

170 South Madison  
Spokane, WA 99206



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives



Touching lives

Changing hearts



October 2014

**OVER 50  
VOLUNTEERS**

**OVER 500  
INNER-CITY  
PEOPLE**

**OVER 700  
MEALS**

**Overflowing in  
GODS LOVE!**

2014 Outreach BBQ!



**THANKSGIVING DINNER  
NEXT MONTH!**

**THANK YOU'S:**

- Barton Motors (use of their parking lot!)
- WSU College of Nursing (nursing station)
- Amazing Grace (karaoke)
- 1st Baptist Church of Deer Park (pies)
- Spokane Faith Center (photo booth & photography)
- 1st Presbyterian youth group (game table & photography)
- And the MANY individuals who prayed, volunteered, baked, donated, and helped make it a day to REMEMBER!



**ALBERTA HOUSE apartments  
+ Emergency Shelters**

Elisha P. Shelton,  
Apartment Manager



As the apartment manager at the Alberta House, I believe that change starts from the inside of each of us and works its way out. Fully supporting clean and sober lifestyles, I want to help everyone in any way that I am able. And God IS on the move!

Recently, we had the opportunity to house a husband and wife in one of our emergency shelter rooms. Fully aware that the wife was the only one with an income, there was great potential in this couple and we knew that we had to help. Through God's grace and growth, currently both of them have jobs, and have been launched from the Alberta House into the next chapter of their lives.

Another testimony that really moved me was a man who came into the Alberta House office seeking help. With a broken spirit and tears in his eyes, God moved on him and he accepted Jesus into his life. He is a big deal to God and I look forward to God leading him into the next step in his life!

Working at the Alberta House, I look to help in any way possible, whether that is painting a room, cleaning floors, or leading someone to Jesus. Change is happening at the Alberta House Apartments, and it's happening now!

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

[thecitygate@gwestoffice.net](mailto:thecitygate@gwestoffice.net)

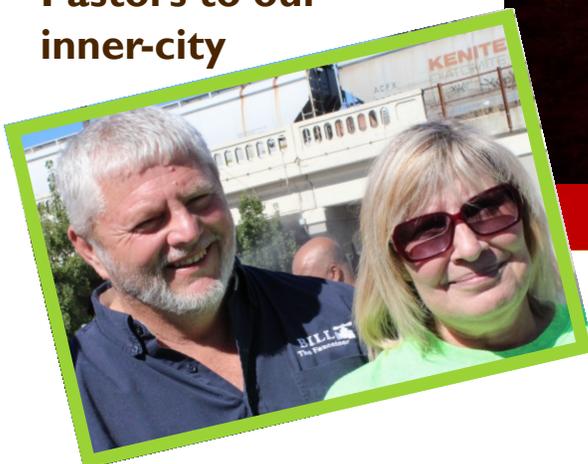
Write your name and "EMAIL NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

THANK YOU for helping us to be good stewards!

**DONATE TODAY**

John & Shirley

**Pastors to our inner-city**



October is

*Pastor*  
APPRECIATION MONTH

25 YEARS of service: Loving, sacrificing, and believing God!

Consider sending a card, facebook message, **THANK YOU**, or a word of encouragement, for their **LOVE & FAITHFULNESS** to a lost and broken people.

# LOVE or Judgement?

By Russ Deniston  
Board of Trustees



Six or seven years ago, I read a book called "Repenting of Religion: Moving from Judgment to the Love of God." If you've read my little articles here over the past few years, the topic of judgment, and my struggle against it, has played a pretty prominent role - the book is pretty much why.

As I started to examine my own close friendship with judgment, I also started to see how Love was not just one of the characteristics of God, but that God was Love. 1st Corinthians 13 became my favorite scripture (you know, "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal,") and this passage was the one that I pondered the most as I worked through my busy days at work and at home, running a large business and helping to raise a whole bunch of kids.

But after a while, it was soooo frustrating; love and me just didn't exactly seem to see eye to eye. It became all too apparent that what was in my head barely registered in my heart, and although I knew that Love was the ultimate truth, that **"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"** (Matt 21:40, to Love God and others, and by implication, yourself), it just wasn't happening.....

Not on my inside, not where it counted. I knew the words, and I could frequently even act the part, but me, the real me, the part where nobody could really see? Nope, no Love, not really. Did I love the Lord with all of my heart, my mind, and my soul? Well, I certainly loved the idea of God, but not God as a person. Loving others? Well, if they were nice to me, maybe, sometimes. Love myself? Well, that was easiest to answer; No. Definitely not. And a big part of the

reason answer to question #3 was because I could see that I was such an abysmal failure at answering yes to the first two questions....

After spending a while in this place, mostly learning some theology and improving my head knowledge (as it turns out), I started seeing a Christian counselor. Ostensibly, it was to deal with martial issues and some troubling addictive behaviors that I just couldn't ever seem to quite control, but really, I was searching around for how I could start to give better answers to the "big three" questions I just listed. After some work and some time (ok, even a little improvement took about five years), indeed, the counseling did help contain some of the bad behaviors, and it helped to get my marriage on to a better footing.

But I realized that still, I couldn't really detect any improvement in my "Love-O-Meter." But then, one day, I just had Love, and then I rode happily into the sunset. Well, no, not really, although that's what I wished desperately for. What did happen is that about a year or so ago, I started to pray for the Lord to show me that he loved me. Don't know why, really, but it just seemed like the right thing to do, and it's what I started to ask for on a daily basis:

**"Lord, show me that you love me."**

And somehow, occasionally, very occasionally, I have started to get just the briefest glimpse, the smallest idea that he does in fact love me, and even that he actually likes me. And in some way, it's started to make a difference; in fact, it's made all the difference in the world.

I'll conclude with this little passage from a writer/thinker by the name of Frederick Buechner, as this seems to sum up pretty well what I've come to know. I hope something in this helps you in your own journey....

*"In "Beauty and the Beast," it is only when the Beast discovers that Beauty really loves him in all his ugliness that he himself becomes beautiful. In the experience of Saint Paul, it is only when we discover that God really loves us in all our unloveliness that we ourselves start to become godlike. Paul's word for this gradual transformation of a sow's ear into a silk purse is sanctification, and he sees it as the second stage in the process of salvation. Being sanctified is a long and painful stage because with part of themselves sinners prefer their sin, just as with part of himself the Beast prefers his glistening snout and curved tusks.*

*Many drop out with the job hardly more than begun, and among those who stay with it there are few if any who don't drag their feet most of the way. But little by little—less by taking pains than by taking it easy— the forgiven person starts to become a forgiving person, the healed person to become a healing person, the loved person to become a loving person. God does most of it. The end of the process, Paul says, is eternal life."*



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## The City Gate

*"A Gathering Place"*

**Matthew 11:28**

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LIKE us on

**facebook**

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

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

### Please Pray For:

- COATS, BOOTS, & SLEEPING BAGS
- Thanksgiving Dinner @ The City Gate
- Taran-Katie-Carlos
- Alberta House residents

### & The City Gate staff

- John Murinko, pastor
- Shirley Murinko  
co-director / office mgr.
- Bonnie Murinko  
co-director / food bank
- Donny Saunders, food bank
- Buffie Harmon, clothing bank
- Don Lanegan, dining room
- Jimmy Hahn, coffee station
- Jim Horton, cook
- Brenda Gulbranson, kitchen
- Glory Phelps, kitchen
- Andra Phelps, public relations
- Wes Heimbecker, social services
- James Gulbranson, security & maint.
- Elisha Shelton, Alberta House mgr.



Wednesday,  
Nov. 26  
12:30-2:30

If you would like to  
**DONATE** or  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Please call Tue-Fri, 10-3.

We are on track to serve  
**OVER 100,000** servings of food  
in 2014.

Due to the holidays  
we can use more:

**\$ Funding \$**

**FOOD**

**Volunteers!**

Consider how  
**YOU CAN SERVE** this  
holiday season...



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 every-day. 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