

streetsmart



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

Volume 10 Number 24 | December 15, 2016 | www.agrm.org

 [Printer-friendly](#)  [Feedback](#)

ourstreet News from AGRM and our members

membershipstop Highlights of AGRM member benefits

mainstreet Reports from North America's downtowns

divisionstreet Vital statistics from industry experts

marketstreet Employment and product ads

streetlight Words to brighten your passage

This issue of *Street Smart* is sponsored by:

Not just any insurance...

Rescue Mission Insurance

Property / Liability / Auto / Residents
Volunteers / Directors & Officers
Workers Compensation / Health & Benefits

THE
MERRIAM
AGENCY INSURANCE SINCE 1895
CHARLES W. MERRIAM & SON, INC.
1 (877) MERRIAM (637-7426)

RescueMissionInsurance.com



SOGI Toolkit Now Available to Members

Following the input of a special task force, the AGRM staff has put together a Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gospel Rescue Missions Toolkit. Members can go to www.agrm.org/sogi to download the toolkit (requires member log-in).

The detailed document covers items such as areas where SOGI matters intersect with rescue mission ministry, where to learn about laws that affect your mission, government and other funding restrictions, how to establish positions and policies that work for your mission, facility arrangement and design, and much more. The Appendix also contains resources, documents, and other tools that can help your mission deal with SOGI matters.

While there's nothing in the SOGI Toolkit that AGRM is sheepish about showing, we suggest that you use this only as an internal document to guide board and staff discussions and decisions. Circulating it more broadly in today's political environment is not recommended.

Convention Early Bird Registration Ends Today!

One more reminder that you need to register by 11:59 p.m. MST today to get the absolute lowest rate on AGRM's 2017 Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas, May 31–June 3, 2017. Don't let this opportunity for the biggest savings get past you. With the early-bird rate of \$479 per person, you'll save \$30 off the first-person registration fee.

Visit www.agrm.org/2017convention 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 tonight.

***Same Kind of Different as Me* Announcement Coming Soon**

Later today, AGRM President John Ashmen and Strategic Initiatives Architect Mark P. Fisher will be meeting with a motion picture industry executive to get an update on the movie *Same Kind of Different as Me*. To everyone's disappointment, Paramount recently paused its promotion of the picture, indicating that a February 3 release date, previously given by the studio, was not likely. AGRM expects to share new information very soon. When we know something, you will know something.

Denver Mattress Company's Matching Campaign Benefits 60 Missions

Denver Mattress Company and AGRM are pleased to announce that their charity campaign this holiday season raised \$295,585 for people in need. During November, Denver Mattress Company pledged to match every dollar donated to 60 participating rescue missions, with a \$2,500 cap per market. In all, \$149,505 in donations were made. Although not all missions met the cap that Denver Mattress pledged to match, the company generously donated the full \$150,000 amount.

AGRM Office Holiday Hours

While various AGRM staff members will be coming and going to enjoy holiday time off with friends and families, the office will be well-staffed over the coming days. We are here to help whenever members have a need. Please note that the office will be closed December 23 and December 26 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays, and January 2 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. We will not publish a January 1 edition of *Street Smart*. Look for your next issue on January 16.

We hope and pray that you have a blessed Christmas time with your friends and families as well.

Looking Down the Street...

- Prince Harry, fifth in line to the throne of Great Britain, visited AGRM member **Barbados Vagrant and Homeless Society** (Bridgetown, St. Michael). The prince met with Kemar Saffrey, president of the society, who was the recipient of the Commonwealth Youth Award for Excellence in Development Work.
- Andy Bales, CEO of **Union Rescue Mission** (Los Angeles, California), has been featured in a number of news outlets as “a homeless advocate who lost his leg to the streets who has returned to Skid Row in a wheelchair.” The story included reports distributed by The Associated Press, as well an article in the *Daily News of Los Angeles*, and a lengthy [article](#) in *Los Angeles Weekly*.
- **Denver Rescue Mission** (Denver, Colorado) has started an innovative program in cooperation with Denver County. Denver Outreach Court, which allows anyone who is currently experiencing homelessness or who receives homeless and/or transition services and who has a Denver municipal ticket or warrant, to take care of their case at the mission every other Wednesday.
- Sam Watts is now CEO of **Welcome Hall Mission** (Montreal, Quebec). He replaces Cyril Morgan, who recently retired.



AGRM Member Benefit: Best Practices for Gospel Rescue Missions

Best Practices for Gospel Rescue Missions is a set of publications designed to promote organizational effectiveness and professionalism in AGRM member missions. Six practices are currently available:

- Role in Society
- Governance
- Planning
- Transparency and Accountability
- Financial Management
- Fundraising

Developed by a board of executives from a cross-section of missions, *Best Practices for Gospel Rescue Missions* include time-tested principles and sample documents that are important for building strong foundations for ministry success. At least four additional

practices are in development.

AGRM members can download PDFs of each of the current publications at www.agrm.org/bestpractices.



Program Pays Families to Take in Homeless Relatives

The city of New York will pay residents to take in their homeless friends and family members for up to a year under a new program “Home for the Holidays,” the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) announced. This initiative aims to place 5,000 families who have lived in homeless shelters for at least 90 days in comfortable, secure homes for up to a year, [reports](#) New York City Patch.

The program is only open to friends and family members of homeless families. The city will help the host with their rent each month when they take in a homeless family. Depending on the size of the family they take in, hosts will receive \$1,200, \$1,500 or \$1,800 a month for their rent for up to a year. The city will also give both the host family and client family a taxpayer-funded \$500 gift card.

“Home for the Holidays” will mainly focus on finding homes for small families with children. Homeless families taken in will still be considered shelter residents and will continue to qualify for rent subsidy programs. Not only does the program establish safer conditions and social connections for homeless families, it could also save taxpayers money. According to DHS, it costs \$40,000 a year to shelter one family in the city’s system. This is almost double the amount of what the city will pay a host family with the maximum rent compensation for a year under the new program.

Hotel Bibles Becoming a Thing of the Past

Hospitality analytics group STR says that less than half of hotels in the U.S. offer religious materials in rooms. This represents a drop from 98 percent in 2006 to just 48 percent this year, [reports](#) Fox News.

Hotel representatives note that religious books don’t fit the personality of the brands. Marriot International recently decided against supplying religious materials at its Moxy and Edition hotel brands, which are geared toward Millennials. But the decision to shy away from supplying the religious texts is multi-faceted.

According to some industry experts, hotels are trying to appeal to younger American travelers who tend to be less religious than their parents. The casual Bible placement has also declined to avoid offending guests of other faiths, according to industry experts. Many newer hotel brands also install shelves rather than nightstands with drawers next to the bed, displacing the religious materials' previously discreet home.

"The decline of religious materials in hotels, as cited in the survey, is reflective of increasing secularism and independence in the world," said Jeff Pack, the Director of Communications for Gideon International, the nonprofit group that distributes Bibles in hotels across the country.

Nonprofit Helps Homeless Residents Feel Clean and Safe

It started with a simple idea: that dignity and hygiene are inextricably linked. Doniece Sandoval was convinced homeless people deserve both, so ideas turned to action, [reports](#) Mashable.

With the help of Google, an early investor that has donated \$800,000 to date, Sandoval converted a defunct San Francisco city bus two years ago into a mobile shower unit for the homeless. She then turned the idea into a nonprofit, Lava Mae.

Lava Mae has upgraded from its first city bus—it now has commercial shower trailers that still offer what the people it serves said they wanted most: privacy and safety. While the original concept had six shower stalls to account for quantity, Lava Mae buses have two full, private bathrooms, one of which is large enough to accommodate wheelchairs.

The organization, which is currently expanding to Los Angeles, hasn't stopped at showers alone; its latest effort is the "pop-up care village," a pilot program in partnership with Project Homeless Connect and a small army of volunteers. At the most recent pop-up in San Francisco, in addition to the mobile shower bus, people experiencing homelessness could sign up for a free haircut and shop at a free "street store," where every guest could take up to 10 donated items. Visitors could also have their teeth checked by dental hygienists, connect with housing and employment services, and have lunch.



The Association of Christian Thrift Stores (ACTS) Workshop will be held January 8–11, 2017 at the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulffront, Pensacola Beach, Florida.

Speakers, including many from AGRM member missions and business members, include: Rick Hagans, Harvest Ministries; Rich Carr, Durham Rescue Mission; Rusty Parrish, ThriftStoreSpecialist.Com; Keith Overholt and Mike Smith, Downtown Rescue Mission; Kent Clark, Grace Center of Hope; Chuck Franklin, Rock Thrift Store; Greg Boyd, Harvest Super Thrift; Craig Pedersen, Hope Gospel Mission; Debbie Morrison, Serenity Pointe; Scott Swedenburg, blue dawg.

For more info and to register go to actswebsite.com.

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.

Assistant Program Director - JP Women's Program: St. Matthew's House, Inc., Naples, FL

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

Care Team Leader: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Case Manager : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Case Manager, Men's Ministries: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Caseworker for Jubilee Ministries (FT & PT): Jubilee Ministries, Inc., Lebanon, PA

Chef : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Chief Financial Officer: Yakima Union Gospel Mission, Yakima, WA

Counselor, Men's Ministries: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Data Entry Specialist : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

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

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

Director of Program Operations: Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

Executive Director: Grant County Rescue Mission, Marion, IN

Executive Director: Union Gospel Mission, Winnipeg, MB

Family Outreach Coordinator : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Family Support Worker : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Food Services Manager: Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

Homeless Services Specialist : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

HR Manager: Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

Human Resources Coordinator: The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

Human Resources Manager: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Intake Staff: Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

Live-in Women's House Manager: Shepherd's House Ministries, Bend, OR

Maintenance Technician : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Manager of Street Engagement: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Pastor - Justin's Place Women's Program: St. Matthew's House, Inc., Naples, FL

Program Director, Women's Life Transformation: The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

Program Manager, Women's Gateway Program: The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

Recovery Program Coordinator: Westminster Rescue Mission, Westminster, MD

Resident Assistant, Center for Women & Children: Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA

Residential Coordinator_Cornerstone Manor Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Transitional Programs Case Manager, Part-Time : Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Vice President for People and Culture: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

VP of Advancement :Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA

Women's Program Manager - Laura's Home: The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

Worknet/Discipleship Director : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE



God's Unusual Way

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger (Luke 2:15–16).

God chose Bethlehem for Jesus to be born. He did not choose a major city like Jerusalem or Rome. Even today, it is still not a likely city you would associate with a place for the Savior of

the world to be born. God didn't seek super stardom for His Son's arrival. Nor was there a Facebook entry with thousands of followers and press reporters converging on the sight.

Humble shepherds saw the angelic messengers and then paid homage to the Child who would become the Savior of mankind. Joseph did not have an Internet reservation at a five-star hotel. He had to make do with what you would least expect: A manger and animals!

Even 2,000 years ago, an earthy royal prince and future king's birth would have been remarkably different from this. There would be the best materials for baby care: a cot, clothing, fine linen and woolen blankets, and the best nursing care. A royal doctor and midwives of the court would assist.

But Joseph and Mary followed through with the honor God had bestowed on them to be the earthly parents of Jesus Christ. They trusted God to provide when there wasn't even a place to put the baby to rest.

Maybe the opulence and materialism of this time of year too easily draw our attention away from what God wants us to focus on, namely the Savior who was born into this world and stripped bare of even basic essentials.

God, we thank you for the greatest and most precious gift ever given to mankind, our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior from our sins. Help us to look beyond all the distractions of the material world and to focus on the real value of worshipping Jesus.

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](#).

AGRM is a nonprofit organization committed to furthering rescue missions. AGRM provides limited space in "Market Street" for advertising opportunities, services, and products to advance the cause of rescue missions. AGRM is not responsible for the claims made by its advertisers and reserves the right to select or reject any advertising, in the sole discretion of AGRM, for any or no reason.

PRIVACY: Protecting your privacy is very important to us at AGRM. We will not rent, sell, or exchange your e-mail address with a third party for any purpose.

All Scripture quotations taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, unless otherwise noted. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Street Smart is sent to you as a member service of AGRM, and is published on the 1st and 15th of each month (unless those dates fall on a weekend or holiday). The content does not necessarily represent the views of or imply endorsement by AGRM. To submit items for publication, e-mail editor@agrm.org. To unsubscribe, email unsubscribe@agrm.org.

