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Convention presenters promise plenty of inspiration

Have you checked out the awesome lineup of special platform guests slated for AGRM's 2012 Annual Convention? They include:

- **Kelly Willard:** composer, recording artist, and beloved soloist of Maranatha! Music fame
- **Ray Bakke:** chancellor and professor of global urban ministry at Bakke Graduate University
- **Marcia Pally:** professor at New York University and author of *America's New Evangelicals*

- **Bobb Biehl:** executive mentor and consultant to national and international ministry leaders
- **Judy Bailey:** high energy, London-born, Barbados-raised musician and worship leader
- **Ryan Dobson:** national radio host, impassioned speaker, and author of *Humanitarian Jesus*
- **Marty Berglund:** teaching pastor of New Jersey's innovative Fellowship Alliance Chapel.
- **Paul Cowell:** builder of Whitestone Country Inn and founder of Christian Hospitality Network
- **Dalen Keys:** global technology manager at DuPont and chairman of the U.S. Display Consortium
- **Gary Friesen:** executive vice president of Peacemaker Ministries, teacher of biblical peace-making, mediation and arbitration
- **Sadell Bradley:** minister, teacher, and worship leader; author of *Breaking the Cycle of Self-Abuse*
- **Jeff Steinberg:** speaker, singer, humorist, and author

You'll have plenty of opportunities to hear these presenters at the convention, which will be held May 20–23 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. In addition, you can catch up on all the latest happenings with the association, enjoy 90 educational seminars in 15 tracks presented by your peers and other professionals, and make valuable connections with AGRM business members and other vendors in the exhibit hall. Of course, there will be plenty of time set aside for worshipping together and fellowshiping with old and new friends.

You can read complete bios of the presenters and get details on the entire schedule in the [convention brochure](#). And registering has never been easier! Just click [here](#).

AGRM hires Boles as director of member services

Justin Boles has accepted the position of AGRM's director of member services. He will start part time on February 1, and move to full time on April 1. Justin and wife, Amy, have two children. They plan to move from Hawkins, Texas, to Colorado Springs as soon as the current school year is finished. Justin is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, with a degree in communications. President John Ashmen notes, "Justin is a spiritually discerning, skilled, collegial individual who has association work experience. And because AGRM is essentially a communication organization, I believe Justin's skill set and past experience make him a perfect fit for the position."

CEOs and PR staff: Our D.C. event is a must!

With the current political environment and considering that 2012 is an important election year, it's never been more important to be proactively involved in government. CEOs and PR staff: Mark your calendars for the DC Forum on Policy and Advocacy, March 18–20. This event (previously referred to as the DC Conclave) will educate you about the latest government issues affecting rescue mission work, give you a unique opportunity to build relationships with federal elected officials, and provide time for fellowship with other rescue mission leaders. The gathering will also feature in-depth briefings by policy experts, government officials, and AGRM's Government Liaison Rhett Butler. Rooms are available at the Kellogg Conference Hotel very close to Capitol Hill. [Registration](#) for the conference, meals, and lodging are only available on the AGRM website.

If you have any questions, please contact Meetings and Events Manager Lisa Miller via [email](#) or by phone at (719) 266-8300 ext. 107. We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.! Watch for more information via email later this week. Those who register by February 15 will receive a copy of *The New Evangelicals*, Marcia Pally's timely book about new-thinking Christians and their impact on American culture.

Street Smart now available in print format

We're listening! We've heard that some of you like to print copies of *Street Smart* for your own reading or to pass around to other members of your staff. And now we've made that easy. Simply scroll to the top of this page and click the "printer-friendly" button. This will open a PDF file that you can send to your own printer or save on your computer for later use. Also new: Next to the printer-friendly button, you'll see a "feedback" button. Click there and tell us what you like, what you don't like, or leave any other comments regarding AGRM's e-newsletter. And you are always welcome to send news about your mission, ideas, devotionals—and yes, your comments—directly to [Brad Lewis](#), AGRM's publication and advertising manager.

Looking down the street...

- **Union Rescue Mission** (Los Angeles, Calif.) was one of the winners of the "12 Days of Giving" Facebook campaign held by the Walmart Foundation. Each year, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide funding to nonprofit organizations during the holiday season. In 2011, Walmart gave \$1.5 million to 145 local organizations in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico to help fight hunger and provide basic-need items.
- **Orange County Rescue Mission** (Tustin, Calif.) recently handed out flashlights and whistles to help homeless people protect themselves after several homeless men were stabbed to death in north Orange County. Jim Palmer, president of the mission, was quoted in local and national media, urging homeless people to sleep in groups or to find an emergency shelter. A 23-year-old male suspect was arrested Friday, although a motive for the killings remains a mystery.
- A ruling by a federal judge allows homeless sex offenders to legally stay in overnight shelters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, even if those shelters are too close to schools. The ruling came as the result of a lawsuit filed by five homeless or previously homeless sex offenders, AGRM member **Mel Trotter Ministries**, and another local homeless shelter. Mel Trotter and the other shelter are too close to schools, as is AGRM member **Guiding Light Mission**, although that shelter was not part of the lawsuit. "We're in the mission of saving lives," said Mel Trotter CEO Chico Daniels. "We're not interested in sending anyone out to die in the street and so, with great angst and regret, we did in the past have to turn people away."



Homeless teenager named semifinalist in science competition

Samantha Garvey and her family had been living in a shelter in Brentwood, New York, for several days when they got word the 17-year-old aspiring marine biologist had made it to the semifinals of the prestigious national Intel science competition. According to a [Huffington Post report](#), news of the teenager's homelessness prompted donations to pour in from across the country, and the county was able to find her family rent-subsidized housing. Garvey is one of 300 semifinalists nationwide named this week in competition; finalists will be announced at the end of the month. Garvey spent more than two years researching the effects of the Asian short crab on the mussel population in a salt marsh on Long Island, east of New York City. The Brentwood High School senior was evicted along with her family from their home on New Year's Eve. Her mother, a nurse's assistant, was out

of work for eight months following a car accident and her father couldn't keep up with the bills alone on his salary as a cab driver.

Food bank gets creative with donations

A food bank in the Denver metro area that has helped hundreds of families for nearly 20 years is looking for help of its own. According to a [9News report](#), the Loving Hands Organization in Aurora, Colorado, is still accepting food donations. But because of continuing economic conditions, it is also now asking for donations of something that most people throw away: coupons. The reasoning is simple, according to the food bank's founder. "The more coupons we get, the more food we can buy, and the more families we can help."

Supreme Court acknowledges exception to anti-discrimination laws

In a groundbreaking case, the Supreme Court on Wednesday held for the first time that religious employees of a church cannot sue for employment discrimination. According to a [Bloomberg Businessweek report](#), the ruling marked first time the high court has acknowledged the existence of a "ministerial exception" to anti-discrimination laws. This doctrine says the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion shields churches and their operations from the reach of such protective laws when the issue involves employees of these institutions. The case came before the court because the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) sued the Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School of Redford, Michigan, on behalf of an employee who complained of discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Writing the court's opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts said that allowing anti-discrimination lawsuits against religious organizations could end up forcing churches to take religious leaders they no longer want. "Such action interferes with the internal governance of the church, depriving the church of control over the selection of those who will personify its beliefs," Roberts said. "By imposing an unwanted minister, the state infringes the Free Exercise Clause, which protects a religious group's right to shape its own faith and mission through its appointments."



Eating processed meat raises risk of deadly form of cancer

Eating just two slices of bacon or one sausage a day can increase a person's risk of a deadly form of cancer by almost a fifth. According to a [Fox News report](#), eating 1.8 ounces of processed meat a day can increase the risk of pancreatic cancer by 19 percent, and consuming 3.5 ounces increases the risk to 38 percent, and to 57 percent for those eating 5.3 ounces a day. While the study notes that the overall risk of pancreatic cancer is relatively low, the disease is deadly because it is frequently not diagnosed until it's at an advance stage; 80 percent of those diagnosed with the cancer die in less than a year. The new findings are based on data from 11 studies, including more than 6,600 cases of pancreatic cancer. "Findings from this meta-analysis indicate that processed meat consumption is positively associated with pancreatic cancer risk," the study's authors said.

Search engine trends allow doctors to respond to flu outbreaks

Google, the search-engine giant, might be able to help doctors anticipate when they'll get a surge in the number of patients they see with flu symptoms. According to a [Time magazine report](#), this finding comes from a team of doctors, based in Baltimore, who relied on Google Flu Trends, a

service that tracks the number of flu-related Internet searches by individuals. The study looked at how data from Google Flu Trends stacked up against conventional systems to track the spread of flu. In addition to being quite accurate, the service also had a major advantage over traditional surveillance: The Google data is updated every day and available to doctors almost instantly. Official surveillance data, in contrast, can take weeks to be compiled and distributed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), meaning doctors may not hear about rapidly emerging flu outbreaks until they're well underway. To conduct their study, the researchers took local Baltimore data from the Google service, and compared it to data from their own patients: 21 months' worth of statistics on emergency-room crowding and on lab tests for influenza. The finding suggests that an up-to-the-minute surveillance system might be possible, allowing hospitals to call in extra staff or to open up available rooms to allow additional patients.

Nicotine replacement products don't help smokers quit for good

For smokers who want to quit permanently, a new study finds that nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) such as the nicotine patch or gum might not be as effective as some people trying to quit would hope. According to a [CBS News report](#), the study followed 787 adult smokers in Massachusetts who had recently quit smoking. Participants were asked if they had used a nicotine replacement therapy to help them quit and for how long. Participants were also asked if they received help from a quit-smoking program, doctor, counselor, or other professional. "This study shows that using NRT is no more effective in helping people stop smoking cigarettes in the long-term than trying to quit on one's own," the study noted. Earlier studies have shown media campaigns, no smoking policies, and tobacco price increases are more effective smoking cessation tactics for the general population. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that adult smoking rate decline and quitting rates have stalled in the past five years.



Homeless Shelter Makeovers

[Deserving Decor](#), a nonprofit in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, has an interesting idea you might adopt or adapt. The organization has provided more than 60 transitional homeless shelter apartment makeovers throughout Bucks County in the past two years and supplied numerous newly housed families with furnishings and household goods. The nonprofit repairs and replaces furniture, electronics, appliances, dishes, and décor; cleans apartments as part of the makeover process; and decorates the housing with artwork, window treatments, area rugs, and other decorative items. The agency also supplies furnishings, housewares, and home decor to families leaving shelters and acquiring their own residences.



Wichita Falls, Texas: Executive Director—The Wichita Falls Faith Mission, Inc. is seeking a strong Christian spiritual leader who is a dynamic, forward-thinking visionary to direct the operations of the ministries of Wichita Falls Faith Mission as approved by the board of directors. This position serves as a professional adviser to the board, recommending policy and programs for the Board, determining staff requirements, and hiring and developing competent staff. Minimum Requirements: master's degree; five years' experience in full-time rescue mission administration and management; a born-again, mature Christian with a personal commitment to evangelization. Additional qualifications: personal—good listening skills, compassionate, understanding the special needs of the homeless; ministry—a calling to minister to the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the homeless; ability—ability to perform satisfactorily the responsibilities of the executive director position; leadership, organizational, and time management skills. Responsibilities: Directs and administers operations of the Wichita Falls Faith Mission; responsible for all fundraising; experience with nonprofit grants; hires, oversees, and supervises all staff; effective communicator and public speaker; experience in public relations; financially responsible and faithful steward. To apply, send cover letter and résumé to [Emmalinda Basilio](#) (No phone calls please.) *Added 1/15/2012*

Redding, California: Director of Development and Community Relations—The Good News Rescue Mission in Redding has an opening for a director of development and community relations. This person provides leadership, strategic direction, and administration oversight for the development and community relations department. They are responsible for creating, maintaining, and coordinating development strategies designed to support the mission's short- and long-term financial goals. For more information contact Executive Director [Cesar Partida](#) or call (530) 242-5920. *Added 1/15/2012*

Green Bay, Wisconsin: House Manager—Philip's Mission is a non-profit, 501c3 supportive-living ministry providing shelter and Christian-based programming in Green Bay. We serve men who are finding themselves in transition and willing to discover Jesus Christ. It is our hope that as they develop their relationship with Him, they will grow in the knowledge and understanding of who they are, what their purpose is, and how to live out that purpose. The house manager will oversee the day-to-day operations of the mission, perform light maintenance, lead devotions, attend to housekeeping and laundry schedules, assist clients with daily program goals/accountability, etc. Compensation: Receive room and board, mentoring assistance, discipleship. Please send a resume to [Becky Larson](#). For more information, visit the [mission website](#). *Added 1/1/2012*

Indianapolis, Indiana: Case Manager—Wheeler Mission is seeking a Christian woman to serve as a case manager to the women in the Higher Ground Addiction Recovery Program. Visit the [mission website](#) for more information. *Added 1/1/2012*

Fresno, California: Thrift Store Manager—The Fresno Rescue Mission, a Christ-centered nonprofit, is looking for a Thrift Store Manager to oversee thrift store operations. Details available [online](#). *Added 1/1/2012*

To advertise in future Market Street Classifieds:

Members of AGRM can place a 30-word classified ad listing available positions in two consecutive issues of Street Smart at no charge; additional words will be charged at 50 cents per word. Non-members can place an ad for \$25 per issue for a 30-word ad; additional words will be charged at 50 cents per word. AGRM members can renew ads after the second placement at \$15 per issue for a 30-word ad. Ads are also placed on the AGRM website. Members can also sponsor Street Smart for \$350 per issue. Email desired ad placement to [Brad Lewis](#) (subject line: Street Smart advertising). Ads are subject to editing to conform to Street Smart style, and AGRM reserves the right to reject any ads or sponsorships it deems inappropriate for members. All ads are due one week before issue date.



A Time of Renewal

One of God's most incredible gifts is renewal.

Whether it's a new year or a new day, God provides us with the opportunity to start again with a renewed spirit that comes from His compassion and love for us.

Scripture contains some amazing reminders of God's gift of renewal:

- "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).
- "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22–23).
- "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Through the services God allows you to provide at your mission—including warm meals, clean clothing, comfortable beds, individual encouragement, and the hoping and loving gospel message of Jesus Christ—your guests can "feel like new!"

In this new year, in this time of renewal, may God demonstrate His gift of renewal through you each day.

*Contributed by Jack Tripp, executive director of **Eugene Mission** (Eugene, Ore.). Reprinted with permission from the Eugene Mission newsletter.*

To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for "Street Light," please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

Is something unique and exciting going on at your mission? Share your news with fellow AGRM members by emailing items for "Our Street" to [Brad Lewis](#).

AGRM is a nonprofit organization committed to furthering rescue missions. AGRM provides limited space in "Market Street" for advertising opportunities, services, and products to advance the cause of rescue missions. AGRM is not responsible for the claims made by its advertisers and reserves the right to select or reject any advertising, in the sole discretion of AGRM, for any or no reason.

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