



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from Citygate Network

Useful news and information for members

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It's Started: Registration for Our 2019 Conference Is Now Open!

Citygate Network's 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition will be held June 3–6, 2019 in Palm Springs, California. Our meeting venue will be the Palm Springs Convention Center and Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel (attached properties). Our second hotel option, located just a block away, is the Hilton Palm Springs. Plan ahead: With this amazing setting—think swimming pools--this is an event where you might want to bring along the entire family.

Click [here](#) (or enter www.citygatenetwork.org/2019conference in your browser) to get all the details about this important gathering. Or if you know you just cannot miss this big event, you can jump right to the [online registration page](#).

In addition to the main event, a special (optional) preliminary gathering will take place in Los Angeles June 1–2. This is an amazing chance to see our fine missions there and Skid Row! We also have three tracks of early intense optional seminars that will be held in Palm Springs on June 3.

Don't miss this important conference. Save by registering [online](#) today!

Citygate Network Staff Heads West

Four Citygate Network staff members have been in southern California yesterday and today putting things in place for the 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition. Yesterday, they met with CEOs and staff at **Los Angeles Mission** and **Union Rescue Mission** in Los Angeles, discussing arrangements of a tour of those member missions and a tour of Skid Row. This will undoubtedly be a pre-conference activity that many members will want to experience. Today, they are at the Palm

Springs Convention Center and Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel working through some logistics for the event. They will also visit **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** (Indio, California), where an optional tour will be offered. Check out the conference information noted above, and be sure to register your team by December 19 to get the best rate.

Save the Dates: Citygate Network's 2019 DC Forum

Plans are underway for the 2019 DC Forum, where member ministry leaders can engage with government leaders and their staff members. On the heels of midterm elections, it's critical for ministries to make connections and make their voices heard. Mark the following dates (plus travel time) on your calendar. The event will be March 11–13, 2019.

Citygate Network Elections Close Tomorrow

Citygate Network members in three districts (Sierra, Northern Lights, and Rawhide) received ballots November 6 to choose district officers and board representatives. In addition, the entire membership received a ballot to elect an at-large Citygate Network board member. The elections close at midnight (Mountain Time) on Friday, November 16. Results will be posted in an upcoming issue of Street Smart.

Holiday Hours at Citygate Network Offices

With the holidays approaching, we want to make you aware that the Citygate Network office will be closed the following dates:

- November 22–23: Thanksgiving Holidays
- December 24–25: Christmas Holidays
- December 31–January 1: New Year's Holidays

Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome Citygate Network's newest mission member, **Ventura County Rescue Mission** (Oxnard, California). John Saltee serves as executive director. The mission is part of the Rescue Mission Alliance.
- Jeremy Montgomery has been named executive director to lead **Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).
- Congratulations to CEO Kent Barry and the staff at **Klamath Falls Gospel Mission** (Klamath Falls, Oregon) for raising \$2.73 million and building a new facility on 17 acres, where amazing citywide collaboration will now take place. Citygate Network President John Ashmen was just there and spoke at the dedication.



Nonprofit Salaries and Wages Not Keeping Up with Inflation

According to the recently released *2018 Report on Nonprofit Wages + Benefits in Northern New England (Maine Edition)*, nonprofits expect to maintain or increase their staffing levels in the coming year, but those plans will be up against a high rate of employment and stagnant compensation rates. The report is mainly a fact-based presentation of survey data, but the executive summary offers several noteworthy insights. There is a labor scarcity, with unemployment hovering near 3 percent and labor participation approaching 64 percent. Despite the competitive hiring environment, nonprofit employees are worse off than they were two years ago, because salaries did not keep pace with inflation, and health-care costs increased significantly through rising employee contributions, co-pays, and deductibles.

Tax on Churches Looms, ERLC Coalition Urges Repeal

A diverse coalition led by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has urged members of Congress to repeal a section of a federal law that could force churches to file tax returns for the first time in American history. According to an [article](#) by Baptist Press, the ERLC—joined by 32 other organizations—sent a letter November 13 to leaders of two congressional committees and some other members of Congress, asking them to rescind before 2019 a provision in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which took effect January 1 of this year. Without repeal, the cost to the charitable sector would be an estimated \$1.7 billion over 10 years.

Facebook Fundraising Tools Top \$1 Billion

Facebook's charitable giving tools have topped \$1 billion from 20 million people since being introduced on the platform three years ago. The statistics were released during a press event at Facebook's New York City offices where representatives from the ASPCA, No Kid Hungry, and other charities and fundraisers shared their stories. According to a *Nonprofit Times* [report](#), Facebook did not provide a breakdown of how much of the \$1 billion was raised by each product, but did announce in August that \$300 million was raised in the first year of its Birthday Fundraisers. There are more than a million nonprofits in 19 countries that can receive donations directly through Facebook. Facebook, in partnership with PayPal, will match up to \$7 million in gifts on #GivingTuesday, November 27, to U.S.-based nonprofits. Facebook also will host a #GivingTuesday event from its Facebook Page to share updates and fundraiser stories.



Increased Investments in Ending Veteran Homelessness Pay Off

Since 2010, the United States has cut veteran homelessness almost in half. Three components have been critical to this decrease.

1. **Increased investment.** According to a [report](#) by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the federal government more than doubled federal funding for homeless veteran programs from \$713 million in 2010 to \$1.65 billion in 2017. Much of the expanded funding was for housing placements and related services.

2. **Coordination and commitment.** In the 66 communities that effectively ended veteran homelessness, Continuums of Care and federal, state, and local agencies coordinated services and programs. Local leadership from VA Medical Centers also played a significant role.
3. **Focusing on the most vulnerable.** Large funding increases for case management, accompanying housing vouchers, and other supportive services (from \$150 million in 2010 to \$874 million in 2017) ended homelessness for high-need veterans.

Hunger Remains an Issue in America

Hunger in America is much more common than people often think. One in every six citizens are hungry; that number equates to 49 million people in total. According to an [article](#) by *The Baker Orange*, most are food insecure, concerned about where their next meal will come from, even if it is only at some points throughout the year. This amount seems enormous considering the fact that Americans get rid of 150,000 tons of food each day for a variety of reasons. In total, 40 percent of groceries in the U.S. go to waste over the course of a year.

Evangelicals Are Confused About Christianity's Core Beliefs

A new survey from LifeWay Research has found that many Christians are confused about several core beliefs of Christianity. Ligonier Ministries released their 2018 State of Theology survey results this week, and they found that a majority of evangelicals have found the following statements to be true, despite the Bible distinctly teaching otherwise.

- Most people are basically good.
- God accepts the worship of all religions.
- Jesus was the first and greatest being created by God the Father.

According to a [report](#) by Christian Headlines, the survey found that in all three cases a majority of survey takers believed these statements to be true. In the case of human nature, 52 percent of the 3,000 participants responded that everyone sins a little, but most people are generally good by nature. This is contrary to what Romans 3:10 dictates of human nature, that it is fundamentally sinful.



The Association of Christian Thrift Stores (ACTS) will hold its annual January workshop January 13–16 in Ft. Myers, Florida. For more details and to register for both the workshop and hotel, visit www.actswebsite.com.

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[BBQ Pit Master](#): Portland Rescue Mission, Portland, OR

[Biblical Pastoral Counselor](#): Union Gospel Mission (Spokane), Spokane, WA

[Care Support Specialist](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Case Management Specialist-JPWP / Live On Position](#): St. Matthews House, Naples, FL

[Chief Operating Officer](#): The City Mission., Cleveland, OH

[Chief Operating Officer](#): Helping Up Mission, Inc., Baltimore, MD

[Dental Hygienist](#): Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA

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

[Development Director](#): The Gospel Rescue Mission, Inc., Muskogee, OK

[Development Officer](#) : The Rescue Mission Tacoma, Tacoma, WA

[DIRECTOR of SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RESCUE MISSION](#) : Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

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

[Facilities Technician](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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

[Food Services Manager](#): Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

[Food Services Manager](#): Turlock Gospel Mission, Turlock, CA

[Grant Writer](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Health and Wellness Center Manager](#): San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

[Human Resources Generalist](#): Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA

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

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

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

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Kansas City Rescue Mission, Kansas City, MO

[Marketing & Digital Communications Associate](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Men's Center Director](#): Gospel Rescue Mission, Tucson, AZ

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

Payroll Specialist: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Public Relations Manager: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Resident Advisors: Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

Residential Coordinator Cornerstone Manor Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

S.C.I Mahanoy Chaplain: Jubilee Ministries, Inc., Lebanon, PA

Salesforce Data Analyst: Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

Senior Director, Community Life: The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

Shelter Manager: Turlock Gospel Mission, Turlock, CA

Shelter Supervisor: Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

Shepherd's Door Case Manager: Portland Rescue Mission, Portland, OR

Support Services Coordinator: Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

Women's Case Manager (Growth Leader): Portland Rescue Mission, Portland, OR

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



Right Worship

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1–2, ESV).

Every aspect of our lives is part of our worship. We worship from the moment our eyes open in the morning to the second they close at night. Worship is magnifying (or making much of) someone or something by our actions, thoughts, or words. It is setting anything, be it God or otherwise, into the place of high prominence and authority in our lives.

However, worship today is generally thought of as a genre of music or a 30-minute period in which we sing songs to God. While the latter is a crucial component of worship (Ephesians 5:15–21), it does not encompass it.

In fact, we learn from today's passage that discerning God's will from a transformed and renewed

mind, and then acting in accordance with that will, is pivotal to our proper worship. We are called to be men, women, and children who become like Jesus; not a people who try to make Jesus fit our desired mold for Him.

Improper conformity (or religiosity) is worshipping the “gods” of culture, while true Christianity is worshipping the One True God in culture.

When we hold a small view of worship, we lose sight of “what is good and acceptable and perfect” because we lose the ability to truly know it!

Only through the giving and submitting of our entire lives can we rightly worship God and fulfill our purpose and mission on this earth.

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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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