



The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

Reclaim



By Andra Phelps

I gotta be honest... serving at The City Gate, at times, is hard on me. For example, recently at a Friday night dinner, I met a lady who came in right after being released from jail. As her head hung low, she quietly asked for prayer for her adult son. He was a meth addict who had just left the dining area. She thought his life was in danger and feared he may be killed.

Humbled and heavy hearted, she stared into her plate, moving the food around with her fork more than actually eating it. With her first felony charge on her mind, she shared thoughts of regret from the poor choices she had made that helped put her in her current predicament.

With no home to go to, she said she had an offer to stay with one of the guys who was there that night for dinner. Having an uneasy feeling about this guy, I immediately called Pastor John to see if he knew anything about this guy who was there to "help." Pastor John confirmed my uneasiness...NOT A SAFE GUY!

Rebuild

I suggested the two women's shelters I was aware of, however, she informed me that she was kicked out of both because of previous poor behavior. One of them told her if she comes back next week, they were willing to work with her if she cooperates and holds up her end of the bargain.

The worst part was, you could hear it in her voice that she TRULY wanted to do things differently and needed help making the proper changes. But there was NOTHING WE COULD DO for her over the weekend as The City Gate's two shelter rooms were full!

Yes, she had a warm meal and out of the cold for one whole hour...YES, I gave her a long sleeved shirt because she had nothing on under her coat, and provided her with a band-aid, helping clean a wound on her wrist from the handcuffs. We prayed, we cried, we smiled, yet I watched her walk out onto the streets with no one she knew OUT THERE that valued her life.

What made "her story" a little different than some of the others I have heard (I have learned to listen with ears to hear truth vs. manipulation) is that her original plea for prayer was for her son. Not herself,

Restore

money, or housing, etc, but for the life she had brought into this world.

She sat with me recalling some bible verses and quoted her very favorite:

Jeremiah 29:11 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 am holding her up in prayer to THE God that spoke those words to her in her heart, and I am thankful that in my lack of ability to do much at all for her, my God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, ABOVE all I can ask or think! She is precious in His sight.

For those of you who took the time to read this, I am asking that you join me in praying for her AND that The City Gate would hear God's plan on how to raise the funds to open a woman's shelter. It isn't an easy task. We would need more people committed financially and to volunteering. There are so many women on the streets that need a safe house.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE!

April 2014 EASTER

CELEBRATE with us!
Look on Page 3



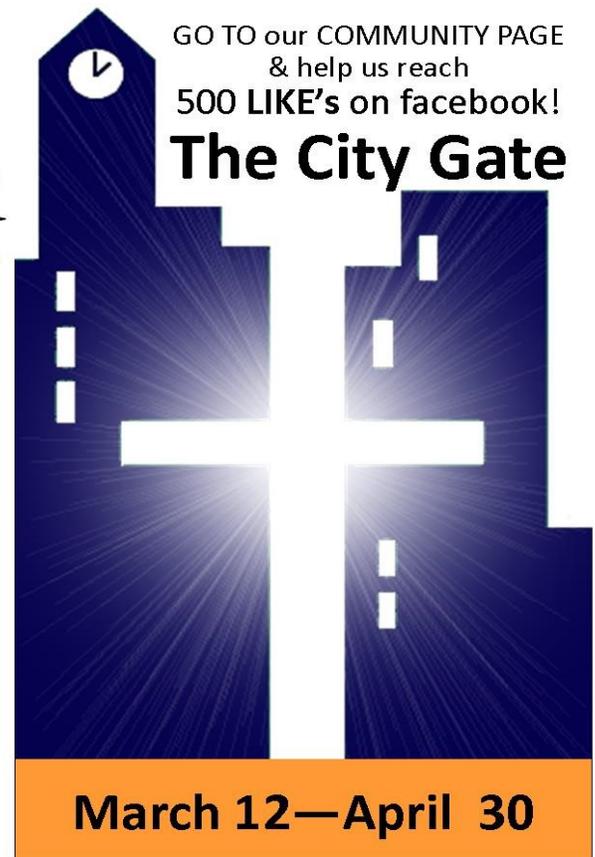
We wouldn't be the blessing we are to the men, women, and children who struggle in Spokane's inner-city without YOUR SUPPORT!

Go to:

www.thecitygatespokane.org

DONATE FINANCIALLY

TODAY!



By Russ Deniston-Board of Trustees

A WORD FROM THE BOARD

You know, it always strikes me when I read articles about The City Gate, (or, for that matter any type of inner city outreach program) that these write-ups of course usually focus on how they are helping people in bad situations out of prostitution, drugs, alcoholism, etc. Obviously, this is true, and even more obvious that this is a very worthy endeavor.

But is it just me, I wonder, that reads such articles, or perhaps helps down at The City Gate, and immediately and pretty much unconsciously starts into a kind of judgment against these particular, very evident kinds of sins? I find myself moving quite quickly to thinking "Well, at least I'm not so bad, because I don't have a problem with _____", or, perhaps, "How could that person have screwed up so badly to be in that place?"

It is easy to look at these behaviors and start to think how bad they are (not that they aren't!), but are they really, ultimately, any worse than the sins that I commit every day? What about the struggles I have with pride in soooo many ways, or, say just being worried & stressed about any number of things? Or, how about what Jesus had to say about even thinking certain thoughts (i.e., lust), and that the thinking was actually the same as the actual doing? Like most of us, I suspect, I keep all of these sins pretty much below the surface & unseen by others, but are these shortcomings any less sinful than the much more overt issues that we see when we look at a homeless person, or someone who is obviously strung out on the drug of their choice?

Easter Dinner

NEEDS

Dinner served from
2pm-5pm, April 20th

*CASH DONATIONS

*FOOD

- Ham-**100 lbs (sliced)**
- Costco dinner rolls - **300**
- Fruit Cocktail - **7 #10 cans**
- Butter pats - **200**
- Colored mini marshmallows
- **2 large bags**
- Cream of mushroom soup
- **1 case (24)**
- Cream of chicken soup
- **1 case (24)**
- Sour Cream - **15 pints**

*SUPPLIES

- Divided chinette plates - **300**
- 8oz clear plastic cups - **300**
- Plastic: forks/spoons/knives
- **300**
- Paper dessert plates - **300**

*VOLUNTEERS

**PLEASE CALL or
Facebook us first**
before purchasing or
dropping items off.

The City Gate
Tuesday-Friday
509-455-9670

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A WORD FROM THE BOARD

I have had to come to the point where I simply have had to consciously try to stop that judgment train of thought as soon as it starts to rise up. I have had to tell myself that when you get right down to it, I'm pretty sure that the Bible speaks out perhaps even more strongly against the self-righteousness that I battle against than it does against unrighteousness. Sure, it speaks against both, of course, but *our very first sin*, the one that led to the downfall of our race, was when we decided to want to be like God by being able to judge for ourselves between what was good, and what was evil.

When he was walking along the roads in Israel, Jesus in fact had a lot more compassion with the adulterers and other obvious sinners as opposed to the righteous people, and it was the religious guys (like me), that he came most strongly against. Not to mention the fact, of course, that just my act of starting to judge someone else is in and of itself an act of sin, just like in the Garden, taking upon myself that which should be left to God alone. What I need to choose is to love, not to judge!

I think Jesus said it best about our impulse to judge others in the midst of our own issues in Matthew 7:

"It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor. *(The Message)*

The NIV uses a plank vs. speck of dust to illustrate this mindset, and so I just keep asking the Lord to help me both to get the plank out of my eye and to keep the sneer off of my face...

To receive our newsletter
by email & in color,
message us at:

thecitygate@qwestoffice.net

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

THANK YOU for helping us
to be good stewards!





To Reclaim, Rebuild, and Restore Lost and Broken Lives

The City Gate

"A Gathering Place"

Matthew 11:28

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See **MORE** of what your prayers, financial support, and donations are doing for the inner-city poor and homeless of Spokane.

www.thecitygatespokane.org

Please Pray For:

- Jimmy & Vickie
- Robin
- David & Linda
- Jeffery
- Brenda



The City Gate staff

- John Murinko, pastor
- Shirley Murinko co-director/office mgr.
- Bonnie Murinko co-director/food bank
- Jim Hahn, food bank
- Buffie Harmon, clothing bank
- Don Lanegan, dining room mgr.
- Danielle Green, kitchen
- Elisha Shelton, kitchen
- Terry Burk, cook extraordinaire
- Andra Phelps, public relations
- Wes Heimbecker, social services
- James Gulbranson, security
- Brenda Gulbranson, kitchen
- Sue Shane, coffee station
- Carrie Brown, Alberta House Mgr.

April 2014 Lives Impacted

- Kitchen:**
11,528 servings
- Bread/Produce:**
1,101 appointments
- Food Bank:**
187 people served
- Clothing Bank:**
183 people served
- Volunteer Time:**
646 hours
- Counseling:**
68 appointments

27 years
serving men, women &
children struggling in
downtown Spokane.

DONATE
Today!



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, prayers 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