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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

You Have Just Two Weeks to Make Our Convention Best-Price Deadline

We know you have a lot going on, but don't let the December 15 deadline for our Annual Convention's Early-Bird Registration get away from you. Have someone on your staff start working on this ASAP. The event will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 12–15, 2018.

Visit www.agrm.org/convention for all the details, or go straight to our [online registration page](#) to get yourself and your staff signed up. Early-Bird Registration can only be done online—and again, it ends at 11:59 p.m. MST on December 15.

One of the things that so many missions are seeing these days is an influx of younger leaders (even in CEO roles). The issue of leadership transition will be featured prominently in general sessions and seminars this year. If there will be a possible transition at your mission—or even in the leadership of a key department—in the next one to three years, you'll find a lot of good information and insights to pick up at our 2018 convention.

As an added bonus, because Milwaukee is home to Harley-Davidson® Motorcycles, we'll be giving a reconditioned one away one at the convention! But you have to be present to win.

A Delicious Reason to Make Sure You Register Right Away!

From all the missions that have already registered or will use early registration (online November 15 to December 15) to send staff members to attend the 2018 convention, we will be drawing for a \$200 gift certificate to Pier 106. Within walking distance of our convention hotel, located right on Milwaukee's RiverWalk, Pier 106 includes dining on a riverside patio.

This is a chance for a mission's staff to enjoy a delicious meal in a relaxing setting—without having to foot the entire bill—and discuss what you are experiencing at the event. So [register now](#).

Tax Reform Decisions Are Being Made Today!

On Wednesday afternoon, Senator James Lankford (R-OK) filed his Universal Charitable Giving Act of 2017 as an official amendment to the Senate tax bill. The hard work our Faith & Giving Coalition has been doing paid off in this regard. Whether it remains in the final bill that goes to a vote is yet to be seen. We'll likely know within hours! However it comes down, the issue of charitable giving was moved to a front-and-center conversation. Yesterday, AGRM President John Ashmen wrote to Senators Hatch and McConnell, urging the inclusion of the amendment—along with the important step of “scoring” the amendment by the Joint Committee on Taxation—as vital to keeping charitable giving and rescue mission ministries to hurting people strong. We'll keep you posted.

It's Not Too Early to Register for AGRM's DC Forum

More than ever before, it's important to have a voice in Washington, D.C. Please consider having someone on your staff join us in the U.S. Capitol March 12–14, 2018, for an opportunity to demonstrate to government leaders the importance of religious liberty and the value that rescue missions bring to our cities. With just a year into the Trump administration, and with mid-term elections in fall 2018, this might be the most important DC Forum you can attend. We will have several prominent Washington figures briefing us.

The price of \$389 for the event program includes all AGRM-led session on Capitol Hill, materials, designated meals and food breaks. Hotel reservations must be made separately; please visit the event registration page for hotel information. We've locked in to two hotels close to Capitol Hill with have very good rates (by D.C. standards).

You can find all the details and registration at www.agrm.org/DCForum. With all that is happening in Washington, you need to have someone representing your mission at this event.

Three Districts Elect New Officers and Board Representatives

Last month, AGRM members in the Bluegrass, Deep South, and Great Lakes districts voted for new district officers and board representatives. In addition, the entire membership selected an at-large AGRM board member. The newly elected board members will serve three-year terms, starting January 1. Here are the results:

Bluegrass District:

District President: Michael Gullatte, Cleveland County Rescue Mission (Shelby, North Carolina)

District Vice President: Vicki Murray, Safe Harbor Rescue Mission (Hickory, North Carolina)

Board Representative: Glenn Cranfield, Nashville Rescue Mission (Nashville, Tennessee)

Deep South District:

District President: Steve Turbeville, Lighthouse Ministries, Inc. (Lakeland, Florida)

District Vice President: Buddy Morrow, CITA (Melbourne, Florida)

Board Representative: Penny Kievet, City Rescue Mission (Jacksonville, Florida)

Great Lakes District:

District President: Frank Baldwin, Muncie Mission Ministries (Muncie, Indiana)

District Vice President: Dennis Van Kampen, Mel Trotter Ministries (Grand Rapids, Michigan)

Board Representative: Michael Brown, Kalamazoo Gospel Mission (Kalamazoo, Michigan)

At-Large Board Member:

Charles Morgan, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities (St. Paul, Minnesota)

Welcome new officers! Thank you to the other candidates who ran. Also, a huge thank you to outgoing officers. (And to the latter, you still have a month left on your terms!)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Ripple Effect

Rescue missions in the northwest and southeast part of the country are now registering for the 2018 Ripple Effect program. While participants do not necessarily need to be located in these regions, the on-site events will be held in Vancouver, Washington (for the northwest), and Birmingham, Alabama (for the southeast). Find information online at www.agrm.org/rippleeffect. For more details, contact Director of Member Services Justin Boles at jboles@agrm.org.

Snapshot Survey

AGRM's annual point-in-time survey has moved to the last 10 days of January, with the official survey date of January 25, 2018. These dates coincide with the HUD/Continuum of Care surveys that many local missions participate in, and makes it more convenient for mission staff members to interview guests, clients, and residents in all facets of their programs. Forms and instructions will be available in early January, so you can prepare staff members and add volunteers as needed to interview all of those your mission is serving. If you have questions, contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.



AGRM Member Benefit: Media Competition

Each year, AGRM holds the Media Innovation Competition for members to submit various media and to award excellence in both print and online offerings. The awards are announced at AGRM's Annual Convention. Awards are presented in two mission operating budget categories (below and above \$5 million), and include best newsletters, brochures, annual reports, logos, photos, PSAs/commercials, longer-format videos, websites, and social media. In recent years, AGRM has received approximately 500 entries for the competition.

Click [here](#) to view the 2017 winners booklet.

Entries for the 2018 Media Innovation Competition will begin in March. If you have any questions

about the awards, please contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.



Tobacco Companies Admit Making Cigarettes More Addictive

“Smoking kills 1,200 people a day. The tobacco companies worked to make them as addictive as possible. There is no such thing as a safer cigarette.”

Ads with statements like these hit the major television networks and newspapers last weekend, but they are not being placed by the American Cancer Society or other health groups. According to a [report](#) by NBC News, the ads are being placed by major tobacco companies, under the orders of the federal courts.

The Justice Department started its racketeering lawsuit against the tobacco companies in 1999, seeking to force them to make up for decades of deception. U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ruled in 2006 that they’d have to pay for and place the ads.

Experts Unmask Addiction Myths

Living in a heroin epidemic can lead to all kinds of talk about addiction and the answers to it—with a lot of it false. In a [report](#) from cincinnati.com, several addiction experts listed the following myths, along with the truth:

Myth 1: Addiction is not a disease.

Truth: “Addiction is a disease,” said Betty Tai, director of the Center for Clinical Trials Network for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. “It is a brain disease, and you’ve got to treat it with a disease model.”

Myth 2: If someone addicted to heroin wants to stop using, she should just detox.

Truth: With just detox, and not providing additional treatment, the relapse is almost instantaneous.

Myth 3: It’s their fault, or their parents’ fault, that they are heroin-addicted.

Truth: “Nobody is to be blamed,” said Tai, noting that research shows that genetics and environment play a part in the development of addiction disease.

Supreme Court Considers Masterpiece Cakeshop Case

This month, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in one of the most anticipated cases of the term, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. This case deals with whether Colorado can force a baker to design specialty cakes with messages that violate his religious beliefs.

Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, declined to design a cake for a gay couple, although he offered to sell them a premade cake. According to a [report](#) in *The Daily Signal*, the couple filed a complaint with the state’s Civil Rights Commission, which resulted in a finding that Phillips engaged in sexual orientation discrimination in violation of the state’s public accommodation law.

Phillips argues that forcing him to create messages like the couple requested violates his free speech and free exercise rights under the First Amendment, while the Colorado Civil Rights Commission says that Phillips may not be exempt from the public accommodation law.

The court's decision in this case will affect dozens of similar cases pending across the country that involve businesses in the wedding industry.



Most People Overestimate Holiday Weight Gain

Roasted turkey, apple pie, potatoes, rolls and buns. Jell-O salad. Gravy boats. Green beans drowned in French-fried onions. Even as our souls cry out for the comforts of Thanksgiving, the media is bombarding our eyeballs with concerns about dreaded holiday weight gain.

Holiday weight gain is likely a real phenomenon, but the effect seems to be smaller than you might guess. While the weight gain is small, it also represents a disproportionate amount of the average adult's annual weight gain. In a [report](#) by FiveThirtyEight, results suggest you shouldn't be dismissive of holiday weight gain but also not overly anxious about it, either.

A paper from 17 years ago is credited with starting scientific research on the subject. When Jack Yanovski and his colleagues began their study of 200 National Institutes of Health employees, they were responding to a media environment that frequently cited holiday weight gain averages of five to 10 pounds. But they found their subjects gained an average of only 0.8 pounds between mid-November and early January, and that those same subjects overestimated their own weight gain by a factor of four.

Charities Expect Giving Tuesday Donations to Increase

First, there was Thanksgiving. Then, a few decades ago, Black Friday came along. Next came Cyber Monday. A few years ago a day decidedly not about consumption was established: Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving that is celebrated (mostly on social media) the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Last year, charities large and small raised \$180 million on Giving Tuesday, according to a [report](#) in *The Atlantic*. That's a significant increase from 2015's \$116 million. This year, according to projections from the nonprofit consultancy Whole Whale, that number likely increased to more than \$200 million. Charities and nonprofits in more than 100 countries took part in the effort, and organizations that have used the day as an occasion to launch an end-of-year campaign have seen significant increases in donations for the season.

Construction Association Adds Opioid Overdose Kits to Toolkits

Vancouver Island's construction industry wrapped up a series of workshops this week that taught workers about how to save colleagues and others from an opioid overdose. The workshops in Victoria and Nanaimo followed recent reports of higher rates of overdose deaths among the

construction trades in the U.S. and Canada.

According to a [report](#) from CBC News, Naloxone kits were provided for reversing overdoses, along with training on how to use them.

Rory Kulmala, CEO of the Vancouver Island Construction Association, said, “As an organization that looks after the interests of its members, we thought it would be a good idea to do our part to promote some education and awareness around the issue.”

The demographic that works in the construction industry is the same affected by fatal overdose; 83 percent of fatal overdose victims are male, and 75 percent are aged 30 to 59.



ACTS Workshop

The Association of Christian Thrift Stores (ACTS) will hold their Annual Workshop January 14–17, 2018 in Durham, NC. Participants will be staying at the Hilton Durham near Duke University. You can register online and get the hotel reservation information at actswebsite.com.

Cost of the Workshop and membership is \$315.00 per person. The room rates for 2 double beds is \$99.00 per night.

The Workshop cost includes eight training sessions, six meals, a tour of the Durham Rescue Mission’s Thrift Store Operations, and a dessert reception with our vendors. We hope to see you there if you have a thrift store or are considering opening a store to help fund your ministry.

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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.

Care Support Specialist: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Case Manager @ Rebuilding Lives Center for men: Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Case Manager, Men’s Shelter: Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Cook: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

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

Development Director: Home of Grace, Vancleave, MS

Development Director: Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc, Pensacola, FL

Development Officer: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

Director of Development: Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

Director of Development & Community Relations: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

Director of Major Gifts: Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc., Pensacola, FL
Domestic Violence Advocate: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA
Executive Director: Outreach Gospel Mission, Brookings, OR
Faith Community Nurse - Guest Services: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA
Food and Beverage Driver: San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA
Guest Services Assistant - Women's Shelter: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA
Health and Wellness Center Manager: San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA
Kitchen Supervisor at Women's Recovery Center: Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA
Major Donor Representative: Union Rescue Mission, Los Angeles, CA
Major Gifts Officer: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY
Men's Center Support Worker (Split Shift): Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE
Overnight Supervisor: Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI
Program Manager Transitional Housing Manager: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO
Recovery Program Coordinator: Westminster Rescue Mission, Westminster, MD
Resident Advisors: Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI
Resident Assistant, Center for Women & Children: Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA
Residential Coordinator_Cornerstone Manor Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY
Salesforce Data Analyst: Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA
Sous Chef: Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY
STAR Counseling Supervisor: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO
Transportation Specialist: Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA
Volunteer Coordinator (Kitchen): Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE
Women's Recovery Counselor: Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA
Women's New Life Recovery Program Case Manager: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA



Worship

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this

world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2 ESV).

Every aspect of our lives is part of our worship.

We worship from the moment our eyes open in the morning to the second they close at night. Worship is magnifying (or making much of) someone or something by our actions, thoughts, or words. It is setting anything, be it God or otherwise, into the place of high prominence and authority in our lives.

Of course, worship today is generally thought of as a genre of music or a 30-minute period when we sing songs to God. While praising God through song is a crucial component of worship (Ephesians 5:15–21), it does not encompass it.

In fact, we learn from today's passage that discerning God's will from a transformed and renewed mind, and then acting in accordance with that will, is pivotal to our proper worship. We are called to be men, women, and children who become like Jesus—not a people who try to make Jesus fit our desired mold for Him.

Worshipping the “gods” of culture is religiosity, while worshipping the One True God in culture is true Christianity.

When we hold a small view of worship we lose sight of “what is good and acceptable and perfect” because we lose the ability to truly know it! Only through the giving and submitting of our entire lives can we rightly worship God and fulfill our purpose and mission on this earth.

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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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