

170 South Madison  
Spokane, WA 99201



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

As promised, here is our plan for the empty space in our building. We are very excited about where God is taking this ministry and growing us. Please reads these words by **David LaMoureaux** and pray about how you can support this new venture...

**Solutions** will be an opportunity center/community center/café/art gallery. Our plan is to have a place open that is an alternative to the bar scene. A place where people can come and shoot pool or play games and not worry about the drama associated with most place that have pool tables. We will be hosting arts and crafts activities as often as possible. God created us to be creative beings. I have yet to meet anyone without some sort of creativity engraved in their spirit. I've found art to be quite therapeutic, and would love to have people come down and have fun creating art. There will be a cappuccino machine and we will serve good coffee and bagels, while working our way towards having other easy items for people to eat. We have acquired a projector to watch the Bulldogs play and we plan on having some fun with Mario Kart tournaments and other game nights. We are also building a stage for small acoustic venues, or spoken word, poetry or whatever kind of performances we can put together. We are hoping to bring artists together to reflect ideas off one another and help uplift each other. Classes will be offered by some renowned artists in our area, We plan to have computers available and help with job searching and resume building for those that are in need, and want to take the next step toward building their life back up. We will be hosting Bible studies and are open to other ideas that can help draw people closer to Christ. We are getting in touch with groups that are in need of a place to meet to overcome addiction. This will be a lace of peace and healing. A place where people don't feel ashamed, but encouraged and lifted up to achieve more and do more and be more of what God envisioned when they were created. A place to overcome hardships and catapult into the world with tenacity toward doing better, and achieving goals that will make our world a better place. I ask for prayers in this journey. Prayers for me, our staff, and all those we encounter that need touched by the hand of God.



February 2016



### 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

**Above all, love each  
other deeply,  
because love covers  
over a multitude of  
sins.**

**1 Peter 4:8**

**Please PRAY for:**

- Soulutions
- House of Charity
- Tennessee
- Zack
- Fish
- Big Mike

## Word from the Board

By: Russ Deniston

The Board is pleased to announce that as of January, Pastor John Murinko passed down the reins of his plumbing business, Bill the Fauceteer, to his son, Eric. The transition has been quite extensive as they also moved locations, but with that being said, this will afford Pastor John the opportunity to serve full time at The City Gate.

In case you didn't know John's involvement in our organization, a little background is in order. In 1996, Pastor John had been volunteering for five years at this homeless outreach ministry. His role in helping others through his volunteering had grown to be the most important part of his life, so, when the head of the ministry was let go, Murinko applied for the job. He got it easily because not many were all that interested given the tiny amount of compensation and massive responsibilities.

So, for the past twenty years, John has spent about forty hours a week caring for people and then spent another 20 or so hours doing plumbing work. He currently receives no salary from The City Gate except in the form of a small housing allowance.

As the head of The City Gate, John's role includes the oversight of many facets, including: 1) the food and clothing bank; 2) feeding the downtown's homeless eight to ten meals per week; 3) managing the organization's staff of a dozen plus hundreds of volunteers; 4) dealing with many of the issues that come with keeping 28 low-income units occupied; and, 5) preaching weekly at the church service.

More important than any of these managerial and administrative responsibilities is meeting people—this is Pastor John's top priority. People. Talking to someone. Comforting them. Listening, hearing their story.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...**

### Our need has DOUBLED!!

You may have heard, or maybe not, but House of Charity has started closing in the afternoons. With us serving the same community, that has impacted our resources in a BIG way. We are grateful to be available and offer a helping hand, but our resources will run out without extra support. Our 2 biggest deficits currently are food (for the kitchen to prepare) and Coffee. We can also use more hygiene items and socks and gloves.

### CANYOU HELP?!

#### ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The only thing that counts for John is seeing lives changed. It is not hard to see the lives that take a turn for the better through John's love for them, which is an expression of John's love for Jesus. When someone is at the bottom, improvement for the better isn't too hard to see but it always takes a while. Decreasing dependence on their drug of choice is the most obvious measure, but if it comes, progress is almost always slow. It takes time to walk out of enslavement, a labor-intensive process of building a relationship, and change comes only with a significant up-front investment of individual time.

Because Pastor John, The City Gate and of course because of GOD, over the years, hundreds of people have transitioned from living on the street back into a more whole and healthy life. When asked about numbers, though, Murinko will plead ignorance because he doesn't know. To him, the question *how many?* Is irrelevant because his focus is only on the next willing person. It is on to the next one in need, and in Spokane, the supply is never ending.

With this recent transition, John will now be able to focus more fully on the needs of the ministry and its clients. The Board is excited about the possibilities of what will come next. We have absorbed the large space in the south end of our building that was formerly rented, and the area is now being remodeled with a grand opening planned soon; the development of new programs is also just getting underway.

As we enter this exciting new phase, the Board asks that you continue to hold The City Gate up in prayer with an emphasis on choosing between our alternatives wisely. And, directly related to making the best choices, please pray that God would make available the additional financial support that will be needed to implement any expansion of our services.

#### Help us to be good stewards of our finances

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



To Reclaim, Rebuild, and Restore Lost and Broken Lives

## The City Gate

*"A Gathering Place"*

*Matthew 11:28*

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E-mail - [thecitygate@qwestoffice.net](mailto: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](http://www.thecitygatespokane.org)

We **LOVE** all of the volunteers who make this ministry thrive...



- Churches that cook and serve
- Youth groups that serve
- Businesses that donate
- Businesses that serve
- Individuals donating: Time, finances, food and supplies
- Drivers to pick up our donated items
- Coffee servers
- Groups that clean
- Prayer warriors continually lifting The City Gate up
- Groups coordinating food/clothing drives

This represents a small portion of what it takes to make it day to day. We **THANK YOU** & we **LOVE YOU!**



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