



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

Useful news and information for association members

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AGRM's Website and Magazine Receive Awards

At the 2017 Evangelical Press Association (EPA) conference last week in greater Chicago, AGRM's website won the Award of Excellence (first place) in the Organizational-Digital category, and AGRM's magazine, *Rescue*, won the Award of Merit (second place) in the Organizational-Print category. In the Organizational categories, AGRM competes against organizations such as Compassion International, World Vision, Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), the Billy Graham Association, and others.

EPA is a membership organization of more than 200 members. Other award winners this year included *Christianity Today*, Liberty University, *Alliance Life*, Baptist Press, Biola University, *Sojourners*, ECFA, and *Christian News Journal*.

At the conference, EPA also presented Higher Goals awards, where all of their members compete against each other in various categories. *Rescue* received second place in Reporting for the article "Race Relations by the Numbers" in the May/June 2016 issue, and fourth place for Single Theme Section for the Cover Focus section on Addiction in the September/October 2016 issue.

We are both humbled and honored to serve you with all of our print and electronic communications.

Convention Boasts Great Speaker Line-Up

Now is the time to register for AGRM's 2017 Annual Convention in Dallas, May 31–June 3. Rates go up \$30 per registrant on May 10. In addition to a record-setting number of exhibitors and a full line-up of track seminars, we have a stellar group of speakers this year:

- **Bill Butterworth**, author of books on topics ranging from sports to psychology and self-help issues, and recipient of the Hal Holbrook Award presented by the International Platform Association.
- **Tony Evans**, founder and senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, and founder and president of The Urban Alternative.
- **Shirley Hoogstra**, president of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, a higher education association of 182 Christian institutions around the world.
- **Greg Jao**, vice president of campus engagement for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, and author of *Your Mind's Mission* and *The Kingdom of God* (a LifeGuide Bible Study).
- **David Kinnaman**, president of Barna Group, and author of the bestselling books *Good Faith*, *You Lost Me*, and *unChristian*.
- **John Lynch**, a member of the TrueFaced team, which works to build and restore trust in leaders, and co-author of *The Cure* and *The Ascent of a Leader*.

For all the details on our platform guests, planned convention events, and to register, go to www.agrm.org/convention.

Convention Hotel at 105 Percent of Contracted Room Block

Each year, AGRM has increased the contracted room block at our convention hotel. However, this year's hotel—the Hyatt Regency at Reunion—is now over our block for this year. Fortunately, they are still taking reservations at our contracted rate (for now!).

So be sure to book your room if you haven't yet. Visit www.agrm.org/2017hotel, or call (888) 421-1442. The AGRM convention rate is \$121 per night (single/double). State and local taxes apply.

Still Thinking about Attending the Convention?

Click [here](#).

Second Ripple Effect Meeting Begins This Week

Leaders and board members from several AGRM-member missions (primarily in the Pacific Northwest) are again gathering in Vancouver, Washington, just outside Portland, this week for classroom sessions to continue Ripple Effect. This nine-month program for boards and mission CEOs also includes webinars, on-site coach visits, reading assignments, document production, and pre and post assessments.

The program will run again next year, and plans are to expand it nationally in 2018. If you are interested in participating, please email [Beth Hall](mailto:Beth.Hall@agrm.org), special services assistant. For additional information about the program, please visit our [website](#).

What Do You Think AGRM's Membership Announcement Will Be?

We told you in the last issue of *Street Smart* that the association will have a big announcement about mission membership on May 1. Any ideas? Hint: X2. We know every mission will definitely like what we are about to do. Stay tuned.

AGRM Provides Training in Pine Ridge

To mark April's Child Abuse Month, AGRM will be joining the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, The Oglala Sioux Housing Administration, The Child Protection Services, and AGRM member Overcoming Abuse God's Way in sponsoring a series of workshops on Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking of Children in Indian Country. The training will be held on the Pine Ridge reservation April 20–21 and will target program managers, social workers, caseworkers, youth workers, and families.

AGRM, through the ongoing work of Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle and others, has established a strong relationship of trust with the tribal council. Last week, more than 20 members of the Oglala Sioux Nation were at Denver Rescue Mission (Denver, Colo.) to “imagine” what a full-fledged rescue mission on or near the reservation might look like.

Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome new AGRM member **New Day of Laurel, MD Inc.** (Laurel, Maryland). [Michael Schaffer](#) serves as executive director..
- G. Robert “Bobby” Watts has been named CEO of **National Health Care for the Homeless Council** (Nashville, Tennessee). He succeeds John Lozier, founder of NHCHC. Bobby is a nationally known leader in homeless health care, and he started out as a live-in staff member at **New York City Rescue Mission** (New York, New York).



AGRM Member Benefit: Ripple Effect Board Acceleration Program

We have a saying at AGRM: *As goes the board, so goes the mission*. It means that if the full board is embracing and promoting the mission's purpose, is in sync with the CEO, and each member understands his or her role in governance, fund development, and volunteer assistance, the ministry will be splendidly successful on every level. That's why AGRM created Ripple Effect.

The first two cohorts have found tremendous value in this nine-month board acceleration program that's available exclusively to AGRM member missions. Ripple Effect first started in the Pacific Northwest, but we're opening the program to all member missions in 2018, with meetings held along the East Coast.

To learn more about Ripple Effect, visit www.agrm.org/rippleeffect.



Pope Opens Free Laundromat for Homeless People

Pope Francis has opened a new laundry center where homeless people can wash and dry their clothing, [reports](#) Fox News.

The free laundry, near the Vatican, has six washing machines and dryers. It will remain open four days a week and services are free.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis has made an effort to reach out to homeless people in Rome. In 2015, the Vatican opened a free barbershop and showers under the Vatican Colonnade and set up a dormitory for homeless men near St. Peter's Basilica.

College Students Learn through Poverty Simulation

Every year, Student Services engages the freshman class at the Cabarrus County Schools Early College in an experiential activity designed to raise a greater awareness of the impact of poverty on the lives of people in their community, [reports](#) the *Independent Tribune*.

This “Poverty Simulation” is designed to allow participants to role-play the lives of low-income families. Students are assigned challenging roles within these families. For example, one role includes being a single parent with limited resources trying to care for an elderly parent while having teenagers of their own. The simulated month is broken down into four 15-minute “weeks.”

Students are challenged to consider the role of transportation in getting their needs met, the centrality of ensuring that their families are fed and housing maintained, the difficulties prioritizing essential expenses, etc.

Ultimately, the goal is to create a cognitive shift for the participants—to raise their awareness and sensitivity to the lives of people in poverty and to challenge them to consider taking some form of action to help people in great need. The latter might include organizing food or clothing drives, volunteering in area agencies, or writing their elected representative to inform them of their concern for people in poverty.

April Is Senior Hunger Awareness Month

More than 10 million older adults in the U.S. face the threat of hunger every day, [reports](#) *The Huffington Post*. If you're surprised by that statistic, you're not alone. Even though senior hunger exists in every community across the country, it's one of America's best-kept secrets.

Seniors who are food insecure are 50 percent more likely to have diabetes, 60 percent more likely to have congestive heart failure or a heart attack, and three times more likely to suffer from depression. Beyond the individual toll, there's also a societal one, as hunger costs the

U.S. health care system \$130.5 billion annually.

Senior Hunger Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that too many vulnerable older adults don't know where their next meal is coming from, and an even lower priority is whether the food is nutritious. And often, many are choosing between buying their medication or food.



Wealthy Americans Live 15 Years Longer than the Poorest

A new study looking at inequality in the U.S. health care system has concluded that wealthy Americans live up to 15 years longer on average than the poorest ones, [reports The Christian Post](#).

The study is the latest in a series of articles about U.S. health and healthcare published in The Lancet. It highlights how widening gaps of income inequality are driving increases in health inequity. The series warns of a 21st century health-poverty trap unless new interventions are implemented.

The research shows how the health care system, which could reduce income-based disparities in health, often makes these disparities worse. For example, 19 percent of non-elderly adults who received prescriptions in 2014 could not afford to fill them. Millions of middle-class families have been bankrupted by illness and medical bills. Meanwhile, very wealthy Americans are turning to so-called concierge practices that offer lengthy office visits and unfettered access to specialists, the research finds.

Christians Remain World's Largest Religious Group

Christians remained the largest religious group in the world in 2015, making up nearly a third (31 percent) of Earth's 7.3 billion people, according to a new Pew Research Center [demographic analysis](#).

Christians had the most births and deaths of any religious group in recent years, according to the demographic models. Between 2010 and 2015, an estimated 223 million babies were born to Christian mothers, and roughly 107 million Christians died—creating a natural increase of 116 million. But among Christians in Europe, the reverse is true: Deaths outnumbered births by nearly 6 million during this brief period.

Globally, Muslims make up the second largest religious group, with 1.8 billion people, or 24 percent of the world's population, followed by religious "nones" (16 percent), Hindus (15 percent) and Buddhists (7 percent). Adherents of folk religions, Jews, and members of other religions make up smaller shares of the world's people.

Smartphone Addiction May Cause Personal and Social Problems

People who use smartphones in excess may experience personal, social, and workplace problems, [reports Tech2](#). In a recent study, participants who identified themselves as

“addicts” and “fanatics” exhibited signs that could indicate depression, social isolation, social anxiety, shyness, impulsivity, and low self-esteem.

For the study, the researchers surveyed 182 college students and asked them to report their daily routine of smartphone usage. Based on the analysis of the responses, they classified the user as one of the following types—thoughtful, regular, highly engaged, fanatic, and addict. Seven percent identified as “addicts” and 12 percent identified as “fanatics.” Both groups experience personal, social, and workplace problems due to a compulsive need to be on their smartphones.

Researchers noted that if you constantly check your smartphone, even when it does not ring or vibrate, or you get paranoid when the smartphone is not with you, seeking professional help might be a good idea. Moreover, if you use technology as a way of escaping problems or relieving feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety, or depression, or you ignore what is happening in real time in favor of what is happening virtually, you might then be a right candidate to seek professional help.



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

Assistant Director: Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

Bridge Program Administrator: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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

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

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

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

Data Analytics Coordinator: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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: Union Gospel Mission of Salem, Salem OR

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

Director of Emergency Services: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

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

Executive Director: Union Gospel Mission of Missoula, Missoula, MT

Health and Wellness Center Manager: San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

Manager, Volunteer Services: Union Rescue Mission, Los Angeles, CA

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

Senior Director Of Women's Ministries: Downtown Rescue Mission, Inc., Huntsville, AL

Senior Director, Finance / Controller: Nashville Rescue Mission, Nashville, TN

Senior Grant Writer: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Senior Video Producer: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Shelter Desk Manager: Jericho Road Ministries, Inc., Brooksville, FL

VP of Advancement :Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA



Beautiful Scandal

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:23–24).

It is common knowledge that humans are imperfect. Even when someone doesn't hold to the Christian doctrine of mankind's depravity (sinfulness), a popular cultural saying is, "We're only human." It's both an admission and understanding that people fail often and are imperfect.

As believers we should understand that this sentiment springs from the reality of sin in every human's life. Without "the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" we can do nothing but sin (Romans 14:23), relegating us to a life consistently "short of the glory of God."

Here's the good news: Paul didn't stop at verse 23! We are raised from a place of condemnation to a place of adoption. It is as if we are on the stand in trial and everyone knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are guilty. But a marvelous thing occurs, and rather than send us to pay the penalty for our crime, the Judge's son takes our place, and we are declared justified.

That is the beautiful scandal of the cross, that the just would take the place of the unjust (1 Peter 3:18). Understand your redemption through Jesus today and let his kindness lead you to repentance (Romans 2:4).

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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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