



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

AGRM's DC Forum Is Less Than a Month Away

Have you been planning to register someone from your mission for AGRM's 2018 DC Forum? The event is less than four weeks away—March 12–14—and provides a unique opportunity to connect with lawmakers and agency decision-makers in Washington, D.C. What's more, if needed, AGRM will assist in making connections with staff members (e.g., legislative directors, legislative assistants, etc.) who have the job of clearly articulating both your thanks and concerns to the elected representative for whom they work.

We need you to register by February 23 to ensure that we can arrange appointments for you. You can still register after that date, if there is still space, but you would be on your own for making appointments with lawmakers.

Your mission should be represented by a member of its leadership team. We suggest the CEO, COO, PR director, or the person on your staff who handles government relations. (And keep in mind that a younger staff member will fit in nicely, as the average age of a Capitol Hill staff member is 31.)

Check out the schedule and register today at www.agrm.org/DCForum.

AGRM President Attends National Prayer Breakfast

Speaking of Washington, AGRM President John Ashmen was in the U.S. Capital last week to attend the 66th Annual National Prayer Breakfast on February 8. John reports that it was refreshing to see Democrats and Republicans set aside ideology and methodology and embrace theology—praying together and affirming each other as friends created in God's image. John notes, "America doesn't

get to hear enough about the faith camaraderie fabric that exists in Washington.” The keynote address came from U.S. Representative Steve Scalise (R-LA), the House Majority Whip who was shot on a Virginia baseball field last June. President Trump also spoke. A transcript of his message can be found [here](#).

John Ashmen used his time in Washington for some meetings with elected officials and key staff at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Save on AGRM’s Annual Convention by Registering Now

The next registration price increase is a month away (March 15), but why risk missing out on the savings you can receive? Drop what you are doing and register for AGRM’s 2018 Annual Convention now! The event will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 12–15. Simply head to www.agrm.org/2018convention for all the details and to register.

Highlights this year that you don’t want to miss: A chance to win a refurbished Harley-Davidson motorcycle (you must be present to win), and the official unveiling of AGRM’s new refocus and rebranding.

Scholarships Offered Again for AGRM’s Convention

AGRM just received notice yesterday from a foundation that grant money is again being made available to significantly defray the convention costs for qualifying members. The scholarship includes money for registration, partial lodging costs, and even some transportation expenses.

These scholarships are intended for full-time member mission staff members whose mission operating budgets are under \$2 million. The grant allows for up to three people to attend from the same mission.

Primary consideration will be given to those who have never attended a convention before. Secondary consideration will be given to those who have not received scholarship assistance in the past two years. Available remaining funds will be given to those who did receive assistance last year and/or who might again need a partial scholarship.

If you are interested, click [here](#) for full details and to apply for the scholarship. Don’t delay, as these will go quickly! The deadline to apply is March 16.

Thousands Interviewed for AGRM’s Snapshot Survey

Thanks to all the missions—more than 100—that participated in AGRM’s 28th Annual Snapshot Survey. Nearly 19,000 guests and clients of AGRM member missions were asked the survey questions by mission staff members and volunteers near the end of January.

The data is currently being analyzed, and forms comparing individual participating mission results with association-wide results will be sent in March, accompanied by a templated press release missions can use with local media. AGRM will also release the results to national media outlets.

Honoring Extended Years of Rescue Mission Leadership

Just a reminder that AGRM wants to honor individuals who have served long-term as CEOs of

AGRM-member missions. If you have been in mission leadership as a CEO for 35 years or longer and your mission has been in membership 10-plus consecutive years, please send a photo suitable for printing to Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org. Please include your name, title, number of years you have served as CEO, and the name of the mission(s) that you have led.

Indianapolis Mission Deals with “Bath Salt” Overdoses

Earlier this month, Rick Alvis, president/CEO of Wheeler Mission Ministries (Indianapolis, Indiana), noted that the mission had a rash of overdoses from a substance called [Bath Salts](#). The mission had 15 overdoses in one night; there were 27 total in and around their facilities. Steve Kerr, Wheeler’s chief development officer, handled significant media attention in the area, but he reports that “things have calmed down” since the initial overdoses.

Has your mission dealt with this particular drug and any overdoses from it? If so, we’d like to hear. Please email AGRM Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.

Looking Down the Street...

- Jimmy Lynch is now the executive director of **Harvest Evangelism, Inc.** (Opelika, Alabama).
- Bob Marchant is serving as interim executive director of **River of Life Mission** (Honolulu, Hawaii).
- Please welcome new AGRM member **New Hope** (Cadillac, Michigan), where [Michael Davis](#) serves as executive director.
- Please welcome back AGRM business member **Grace Network International**. [Curt Floski](#) serves as executive director.
- Congratulations to Tom Harrison, former Russ Reid CEO, who is the 2018 recipient of the [Max Hart Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from the DMA Nonprofit Federation. The award recognizes outstanding career accomplishments by a fundraising professional.
- Please join us in prayer for longtime mission veteran and former AGRM president Ed Gray, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. His son, Gary, notes that the family welcomes prayer for Ed’s comfort and care as he approaches end of life.



AGRM Member Benefit: AGRM Logos

This particular member benefit is multifaceted. AGRM’s current logo—seen at the top of this webpage and on pretty much everything we produce—has been the symbol of the association for the last 10 years. Even as AGRM works on rebranding and refocusing efforts—which we’ll detail at the 2018 Annual Convention—we want to urge your mission or business to utilize the proper logo on

your website and in printed materials.

Why multifaceted? There is a corporate version of the logo for AGRM's own use. And we also have "Member" and "Business Member" versions to be used by mission members and business members respectively. The logos are available in various formats for print or electronic use.

If you need copies of the AGRM logo for use in your mission's materials, please contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org. Please note if you are looking for a color or black-and-white version, and if the logo will be used in print or electronically, so we can send you the correct format.



Cryptocurrency Startup May Help Those Suffering from Addiction

Drug and alcohol addictions are a worsening crisis, and opioids in particular have garnered major media attention. Recently, opioids were declared a national public health emergency by the Department of Health and Human Services.

With these concerns comes word of a novel blockchain-based project that aims to fight alcoholism and drug addiction with a cryptocurrency incentive and a peer-to-peer (P2P) monitoring network. According to a Nasdaq [report](#), a company called Hayver is charting a path to become the first-ever blockchain-based community platform that can help those suffering from addiction to remain in long-term recovery.

It provides verification technology to monitor those suffering from drug addiction or alcoholism, ensuring that they are drug-free and alcohol-free. Featuring daily check-ins, a unique "Circle of Support" accountability group, and random urine screens, it will soon offer cryptocurrency rewards to incentivize healthy behaviors, helping users stay clean and improve their prospects for long-term recovery.

Pharmaceutical Company Will Stop Marketing Opioid Drugs

Purdue Pharma, which manufactures a range of pain medications such as OxyContin, announced yesterday that it would no longer promote opioid drugs to physicians, and has laid off more than 50 percent of its sales force.

According to an [article](#) in *The Verge*, a Purdue spokesperson says that they have restructured and significantly reduced their commercial operation and will no longer be promoting opioids to prescribers. Accordingly, the company has laid off more than 50 percent of its sales force, with the remaining employees focusing on non-opioid products.

The decision to stop direct marketing to doctors comes after criticism of the company's role in the on-going opioid crisis. The company began aggressively marketing OxyContin in 1996 as a superior pain-management drug that would last longer than other medications, which it claimed would lead to less abuse from patients. As a result, the drug was widely prescribed to patients, leaving some addicted and turning to cheaper drugs such as heroin.

Examining Misinformation Regarding the Flu

Remember how terrible the 2009 swine flu season was? This flu season is now as bad as that one, and public health officials in the United States don't know if we've seen the worst yet.

Nearly 3,000 people across the U.S. died as a result of the flu in the first 20 days of 2018, according to the latest available data from the National Center for Health Statistics, and that number has likely risen. Since flu season began, 63 children have died from the flu.

According to a [report](#) from PBS, more than 17,100 flu cases have been laboratory-confirmed since this flu season started October 1. About 60 per 100,000 people are being hospitalized for the flu, and all 50 states except for Oregon and Hawaii have reported widespread influenza activity.

As the illness swells, there is plenty of misinformation circulating. Here are several common myths—and realities—about the flu and the flu vaccine.

MYTH: It's too late in the flu season for the vaccine to make a difference.

FACT: This flu season has a long way to go. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says it doesn't matter if you've already had the flu this season—the vaccine can still protect you.

MYTH: The flu shot gives you the flu.

FACT: If you get a flu shot, you will not come down with influenza. You may develop a low-grade fever, headache, or muscle aches or tenderness at the injection site. But the flu vaccine includes inactivated influenza strains, which means they are no longer infectious.

MYTH: Antibiotics will help.

FACT: Antibiotics are great, but they can't do everything. They are designed to give your body the boost it needs to fight bacteria. But antibiotics are no use if you've contracted a virus, such as the common cold or the flu.



Homelessness in Hawaii Starts at a Young Age

On the Hawaiian island of Oahu, youth homelessness begins at the age of 14 on average, according to a new study. More than half of homeless youth interviewed had a parent with substance abuse problems or a parent who had been incarcerated.

According to a [report](#) in *Newsweek*, about 13 percent of homeless youth said they had engaged in “survival sex,” exchanging sexual favors in return for shelter, food, drugs, or money, and a whopping 84 percent of the study's respondents reported being unsheltered in the past year.

Hawaii is the worst state for per capita homelessness in the country, and ties with California for the second highest percentage of unsheltered homeless youths, according to data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In fact, 51 of every 10,000 Hawaiians are homeless.

Boys Are Victims of Sex Trafficking More Often Than Perceived

More than 1 million children are exploited each year in commercial sex trade. According to a [report](#) in *USA Today*, male child trafficking is far more common than is often acknowledged by anti-trafficking organizations, law enforcement, and the news media.

In 2016, a study commissioned by the Department of Justice found that boys make up about 36 percent of children caught up in the U.S. sex industry (about 60 percent are female and less than 5 percent are transgender males and females). In 2008, researchers from the John Jay School of Criminal Justice reported that boys account for about 45 percent of child trafficking victims in New York City.

In 2013, an ECPAT-USA report concluded that the scope of the commercial sexual exploitation of boys is vastly under-reported. The researchers also cited the need to better identify male victims, to raise awareness about the harm caused by commercial exploitation, and to provide more services designed specifically for boys.

National Study Compares Those Who Suffer from Depression

Women are twice as likely as men to be depressed, a new survey finds. In any given two-week period, about 8 percent of Americans report that they are depressed.

According to a [report](#) by NBC News, new data from the National Center for Health Statistics finds there has not been a significant worsening of depression in the U.S. over the past decade. But it shows giant disparities in who suffers from depression.

Between 2013 and 2016, 5.5 percent of men reported having had symptoms of depression, compared to 10.4 percent of women. Overall, Asian adults had the lowest prevalence of depression (3.1 percent) compared with Hispanic (8.2 percent), White (7.9 percent), and Black (9.2 percent) adults.

People with lower incomes were more likely to report depression. Nearly 16 percent of people living below the federal poverty level reported recent symptoms of depression, compared to 3.5 percent of those living at 400 percent of the federal poverty level. The least likely to report depression are high-income men. Just 2.3 percent of well-off men reported depression, compared to nearly 20 percent of women living below the poverty level.



marketstreet
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.

Administrative Assistant (work from home): City Vision University, Kansas City, MO

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

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

[Database Administrator & Developer](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

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

[Development Director](#): Home of Grace, Vancleave, MS

[Development Director](#): Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc, Pensacola, FL

[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

[Director of IT](#): Career Cross Training, Colorado Springs, CO

[Director of Justin's Place Men's Program](#): St. Matthews House, Naples, FL

[Director of Major Gifts](#): Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc., Pensacola, FL

[DIRECTOR, LIGHTHOUSE FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN](#): Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

[Domestic Violence Advocate](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Donor Development Professional](#): Madera Rescue Mission, Madera, CA

[Executive Director](#): Lewis County Gospel Mission, Chehalis, WA

[Executive Director](#): The Rescue Mission, Tacoma, WA

[Facility Maintenance Technician](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

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

[Food and Beverage Driver](#): San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, 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

[Hotel Manager](#): St. Matthew's House/Port LaBelle Inn, LaBelle, FL

[Kitchen Ministry Coordinator](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Manager, Center for Women & Children](#): Career Cross Training, Colorado Springs, CO

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

[Resident Advisors](#): Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Residential Coordinator_Cornerstone Manor Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Salesforce Data Analyst](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Sous Chef](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[STAR Counseling Supervisor](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Transportation Specialist](#): Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

[Women's Growth Leader](#): Portland Rescue Mission - Shepherd's Door, Portland, OR

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

Women's Recovery Counselor: Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

Women's Recovery Manager: Portland Rescue Mission - Shepherd's Door, Portland, OR



Royal Servant

“He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness”
(Philippians 2:7).

An older British man tells of when he was a little boy after WWII. He saw a photo of some people walking around a bombed-out street in a city. Bricks and timber were strewn across the cobblestone. The houses and buildings were totally destroyed.

However, there was something more to the picture. On the photo, there was a small arrow pointing to one of the men in the group. He looked just like the others, wearing the plain clothes of an average person.

But the arrow revealed a secret. That plain-clothed man was King George VI, walking among the debris. He looked so much like the other figures that he was indistinguishable from them.

This story perfectly sets off our verse today: “He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:7).

Jesus became exactly like us.

The King of all the universe threw aside his coronation clothes and took on the rags of humanity.

This is the ultimate act of humility. Jesus, our great King, doesn't shoo us away from Himself or make us approach Him from a distance. Instead, Jesus is the King who steps down from His throne to walk alongside His people and make them His siblings (Romans 8:17).

This kind of love and humility marks the heart of God, and therefore, is the aim of every disciple.

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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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