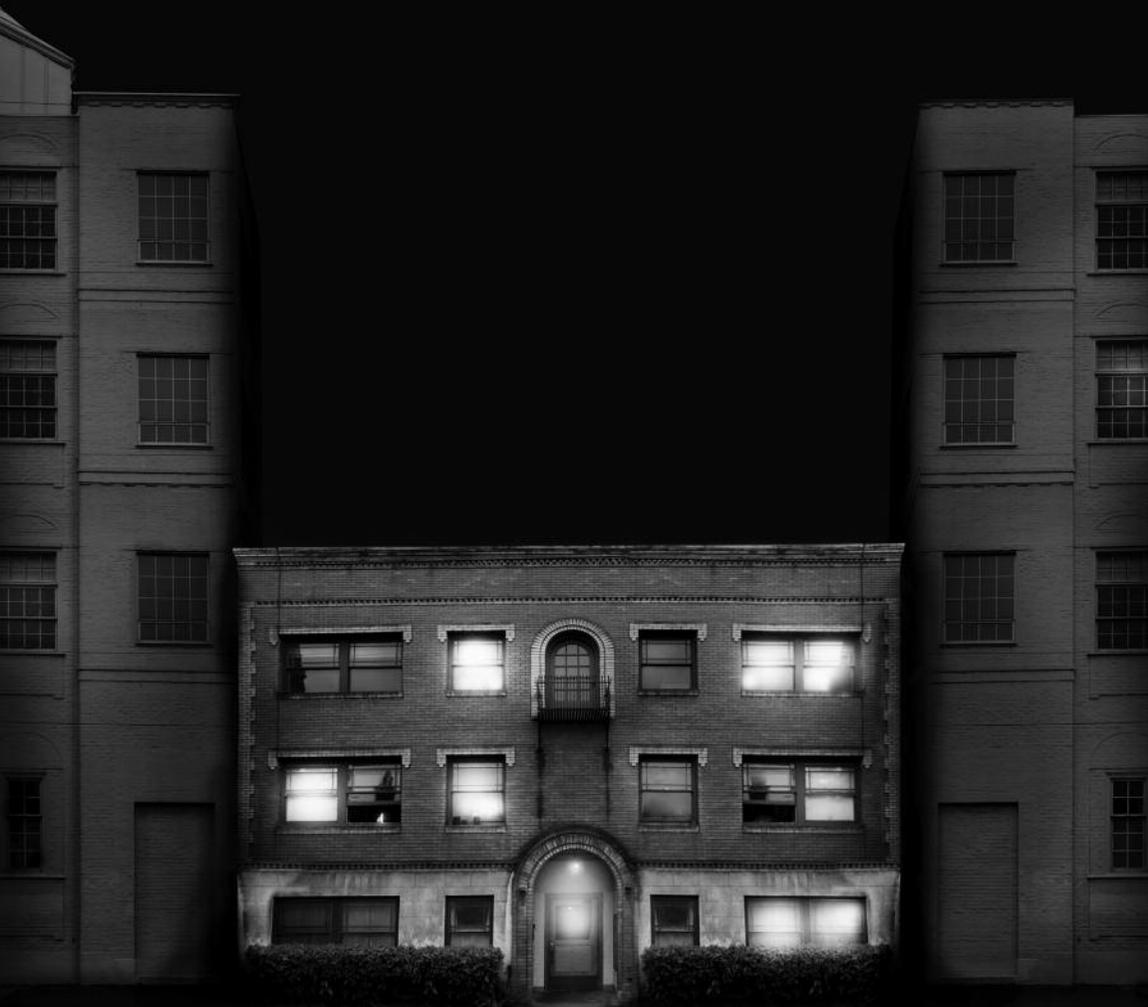


It's **one** of hundreds.





You won't find this building in an upscale section of downtown. Its neighborhood is less lit, less lively, and more unsettled. Yet despite its lackluster location, it is a vibrant place of promise.

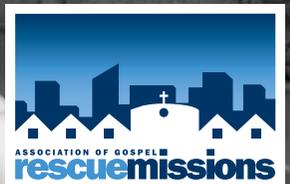
It's one of hundreds of gospel rescue missions in North America—havens of hope for the lost and lonely who call the street home. Inside are hot food, clean clothing, temporary shelter, and the possibility of a more abundant life.

Gospel rescue missions have a long history of providing lifelines for those drowning in the waves of adversity and the undertow of addiction. For more than a century, they have been keeping watch on the waterfront of despair, and countless men, women, and children have been saved in every sense of the word.

*Gospel is part of their name because their leaders are compelled foremost by Jesus' instructions to actively care for those in need, and to introduce them to the liberating good news of His kingdom and all it represents.*

*Their name includes rescue because delivering those in need from danger is the critical and consuming first part of a sometimes slow but always exciting journey that leads to new desires, choices, and direction in life.*

*The word missions is in their name because those in need see each of their structures as a bastion of protection and a refuge from fatigue and failure, similar in concept to those Southwestern sanctuaries built by pioneering padres long ago.*



## Important Connection

People desire companionship. That's how God made us. We love spending time with others who sense what we sense, like what we like, and do what we do.

We formalize this desire through institutions such as marriage, community organizations, special interest clubs, social networking websites, and associations. While many of these entities revolve around the home front, associations generally center on the workplace. Today, more than 80,000 professional and trade associations exist. Their primary purpose is to help their members bond and band together to produce positive results in their respective fields, and to impact society in general.

Various genres of ministry also have associations. There is even one for those working in gospel rescue missions.

## AGRM

The Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM) has been around almost as long as North America's missions themselves. Originally called the Federation of Gospel Missions and then the International Union of Gospel Missions, the organization continues to provide a tight network of nurture for those who emotionally expend so much in ministry. Moreover, a broad educational component

includes industry certification and best practices.

AGRM members also take pride in establishing and sustaining new, independent rescue missions in areas where there is great need throughout North America and beyond. Dozens of today's multifaceted gospel rescue missions were originally start-ups launched by the association through the gifts and guidance of members on every level.

Many long-time executives who benefited from veteran advice in their early years find that giving back to emerging leaders through the association is a way of saying thanks and continuing a long legacy of hope. This is seen in the fact that membership is made up of those leading complex, multimillion-dollar operations as well as those running single-focused, small-budget agencies.

## Shared Values

The many programs, products, and services provided by AGRM have grown out of its corporate values. Those values are, in effect, the behavioral guidance system for the association. They are:

### Enjoined by *Scripture*

Following God's mandates for life and ministry

### Inspired by *History*

Building on a solid foundation of positive results

### **Roused by *Culture***

Evaluating and moving with an ever-changing world

### **Impelled by *Compassion***

Reaching out to help because of Jesus' loving example

### **Activated by *Information***

Researching and disseminating data for decision making

### **Vitalized by *Communication***

Keeping the church and the public in the know

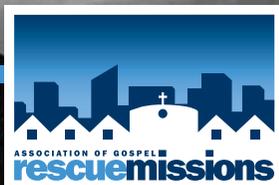
### **Energized by *Collaboration***

Sharing with colleagues the secrets of success

## **Significant Mission**

An organization's mission is the reason why it exists, and for this day, AGRM's is quite compelling. It is twofold: 1) telling the story to the church and public at large, and 2) helping missions be their best through various member services. Said succinctly:

***AGRM exists to proclaim the passion of Jesus toward the hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted; and to accelerate quality and effectiveness in member missions.***



# Member Benefits

AGRM has much to offer its members—and member benefits are being added or modified every month as the world gets more simple and complex at the same time. Here is what AGRM currently offers or is developing:

## News and Information Publications

- **Rescue**—Bimonthly industry-wide magazine covering all aspects of programming and operations
- **Executive Session**—Monthly inspiration and management insights, plus association reports for executive directors
- **Street Smart**—Biweekly inside and outside news, statistics, product introductions, and employment opportunities
- **Headlines**—Front-page news about the association and issues affecting gospel rescue missions

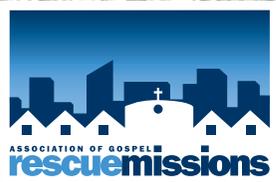


## Educational and Training Programs

- **Global City Mission Network\***—International partnership and fact-finding Worldwide Forum held every two years
- **Annual Convention\***—Inspiring event-of-the-year with scores of seminars and an exhibit hall, geared for everyone in rescue mission ministry
- **CEO Summit**—Annual think tank and “iron-sharpening” session at a relaxing venue for CEOs of complex ministries with multiple staff
- **DC Forum**—Yearly gathering where rescue mission staff can meet with elected officials, hear from policy experts, and receive training
- **District Gatherings\***—Multiple educational and fellowship events held on the local level across nine regional territories
- **Emerging Leaders Institute\***—12-month leadership development program for rescue mission staff ages 24–40



\*Involves a cost in addition to membership



- **City Vision College\***—Member discounts are provided for urban ministry classes toward an undergraduate degree
- **Webinars**—Regular online training sessions that call quick attention to the newest ideas and theories in leadership and ministry
- **CDs and DVDs\***—Through Piper Media, a host of outstanding seminars and general session recordings from AGRM conventions are always available

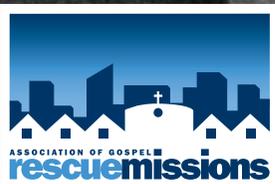
## Formal Networking Programs

- **Professional Networks**—Vocation-based affinity groups for those involved in addiction recovery, business management, food service, and other areas
- **Emerging Leaders Network**—Facebook and face-to-face connections for those in rescue mission ministry under age 40
- **Connect Groups**—Online email discussions for more than 20 professional peer groups within the association

## Online Services

- **Directory of Missions**—Up-to-date listing of member missions, including contact information, CEO names, locator maps, and much more
- **Business Member Directory**—Quick connection to ministry partners in the business world that offer relevant products and services
- **William L. Wooley Online Library**—Historic AGRM documents, plus essential reading for those in the rescue ministry culture
- **Resources Tank**—Rolling collection of sample policies, job descriptions, and other documents categorized by staff member responsibility
- **Prayer Chapel**—A place for members to post their praises and requests for other members to see and respond to in prayer
- **Industry Links**—Connections to dozens of companies, agencies, and ministries that understand rescue mission ministry and can assist members
- **Career Center\***—Page listing employment classifieds from member missions





## Documents & Data

- **White Papers**—Randomly released positional and how-to documents presenting a Christian response to social concerns
- **Surveys**—Annual industry snapshot of member ministries, plus tabulated info on salaries, trends, services, felt needs, and more

## Benchmarking & Public Recognition

- **Certification\***—Confirmation process verifying legal requisites met and standards achieved in every area of operation
- **Best Practices**—Documents detailing processes that can help rescue missions operate more efficiently and effectively while increasing accountability
- **Media Innovation Competition**—Annual contest giving recognition to “best-in-show” member photos, brochures, newsletters, websites, and more

## Professional Consultation

- **Toll-Free Helpline**—Over-the-phone management advice for members needing assistance with specific problems or unusual situations
- **Leadership Team Site Visits\***—Phase-one analysis and recommendations on key issues from AGRM staff and key leaders
- **Board Development Sessions\***—In-depth on-site board training in trends, responsibilities, and conflict resolution

## Contract Services

- **Food Service**—Cost-saving program through Trinity/HPSI helping members reduce expenses on food and non-durable goods
- **Insurance**—Industry advocacy and reduced-rate possibilities, plus member-involved insurance committee through Merriam Insurance
- **Re-employment**—Free, exclusive access through NextJob to industry-leading software that coaches job seekers through the employment process
- **Financial Credibility**—Direct connection from AGRM members-only

\*Involves a cost in addition to membership

website to rescue mission-specific resources on ECFA's website

- ➔ **Planned Giving**—Free and discounted planned giving services offered through an exclusive partnership with The Orchard Foundation
- ➔ **Retirement**—403b retirement plan for members through Envoy, featuring no-load mutual funds and declining charges based on group volume
- ➔ **Conflict Resolution**—Discounts on biblical conflict resolution resources and training from Peacemaker Ministries
- ➔ **Seminary Education**—Discounted tuition to The Urban Ministry Institute's seminary program, offering associate degrees for mission staff and clients

## Marketing & Public Relations

- ➔ **Guide to Mission and Service**—Searchable database of member missions, including program descriptions, to help the public find needed services
- ➔ **Social Networking**—Regular tweets and posts promoting rescue mission ministry and member missions
- ➔ **Public Awareness Campaigns**—Major collaborations drawing attention to the broken and forgotten, and to members' work and needs
- ➔ **Local Initiatives\***—City and community programs like *Sleepless* and *My Night in a Box* to unite people and rally support on all levels
- ➔ **Interviews and Releases**—AGRM press involvement, PSAs, and YouTube links calling attention to issues surrounding the most vulnerable in society
- ➔ **Invisible Neighbors\***—Outstanding small-group study material expounding on Jesus' instructions regarding the poor
- ➔ **Rescuer Award**—Association-branded certificate for members to thank and honor their most faithful volunteers, board members, and staff

## Government Relations & Advocacy

- ➔ **Government Liaison**—AGRM staff engaged regularly with government officials in promoting member interests in Washington, D.C.

- ➔ **Legislative Alerts**—Online information flagging key legislative agendas and recommended actions
- ➔ **Capitol Hill Fly-Ins\***—Rallying rendezvous set up for members to voice concerns on emergency measures being considered by lawmakers

## Legal Assistance

- ➔ **On-Call Attorney**—Free 20-minute initial consultation with an attorney who has extensive experience in nonprofit law
- ➔ **Discounted Counsel\***—Nonprofit law attorney available to members at reduced rates for expert guidance through difficult situations
- ➔ **Legal Review**—AGRM-commissioned analysis of policies and documents to access members' legal risks

## Outreach

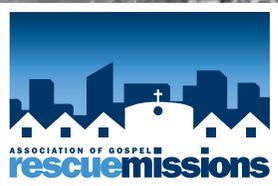
- ➔ **New Creation Service Corp**—Opportunities for addiction-recovery graduates to mature and give back through work projects abroad
- ➔ **Expansion**—Give and go opportunities to help new rescue missions come to life in important places of need in various locations
- ➔ **International Partnerships**—Established connections with city missions on other continents for the purpose of swapping staff and sharing ideas

## Identification

- ➔ **Logo**—Permission to use the AGRM logo on literature and websites, linking members to an esteemed, widely recognized brand
- ➔ **Membership Certificate**—Document suitable for framing showing connection with the association, plus number of years of involvement



# 10 Very Good Reasons Why **Your**



# Mission Needs to be an AGRM Member

## 1. You become part of a huge network of colleagues.

When you join, you instantly get connected to a whole host of friends who are passionate about the same things that move you, and deal with what you do every day. They become an invaluable source of advice and inspiration. Through our Affinity Groups, your staff and volunteers can easily connect with their peers across the continent.

## 2. You gain access to mission-specific training and resources.

AGRM is the most complete source for rescue mission-related educational seminars and materials. Our new core curriculum covers all the bases in programming and operations, and today's technology allows for great learning opportunities in both physical and virtual classrooms.

## 3. You are never out of the loop on the latest news and trends.

The news never stops, and AGRM keeps you up to date with what you need to know to make the right decisions. Our publications and website give you AGRM news and tell you what's happening in the halls of government as well as on the streets of North America that is related to what you do.

## 4. You have a national voice on important issues.

When AGRM speaks to the media or addresses the church, as a member, you are represented. You can have your voice heard as a part of the whole, or you can participate in association programs that will put your mission at the podium in front of the microphone.

## 5. You have a safe "place" to go for advice and support.

When you need a sympathetic ear but aren't comfortable going to mission staff or volunteers, and it's not appropriate to talk to those in your community, you can turn to AGRM. You'll find someone who understands what you're going through, will listen to you in confidence, and will pray with you.

## 6. You increase your exposure to the public.

People near or far can easily find exactly where you are located and learn precisely what you do because your name and website will be listed on AGRM's high-visibility website. This is especially helpful when people need to place friends and family in the care of someone they can trust far from home. It also can help potential donors and volunteers find you.

## 7. You save time and money on things you need to buy.

It's true that there is strength in numbers, and that is why AGRM can leverage deals in the business community to bring you significant savings (even if a lot of what you use is donated). And when the association finds deals, the details are listed and circulated in a number of members-only sources so you won't miss them.

## 8. You keep your whole team moving forward together.

Because AGRM automatically brings some of your key staff members into membership when your mission joins, the benefits are multiplied throughout your organization. They'll have access to all of the valuable resources, and it won't totally fall on your shoulders to look for training opportunities or keep them up to speed on what's happening in the world of rescue mission ministry.

## 9. You can share your expertise with more people.

Because AGRM is a member-influenced organization, it relies heavily on the experience and skill of members for content and delivery. There are plenty of places for you to share what you know through the written or spoken word, and you can help influence policy by involvement in committees and special task forces.

## 10. You will receive ongoing spiritual encouragement.

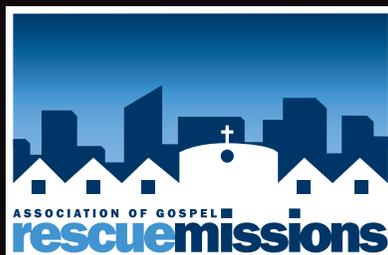
In AGRM, you will find many denominations and affiliations represented. Our focus, however, is not on our differences but on the passion and person of Jesus. So while an association is very different from a rescue mission, those of us involved in AGRM are just as committed to the gospel as you are. Therefore, one of the big benefits you receive is a subtle but constant reminder of why we do what we do, and whom we are serving.

## BONUS REASON: You can help hundreds of future leaders.

Even if you are in a mission that is relatively self-sufficient, AGRM provides the channels for you to give back and help perpetuate the positive things that have gone on for decades in rescue mission ministry. Teddy Roosevelt said it this way: "Every man owes part of his time and money to the industry to which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

Sign up online or download a membership application at [www.agrm.org](http://www.agrm.org).

**For more information** about the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, log on to [www.agrm.org](http://www.agrm.org), or email [info@agrm.org](mailto:info@agrm.org). Numerous data links, historical and statistical facts, a membership directory, and a list of member benefits are available on the website.



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