



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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ourstreet
News from AGRM and our members

Webinar to Explain Results of Baylor-AGRM Study

AGRM will hold a webinar February 24 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time (11:00 a.m. Pacific Time) to go over the results of the research project done by Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion. Titled *Assessing the Faith-Based Response to Homelessness in America*, the research is something that rescue missions can use in conversations with local government to substantiate the significant reach of ministry organizations serving homeless people. The research looked at 11 cities geographically spread across the United States.

Watch your Inbox for an email with details on registering for the webinar.

Register Now for Important AGRM Events

AGRM's 2017 DC Forum Just Under a Month Away

With all the fresh faces, a new administration, and the early days of the 115th Congress in Washington, D.C., we need you to join us at this year's DC Forum to help tell the story of how rescue missions are continuing to make a difference on the streets of our cities. And now, thanks to the Baylor University study, we have impressive data to share. The DC Forum represents your opportunity to help educate decision makers about the potential impact of policy changes and reforms on America's hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted individuals. Don't miss this important event. Head to www.agrm.org/DCForum for information and registration.

Price Increases March 1 for 2017 Annual Convention Registration

Check out our regularly updated convention pages with the schedule for the 2017 Annual Convention at www.agrm.org/2017convention. Just click the “register” button to get yourself and your staff signed up now. The cost goes up on March 1 so don't delay.

Exhibit Hall Spaces Selling Fast!

Business members: Interested in exhibiting this year? Booths are already selling like sunscreen on a hot summer day in Texas! Check out all the information you need and register at www.agrm.org/exhibitors. For questions about exhibiting or sponsoring at this year's event, contact Business Member Liaison [Beth Hall](#).

Mandatory Evacuation Lifted for Oroville

Steve Terry, CEO of **Oroville Rescue Mission, Inc.** (Oroville, California), told us this morning that residents—including guests staying at the mission—have been allowed back into the town as the water level beneath the dam's spillway is now down between 13 to 15 feet. However, the area remains under a flood watch as more rain is in the forecast. A new evacuation plan is being rehearsed. Steve reports that everything at the mission has been disrupted since this past Sunday, when 200,000 people living along the Feather River were told to leave immediately. At 770 feet high, the earthen dam, located about five miles from the mission, is the tallest in the U.S. It impounds Lake Oroville, the second largest manmade lake in the state of California.

To keep up on the latest with the situation, local residents in contact with AGRM staff have suggested following [live updates](#) from the *Los Angeles Times* and [coverage](#) from KCRA-TV in Sacramento. And to keep up specifically with the mission's latest news, check out their [Facebook page](#).

Future of Beer Stores in Whiteclay in Question

The four liquor stores in the Nebraska town of Whiteclay (population 11) sell 4.9 million cans of beer a year, amounting to about 13,000 cans per day. The beer—much of it High Gravity, with an alcohol content above 8 percent—is purchased almost entirely by people of the Lakota Sioux tribe on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, located just across the state line in South Dakota. Alcoholism affects eight out of 10 families on the reservation. Bruce Bon Fleur, CEO of AGRM member **Lakota Hope**, located in Whiteclay, is now spearheading a plan in Lincoln to buy out the beer stores—and with increased pressure being put upon them, owners are interested in hearing some offers, despite the fact that gross sales last year were about \$3 million. AGRM has helped form a low-profit limited liability company (L3C) to move these plans forward. Meetings are being held this month. We'll keep you posted.

Media Innovation Competition Entry Begins Next Month

AGRM's Annual Media Innovation Competition kicks off in March, but you can start looking through your media now to decide what entries you want to make. Each year the association

recognizes and awards rescue missions that are making valuable progress in innovative print and online communications.

The categories of competition are newsletters/magazines, brochures, annual reports, photos, logos, and videos (produced in the calendar year 2016); and websites and social media (judged in their current form).

Awards will be presented at AGRM's annual convention in Dallas. Online entry will begin March 15 and remain open for one month. If you have questions, please contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.

Grants Available for Women's Domestic Violence Shelters

A reminder that if your mission serves domestic violence victims—or perhaps you are interested in starting a program to serve these women—grants may be available from The Mary Kay Foundation. Every October, this foundation observes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month by awarding grants to deserving women's domestic violence shelters across the United States. In 2016, the Foundation awarded \$20,000 grants to more than 150 women's domestic violence shelters across the nation for a total of \$3 million. Visit the foundation's [website](#) for details.

Looking Down the Street...

- Scott Dunwoody has been named executive director of **Bethesda Mission** (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania). He replaces Chuck Wingate, who retired earlier this month.
- Albuquerque Rescue Mission has officially changed its name to **Steelbridge Ministries** (Albuquerque, New Mexico). Visit www.mysteelbridge.org for more on the reasoning behind the name change.
- Please welcome AGRM's newest business member **501(c) Agencies Trust** (San Jose, California). [Cynthia Koral](#), the company's chief marketing officer, serves as AGRM's primary contact.



AGRM Member Benefit: Education Discounts

AGRM members can take advantage of continuing education discounts at two great institutions: City Vision University and Cairn University. City Vision University, an online university that specializes in programs geared toward urban ministry, offers employees of member missions a 25 percent discount on tuition. Cairn University (formerly Philadelphia Biblical University) offers member mission employees—and their immediate families—degree programs or degree-completion programs at just \$375 per credit, a discount of more

than 40 percent.

For more information on these discounts, login to www.agrm.org/agrm/Education.asp.



Tech Innovations Help Homeless Individuals

Homelessness is widespread and hard to solve, affecting more than 560,000 people in the U.S. and hundreds of millions around the world, reports Mashable.

It's a complex and intractable problem, with countless agencies and nonprofits working to tackle the root causes and provide systemic solutions. But while there may not be a one-size-fits-all formula for every community, technology and innovation can help fill in the gaps. Gadgets, apps, and prototypes are temporary fixes, of course. But in the meantime, innovations can offer much-needed support to some of the world's most vulnerable populations.

From a winter coat in Amsterdam that takes contactless donations wirelessly through a jacket pocket to commercial shower trailers that offer hygiene and dignity in San Francisco, these eight inventions think outside the box when it comes to the issue of homelessness. Click [here](#) to see the list.

New Play on Homelessness Inspires Action in Alaska

A new play showing in Anchorage tells the stories of homelessness from around the state. But for the writers and actors, Home But Not Less isn't a story about sadness; it's about understanding.

Alaska Public [reports](#) that playwright Merry Ellefson began researching for the play after meeting a young man who was living on the street and grieving the loss of his grandfather. She was hoping to understand not just what it was like to be without a home, but also what the causes of homelessness are in Alaska. She said everyone's story starts in a different place.

Through her interviews, Ellefson said she identified what her sources see as some of the major causes of homelessness: mental illness, housing, poverty, education, sexual abuse, domestic violence. Each show will be followed by a panel discussion with local service providers. Writer Ellefson said she wants people to leave knowing ways they can get involved.

Nonprofits Urged to Do Fundraising on Facebook

Nonprofits on Facebook has set out to help organizations find ways to most effectively use the popular social media platform to cultivate, engage, and drive supporters to action, [reports](#) *The NonProfit Times*. Some of the best ways for nonprofits to utilize the platform, according to Nonprofits on Facebook, include:

- *Use call-to-action buttons.* Donate buttons, for instance, can be placed on the page header of an organization's Facebook page. Buttons can both collect donations directly on Facebook or link supporters to another donation page.
- *Send thank you messages.* Written messages can be sent via the platform, as can videos. Short video messages are often more successful, both providing supporters with visual evidence of the organization's impact as well as being more likely to be viewed and shared.
- *Optimize content.* Consider engaging supporters by showcasing special occasions such as specific achievements and milestones, and depicting where organizational resources go. Donors and volunteers can also be acknowledged individually by being tagged in posts.
- *Go live.* Facebook Live facilitates the posting of real-time video. Organizations have used Facebook Live for reporting from the field, question-and-answer sessions, and mini-telethons.
- *Show that you care by answering every Facebook post on your page.* This simple step shows the community you serve that you care about what they have to say.
- *Use Workplace by Facebook.* Nonprofits can use this forum to facilitate inter-office communication. Tools include news feed, groups, and messaging.
- *Cultivate and connect people of similar interests and goals.* Facebook Groups allow individuals to share news, photos, and events while collaborating with one another.



The Cost of College: Number of Homeless Students on the Rise

There's no way to avoid it. As the cost of college grows, research shows that so does the number of hungry and homeless students at colleges and universities across the country. Still, according to an NPR [report](#), much of the problem remains invisible to the public.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin surveyed more than 4,000 undergrads at community colleges across the country. Some 20 percent of students reported being hungry, 13 percent homeless.

Sara Goldrick-Rab, a sociologist who led the research team, says it's not just that college students need to work while in school. "It's that they're working, and borrowing," she says, "and sometimes still falling so short that they're going without having their basic needs met."

Most People Have Temporary Mental Health Problems

Everyone gets the flu, chicken pox, and a broken bone or two by the time they hit 40, and if you don't you're in a very small minority that somehow lucked out. Scientists now believe the same is true when it comes to mental health disorders, and that if you happen to make it even half your lifetime without experiencing some type of temporary or chronic mental ailment, you're actually pretty weird, [reports](#) BGR.

In a study of 988 individuals, just 171 (roughly 17 percent) claimed to have never

experienced depression, anxiety, or other mental health disorder. The research, which was published in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, revealed that roughly 41 percent of the respondents had dealt with a mental health issue for at least a short period of time by the time they reached age 38. The other 408 participants were shown to have endured longer lasting battles with mental ailments occurring over several years, and some had also been diagnosed with serious conditions such as bipolar disorder.

The study was conducted over the full lifetimes of the 988 individuals, with a total of 13 assessments taking place between their birth and when they hit age 38. The figures fall largely in line with other long-term mental health surveys, and give more concrete evidence that mental health is something that the vast majority of people struggle with at some point in their lives.

How Much Does it Cost to Raise a Child?

Couples who had a child in 2015 will end up spending an average of \$13,000 a year raising that child, which adds up to \$233,000 by the time the kid is 17, according to new government calculations, [reports](#) NBC News. That's down from past years—the estimate was \$245,000 in 2014.

The estimates vary a lot depending on where people live and how much money they make. Daycare alone for an infant in New York City, for example, can run \$18,000 a year or more. But the annual U.S. Department of Agriculture projections can give parents an idea of what they are up against as they build a family.

Fewer Americans are having children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics reported last week that 3.9 million babies were born in the U.S. in 2015, down about 1 percent from 2014. In general, birth rates for younger women are falling, and they're increasing for older women.

It's not the strollers, baby clothes, and toys that cost the most. The biggest cost by far is housing, which accounts for 29 percent of the extra costs of having a child. Food costs make up 18 percent of the calculation, while child care and education account for 16 percent.



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Employment and product ads

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 Director: Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

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

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

[Case Manager, Men's Ministries](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Casework Services Supervisor](#): The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

[Chief Financial Officer](#): Yakima Union Gospel Mission, Yakima, WA

[Church Partnerships & Grants](#): The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

[Communications Coordinator](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Counselor, Men's Ministries](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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

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

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

[Director of Development](#): Union Gospel Mission of Salem, Salem OR

[Distribution and Processing Director](#): Jubilee Ministries, Inc., Lebanon, PA

[Event Specialist](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Executive Director](#): Union Gospel Mission of Missoula, Missoula, MT

[Executive Director](#): Union Gospel Mission, Winnipeg, MB

[Health and Wellness Center Director](#): San Francisco Rescue Mission, San Francisco, CA

[HR Manager](#): Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

[Human Resources Manager](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Manager - Crossroads Men's Crisis Center](#): The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

[Ministry Associate](#): Montana Rescue Mission, Billings, MT

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

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

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

[Rescue Mission Director](#): Central Coast Rescue Mission, Santa Maria, CA

[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

[Thrift Store Supervisor](#): Victor Valley Super Thrift, Hesperia, CA

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

[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

Volunteer Relations Coordinator: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

VP of Advancement: Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA



Working for the Lord

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving (Colossians 3:23–24).

Let's face it, work can be frustrating. We might not feel appreciated, paid enough, or think that others work as hard as we do. You might also feel that you could be in a line of work where you do much more for the Lord. These are all feelings we have probably felt at one time or another; you might still be wrestling with them.

The church in Colossi had a mixed group of members; some of them were even slaves. Paul specifically addresses the slaves in these verses. He tells them to work heartily because they are really working for the Lord. Think about this for a minute and let it sink in.

Remember today that no matter what you do for a living, you are working for the Lord! Where you are right now can be used to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. We can be joyful in this because our reward is not a promotion or pay raise. Our reward isn't being employee of the month or a bonus. Our reward is our inheritance with the saints in Heaven (Colossians 1:12). This reward can never be taken away and has much more value than anything that could ever be purchased here on earth.

When you just want to quit or stop doing your job, remember today's verses. Stop and say a prayer, and thank Jesus for making a way for you to have the ultimate inheritance through His death on the cross. Take a few deep breaths and remember that you aren't working for another person, but for the greatest boss ever, Jesus.

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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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