



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives



October 2013

The light is on!  
A poem by a client



Jim explains, **“The City Gate is a REFUGE, a place to be able to relax and not worry about the insanity.”** In his darkest time this year, Jim was tempted to go back to his old way of handling stress. His past catching up with him, he felt the weight of financial pressures and his living arrangements were less than desirable. When Jim, our cook, came to work at The City Gate and shared with Bonnie, our co-director, that he wanted to give up, she acted immediately. Bonnie met with our social worker, Wes, as well as Carrie, the Alberta House apartment manager, and together the three of them came up with a plan. By the next day Jim moved into the Alberta House with hope in his heart and a better outlook on life. Jim shares, “I will never forget what they did for me.”



JIM HORTON

For Mr. Horton, finding a job and making good money was never an issue. James Horton got out of the military at 25 years old and went to work for his fathers' engineering company where he ended up working as the director of safety. The experience landed Jim a job at the University of California in San Francisco as the asbestos project coordinator and from there, he moved on to being a safety officer for multiple hospitals in San Francisco. Money seemed to never be a problem.

Jim's childhood was ridden with the kind of abuse that no one wants to openly talk about. At an early age he learned never to trust people. **With a hardened heart Jim ended up what he refers to as, “A USER,” willing to do anything it took to get what he wanted. “Whatever I could get out of my job, women, the moment, I used everything!”** Jim remembers, “To be promoted in the military I went drinking every night with the 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant and higher NCO's to get noticed.” He quickly learned to self-medicate with alcohol and by the 80's, cocaine.

After multiple felonies, the department of corrections gave Jim the option to either go into Union Gospel Missions' Good Workers Program or prison. This was his fifth time getting clean, having gone through three different programs. Finally, Jim came to the realization that he couldn't do it alone, and decided to turn control over to God. With divine intervention, this time it has stuck. He shares, “At one point I had been clean and sober for seven years but miserable the entire time. I was what you call an “AA whore” going to every meeting available but NEVER feeling free. I'd leave the meeting and all I could think about was how much I wanted to have a drink.” Jim explains that each day was a struggle not to use, however today, he doesn't even think about it! This October Jim celebrates three years clean and sober. Having now built healthy relationships, he meets with an accountability group on weekends, that Jim can call on and who care enough about him to check in with him on a regular basis.

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by Andra Phelps

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The staff at The City Gate rejoice with Jim as God has opened doors of greater opportunity for Jim to serve others and continue growing in his relationship with God. Read below **Jim Horton's resignation letter** to The City Gate staff and board of directors.

Due to an incredible job offer, and God making huge changes in my life, I have made the decision to resign as The City Gate's chef. Beginning in October 2012, I began to work at The City Gate. They gave me a secure job and a place to live. Without these simple every day needs, I would not be in the position I am today. Without a doubt, The City Gate and its staff members have given me a sense of belonging. I know I have made friends that will endure for years to come.

**My experience at The City Gate has been filled with compassion and grace and I will forever have that feeling of family. The continuous spiritual guidance that I have received has truly been a blessing from God.** So, THANK YOU, to the board of The City Gate; Bill Davis, Pastor John, Shirley, Bonnie, and my fellow employees for their constant giving and generosity.

God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Jim Horton



**FOOD  
for  
THOUGHT**

**By Pastor John**

## GROW UP!

If it makes you mad to hear that, than get out your bible and look up James 1:23-25. *23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*

Take a good look in the mirror and ask yourself, "Am I reflecting Jesus Christ or my flesh?" The truth is, we have an enemy who wants to pollute our minds and distract us from what God has to say, but greater is our God who wants to bless us in what we do! 1 Cor. 13:11 says, *When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.*

So, GROW UP into the things of God by embracing His Word and being a DOER OF THE WORD and not just a hearer only. Look into the perfect law of liberty (God's Word) and CONTINUE in it, allowing it to grow up on the inside of you into the image of Christ. His Word has the power to **TRANSFORM YOU, GROW YOU UP, & BLESS YOU!**





**A WORD FROM THE BOARD**



As summer fades, and the occasional morning chill is in the air, we realize, once again, that the season is changing. The cooler temperatures are a nice respite from the 80's and 90's of the summer months. And, while the change can be a welcome relief, it also serves as a reminder that colder temperatures are on the way.

Most of us will be changing our wardrobes from shorts and t-shirts to long pants, sweaters and jackets. In the midst of this however, **we sometimes fail to recognize the fact that there is a population of people for whom a wardrobe change is not an option. These are the homeless ... the "street people" ... the unseen poor or elderly.**

The City Gate tries to make a concerted effort to readjust our clothing ministry to accommodate these folks. Although, as people convert to warmer clothes, the donations we tend to receive are the summer clothes no longer suitable for the weather at hand.

Let me request, therefore, that you consider looking through your storage closets, trunks, dressers and attics for clothes that are still in good shape but, for whatever reason, are not worn any longer. Maybe you have sweatshirts or a jacket that you just never seem to wear anymore. When you find these items, and I know all of us have them, rescue them from their place of storage and bring them to The City Gate. They will be put to good use by the folks who come through our doors seeking relief from the cold.

By Russ Deniston  
Board member



POEM BY A CLIENT

The light is on  
Giving me hope  
The light is on  
Struggle and toil  
The light is on  
Food and water  
The light is on at The City Gate

Confused and bewildered  
Ridiculed and embarrassed  
Chastised and accused  
Searched and distrusted

The light is on at The City Gate

Rules by law  
enforced by people

Tears born of sweat  
shared by people

Fears drive anger  
felt by people

Right forces correct  
demanded by people

The light is on at The City Gate

Doing what I believe

Against all odds

Victorious In the end

Impervious in Faith

Doing what I believe

(Philippians 2: 14-15)

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world...

To receive our newsletter  
by email, write to:  
thecitygate@qwestoffice.net

Write your name and  
"EMAIL NEWSLETTER"  
in the subject line.

THANK YOU for helping us



**Fun Fact:** According to Matthew, what are Jonah's days inside the large fish thought to represent?  
**Jesus' 3 days in the tomb.**  
Matt. 12:40 "For as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth."



**Please Pray For:**

- Drug dealers on our streets
- Surrounding Businesses
- Brenda A.
- City Leadership
- Pre-teens on our streets
- Catherine & Gary

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
- Terry Burke, cook
- Andra Phelps, public relations
- Wes Heimbecker, social services
- James Gulbranson, security
- Brenda Grimes, clothing bank
- Sue Shane, kitchen



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## The City Gate

**"A Gathering Place"**

**Matthew 11:28**

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Spokane, WA 99201

509.455.9670

E-mail - [thecitygate@qwestoffice.net](mailto:thecitygate@qwestoffice.net)

Like us on Facebook - The City Gate

Check us out on our website to see MORE of what your prayers, financial support, and donations are doing for the inner-city of Spokane.

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

Thanksgiving is right around the corner which means it's

### **TURKEY TIME!**



## HEY YOU GUYS!!!

Calling all church groups & families to consider

**VOLUNTEERING**  
and/or  
**DONATING**

for our annual  
**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
on Wednesday, Nov. 27th!

Just give us a CALL Tue-Fri, 10-3,  
455-9670 or message us  
on Facebook at The City Gate.

**WE are almost completely out of HYGEINE ITEMS!**

*Now that fall is here, we are looking for*

**COATS/BOOTS**  
**HATS/GLOVES**  
& warmer clothing.

**NO**  
**summer clothes**  
**at this time.**

Without the support of 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, regardless of time, money, food, or clothing, have done so much to help the people who walk through our doors everyday. As pastors 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.

Love, Pastor John & Shirley