will I work? Where will I live? For many of us in America our decisions will be determined by one concern: comfort.

Two thousand years ago those who wanted to follow Jesus faced a similar dilemma. Read the verses above again. These men and women were confronted by Jesus and had life decisions to make for Him.

Many of us, when we first embraced a relationship with Jesus, had the attitude, "I will follow you wherever you go." That is, until we realized His call on our life could lead us to places we'd never expected to go and cost us more than we'd ever expected to sacrifice. There's nothing comfortable about Jesus' challenge to these would-be followers in Luke 9. There's nothing comfortable about Jesus' calling on our lives today. The decision remains the same: Will we choose our comfort or God's calling?

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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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