



*Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM*

Useful news and information for association members

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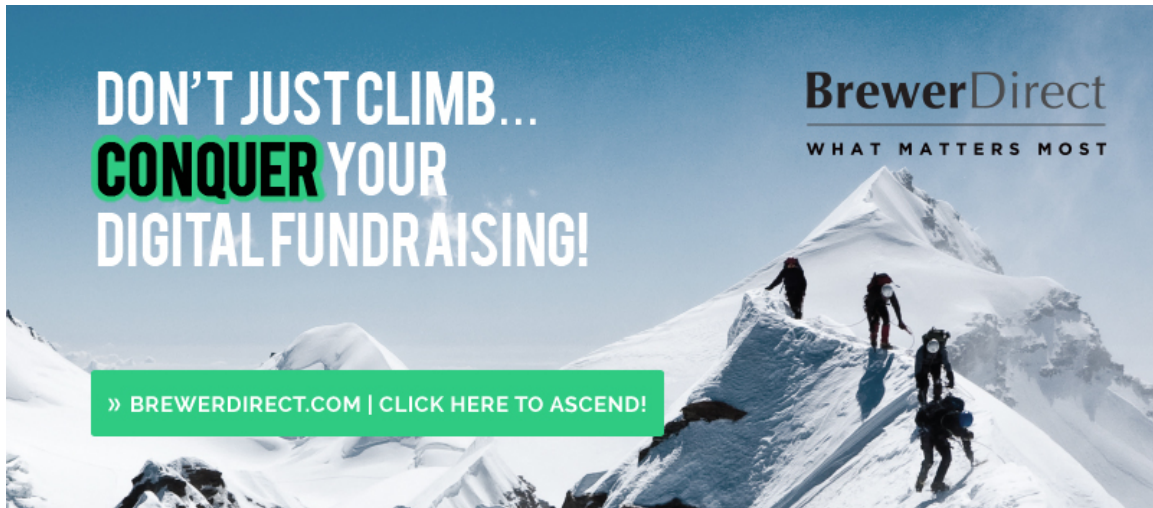
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**ourstreet**  
News from AGRM and our members

### **Register Now! CEO Summit Takes Place This Month**

It's August 1, and that means AGRM's CEO Summit is now just a few weeks away. This event will be held August 29–31 in downtown Buffalo, New York. Rescue mission CEOs need opportunities to gather with peers, align priorities, and draw on each other and the Lord for wisdom and strength—particularly before the busiest time of year hits your mission. And AGRM's CEO Summit has been the perfect vehicle to do that for the past seven years.

Those attending will also have plenty of time for discussion, interaction, and idea-sharing—along with a couple of opportunities to tour nearby AGRM member Buffalo City Mission. If you are a mission CEO, don't miss this event—head to the [online registration page](#) now.

*Note:* The discounted hotel rate at the Buffalo Embassy Suites (Downtown) ends August 6. Please make hotel reservations by clicking [here](#).

### **District Conferences Offer Great Regional Connections**

All nine of AGRM's districts will hold local fellowship and training events in September and October. These gatherings offer fellowship, training, and networking opportunities on a geographic basis. While top leaders of member missions are often able to attend AGRM's association-wide meetings (Annual Convention, CEO Summit, DC Forum), district conferences offer an opportunity for downline staff to connect with their peers and receive training.

An AGRM representative (noted below) will also attend each meeting and bring an update on the association.

**Bluegrass District**

September 18–20

Hendersonville, North Carolina (Tom Zobel)

**Northern Lights District**

September 19–21

Toronto, Ontario (Jere Schertzer and Selena Hayle)

**Sierra District**

September 20–22

Commerce, California (Ken Peterson)

**Deep South District**

September 26–28

Live Oak, Florida (Tom Zobel)

**Great Lakes District**

September 27–29

St. Charles, Illinois (Jere Schertzer and John Ashmen)

**Liberty District**

October 2–4

Canadensis, Pennsylvania (Jere Schertzer)

**Evergreen District**

October 4–6

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (Ken Peterson)

**Rawhide District**

October 10–12

Mesquite, Texas (Ken Peterson)

**Heartland District**

October 10–12

Omaha, Nebraska (Tom Zobel and Justin Boles)

To register for your district event, go to [www.agrm.org](http://www.agrm.org)>Events.

**Deadline for Red-Carpet Events Just Two Weeks Away**

The deadline for rescue missions to host *Same Kind of Different as Me* red-carpet events is approaching fast! Don't miss the August 15 cut off. Dozens of AGRM missions have already signed up.

As the release date of October 20 approaches for the film, keep in mind that *Same Kind of Different as Me* tells the story of what happens daily in rescue missions in an authentic and inspiring way. This summer, audiences have rated the movie 9.5 on a scale of 1–10. Your mission can use the movie to raise money, recruit volunteers, and increase awareness in your community.

To sign up for a red-carpet event or to get more info, visit <http://pureflixevents.com>. If you have questions, contact Mark P. Fisher at [mark.fisher@pureflix.com](mailto:mark.fisher@pureflix.com), or call him at (443) 907-2828.

## Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome back into AGRM membership, **Pueblo Rescue Mission** (Pueblo, Colorado) working with the Springs Rescue Mission (Colorado Springs, Colorado). [Jackie Jaramillo](#) is the mission's executive director.
- Please welcome into AGRM membership, **Calgary Dream Centre** (Calgary, Alberta). [Jim Moore](#) is the mission's executive director.
- And also welcome into AGRM membership, **Agape Care Center** (Woodruff, South Carolina), where [Les Caldwell](#) serves as executive director.
- Dan Clem is the interim CEO at **Union Gospel Mission of Salem** (Salem, Oregon).
- Please welcome AGRM's newest business member, **AQ2 Technologies** (Birmingham, Alabama). [Noel Keathley](#), irector of sales, serves as the main contact for AGRM members.



## AGRM Member Benefit: Public Awareness

By being connected to AGRM, your mission benefits from positive exposure AGRM generates through public awareness initiatives. From media interviews to industry surveys to strategic initiatives like engaging the faith community through *Same Kind of Different as Me*, the association continually works to point the public toward the great work of member missions. These initiatives have the effect of encouraging volunteerism and giving, in addition to increasing general awareness about gospel rescue missions and those they serve.



## FDA Makes First Attempt to Regulate Tobacco

The Food and Drug Administration has announced a new effort to regulate tobacco, saying it will aim to lower the amount of nicotine in cigarettes to a level that will help curb addiction, [NPR reports](#). It would be the first time in the agency's history that it has sought to control the amount of nicotine in cigarettes. The agency said it also will hold public comment sessions

on how to regulate “kid-appealing flavors” that are often added to e-cigarettes and cigars.

In explaining the decision, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said, “The overwhelming amount of death and disease attributable to tobacco is caused by addiction to cigarettes—the only legal consumer product that, when used as intended, will kill half of all long-term users. Unless we change course, 5.6 million young people alive today will die prematurely later in life from tobacco use.”

Along with causing almost half a million deaths each year, tobacco use costs \$300 billion a year in health care and lost productivity.

### **Police Department's Warning about Homeless People Causes Huge Debate**

The Cheyenne, Wyoming, Police Department is at the center of a social media frenzy about homelessness. The police shared a photo on Facebook announcing that they had arrested “a transient for public intoxication.” The department said the person in question had gathered \$234.94 in cash from panhandling, and that those who gave money should have donated to a local charity instead of “feeding someone's alcohol addiction,” ATTN: [reports](#).

People were furious with the post and made sure the department knew as the message went viral. The original post gathered more than 35,000 reactions, 47,000 shares, and almost 8,000 comments—many critical about how the department handled the matter, specifically for telling people how they should or should not help.

One homeless activist says the police department should have taken the opportunity to teach the public about homelessness, instead of publicly scolding both givers and receivers.

### **Proposed Bill Would Give Homeless People More Protection**

In Washington, D.C., Councilmember David Grosso is seeking to add homelessness to the district’s Human Rights Act, making homeless people a protected class, the DCist [reports](#). The act currently makes discrimination against 19 different protected classes illegal.

“Discrimination against people experiencing homelessness perpetuates the very problem of homelessness,” Grosso said in a statement. “If we want to put people on the path to stable housing, we must end discrimination that creates another barrier in the way of people seeking to improve their situation.”

The bill would make homelessness a protected class for the purposes of employment, places of public accommodation, educational institutions, public service, and housing and commercial space. It would allow homeless individuals to file complaints with the Office of Human Rights that could result in fines or penalties. The law would also extend protection to employment and education.

Affordable apartments in the Washington are increasingly scarce, and landlords can easily choose to rent to someone else; social workers say they regularly see discrimination against people with vouchers.



### **Alcohol Consumption Frequency Affects Diabetes Risk**

Regularly drinking a moderate amount of certain alcoholic drinks could reduce a person's chances of developing diabetes, according to a study, *The Guardian* [reports](#).

Consuming alcohol three or four days a week was associated with a reduced risk of developing diabetes—a 27 percent reduction in men and a 32 percent reduction in women—compared with abstaining, scientists found. In the past, studies have suggested that light to moderate drinking can reduce the risk of developing diabetes but there has been no research into the frequency of alcohol consumption.

Wine was found to be particularly beneficial, probably because it has chemical compounds that improve blood sugar balance. However, gin could have the opposite effect, along with other spirits, increasing women's chances of getting diabetes by 83 percent. Drinking beer seemed to affect men and women differently. Men who drank one to six glasses of beer a week saw their chances of getting diabetes lowered by 21 percent, compared with men who drank less than one a week. There was no impact on women's risk.

Experts say the findings should not be seen as a green light to drink more than existing guidelines suggest.

### **Many Americans Unaware of Community Service by Churches**

According to a new [study](#) from Nashville-based LifeWay Research, few Americans are aware of many efforts by local Christians or churches to serve their neighbors. LifeWay Research's survey of 1,000 Americans looked at 13 service programs often run by churches—from tutoring kids to teaching job skills. They asked Americans if they'd heard of churches or church members being involved in those activities in the past six months.

About a third of Americans know churches shelter homeless people (33 percent) and provide disaster relief assistance (39 percent). Six in 10 said they know churches feed hungry people and half said they know churches give clothing to poor individuals. But beyond that, churches' acts of service often go unnoticed. Few Americans were aware that churches help people prepare their taxes (8 percent), provide foster care (12 percent), teach English to immigrants (13 percent), or teach job skills (13 percent).

A few more know churches tutor kids (16 percent), provide aid to new moms (19 percent), support local schools (21 percent), offer after-school programs (24 percent) or meet with people in prison (25 percent). Fourteen percent of Americans haven't heard of any of these services being done by churches, and 17 percent are not sure. Not surprisingly, Americans who attend religious services are more likely to have heard about good works done by congregations.

### **Home Nursing Visits Help Moms and Kids Long-Term**

Children born to low-income, first-time mothers who received home nursing visits showed increased mental health, stronger social and emotional development, and academic gains,

according to researchers, the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* reports. Researchers analyzed the impact of the Nurse-Family Partnership program—one of the largest home visiting programs in the country—and found the program reduces anxiety, improves mothers' parenting skills, and has a positive impact on home environments and behavior skills in children.

The Nurse-Family Partnership program utilizes trained registered nurses who work closely with families during pregnancy and up to age 2. During home visits, nurses help to promote healthy eating, prenatal care, and eliminating the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs, the study states. After delivery, nurses help to foster strong parenting skills and show new moms how to interact with their children.

Program participation ends when a child turns 2, but the study found long-term benefits. Researchers said this academic achievement could be attributed, in large part, to the program's impact—seen as early as age 6—on cognitive skills, such as a child's ability to understand, reason, learn, and remember.



*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.*

**Advanced Relations Officer (Major Donor Rep):** City Gospel Mission, Cincinnati, OH

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

**CEO/Executive Director:** Mission Solano, Fairfield, CA

**Chief Executive Officer:** Union Gospel Mission of Salem, Salem, OR

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

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

**Development Director:** Home of Grace, Vanleave, MS

**Development Director:** Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

**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

**Donor Relations Coordinator:** Jimmie Hale Mission, Birmingham, AL

**Driver, Food Pantry & Distribution Center:** Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA

**Executive Director:** Career Cross Training for Open Door Mission, Rochester, NY

**Facilities Maintenance Associate:** The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

**Facilities Manager:** The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

**Faith Community Nurse - Guest Services:** Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, 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

**Hearten House Director:** Hearten House Gospel Rescue Mission, Auburn, IN

**Overnight Supervisor:** Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

**Program Director/Associate Director:** King's Gospel Mission, Hanford, CA

**Program Manager:** Central Coast Rescue Mission, Santa Maria, CA

**Recovery Program Coordinator:** Westminster Rescue Mission, Westminster, MD

**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

**Vice President of Finance & Administration:** Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, WI

**VP of Advancement :**Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA

**VP of Women and Family Programs:** Los Angeles Mission, Los Angeles, CA

**Women's New Life Recovery Program Case Manager:** Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA



## **Big Debt!**

*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:21–22).*

Jesus followed this interaction with Peter by sharing what we now know as the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21–35). The situation was this: A king forgave his servant for what would equate to, in our day, a million dollar debt. This was more than any average person, let alone a servant, could produce for repayment. The king, out of compassion, kindness, and beautiful mercy forgave the entire debt, and not on the grounds of repayment



either. The king knew this servant would never be able to repay the money owed, yet he forgave him anyway. At this point, the narrative is gracious and wonderful. What a good king!

But here's the servant's response: Almost immediately, this forgiven man found a co-worker of his who owed him just a fraction of what he had been pardoned from repaying the king. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded he be repaid the money owed him. When that man begged patience, just as the forgiven servant had received, "he refused and...and had the man thrown into prison"!

The point here is this: As God's forgiven, redeemed, and reconciled, we cannot take the forgiveness of a bottomless debt from God's hand, and then with our own hands demand repayment from those who owe us or have wronged us. While this doesn't mean that we become a doormat for those who would walk all over us, it does mean that we do not live like the unregenerate servant who did not understand and appreciate the debt that had been forgiven of him.

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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](mailto:).

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