



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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 [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

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ourstreet
News from AGRM and our members

We're Jumping in Big with *Same Kind of Different as Me!*

As previously reported by AGRM, earlier this year Paramount Pictures engaged Pure Flix Entertainment to handle the distribution and marketing of the movie *Same Kind of Different as Me* (SKODAM). Mark P. Fisher, previously AGRM's strategic initiatives architect, moved into a role with Pure Flix to help them ready AGRM missions for the October 20 release of the film. Now, Pure Flix is engaging AGRM President John Ashmen to join SKODAM author Ron Hall in a national marketing campaign for the movie. A [Pure Flix website](#) is being launched to help with the effort. Check out the site as it continues to be developed to learn the latest.

The movie and related events present a once-in-a-decade opportunity to give the public a glimpse of what gospel rescue missions do. AGRM is counting on missions to get the word out in their cities and fill theaters for this emotionally engaging film. You can count of high volunteer interest and inquiries for support following the debut.

Those attending AGRM's Annual Convention in Dallas will have opportunity to see a screening of the complete motion picture on Friday, June 2. Pure Flix Entertainment will also be in our Exhibit Hall. Be sure to stop by to get the latest information on how your mission can benefit the most from the release of this film.

Countdown to Dallas Continues!

With all the materials it takes to put on a convention headed to Dallas over the next couple of weeks, AGRM's convention team is putting the final spit and polish on the event, which will

be held at the Dallas Hyatt at Reunion May 31–June 2. The only thing potentially missing is *you!* Will you be there with us at the must-attend event of the year for rescue ministry professionals?

If you haven't registered yet and you can get away those days, why not check for a last-minute flight? Our convention hotel, despite being at 117 percent of our contracted room block, is still taking reservations. If you need an upgraded premier room, they are also offering those at slightly higher rates. To book rooms, just go to www.agrm.org/2017hotel.

Head to www.agrm.org/convention, where you'll find updated information about the convention schedule, as well as a freshly updated, complete list of seminars and presenters. And registering is easy; simply visit our [online registration page](#).

Exhibit Hall Breaks Records

If you are headed to Dallas, you can get a sneak peek at the record number of companies represented in our Exhibit Hall (this year called the Exhibit Corral). Some 78 companies and organizations will occupy more than 90 booths and be available to offer you plenty of information and expert advice as you look for the products and services to help your mission function day to day.

To check out these important business partners, please visit our [online exhibitor directory](#).

Nebraska Governor Signs Law Forming Whiteclay Task Force

On the eve of the historic closing of the four beer stores in Whiteclay on April 30, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed into law a measure forming a task force to examine public health issues in Whiteclay.

The task force will hold its first meeting May 19–20 and will be hosted by AGRM member mission Lakota Hope Ministries. The vision is to bring together, for the first time, current business owners in the Whiteclay and Pine Ridge areas, government officials, tribal officials, representatives of organizations providing funding, and other resources for the redevelopment of Whiteclay and Pine Ridge. All will meet with the newly formed Task Force to start a dialog about how the absence of the beer stores will affect Whiteclay and Pine Ridge and what the transformation of the area will look like.

State Senator Patty Pansing Brooks, who is expected to be named the group's co-chair along with State Senator Tom Brewer, said its members hope to make an immediate visual difference in Whiteclay through steps such as adding public restrooms and fixing up old buildings. In the longer term, the task force will work with public health experts and economic development officials on setting broader goals for the area.

AGRM Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle has been invited to participate in the upcoming meetings.

Plugged in to DC: Bill Seeks to Expand Definition of Homelessness

Echoing something that AGRM has been saying for a long time, Representative Steve

Stivers (R-Ohio) recently introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. Its aim is small but important—expand the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s definition of homelessness.

The bill counts Iowa Representative Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) and Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) among its supporters. Portman and Feinstein introduced a companion bill into the Senate.

Originating from Diane Nilan, founder and CEO of Hear Us, Inc., it is proposed as "The Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017" and is designed to bring significant change in the way HUD does homeless counts. According to a press release from Portman, HUD counted 206,286 people in families with children that experienced homelessness in 2015. But the Department of Education had data that showed approximately 1.2 million homeless students in the 2014–2015 school year.

“Congress will never change their funding for HUD without HUD making a good case for it; HUD can’t make a good case for expanded homeless support without good numbers,” Nilan says. “The good numbers come with a better count. Congress isn’t going to just wake up one morning and decide to give HUD more money just for the sake of HUD having more money.”

Looking Down the Street...

- Sally Mounts, director of development at **Washington City Mission** (Washington, Pennsylvania), was named recipient of the 2017 Athena Leadership Award. The internationally recognized award honors women’s leadership within the business and civic communities, and was presented during a ceremony last Friday presented by Washington County Chamber of Commerce.
- **Joy Junction** (Albuquerque, New Mexico), the state’s largest emergency homeless shelter, has announced the groundbreaking for a 52-unit apartment complex. The complex will be on the existing Joy Junction campus. Each of the 52 modular units will feature 250 square feet of living space and an individual bathroom. The units are repurposed officers' quarters from Aurora, Colorado. The project is expected to be completed by fall 2017.
- Please welcome AGRM’s newest business member [Rags 4 Less](#) (Irving, Texas). [Rafa Wazir](#) is the company’s executive director.



AGRM Member Benefit: Financial Credibility Through ECFA

AGRM partners with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) to help rescue mission members gain financial credibility and keep their fiscal house clean. ECFA is an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public’s trust

through adherence to Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™, which focus on board governance, financial transparency, integrity in fundraising, and proper use of charity resources. In order for a mission to be certified through AGRM, compliance with these standards is required.

There is a one-time application fee of \$500 for organizations to apply for ECFA accreditation. However, this fee is waived for AGRM members. To take advantage of this cost savings, enter the code AGRM500 on your ECFA application. On the offline application, write this code at the top of the form.

Another benefit for AGRM members is one free ECFA webinar (webinars are free for ECFA members). When you discover an ECFA webinar that you would like to participate in, enter the code AGRMweb on the webinar registration form to have the fee waived. In fact, you might be interested in the upcoming ECFA webinar, “What to Look for in Charitable Gift Tax Reform.” You can register for this event [here](#).

Learn more about ECFA by visiting www.ecfa.org or by calling (800) 323-9473.



Amazon to Build Homeless Shelter Inside New Headquarters

In response to criticisms of Amazon’s working conditions and effect on small businesses, the e-commerce giant plans to designate nearly 50,000 square feet of space in its new, Seattle-based headquarters to address the city’s homelessness problem. Amazon announced on Wednesday it’d be partnering with Mary’s Place, a local nonprofit focused on combatting homelessness, to build 65 rooms—enough space for more than 200 homeless people to sleep per night, [reports](#) Good.com.

The shelter will feature a resource center and job-hunting services, much like dozens of other nonprofits in the area. It will open its doors in early 2020. Washington state saw a 7.3 percent rise in homelessness last year alone.

In 2016, Amazon joined with Mary’s Place to provide temporary housing to hundreds of homeless people in a nearby former Travelodge. According to a statement released Wednesday, those residents will continue to live in the former hotel while Amazon works on constructing the permanent shelter.

A Single Dose of New ‘Gray Death’ Drug Can Kill

A lethal new drug dubbed “gray death” by authorities that is dangerous to even touch with gloves is being eyed in overdose cases across Georgia, Alabama, and Ohio. Investigators said the high-potency cocktail—which is comprised of heroin, fentanyl, the elephant tranquilizer carfentanil, and a synthetic opioid called U-47700—can kill users with a single dose, [reports](#) Fox News.

Users can inject, swallow, smoke, or snort the drug, which varies in consistency and looks like a concrete mixture. Law enforcement officials believe a price drop led users to switch from prescription painkillers to heroin, which is often cut with fentanyl, a drug that is 50 times

more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Most alarming to officials is that users have no way to tell if heroin is pure or laced with other drugs before using it. The same goes for gray death.

With the nation already in the midst of an opioid epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and law enforcement departments around the country have been on high alert for fentanyl-laced opioids, which are behind an increasing number of unintentional overdose fatalities in multiple states across the United States.

Ending Veteran Homelessness Might Take Longer than Expected

The new Veterans Affairs chief agrees with the goal to end homelessness among veterans, but he says it will take longer than his predecessor predicted, [reports](#) *U.S. News and World Report*.

Reducing the number of homeless veterans nationwide from roughly 40,000 to 10,000 or 15,000 is an “achievable goal” for President Donald Trump's administration, VA Secretary David Shulkin told The Associated Press during a visit to Rhode Island last week.

Shulkin, who formerly was VA undersecretary of health under President Obama, said, "We're still looking at a multi-year process." While advocates are encouraged to hear Shulkin's commitment, some wish he was more ambitious. Shulkin said that some veterans offered housing by the VA prefer other alternatives and high real estate prices and a shortage of available housing in some parts of the country make it hard to house veterans in those locations. He sees the biggest challenge in Los Angeles.



Hunger Remains an Issue for Many Americans

Hunger remains a concern for millions of Americans. And for people who are deemed “food insecure,” the average reported need for food has increased, based on data from Map the Meal Gap 2017, [reports](#) HNGNews.com.

The report describes the cost of food and food insecurity in communities across the United States. Food insecurity is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active and healthy life for all members of a household.

According to the USDA, the number of Americans identified as food insecure decreased from 50 million in 2009 to 42 million in 2015. Still, Map the Meal Gap finds that the individuals who are food insecure report needing an average of nearly \$530 more per person in 2015 to afford enough food, representing a 13 percent increase since 2008.

Research: Exercise Can Add Years to Life

It's not quite eternal youth, but scientists have discovered how humans can slow down the aging process and shave almost a decade off their biological age—vigorous exercise. According to a [report](#) in *Newsweek*, a study of more than 5,000 adults in the U.S., revealed

that those who exercise regularly are younger on a cellular level than those who lead sedentary or moderately active lifestyles.

Research published in the journal *Preventative Medicine* in April considered data on 5,823 people who had participated in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1999 and 2002. The participants were asked demographic and lifestyle questions, including how often they exercised.

They also looked at telomere length. Telomeres are protective caps found at the ends of chromosomes that help keep them stable—not unlike how the plastic sheath at the end of shoelaces stops them from fraying. Every time a cell divides, telomeres get shorter. Eventually they become too small to protect the chromosomes and cells get old and die—resulting in aging. Shorter telomeres are related to many age-related diseases, including cancer, stroke, and cardiovascular disease.

Researchers concluded that adults with a high level of physical activity had a “biological aging advantage” of nine years compared to sedentary adults. When compared with those who did a moderate amount of exercise, the difference for highly active adults was seven years.

Most Americans Concerned about Declining Moral Behavior

More than eight in 10 Americans admit that they have some level of concern that morality in America is declining, a new survey by LifeWay Research shows. The study found that 81 percent of Americans either agree or strongly disagree with the statement: “I am concerned about declining moral behavior in our nation,” [reports](#) *The Christian Post*.

Some 46 percent of respondents said they “strongly agree” with that statement, and 35 percent said they “agree.” On the flip side, only 6 percent said they “strongly disagree” and 13 percent said they disagree’ that they are concerned about the declining morality in the nation.

Although most Americans agree that the moral decline in America is a concern, they seemingly disagree about whether or not morality should be legislated. More than 60 percent of respondents agreed that “implementing laws to encourage people to act morally is not effective,” while 37 percent disagreed with that statement. However, 56 percent of respondents disagreed with the claim that “the fewer laws regulating moral standards, the better,” while 44 percent agreed.



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.

[Accounting Assistant](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Care Support Specialist](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Community Life Associate](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

[Cook](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Development Assistant](#): St. Matthew's House, Inc., Naples, FL

[Development Associate](#): The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, FL

[Development Director](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Development Officer](#): Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

[Development Director](#): Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC

[Director of Development](#): Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

[Director of Development & Community Relations](#): Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

[Director of Development Operations](#): St. Matthew's House, Inc., Naples, FL

[Director of Emergency Services](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Donor Services Associate](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

[Driver, Food Pantry & Distribution Center](#): Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA

[Executive Assistant & Office Manager](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

[Executive Director](#): Career Cross Training for Open Door Mission, Rochester, NY

[Faith Community Nurse - Guest Services](#): Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

[Full-Time Truck Driver](#): Jubilee Ministries, Inc., Lebanon, PA

[Guest Services Assistant - Women's Shelter](#): Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

[Health and Wellness Center Manager](#): San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

[Ministry Development Officer](#): St. Matthew's House, Inc., Naples, FL

[Ministry Director](#): Campus of Hope Rescue Mission, Conroe, TX

[Overnight Supervisor](#): Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Program Director/Associate Director](#): King's Gospel Mission, Hanford, CA

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

[Regional Representative](#): The Merriam Agency, Schenectady, NY

[Rescue Mission Director](#): San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

[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

[Shelter Desk Manager](#): Jericho Road Ministries, Inc., Brooksville, FL

[Social Worker](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

[Thrift Store Supervisor](#): Central Coast Super Thrift, Santa Maria, CA

[VP Development](#): San Diego Rescue Mission, San Diego, CA

[VP of Advancement](#): Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA

[Women's Night Shelter Manager](#): Fairbanks Rescue Mission, Inc., Fairbanks, AK



On Fire

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me (Psalm 51:12).

Have you ever met someone who had just become a Christian and was “on fire” for God? Did you say to yourself, “I wish I were still like that?” We don’t intend for it to happen, but after time that passion or joy often ebbs and other things in life take priority and focus. Or maybe you never even had that “fire” because you came to know Christ at an early age and have been a Christian for nearly your entire life.

Whatever the reason is, you are not alone. In fact, the psalmist even asked for that joy to be restored as it once had been. As we read this, we must realize that salvation is from the Lord and not of our own doing. We often substitute the “your” in this verse with “my.” Read the verses below and focus on the work of Jesus in our salvation. Allow Him to bring back the joy of the gospel that has possibly taken a backseat in your life.

- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
- “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died

for us” (Romans 5:8).

- “For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

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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](#).

[back to top](#)

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