

# *street*smart



*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

### **Take a Sneak Peek at Our Early Bird Brochure**

Click [here](#) for a peek at the pages of our convention insert, which you'll soon see in the November/December issue of *Rescue* magazine. AGRM's 2015 Annual Convention, themed "I'm Diving In," will be held May 27–30 at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle's Eastside. Early bird registration—offering the best rates for the convention and available only online—will be open November 17 through December 17.

Exciting features at this year's convention include local mission tours combined with intensive seminars at mission facilities, man-on-the-street live interviews, plus connections to the local community through a promotional campaign that will be held in the weeks leading up to the convention. And of course, you'll get all the great features you've come to expect from AGRM's convention: education through seminar tracks; valuable connections in the Exhibit Hall; and fabulous speakers, music, and networking times in general sessions.

### **AGRM Staff Members in Seattle to Work on New Convention Features**

AGRM President John Ashmen, Minister-at-Large Robert Loggins, and Strategic Initiatives Architect Mark P. Fisher will be in the Seattle area this week to lay some important groundwork for new features at the 2015 convention. These area-wide advance awareness and preparation activities will include:

- "Concerts of Prayer for the Poor" in Greater Seattle area churches
- Half marathons for homeless and formerly homeless participants through "Up and Running Again" for physical health and self-esteem, being held in Tacoma, Kirkland, and Olympia
- Launch of "Sackcloth and Ashes" national blanket giveaway campaign
- Free mental health screening and counseling for depression, anxiety, bipolar, and PTSD for all AGRM missions throughout the Seattle area, provided by Safe Harbor Christian Counseling

Be in prayer for the connections that these staff members will be making and renewing this week.

### **AGRM President Travels to Member Missions in Michigan**

AGRM President John Ashmen—prior to heading to Seattle—is on the road today in Michigan visiting several missions. He spent the day with the board and staff at **Mel Trotter Ministries** (Grand Rapids, Mich.) as they work through a leadership change, he greeted the folks at **Guiding Light Mission, Inc.** (Grand Rapids, Mich.) and encouraged them in some of their new ventures, and is ending the day with a tour and meetings at **Holland Rescue Mission** (Holland, Mich.).

Pray for John as he continues to represent AGRM in many areas.

### **Snapshot Survey Results Coming Soon**

Local missions have entered all the results, and AGRM's annual Snapshot Survey for 2014 was a huge hit. More than 140 AGRM member missions participated in the survey, and they surveyed more than 20,000 guests using their various mission services. This represents a significant increase over the surveys of recent years—so thank you for participating!

Watch for detailed results of the Snapshot Survey next week. The survey provides a one-day "snapshot" of the number of homeless, hungry, abused, and addicted people receiving services at AGRM missions. Participating missions will receive the overall survey results with a comparison to their local results, as well as a press release template that can be used to share your mission's findings with the media.

### **Participate in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**

A reminder that a number of local missions are participating in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 15–23, which is sponsored by the National Coalition to End Homelessness

(NCH). AGRM worked with NCH to remove language that reflected negatively on missions from the manual for this and other NCH-sponsored events. Go to [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)>About NCH>National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week for details. Specifically, check out the “What Can I Do?” tab for some sample ways your mission can get involved. Also, use the “Register Your Event” tab to list any events your mission is already holding during the dates of the campaign.



### **Aggressive Young Travelers Affect Tourist Cities**

Tourist-destination cities are facing difficulties dealing with transients, whose sometimes violent tendencies intimidate locals and turn visitors off, according to a [Los Angeles Times report](#). Cities have tried numerous strategies to control their unruly behavior, from bombarding them with citations to hiring private security guards and installing cameras on street corners.

Some city leaders are concerned about aggressive panhandlers who demand money or food from pedestrians and outdoor cafe patrons, then curse and intimidate those who don't oblige. The behavior is mostly perpetrated by a small number of people, which began a few years ago after the Occupy movement brought in a wave of young transients. Many have been kicked out of their homes and call themselves “travelers.” They're drawn to cities perceived as “cool,” such as Minneapolis-St. Paul, Denver, Portland, and Seattle.

The majority are peaceful and often victims of the violence and degradation that comes with living on the streets, but the small number who act out make all of them look bad.

### **Middle Class Can't Afford What They Used To**

The middle class has certainly changed. Today's middle class can no longer afford things that used to be associated with the middle class, based on affordability and necessity. According to a [9News report](#), the following items are those the middle class say they can increasingly not afford.

**Vacations**—A vacation is an extra expense that many middle-earners can't afford without sacrificing something else. One survey found that this year 54 percent of people gave up purchasing big-ticket items so they can go on a vacation.

**New vehicles**—Based on the prices of new cars and trucks, as well as the median incomes across more than two dozen major cities, new cars and trucks were simply not affordable to most middle-earners.

**To pay off debt**—Debt increased 70 percent faster than income from 1980 through 2013, and many middle class workers have trouble staying afloat.

**Emergency savings**—Most members of the middle class don't have at least six months of emergency savings, and some working people have no such savings.

**Retirement savings**—While some members of the middle class neglect this aspect of financial planning because of procrastination, some workers can't afford to set this money aside. Nearly half of those who don't save for retirement say it's because they simply don't have the money.

**Medical care**—During the past few years, these costs have had a large impact on working Americans. Even those who work for large companies face almost \$5,000 in premiums, co-payments, deductibles, and other forms of co-insurance.

**Dental work**—People will often purchase medical coverage and forgo dental because it's so expensive. Plus, dental insurance may cover only half of more expensive procedures. In many cases, middle-earners

will delay or even forego some procedures in efforts to save money.

## Teens Find Potential Answer for World Hunger

In Kinsale, Ireland, three 16-year-old girls, Emer Hickey, Ciara Judge, and Sophie Healy-Thow, were studying the world food crisis in geography class when they created an idea for a science project. According to a [Scientific American report](#), the girls noticed “wart-like nodules” on a pea plant. They discovered that inside these bumps was a naturally occurring soil bacteria called rhizobia, which fixes nitrogen in legume plant roots and produces compounds that help plants grow.

The girls then tested the bacteria to see if they could find a way to use it where it doesn’t normally occur, forcing it to associate with a larger variety of plants, to help them also germinate and grow faster. Though scientists had previously discounted rhizobia, the girls discovered when they tested it on barley that the bacteria actually increased seed germination by 50 percent. In other words, three girls not yet out of high school have discovered a way to increase food production of cereal crops of all sorts—big news in the fight against hunger. The bacteria may also lessen our need for chemical fertilizers, which is also a win for environmentalists.

During the three years the girls worked on their project, they tested around 13,000 seeds and have a large, controlled field site with another 3,600 seeds in their hometown. Their efforts won them \$50,000 in prize money from a science fair and \$25,000 in scholarships.



## Homeless People Represent Society’s Most Ill

A new [University of Oxford study](#) documents just how devastating homelessness is on health. Researchers found that the homeless contract tuberculosis at rates up to 40 times higher than the general population, and they are seven times more likely to experience depression. They’re also two to five times more likely to die prematurely than the rest of the population—a rate that has remained stable over the past two decades despite an increase in services.

The lead author of the study says that the homeless age much faster than the rest of the population, and their health makes them the sickest people in society. This happens not only from drug and alcohol abuse, but also from infectious diseases, heart disease, and other age-related chronic conditions. Homeless veterans are admitted to hospitals for surgical reasons up to 15 years earlier than other vets.

These health disparities are both a social issue and a financial one. The homeless tend to use emergency rooms for medical help—the most expensive kind of health service—and typically require longer hospital stays.

Meanwhile, funding has increased for veterans’ homelessness programs; however, they have a long way to go to meet the goal of ending veterans’ homelessness by next year. Nationally, homelessness has declined in recent years but not at the same rate as veteran homelessness.

## Low-Income Families Forced to Choose Between Food and Other Needs

Food insecurity typically comes with impossible trade-offs for families. In order to put food on the table, low-income families have to sacrifice some of the following basic needs, says a [Huffington Post report](#).

**Feel hungry or fill up on cheap, fatty foods.** Unhealthy meals are typically cheaper than nutritionally dense options. Of those polled, nearly 79 percent said they go for the unhealthy meals so that their families will feel satiated.

**Go to the doctor or fill the fridge.** More than half of those polled said they have unpaid medical bills, and



66 percent reported choosing between buying food and paying for medicine and health care in the past year.

**Enjoy a meal or water it down to make it last.** One-fifth of those who depend on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) said that they exhaust the month's worth of benefits within a week. So some 40 percent of people polled said that they water down food and beverages.

**Eat food that's expired or nothing at all.** Fifty-six percent of respondents said they consume food past its expiration date, and 52 percent said they purchase canned foods that have been dented or damaged.

**Pay utility bills or put food on the table.** Nearly 70 percent of people surveyed said they could only afford to either pay their utility bills or buy food in the past year. And 34 percent of respondents faced this dilemma each month.

**Pay for housing or ease hunger pangs.** Nearly one in six people polled faced an eviction or foreclosure in the past five years. And 57 percent said that they had to choose between paying housing costs or food bills at some point during the year.

## The High Cost of Opioid Overdose

A new report provides more evidence of just how much the nation's opioid epidemic costs in both financial resources and human lives. According to a **Brattleboro Reformer report**, a national study of hospital emergency department visits for opioid overdoses found that prescription opioids were involved in 67.8 percent of all overdoses reported by hospital emergency departments in 2010. Heroin accounted for 16.1 percent of overdoses, unspecified opioids in 13.4 percent, and multiple opioid types in 2.7 percent.

Opioid drugs—including forms of morphine, methadone, oxycodone, and hydrocodone—are prescribed for patients who need powerful painkillers. But if patients take them for an extended period, they can develop a tolerance and require higher and higher doses of the drugs, making addiction and/or an overdose more likely.

About half of the patients in the study who went to the emergency department for opioid overdoses were admitted to the hospital, and costs for both inpatient and emergency department care totaled nearly \$2.3 billion.



## DIY Fundraising

Check out dozens do-it-yourself fundraising ideas of various shapes and sizes at [www.fundraisingideas/diy](http://www.fundraisingideas/diy). Some of the listings contain detailed instructions while others are just brief summaries of past fundraising activities of other organizations. But browse with an eye for adapting some of them to have some fun and raise funds for your mission.



**Association of Christian Thrift Stores Workshop**—Save the date for the Association of Christian Thrift

Stores (ACTS) Workshop. The dates are January 11–14, 2015, and the annual workshop will be held at the Sheraton in Birmingham, Alabama. For more information or to register and reserve a room visit [www.actswebsite.com](http://www.actswebsite.com). Added 11/1/14

**Fresno, California: Marketing and Development Director**—The Fresno Rescue Mission is seeking a Marketing and Development Director. Responsibilities include donor development (financial support from annual, major, property, in-kind, and planned gifts), donor operations, marketing and advertising, volunteer and community relations programs, grant writing, and administrative management. Additional information, including application process, is at [www.fresnorm.org](http://www.fresnorm.org). Click on employment opportunities. No calls or emailed résumés please. Added 11/1/14

**San Diego, California: Vice President of Clinical Programs**—San Diego Rescue Mission, a faith-based nonprofit, is seeking to hire a Vice President of Clinical Programs. Under the supervision of the COO, this exempt professional directs and oversees all clinical programs, including the Women and Children's Center, Men's Center, and Nueva Vida Haven Emergency Shelter, Recuperative Care Unit, Outpatient Therapy Clinic, Children's Center, and Transitional Housing Programs. Works with program directors to develop and implement programs that encourage self-governance and independence in a social model, residential community. Provides clinical and programmatic supervision to all of the clinical staff and interns. Oversees multiple state licenses, upholds ethical treatment standards, and ensures compliance with all applicable state laws and industry standards. Works with CEO/COO and committees to establish policies and programs and administers such programs.

Education: Minimum master's degree in Family Therapy or Social Work, or related field from an accredited institution.

Special License/Certification: Licensed LMFT or LCSW for minimum 2 years. Must be AAMFT and CAMFT (or equivalent) member in good standing.

Experience: Minimum 5 years (increasingly management) full-time experience dealing with the homeless, substance abusers, mentally ill, and/or dually diagnosed. Supervisory experience at senior management level, experience in strategic planning and nonprofit experience desirable.

Send cover letter, résumé, and salary history to HR Director Mary Langford at [mlangford@sdrescue.org](mailto:mlangford@sdrescue.org). Added 10/15/14

**Missoula, Montana: Multiple Positions**—Union Gospel Mission of Missoula (formerly Missoula 3:16 Rescue Mission) is seeking positive, balanced servants of Christ with a calling to hometown mission work to fill the following positions. Closing date for applications is Monday, October 27, 2014:

- Day Center Facility Supervisor (new)
- Programs Manager (new)
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Resident Assistant (new, volunteer, live-in)

Full position descriptions and volunteer/employment applications are available online at [www.ugmofmissoula.org](http://www.ugmofmissoula.org). Submit application with cover sheet and résumé to [candaced@ugmofmissoula.org](mailto:candaced@ugmofmissoula.org) or by fax at (406) 549-0929. Added 10/15/14

**Atlanta, Georgia: Chief Financial Officer**—Atlanta Mission is seeking a CFO to serve on the organization's senior leadership team and to lead the organization's financial matters. For details: [www.atlantamission.org/employment](http://www.atlantamission.org/employment). Added 10/15/14

*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 (plus 50 cents per additional word). Ads are also placed on the AGRM website. AGRM business members can also sponsor Street Smart for \$350 per issue. Email desired ad placement to [Brad Lewis](mailto:Brad.Lewis@agr.org) (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.

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## Go Out and Stand

He [Elijah] said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord" (1 Kings 19:10-11, ESV).

Most mornings, we don't jump out of bed, excited for another day of work. Instead, most of us drag ourselves to the kitchen to make coffee, thinking about all the tasks we haven't yet completed in the office, at church, and at home. We can sometimes find ourselves discouraged and overwhelmed within the first few minutes of the day.

It's pretty human to get caught up in the rhythms of life and feel the strain of the endless amount of expectations set on us. But this is certainly not the life that we have been called to as followers of Christ; we have been promised a life of abundance (see John 10:10)!

We can relate to Elijah. He was tired, fed up, and simply wanted a break; he tried to make himself feel better by hiding from God. We might also try to "hide" from the Lord, but our Father keeps close by our side.

God calls us out of our hiding and His isn't a complex instruction; it's a simple request for an act of faith. He says to us, "Go out and stand." But are we alone? No! He gives us the strength we need. Philippians 4:13 promises, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." When we follow the Lord with all our heart, we will surely bring glory to His name.

Have the courage today to stand with the knowledge that God is always with you, and trust in His purpose for your life.

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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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**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](#).**

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