



The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives



Word from the board

By: Gail Stevers

The days are growing shorter and cooler. I find it quite sad that our glorious summer has come to an end.

Thoughts of holidays are beginning to creep into my mind. With that comes the joy of spending extra time with those I love.

My joy increases exponentially each time I share good news with others, my sorrow is diminished when the burden is shared. I am very blessed with an abundance of friends and family. I often wonder, what would it feel like if I was alone in this world?

Each day I see people, alone, living on the streets. I wonder where are their friends and families? How did they get where they are now? I find myself looking past or through them. It is painful to really look at them. Am I just one decision away from standing next to them?

As the holiday season approaches we will be bombarded with requests for food, money and clothing for those less fortunate. We live in a very generous community and there will be a huge response to these needs. Praise the lord, the need is great.

I invite you to dig deeper this season and give of yourself and you will be abundantly rewarded. As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote *"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."*

The next time you see someone on the street asking for change, take a moment to talk with them. Many homeless people feel as though they do not exist and are invisible. Make eye contact, share a smile and let them know they matter. People won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel.

Jesus was willing to invest in people others would have dismissed. As we celebrate his birth let us remember the true meaning of the season. May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love.

Merry Christmas, Gail Stevers - Board Member

December 2015

The City Gate Staff

- John Murinko, pastor
- Shirley Murinko
co-director / office mgr.
- James Gulbranson, assistant
director/security
- Donny Saunders, food bank
- Buffie Harmon, clothing bank
- Jimmy Hahn, coffee station
- Cheryl Jimeno, kitchen
- Parris Wentz, kitchen
- David LaMoureaux,
- Kathy Gibbons, Front desk
- Elisha Shelton, Alberta House
mgr.
- Bonnie Murinko, newsletter/sub



"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Please PRAY for:

- Shawn
- Jerry
- Sage
- "Solutions"
- Nicky
- Nigell
- Ron & Sue
- Jimmy & Vickie

Did you know...?

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

Christmas Dinner

Here's what we need... What can YOU provide? Ask your church and friends too.

THANK YOU!

- * Egg nog
- * Olives (black & green)
- * Veggies (prepared for dipping)
- * Ranch
- * Coffee/Creamer
- * Chips
- * Mixed nuts
- * Little Smokies/BBQ sauce

Please call 455-9670 for our most current amounts needed



ALBERTA HOUSE
apartments & Emergency Shelters

Elisha P. Shelton
Apartment Manager



Here at the Alberta House Apartments, we have so much to be thankful for. In the midst of losing two great icons that we loved so deeply, we still have a heart of Joy and Thanksgiving.

There are so many great things going on at the Alberta. We are seeing Bible studies every morning at 8:00am, tenants serving & lending a helping hand to their fellow neighbors. Some putting themselves through college and landing a job. It has been a beautiful processes and the reward is much bigger than our eyes could ever see in the natural. God is doing a great work here at the Alberta House through so many, but it takes a team to see the vision come to pass. We are so thankful for Pastor John and Shirley for carrying out the vision that God had given them so many years ago. Elisha Shelton, Manager, said, "This is what the True Ministry of Jesus Christ looks like. We are to make disciples of Jesus."

From all of the Alberta House family, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas!

Pastor John posed a question, "What do you think when you hear someone say, 'I am a Christian?'..." Following is just a few of the honest responses that were written down and submitted to him at the end of the evening:

- ~ "Do you believe Jesus died for your sins?"
- ~ "Nothing."
- ~ "Yes. You conduct yourself like a Christian. You're kind and you care."
- ~ "I'm one too. It's GOOD!"
- ~ "Sometimes hypocritical."
- ~ "The word **CHRISTIANITY**, to me, means something that gives people hope and also a belief"

Thanksgiving update!

*258 meals served

*21 Volunteers

plus 12 staff

* 20 TURKEYS

Thank you to ALL who made this year's meal a success!



Help us to be good stewards of our finances

To receive our newsletter **IN COLOR** by email. Simply email us at: thecitygate@qwestoffice.net with your name and "email newsletter" in the subject line.



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The City Gate

"A Gathering Place"

Matthew 11:28

170 S Madison

Spokane, WA 99201

509.455.9670

E-mail - thecitygate@qwestoffice.net

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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

Merry Christmas!

We will celebrate HIS birth on

Thursday December 24 @ 4:00

* A time for friends and family of our inner city to gather, hear the story of HIS birth, and feast! Please join us on this special night. Volunteers needed...



* Please see **PAGE 2** for our needs and call **455-9670** for updated needs as the date draws near



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