



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

Useful news and information for members

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Annual Conference Early Bird Registration Begins November 15

Citygate Network's 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition will be held June 3-6, 2019 in Palm Springs, California. Watch your mailbox and email inbox for details about this exciting and important "don't miss it" event—including how your mission can save with early-bird registration, which will start November 15.

In addition to the main event, a special preliminary gathering will take place in Los Angeles on May 31 and June 1.

Citygate Network's celebrated Annual Conference and Exposition is seen as the largest and most energetic event of its kind for people serving in rescue missions and life-transformation ministries. Year after year, attendees affirm that there is nothing else like it anywhere.

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. The single/double rate at the Renaissance is \$135; it's \$125 at the Hilton.

Don't miss this important annual event! Again, save big by registering online starting November 15.

Be Sure to Vote Next Week—in Both Elections

On Tuesday November 6—the same day as U.S. elections—Citygate Network members in three districts will receive ballots for district officers and board representatives. In addition, the entire membership will vote for an at-large Citygate Network board member.

Every full member can expect an emailed ballot next week. Members in the Sierra, Northern Lights, and Rawhide districts will receive a ballot to elect district officers, a board representative, and a board member-at-large. The newly elected board members will serve three-year terms, starting January 1.

Be watching for your ballot and be sure to participate by voting. If you have any questions, please contact Executive Assistant Alice Gifford at agifford@citygatenetwork.org.

Board of Directors Wraps Up Meetings

Citygate Network's board of directors met last week in Vancouver, British Columbia. Among other discussion and initiatives, the board approved Values, Mission, and Vision Statements for Citygate Network to accompany the organization's rebranding, which took place August 1. To read these important statements, which guide the organization's work and ministry, please click [here](#).

Citygate Network President Continues Travels to Represent the Organization

After time spent in Vancouver at Citygate Network's board meetings, and prior to that,

speaking at the fundraising banquet at **Mercy Support Services** (Orange Park, Florida) and visiting other missions in the Jacksonville area, Citygate Network President John Ashmen continues on the road this week. As you read this, he is at the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) 2018 National Conference in Chicago (where he reports he just spent time with Citygate Network friend and past convention speaker Ray Bakke). Next week, John will be speaking at Cairn University in Philadelphia, and at the 60th anniversary celebration at **Klamath Falls Gospel Mission** (Klamath Falls, Oregon).

Benefits Program Enrolling Members, Offers More Opportunities in 2019

The Citygate Network Benefits Program is in its Open Enrollment period through November 9. The benefits plans will officially be in effect beginning January 1, 2019. Our final enrollment webinar will be Wednesday, November 7, at 12:00 p.m. (MDT). Click [here](#) on Wednesday to participate. A number of member ministries have asked if there will be an opportunity to join the program and begin benefits in 2019. The answer is yes! There will be opportunities every month in 2019 to jump in. Watch your inbox for information about the process to join after the January 1 start date.

To learn more about the program, visit www.citygatebenefits.com, or email citygate@enterpriseriskstrategies.com.

Panama City Mission Seeks Help Following Hurricane Michael

The headlines about Hurricane Michael are in the past, but Citygate Network wants to make other members aware of the unique needs of **Panama City Rescue Mission** (Panama City, Florida). The hurricane, which struck Florida's panhandle as a high-level Category 4 storm, not only affected several businesses and residences across Bay County, but it also damaged property at the Panama City Rescue Mission's men's campus and the Bethel Village women and children's center.

The hurricane destroyed the courtyard at the mission's main campus and ripped through trees and railings, and tore apart fences at both the men's center and Bethel Village, located on a separate campus. Playground equipment and a deck were destroyed by powerful winds and trees.

The mission's staff has also worked many additional hours to ensure the welfare of both storm evacuees and clients, and is in need of funds to cover both additional payroll and for repairs. Several Citygate Network members have already helped the mission with donations. If you would like to donate, please do so directly by clicking [here](#).

Lakota Hope Assists Area Following Hailstorm Damage

A massive hailstorm recently swept through the Pine Ridge reservation, causing major

damage to more than 600 homes. FEMA denied the assistance the Ogalala tribe asked for. The result is that one of the poorest counties in the United States must cope with this disaster on its own. According to **Lakota Hope Ministry** (Whiteclay, Nebraska), which serves the reservation, local churches have banded together to deal with the damage. And Lakota Hope has started a GoFundMe campaign to help. You can find more info [here](#).

Funds raised are focused on the following:

- Windows, \$80 per trailer
- House wrap, \$60 per trailer
- Smart siding, \$33 per 4x8 sheet

All funds raised through this effort will be used for materials and labor for these repairs. Lakota Hope is partnering with local organizations that are best equipped with the staff, tools, and experience to perform the repairs.

Looking Down the Street...

- Heather Sanders has been named executive director to lead **Community Rescue Mission** (Fort Smith, Arkansas).
- Please welcome into Citygate Network membership **Sanilac Mission** (Sandusky, Michigan). Brett Lester serves as the ministry's executive director.



Oregon Students Battle Homelessness

Keizer Public Schools in Salem, Oregon, had more than 42,000 students last year who were living in low-income households, including more than 1,100 who were considered homeless. Last year, McKay High School senior Raul Marquez raised about \$410,000 to create Taylor's House, an emergency overnight house for homeless youth. According to an [article](#) in the *Statesman Journal*, after the death of a homeless girl named Taylor, Raul Marquez took action and raised the money to buy a house in Salem, now known as Taylor's House. In addition to sleeping spaces, the finished basement includes various treatment rooms; the organization is developing contracts for on-site mental health and drug/alcohol counselors, as well as assessment rooms for sexual assault victims and

survivors of sex trafficking.

Could ADUs Help Solve LA's Homelessness Crisis?

New state rules making it easier for California homeowners to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on their properties were designed to address California's severe housing shortage. According to a [report](#) by Curbed, Los Angeles County officials plan to test whether ADUs, also known as granny flats and in-law units, could be a solution for homelessness as well. Under the plan, which is expected to launch in spring, participating homeowners would receive up to \$30,000 worth of assistance constructing an ADU on their property. Rather than a direct loan or stipend, the money would come in the form of tax breaks or reduced permitting fees. In return, owners would agree to rent the new structure to a homeless resident who will be supplied for two years with rental assistance and case management through the county's homeless services authority.

Partisan Divide Affects Charitable Giving

With political divisions in the U.S. on stark display in the lead-up to midterm elections, a new study examines the philanthropic giving of voters in red and blue counties across the country to determine how party affiliation affects charitable giving. According to a [report](#) by Think Advisor, researchers found that voters who live in counties where political competition is high give less to charity. The findings, researchers say, might indicate a sense among voters in those counties that they are unsure whether their contributions will go to like-minded people. Counties with a higher proportion of Republican-voting residents made bigger charitable donations than counties with a higher proportion of Democrat-voting residents. But this finding comes with a major caveat: Researchers also found that as the proportion of people voting Republican increased in counties that were not Republican-dominated, giving actually decreased.

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People with Mental Illness Are Twice as Likely to Be Victims of Violence

A leading mental health expert hopes recent research showing high rates of violence against people with mental illness helps remove the stigma from those suffering. According to Statistics Canada figures released this month, people with mental health-related disabilities are more than twice as likely to be assaulted compared to the general population. Of the one million Canadians over the age of 15 who suffer from mental health issues, 40,000 have been violently robbed or assaulted in the past year. The *Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News* [reports](#) that 7 percent of women with mental health issues were sexually assaulted—more than double the number of women in the general population. And the trouble doesn't end there: After being assaulted, only 22 percent of

those with mental health issues went to authorities for help, compared to 31 percent of the general population; Statistics Canada notes that is likely because those with mental health issues are twice as likely to view police in a negative light.

Study Estimates Higher Undocumented Immigration Numbers

Researchers at the Yale School of Management have estimated the number of undocumented immigrants in the United States to be nearly twice as large as the number widely accepted and extrapolated from the Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey. According to an [article](#) in *Yale Daily News*, the study used demographic modeling data to produce a range of 16.2 million to 29.5 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., with an average estimate of 22.1 million. This number stands in contrast to the widely accepted estimate of 11.3 million, a number frequently referenced by politicians in next week's elections.

Wealthy Donors Boost Average Giving 15 Percent

Average giving amounts by wealthy households increased 15 percent during 2017 compared to two years ago, eclipsing an average of \$29,000. And nine out of 10 wealthy households gave to charity, according to the 2018 U.S. Trust Study of High Net Worth (HNW) Philanthropy released yesterday. The biennial survey is conducted in partnership with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and this year's edition is the seventh in a research series that began in 2006. According to an [article](#) in *Nonprofit Times*, the vast majority of wealthy households expects to maintain 84 percent or increase 4 percent the amount they give to charity in 2018 under the new federal tax law passed late in 2017.

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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.actsworld.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](#): Helping Up Mission, Inc., Baltimore, MD

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

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

[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

[Superintendent](#): Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission, Inc., Martinsburg, WV

[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
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Christian Love

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV).

As Christians, true love is defined by God Himself. Love is not our God, love is shown to us by Him. So in today's verse we learn what real love looks like: Jesus Christ and his

mission to save us.

What's amazing isn't simply Jesus' sacrifice for people who are undeserving. It's His sacrificing for people who are ill-deserving. There's a difference.

Undeserving Versus Ill-Deserving

Imagine someone broke into your house. They robbed your valuables and destroyed the property. At the end, you were left with a shell of what once was your safe home.

However, the police caught the criminals and took them to the station. Upon hearing this, your father went to the station. And rather than telling the cops to "throw the book at them," your dad says something else. He tells the police, "Please don't prosecute them. I know they're guilty. I understand they destroyed my home and stole my things. But I will stand in their place and take their punishment."

The officers are stunned—as are the criminals. It's quiet for a moment as everyone processes what your father just said. Then one of the criminals breaks the silence. He asks, "Why would you do that?"

Your father answers, "I love you."

What Love Really Looks Like

This is a simple illustration of what love really looks like. You see, people are not only undeserving of salvation, we are ill-deserving. We aren't mere bystanders. All it takes is a moment looking around the news to see humans are actively engaged in evil. Wars, human trafficking, murder, rape, robbery, and the list goes on...

Yet while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. He loved us in a scandalous way.

This is the measure of Christian love. This is the breadth of God's forgiveness. This is the depth of His kindness. And remember, God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4).

Applying God's Love

- How will you reflect God's love for people today?
- Where do you need to be drawn in by this radical grace and repent?
- Is your heart thankful to God? If so, does your gratitude for His love overflow into your life?
- How will this mark the fruit of evangelism in your life?

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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