



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

Useful news and information for members

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### **It's Not Politics as Usual**

Citygate Network President John Ashmen spent last week in Washington, D.C., meeting with the key staff at four federal agencies and with several lawmakers. He also attended meetings of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) board, of which he is a member. From his agency meetings, John learned about a very significant, disconcerting bill that has already been presented to House members; a version will soon go to the U.S. Senate. Later today, John will be sending an information email to Citygate Network CEOs about this bill and what's at stake. CEOs, please watch for it.

### **Citygate Network Elections to Be Held in Early November**

One of the privileges of being in an association is voting for board representatives and local officers. This year, members in the Sierra, Northern Lights, and Rawhide districts will also be voting on their district cabinets (president and vice president) and a board representative, and all Citygate Network members are electing an at-large board member. The elected officers will serve a three-year term, starting January 1, 2019, and running through December 31, 2021. Please watch for your email ballot coming on Thursday, November 8.

### **Citygate Network Benefits Program Offers Open Enrollment Webinars**

Open Enrollment for the Citygate Network Benefits Program will be from October 29 to November 9, and it will be facilitated electronically via our benefit administration system from PlanSource.

In an effort to prepare each eligible employee for Open Enrollment, we are hosting four webinars to

make sure that everyone fully understands the benefits and how to enroll. The webinars are available to anyone who would like to participate and will be hosted on the following days:

Wednesday, October 17 at 12:00 p.m. MST  
Wednesday, October 24 at 12:00 p.m. MST  
Wednesday, October 31 at 12:00 p.m. MST  
Wednesday, November 7 at 12:00 p.m. MST

For your reference, you can find the WebEx info for all four meetings by clicking [here](#).

### **Submit Proposals for Annual Convention Seminars**

Citygate Network's 2019 Annual Convention will be held June 3-6 at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, California. Many more details to come soon.

Currently, we are working on our line-up of meaningful seminars, and we are giving members the opportunity to send us their ideas. This is a great way to contribute to the success of Citygate Network member ministries. Keep in mind that there are many factors affecting whether or not we invite someone to present. Content value, subject balance, educational goals, past ratings, and a number of other elements are considered by our team. We are reaching out to you with the hope you'll put together a truly impactful seminar proposal.

All seminar topics must fit into one of our 12 education tracks (three of which are double tracks). To view the tracks and the topics we cover in those tracks, click [here](#).

To submit a proposal please click the following link and provide your information by November 9, and we'll review it as soon as possible: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019seminars](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019seminars)

Please note that we typically receive several hundred seminar proposals, so the review process usually takes two to three months. You may enter up to three seminar proposals. If your seminar is selected, we'll try to let you know by mid-February, but please keep in mind this is a fluid process with a lot of moving parts. If you're wondering about the status of your submission, feel free to reach out to Director of Education and Engagement Sam Edwards at [sedwards@citygatenetwork.org](mailto:sedwards@citygatenetwork.org).

### **Looking Down the Street...**

- Billy Eldridge, senior director of operations at **Nashville Rescue Mission** (Nashville, Tennessee) is leading a team that traveled yesterday to the Mexico Beach/Panama City area, ground zero for Hurricane Michael, with food and water. The team will also be doing tree removal as needed.
- Please welcome Citygate Network's newest business member [Deterrent Specialities, LLC](#) (Ferndale, Washington). [Larry Bieber](#) is the company's executive director.
- **City Rescue Mission** (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) is looking for a new CEO. Tom Jones is no longer there.



### **San Francisco Groups Team Up to Fight Homelessness**

San Francisco homelessness officials and nonprofit groups are launching a campaign aimed at redoubling the city's efforts to provide housing and jobs to homeless youth. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is expected to unveil the "Rising Up" campaign. According to an [article](#) in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the campaign will seek to cut youth homelessness in half by 2023 by providing temporary housing subsidies and job-placement services for 500 young people sleeping on the streets. To do that, officials are seeking to raise \$22 million in philanthropic donations, adding to the \$6 million the city plans to contribute and the \$3 million pledged by the Tipping Point Community charitable organization.

### **Former Uber Exec Launches Mental Health App**

Andrew Chapin, a former Uber executive, has developed a mental health app called Basis aimed at making therapy available to more people and removing its associated stigma, especially for those working in the tech industry and related fields. Chapin wanted to help stressed out employees in particular who need support, but have limited time and resources to spend on traditional therapy. According to a [report](#) by Curbed, the app is designed to help people deal with anxiety, depression, and other issues through chat or video conversations. For just \$35, Basis users can schedule 45 minutes of phone time with a paraprofessional. Though they don't have the same certifications as a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, they are trained professionals who maintain the site's simple premise: having a third party available to hear people out.

### **Unemployment Rate Hits Lowest Point Since 1969**

The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 3.7 percent in September, a low not seen since 1969. The rate dropped from 3.9 percent in August, according to the latest Labor Department report. September marked the third straight month of unemployment below 4 percent. Why? The short answer: The economy is good. The second answer: Not as many people are in the labor force, so they aren't counted in the unemployment rate. According to a [report](#) by PBS, the last time the general unemployment rate was this low, millions of men had been drafted for the Vietnam War, and, therefore, taken out of the labor force. Unemployment dropped near these levels more recently at the end of the 1990s-tech boom. Even then, unemployment only fell to 3.8 percent in April 2000. Economists say there is no indication the labor market is expected to weaken anytime soon.



### **Nearly 1 of 5 Black Baby Boomers Face Homelessness at Some Point**

Researchers are stressing the need for new solutions to combat homelessness, noting that African-Americans are disproportionately affected by homelessness compared to other ethnic groups. Black Americans are about three times more likely to live on the streets than white Americans, according to a national study which is the first in decades to look at lifetime homeless rates. About 17 percent of

black Baby Boomers have been “homeless at some point in their lives,” suggested the study, which was released last month. The study focused on people born between 1946 and 1964, aged 47 to 68, in order to get a fuller picture of the national homelessness rate. According to an [article](#) in *The Washington Post*, researchers did omit people who were homeless but died before reaching ages 47 to 68. Their findings suggested that the consequences of homelessness are particularly harsh for African Americans and are seemingly connected to higher poverty rates.

### **Addiction Could Stem From Ancient Retrovirus**

An ancient retrovirus that predates modern humans may explain why people suffer from addiction. Researchers studied drug users in two cities and found they were up to three times more likely than the general population to have remnants of the HK2 virus within a particular gene in their DNA. According to a CNN [report](#), the virus dates back at least to Neanderthals and is present in the RASGRF2 gene—which a researcher called the “pleasure gene” because it increases the activity of dopamine in the brain—in about 5 percent to 10 percent of people. That proportion of the population could therefore be more disposed to addictive behavior, the researchers said.

### **Nearly Half of American Middle Class Could Face Poverty in Retirement**

Some 40 percent of middle-class Americans face a slide into poverty as they enter their retirement, a recent study by the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis at the New School has concluded. That risk has been driven by depressed earnings, depressed asset values, and increased health care costs—prompting 74 percent of Americans planning to work past traditional retirement age. According to a [report](#) by CNBC, both private and public pension plans have been allowed to become seriously underfunded. Roughly 40 percent of Americans who are considered middle class (based on their income levels) will fall into poverty or near poverty by the time they reach age 65, according to the study.



[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

[CEO](#): Union Rescue Mission of Wichita, Wichita, KS

[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

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[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

[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



## The Shade Tree

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).*

Have you ever planted a tree? I have vivid memories of planting a tree with my dad in our backyard when I was very young. At the time, I remember thinking my dad had dug the biggest hole I had ever seen. It was a lot of work for him, and it seemed like an incredible feat of strength to me, considering the hole was as deep as I was tall.

Despite the work, my dad had a plan. He knew that tree would grow to be very large, providing shade and protection to the west side of our home from the hot afternoon sun. Digging that hole was worth it because someday, that tree would serve a purpose.

In many ways, planting a tree is similar to spiritual growth.

When we faithfully plant the good news of Jesus into the lives of those we encounter, and they accept it, the Word of God takes root in their hearts. As we nurture this growth, God transforms their hearts into something beautiful. And as they mature, they realize their divine purpose and role in God's Kingdom. And it can all start by just sharing the gospel.

My dad knew he was planting a shade tree. He may not have known that tree would provide shade for countless family picnics, or that its limbs would provide the perfect place to hang his granddaughter's first swing.

When we share the gospel with the world, we may or may not see the fruits of our labor because spiritual growth takes time. But never forget that God is in control of the process, and he has a plan for the future.

So many people are ready to give their lives to Christ if someone would only show them how. Don't be surprised if God has chosen you to show another person the way to him.

*Devotional by Mark Henderson; used with permission of Daily Devotionals, [www.shortdailydevotions.com](http://www.shortdailydevotions.com).*

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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