



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

## VOLUNTEER COUPLE'S STORY (Part 1)

Terry and Pamela Johnson met the day after Pamela got out of serving a prison sentence for something she states, "I DIDN'T DO!" Pamela will tell you that what she *didn't do* is pick the phone up and dial 911 after her boyfriend committed murder. **A decision that cost a small town girl, raised with high moral standards, seven and a half years of her life behind bars.**

Growing up in a small agricultural community in California, Pamela was brought up learning about good morals and how to read her Bible. She reminisces about being her mothers' little shadow, volunteering at their local food bank and VFW, and describes her step-father as "Mr. Rogers". Pamela fondly remembers her step-dad, a patient and kind man, taking the family for Sunday drives to listen and talk with them. Behind the picture perfect family, Pamela was scarred with memories of repeated molestation by multiple people. The abuse included violent offenses, possibly resulting in her inability to conceive children, leaving her with a twisted self-image that she was only worth what she could "put out!"

During her senior year, Pamela's mother divorced her stepdad, and moved into town with Pamela, and Pamela's niece who lived with them. She recalls feeling like she was "in the way". Pamela's mom eventually sent her away to live in Las Vegas with her birth father whom she didn't know. Her mother had only referred to him as "Good-For-Nothing" and told Pamela he had molested her when she was little. Hurt and confused, Pamela did not understand why her mom would send her away to live with him after all these years.

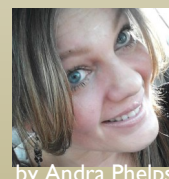
Pamela's life in chaos, she ended up getting back together with her high school sweetheart.



Terry and Pamela  
Johnson

He was her first boyfriend who stuck to her like glue. Their co-dependent relationship seemed to be going fine until the day he spun out of control, taking the life of someone who threatened to tear them apart. In shock and more confused than ever, Pamela didn't have the wherewithal to call the police.

Pamela was sentenced to serve five to twelve years in the state of Nevada where her outgoing, bubbly personality became withdrawn and overwhelmed by crowds. Being a bright and creative person with a high school diploma, Pamela tutored inmates in jail and had much time to self-reflect. Dealing with abandonment issues, Pamela recalls her mom always saying, "You make your bed, you



by Andra Phelps

May 2013





## ALBERTA HOUSE

Apartments



Home improvement has been happening here at the Alberta House.

*It has been*

*IN WITH THE NEW*

*& OUT WITH THE OLD!*

I'm talking of course about some remodeling.

Our maintenance person has been hard at work **replacing cabinetry, flooring, and sinks** as well as the usual painting to keep things fresh and clean.

This labor of love has been

**WELL WORTH IT!**



By Wes Heimbecker



## Pastor's Point

Staff and volunteers often wonder if I watch over how they serve here at The City Gate. Actually, I spend more time watching how our guests respond to those who are serving.

People can tell when you have the right heart and intentions. How we present ourselves and respond can make a big difference.

There are many times when someone is acting out and we want to react with a heavy hand yet, "A soft answer turns away wrath". (Prov. 15:1)

One man told me, "All I want is to be heard. If that can't happen, FORGET IT!" Sometimes we need to take a time out before we approach someone. It's important to THINK before we respond and seek the WHY someone is acting the way they are before making a judgment call.

Let's REMEMBER God's Word,

*"Whatever you do in word or deed, DO IT UNTO THE LORD!" (Col. 3:17)*

Pastor John





## A WORD FROM THE BOARD

### NEEDS

#### Men's Clothing

- Jeans (all sizes)
- Underwear (new)
- Shoes- sz. 10 & up
- Spring & summer clothing

#### Women's Clothing

- Underwear (new)
- Shoes
- Spring & summer clothing

#### Toiletries

- Deodorant
- Razors
- Toothpaste

#### Food Bank

- Non-perishable items

#### Miscellaneous

- COFFEE (always!)
- Grocery bags

*Now that spring and summer are near, we are looking for lighter weight clothing*

**Please,  
NO winter clothing  
at this time.**

Thank you for your help...  
Together, WE ARE  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

### A place of hope and renewal!

Jeremiah 29:11 says *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* I believe the Lord has this plan in mind for every soul that enters our doors. Everyone has a need for hope and a place to belong. God wants us to reach out to each and every hurting and lost person that comes across our path. The needs are many and if God is tugging at your heart to help in any way at all, there are many things that can be done.

\* First and foremost is **PRAYER**.

If you are a prayer warrior, I implore you to use your gift to the fullest measure.

\* Another way to help is to **VOLUNTEER** and see what the Lord is doing and maybe if He has a place where He wants you to serve.

\* Then there are **DONATIONS** of food, seasonal clothing, and especially finances.

Any of these services can help give our folks hope and a future. I invite you to come visit and see what's going on in the inner city. I believe you'll be pleasantly surprised the impact that is being made on the lives that enter our doors.



Terri Clouse

In His name, Terri

### April 2013 Statistics

#### **Kitchen:**

8,127 meals served

#### **Bread/Produce Share:**

1,598 appointments

#### **Food Bank:**

219 people served  
6,230 lbs. of food

#### **Clothing Bank:**

226 people served

#### **Volunteer Time:**

663.5 hours

Check out our

## **NEW WEBSITE**

[www.thecitygatespokane.org](http://www.thecitygatespokane.org)

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆☆ **SPECIAL REQUEST ALERT!** ☆☆

☆☆ Do you have any ideas on how to obtain hotel size

☆☆ **hygiene items** in bulk? ☆☆

☆☆ Give us a call, facebook us or just drop them off! ☆☆  
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## The City Gate

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Website - [www.thecitygatespokane.org](http://www.thecitygatespokane.org)

Facebook - Thecitygate Spokane

***"A Gathering Place"***

***Matthew 11:28***

## The City Gate Staff

- John Murinko, Pastor
- Shirley Murinko, co-director/office mgr.
- Bonnie Murinko, co-director/food bank
- Jim Hahn, food bank
- Don Lanegan, dining room mgr.
- Melissa Godin, kitchen
- Bruce Woolard, kitchen
- James Horton, cook
- Helen Crawford, clothing bank
- Andra Phelps, public relations
- Wes Heimbecker, social services
- James Gulbranson, security
- Carrie Brown, Alberta House Mgr.

## Please Pray For:

- Selah
- Terry
- David
- Jasmine
- Tina



**Don't forget!**  
**Church service**  
**every Sunday at 10 am**

Without the support of all the volunteers who give their time and energy to this ministry, The City Gate would not be the haven it is to so many people. Whether you come once a week or once a year, you have contributed to keeping this place up and running. Your donations, whether time, money, food, or clothing, have done much to help the people who walk through our doors everyday. As a staff and as Christians, we want to thank you for heeding the voice of the Lord and ask you to keep us in your prayers as we continue this journey.