



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

Useful news and information for members

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USICH Work Group COVID-19 Update

The federal agencies and providers that meet by phone every Monday morning talked today about the U.S. having now reached 4.6 million cumulative COVID-19 cases. But it does look like we've hit the top of the second peak, and we are possibly entering a downward trajectory overall with the general population. True to what we've been saying, there has not been much of a second wave in the homeless community. The number of homeless hospitalizations is now close to its pre-COVID level. In the general (as opposed to homeless) population, the ten states with the highest number of cases per thousand people are: Hawaii, Rhode Island, Oklahoma, Alaska, Massachusetts, Michigan, South Dakota, Missouri, Tennessee, and Illinois. FEMA was on the call and reminded everyone to watch the path of Tropical Storm Isaias. As of now, those who should pay particular attention are the outer islands of the Carolinas and Maryland. Protecting people from COVID-19 in the middle of a major storm can be especially challenging. Citygate Network will immediately send out a *COVID-19 Dispatch* for any urgent developments. Stay safe out there. Keep using PPE, keep adhering to CDC protocols, don't let up on sanitation procedures, and screen all volunteers thoroughly (including asking where they have been over the past two weeks).

Three Days Grace Given for Major Survey

Thank you to all Citygate Network members who completed our very significant demographic and future-focused survey. Association Metrics says that as of this past Friday, a majority of our member CEOs had completed it...but a handful who started it have not (yet) finished. We really need those responses. Therefore, we've moved the deadline to midnight Wednesday, August 5 (the day after tomorrow). If you have any questions about the survey, [email Justin Boles](#) or call him at 719-266-8300, ext. 104. And if you haven't started yet, but lost track of the link, [click here for the online version](#). You still have time.

Naples REVIVE! Event Cautiously Moving Forward

Adapting to multiple restrictions put in place by the State of Florida, the City of Naples, and the Naples Beach Hotel, Citygate Network is still planning to hold its member gathering, as promoted, September 1 – 4. Registrants have been polled to ascertain their intentions to travel and participate. Many are still "in" for a safe, smart event. The same holds true for many of the exhibitors. The number one reason the organization is cautiously moving forward is because so many of our members are "Zoomed out" and "conference called out" and want to physically be in the company of others who understand them and what they have been going through since March. And we know that at some point, in the not too distant future, kindred groups like ours will be getting back together for events. We're willing to be one of the first, as long as we can do it and still take all of the required and desired precautions. [Click this link if you would like to see what those are](#). And if you would still like to go but haven't signed up, [you can find all of the details and registration on our website](#). Citygate Network will make one more assessment no later than August 14 to see if anything has changed to make holding the event impractical.

Hotel Room Rate Officially Ends Tonight

If you are still in a holding pattern for Naples and haven't booked your room yet, [jump in there today and get one reserved.](#) The rate goes up at midnight tonight. If necessary, you can cancel it later without a penalty.

Recording Available for July 29 Network-Wide Call

Last Wednesday, Citygate Network held another Zoom call to keep members in the loop about the latest pertinent COVID-19 information. Robert Marbut, director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and Emily Mosites with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave up-to-date outlooks and answered questions. Todd Lamphere, Chief-of-Staff for Pastor Paula White (Director of the White House Faith-Based Office, also briefed participants on the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. [To hear a recording of the call, log in to the Citygate Network website to access the link](#) in the COVID-19 toolkit.

Last Call to Host Live 2020 Global Leadership Summit This Week

If you want to engage in an online training event, your mission or ministry can host the highly acclaimed Global Leadership Summit (GLS) right from your own campus. Be encouraged, equipped, and inspired by the world-class faculty and presenters. Through Citygate Network, you can do all that at no cost to you. Taking place August 6-7, this livestream event will allow you, your staff, students, and clients to discover their influence, grow leadership ability, and strengthen relationships. [Click here to learn more about becoming a host organization](#) or [contact Sam Edwards](#) for more information.

Webinar Offered on Preventing Caregiver Burnout

The Faith-Based Office at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues their webinar series based on the new *Compassion in Action Guide*. Part 3 will cover The Caregiver Principle, which focuses on how faith communities can minister to families and caregivers of those suffering from mental illness, as they serve in the midst of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual exhaustion. [Register here for the August 6, 2020 12:00 PM EDT session](#). Faith community members have a unique opportunity to extend tangible love, support, and respite before the road to burnout even begins, and this webinar will explore how they can lean into their work. [Previous webinars in this series are also available](#).

New Mankind Certification Coming This Fall

Citygate Network is excited to continue partnering with ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry Services) to offer *ManKind*, a valuable new facilitator's certification course. This faith-based intervention program is designed to be co-led by a male and female facilitator team. Coupled with the successful completion of *Her Journey* certification, *Mankind* will prepare you to lead men's groups successfully. [Register for Her Journey](#), slated to begin August 26, 2020, and then [register for the in-person Mankind facilitator training](#) scheduled to take place at the Rockford Rescue Mission in Rockford, Illinois from October 19-23, 2020.

Looking Down the Street

- Citygate Network is pleased to introduce **Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs, Inc.** (Hot Springs, Arkansas) as our newest member in the Rawhide District. Feel free to [email a warm welcome to Executive Director Jan Laggan](#).
- We also want to introduce our newest business members:
Xledger, Inc. (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
Xledger equips nonprofits around the world with powerful capabilities for financial management to help you reduce your costs, heighten your efficiency, and gain better insight into every corner of your organization.
Ragsoft Consulting (San Clemente, California)
Ragsoft offers a complete analysis of your current textile/linen/uniform supplier's billing practices to identify cost-saving measures that can save you thousands.
- Michael Gullatte has led the **Cleveland County Rescue Mission** (CCRM) (Shelby, North Carolina) for the last ten years. Recently, when the Lord called the Gullattes to take on a new ministry, Michael turned to fellow CEO, Micheal Woods of **Western Carolina Rescue Mission** (WCRM) (Asheville, North Carolina) for wisdom and insight. After much discussion and prayer, the two missions agreed on a merger. Located just 80 miles apart, Micheal will serve as Executive Director for both organizations, with the day-to-day operations at CCRM being managed by Operations Director Dim Smith.
- John Koesema just started his tenure as the CEO at **G.I.F.T.S. Men's Shelter** (Janesville, Wisconsin) in mid-July. He comes to the mission from **Dallas Life** (Dallas, Texas). If you're part of the Great Lakes District, [reach out to welcome him](#) to his new assignment.
- Many nonprofit leaders want to know how COVID-19 will impact charitable giving over the remainder of 2020. Citygate Network business member **DickersonBakker** (Asheville, North Carolina), recently completed a nationwide donor survey to shed light on that topic. They will present their findings in [a webinar exclusively for Citygate Network members on Tuesday, August 11, at 2:00 p.m. ET](#). Some of the questions they will answer include, whether to expect more or less money from donors as a result of COVID-19, how shifting giving patterns and priorities will affect future giving to missions and kindred ministries, and how long before donors can/will attend fundraising events again?

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.



Economic Relief for Canadian Provinces and Territories

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a \$19 billion [deal to help local economies rebound from the pandemic and prepare for a potential second wave](#), including more testing and contact tracing, as well as enhanced support for vulnerable communities. According to a detailed fiscal snapshot, Canadian women have

experienced a much steeper decline in employment since the pandemic started, and men are rebounding twice as fast as economies reopen.

Canadian Military Procuring Special Health Equipment

CTV News reports that the Department of National Defense has initiated steps to boost their capacity to provide [medical support and transportation for patients with infectious diseases](#). Some of these measures include specialized shipping containers that accommodate up to 12 people and Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft that will allow patients to receive medical care while onboard, as well as barriers to separate the air crew from passengers.

Indigenous Communities at Higher Risk from COVID-19

According to an article in *Human Rights Watch*, [Canada has struggled to protect their First Nations communities from the pandemic](#). Although federal and provincial governments have urged handwashing and social distancing as the best defense against the virus, many indigenous people lack access to clean water and inadequate funding for housing has led to overcrowding, making social distancing difficult. This segment of the Canadian population has a disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness and living in poverty, as well as high rates of underlying health conditions, making them at higher risk for suffering from COVID-19. Too often, indigenous people face discrimination in accessing health care services because of where they live, and travel to medical centers is expensive and challenging. Many First Nations communities also do not have access to personal protective equipment (PPE). The Canadian government has taken steps to address these concerns, but deeper reforms are necessary to dismantle barriers and ensure supplies are distributed equitably.



Dogs Detecting COVID-19 Infections

Bloomberg reports that with only a few days of training, eight dogs from Germany's armed forces had a [94 percent success rate in identifying people infected with the Coronavirus](#), according to a study by a German veterinary university. In the pilot project, researchers challenged the dogs to sniff the saliva of more than 1,000 people, including healthy and infected individuals. Because the metabolic processes in the body of a diseased patient completely change, and dogs have a sense of smell about 1,000 times more sensitive than humans, they seem to detect a specific smell. This could prove useful at numerous venues like airports, border crossings, and sporting events. Next, they will work on training the dogs to differentiate between COVID-19 and other diseases, like influenza.

Face Masks Complicating Facial Recognition

In light of the pandemic, many counties, states, and provinces have instituted face covering mandates. And while masks provide some level of protection, they also introduce nightmares for facial recognition technology. According to a preliminary study from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the [facial recognition algorithms designed before the pandemic have struggled to recognize facial features](#) beneath the covering. The situation has actually served to further facial recognition technology as companies scramble to adapt; prompting advances that will make it even more powerful than before.

LA Homeless Involved in Voter Fraud

Four men pleaded no contest to charges of voter fraud for [paying homeless people in Los Angeles's Skid Row in exchange for forged signatures on ballot petitions](#) and voter registration forms. The voter scheme fraud involved nine people in total who gave homeless people cigarettes and \$1 each in exchange for their signatures, amassing hundreds of false signatures that were used to help initiatives qualify in the 2016 and 2018 election cycles.



Surprising Survey Results on Monument Removal

The Wall Street Journal conducted a poll proposing four [different ways to deal with the controversial, yet historical monuments](#) that have been the target of vandalism in recent demonstrations. The two extreme options suggested complete removal and destruction of the offensive statues, or at the other end of the spectrum, just leaving them as they stand. Two alternatives fell between these extremes; either remove the monuments and place them in a museum or private collection, or leave the statues standing but install plaques explaining the historical context. The results came back less polarizing than expected. Only 10 percent favored complete removal and destruction, and just 16 percent wanted to leave them alone. Thirty-one percent selected the removal to museums option, and 41 percent preferred the installation of plaques. Among those who voted to leave them alone, more were Republicans than Democrats, and of the 10 percent who wanted complete removal and destruction, most were young. The majority of black respondents selected one of the middle options.

Funding for New California Project to Build Housing for the Homeless

California Governor Gavin Newsom said \$600 million is available for the state's ["Homekey" initiative to revamp properties and create housing](#) for those without homes. The project will massively expand housing for the state's homeless population with federal stimulus funds. It will require collaboration between city and county partners to acquire and rehabilitate hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and other properties chosen by local leaders who will apply for the grant money. Project Homekey follows on the heels of Project Roomkey which made more than 15,600 hotel and motel rooms available to homeless people during the pandemic as a means to protect them from the virus and promote social distancing by reducing the population

at shelters. Unfortunately, many see this as another poor attempt to institute another zero-accountability housing initiative. During Project Roomkey, more than half of the rooms secured were not used. [Initial attempts at the Governor's plan in San Francisco have failed miserably.](#)

Taking the Leap to Online Posting

Following a survey of hundreds of marketers, LinkedIn reported that 69 percent list [the switch from in-person to virtual events as one of their top challenges](#) in navigating and adjusting to the age of COVID-19, second only to budget cuts. Forty percent have already made the leap or currently have plans to move to an online format. According to stats compiled by Infographic Design Team, [video content gets the most engagement across all platforms](#). Some of the astounding numbers gathered include that about 100 million hours of video are watched on Facebook every day, Instagram posts with video get a 38 percent higher engagement, Snapchat users watch 10 billion videos a day, YouTube leads the pack with 83 percent of global video content, and video tweets are six times more likely to be retweeted than photo tweets.



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

[Business Operations Director](#), Kitsap Rescue Mission, Bremerton, WA

[Camp Bennett Maintenance Manager](#), Central Union Mission

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

[CEO/President](#), Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA

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[Food Service Support](#), LifePath Christian Ministries, York, PA

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[Nonprofit Management Department Chair \(online\)](#), City Vision University, Kansas City, MO

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[Safety Coordinator](#), Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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

[Shelter Monitor](#), Kitsap Rescue Mission, Bremerton, WA

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

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

[Tech Support/Student Services \(work from home\)](#), Techmission/City Vision University, Kansas City, MO

[Women's New Life Growth Manager](#), Portland Rescue Mission, Portland, OR



Full of the Spirit and Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-21 (NIV)

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

In Acts 6, we read about the first major organizational problem the new church faced; overwhelming growth. (Most churches would love to have that problem.) Since many Jews made a pilgrimage to the Harvest Festival of Booths (Pentecost) and the Passover 50 days before, suddenly there were multitudes of new Christians hanging around to soak up as much as they could.

Because finances began running low for many, the apostles set up a daily food distribution. Apparently, some Greek widows weren’t getting food; perhaps due to the language barrier, or maybe the organizers somehow overlooked them. Let’s give them the benefit of the doubt and not jump to the conclusion that the Greek women were being intentionally excluded.

When the situation was brought to the apostles’ attention, they acted immediately to avoid allowing this logistical problem to become divisive. They appointed seven deacons to supervise the distribution; choosing people “known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom,” allowing the apostles to continue preaching, teaching, and seeking God’s guidance for the new movement.

It’s easy to see why the deacons needed wisdom, but why did they need to be “full of the Spirit?”

When you’re talking about ministry, it should naturally reflect the character of Jesus. A job can get done, but if it’s not carried out with warmth and encouragement, it’s missing a vital component of service. In serving “the least of these,” our ultimate goal should be to point them to a deeper relationship with Jesus. In order to do this, we really need to be full of the Spirit, as well as wisdom.

Submitted by: Thomas D. McCrossan, City Mission of Schenectady, Schenectady, NY

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](#).