



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

Useful news and information for members

Volume 14, Number 10 | May 15, 2020 | [www.citygatenetwork.org](http://www.citygatenetwork.org)

 Feedback

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### **It's Time to REVIVE!**

That's the theme for the special event we are planning for members in Naples, Florida, September 1-4. The program is now in place and ready for you to [check it out](#). The whole purpose of the event is to allow you to get back together with colleagues and relax a bit—to refresh your spirit, replenish your energy, and renew your vision. We have assembled a strong line-up of platform guests and workshops leaders who can “pour into you” following this challenging season of depletion and stress. Remember, the venue has limited capacity, so if you want to join us, don't wait too long to get registered and [book your hotel accommodations](#).

### **You Should Look at the Farmers to Family Food Box Program**

Through the Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is working to keep farmers and producers in business and distribute the food that would normally go to restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities to families in need through charities that can distribute or serve it. They need to move up to \$3 billion worth. Do you want in? The program is called the [Farmers to Families Food Box](#). To assist you and to keep this food from going to waste, Citygate Network has now joined with CityServe International and several other organizations whose names you know to bring this food right to you...if you want it and can use it. Basically, this is an unencumbered way of getting good food, at no charge to you, that would otherwise have to be thrown out. Do you want to know more and possibly participate? Join us this coming Wednesday, May 20, at Noon Mountain Time for a Zoom meeting with CityServe, Citygate Network, and others. [Contact Sam Edwards](#) for the Zoom link.

### **New PPP Loan Information Released**

On Wednesday, the [Treasury distributed a new FAQ addressing the “economic uncertainty” certification](#). For borrowers who receive a PPP loan of less than \$2 million, it removes the pressure added by the PPP guidance that went out last month. Although the May 14 deadline to return the money has now passed, this information might give you some assurance if you've decided to keep the funds you received through the program. Scroll down to Question #46 for the latest clarification, added on May 13, 2020.

### **Mark Your Calendar to Learn More About a Valuable Curriculum Available to You**

Adult & Teen Challenge (ATC) has earned their reputation as the industry leader for material to minister to those struggling with addiction issues. They have more than 60 years of experience developing and implementing these dynamic discipleship tools for their 200-plus residential centers across North America. As a contract partner, ATC can now offer Citygate Network members a discounted rate on these materials designed to help you guide your students toward life transformation. For more information

about ATC's ministry philosophy and these excellent resources, [download a brochure](#). Also, [register here for the upcoming webinar](#) we have organized to provide our members with course and curriculum options and uses, as well as discount and access information.

## **Media Competition Coming Soon**

Although timing has changed because of the pandemic, we will still hold our 2020 Citygate Network Media Innovation Competition. The contest recognizes member ministries for their pursuit of excellence in innovative print and online offerings, highlighting some of the most effective media created by our members. The contest is a free member benefit and bestows an Award of Excellence, an Award of Merit, and up to three Honorable Mentions for each category and budget size group. Information will be forthcoming in the very near future, but in the meantime, [check out the categories and criteria](#). Keep an eye on your inbox for more details coming soon. We can't wait to celebrate your creativity!

## **Register Now for the May Online Ripple Effect Board Event**

Citygate Network plans to continue its popular board performance-acceleration program as scheduled with the initial teaching portion occurring online. CEOs: If you have wanted to take advantage of the Ripple Effect program but haven't been able to—possibly because of distance and the inability for key board members to be away a couple days—here is your best opportunity to participate in this highly acclaimed program. The two-day teaching segment will take place May 27-28. The incredibly low \$600 registration fee includes the two-day event; expert on-site coaching (or via Zoom, if preferred); all materials; and an online governance resource repository. [Please email Program Director Ed Morgan](#) for more information or [register here today](#).

## **Looking Down the Street**

- After devoting 28 years to **Wheeler Missions** (Indianapolis, Indiana), yesterday marked the last day of work for Cal Nelson. Cal started as the head of youth and family programs and eventually became the chief program officer. Cal's other claim to fame is that he introduced John Ashmen to the Citygate Network (then AGRM) search committee in 2006 when the organization was looking for its next CEO.
- **City Rescue Mission** (Jacksonville, Florida) took advantage of the recent celebrity PSAs Citygate Network produced. Using them as radio spots, they have translated into more than \$113,000 in donations so far!
- The [National Guard came in to run testing for 305 guests](#) at the **Open Door Mission** (Omaha, Nebraska) on Monday, May 11. In preparation, the mission has designated a "hot-wing" of the shelter for those who test positive and has also reduced their shelter capacity from 917 to 450 to facilitate practicing safe social distancing among the residents.
- The feedback from **Fellowship Missions** (Winona Lake, Indiana) on their collaboration with nearby Camp Crosley has been very encouraging. CEO Eric Lane says he could write books about how the experience has far exceeded any expectations, and that they have witnessed amazing life transformation throughout the process.

- **City Rescue Mission** (Cincinnati, Ohio) explored new territory, holding a virtual youth banquet on the evening of May 14th. [Check out what they were able to pull together on short notice](#), thanks to modern technology and an innovative team!

**TELL US:** Do you have news to share with other network members? Send a blurb to [Alice Gifford](#). Include as many details as possible. We'll handle the editing.



### **City Sued for Neighborhood Conditions**

A law school, residents, and businesses in the inner-city [Tenderloin District of San Francisco have filed a lawsuit](#) because their sidewalks have become "unsanitary, unsafe, and often impassable" due to approximately 400 tents and makeshift structures on the streets during the coronavirus pandemic. Since January, the numbers have tripled as homeless shelters have had to adjust capacities to operate within the social distancing requirements. Rather than seeking financial reward, the lawsuit demands that the city clean up the streets littered with drug needles and human waste. The mayor has just initiated a plan to move people to "safe-sleeping" encampments and enforce rules requiring the tents be at least six feet apart, as well as closing off some streets, adding wash stations and restrooms, and increasing health services and access to food, according to a Fox News report.

### **High School Girls Frustrated by Competing Against Transgender Males**

The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) has filed suit against the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference on behalf of three [female high school students who feel it's unjust that the state allows biological males to compete in their division](#) based on their "gender identity," giving them an unfair advantage. The case calls attention to the fact that two transgender sprinters have combined to win 15 indoor and outdoor girls championship events over the course of two years; titles previously held by ten different girls. Although the judge in the case requested that the transgender athletes should not be referred to as "males" during the proceedings, the lead attorney for ADF feels their biology as males is relevant to the case and plans to use the verbiage accordingly. Connecticut and 17 other states allow students to compete in whatever sports division they choose, regardless of their biological sex.

### **Hiring Practices Must Change to Accommodate Social Distancing and Work from Home**

With so many people out of work, organizations with current hiring needs certainly have a lot of candidates to choose from. However, [the interview process has changed, by necessity](#), and HR managers have had to figure out new ways to identify which applicants will fit their needs best without an in-person

meeting. How can hiring managers get a good sense about potential employees exclusively through video and/or telephone interactions? How can the applicant get a feel for the workplace without seeing it in person? According to an Inc.com article, companies will need to beef up their prescreening questions and rely much more heavily on due diligence and references, while getting creative about innovative ways to connect with potential hires.



### **COVID-19 Health Risks and Hardship Hitting Certain Segments Harder**

Statistics show that food insecurity during the pandemic and economic crisis has hit blacks, Hispanics, and low-income populations disproportionately. They seem to have a higher risk of infection and death from COVID-19, losing their jobs, and being financially unable to make ends meet as a result. In response, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has proposed a relief package that includes higher maximum SNAP (food stamp) benefits and fixing SNAP limitations in the relief measures already enacted in an attempt to help [households with the highest risk for homelessness, food insecurity, and other hardships](#). A national poll found that 20 percent of Hispanic adults and 16 percent of black adults were laid off or furloughed in late April/early May, compared to 11 percent of white adults and 12 percent of other races and ethnicities. Food insecurity shows a similar spike with 29 percent of Black households reporting not enough food or money, and 34 percent of Hispanic households, compared to just under 23 percent for whites and other ethnicities.

### **Congressional Letter Submitted Requesting Changes to the Universal Charitable Deduction**

Representatives Doug Lamborn, Chris Smith, and Henry Cuellar co-led a [bipartisan letter with 13 of Members of Congress to House and Senate leadership requesting an expansion of universal charitable giving deductions](#) for the 2021 tax year. The current cap established in the CARES Act for non-itemized charitable deductions is \$300 dollars. If the current cap is raised or abolished, it will encourage taxpayers to give additional support to nonprofits. Charitable organizations are working tirelessly during the coronavirus pandemic and are more vital than ever. Non-profit organizations in the United States account for 10 percent of GDP and employ approximately 12 million workers.

### **COVID-19 Claiming More Lives Than Just Those Infected with the Virus**

According to an analysis conducted by the national public health group, Well Being Trust, as many [as 75,000 Americans could die because of substance abuse and suicide as a result of the coronavirus pandemic](#). Sounding the alarm about the effects of the growing unemployment crisis, economic

downturns, in addition to stresses of isolation, and uncertainty, the group is imploring local, state, and federal authorities to take action before these "deaths of despair" accumulate. Experts suggest that such significant numbers could be prevented by addressing the mental health toll of these circumstances and improving access to high quality mental health treatments and community support.



[AOH Counselor- Client Manager](#), Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

[Business Director](#), Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Indio, CA

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[Safety Team](#), Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Short-Term Living Coordinator Men's Ministry](#), Lebanon Rescue Mission, Inc., Lebanon, PA

[Social Work/Clinical Manager](#), Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO



## Working Through Opposition

*There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.*

I Corinthians 16:9

Take a look at three encouragements from this short verse in Corinthians:

**1. There are wide-open doors for the Gospel today.**

We see open doors when we look (and pray) for them. During this pandemic, we can follow Paul's lead and keep pressing through them.

**2. Be a ready worker for the harvest.**

Jesus said the problem isn't opportunity—it's people power. Imagine a starving city surrounded by grain fields of all kinds. What if you and your team are the ones who can harvest that grain and feed your city? That's what you are doing! Our cities are starving right now—and ready for the harvest, more ways than one. Be a willing worker, embrace the discomfort of opposition, set aside your fear, and keep serving.

**3. Take spiritual opposition as a positive sign.**

Often we get discouraged when ministry is hard. When it seems like we're attacked on all sides. But that's a good sign! The Devil hates those wide-open doors and fruit-bearing trees. The harvest comes with a fight. So, keep smiling on the frontlines and see the opposition as a confirmation.

What challenge or encouragement can you take from 1 Corinthians 16:9 today?

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