



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

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NEWSLETTER — NOVEMBER 2016

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## *Brian and Monique*



OVER THE LAST YEARS, BRIAN AND MONIQUE HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. IN TRYING THEIR BEST TO GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK, THEY EXPERIENCED MANY TRIALS AND ENDURED MUCH PAIN UNTIL THEY HIT ROCK BOTTOM. THE CITY GATE IS BLESSED TO BE PART OF THEIR LIVES ON THE PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

Brian and Monique met at AA in Central California about three years ago. They both attended the same church, instantly got along well and eventually became best friends. Monique could tell that Brian is a genuine guy: “he was the only one that looked me in the eyes when we talked,” she remembers. After her divorce was finalized, they started dating and have been together ever since.

But at that point, Monique’s life was not going to turn out for the better... yet. Having lost almost everything, she knew she needed to leave the difficult circumstances in California behind. So, with her parents’ help, Monique moved to Idaho and later on to Spokane into UGM housing. Brian who had stayed in California followed her six months later in July of this year.

Brian luckily got a job right away and they were able to stay at different motels. However, both of them relapsed which caused Monique’s seizures to worsen and she had to go to the hospital. Since both of their bags including Monique’s medication got stolen, it took another hospital visit for her to finally feel better. However, now both of them were on the street without any money. Brian said, “The women’s shelters were full. I couldn’t just say ‘I’m going to a shelter. Hopefully, I will see you tomorrow morning.’”

Finally hearing about The City Gate was a blessing to both of them as they found a place that could offer meals, clothing and many resources in a welcoming atmosphere. Brian especially benefited from the services of Fulcrum whose representatives provide job finding assistance right here at the City Gate. The City Gate staff showed care in the way they treated Brian and Monique and both of them decided to attend the church service here. This, according to Monique is “the only way to go” on their way to developing healthy coping mechanisms and keeping their lives on track.

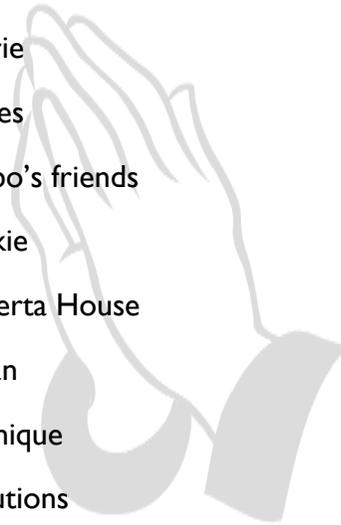
Being on the street together has been a tremendously difficult and painful experience for Brian and Monique. Both of them have been through relapses, sickness and having their belongings stolen multiple times. However, Monique got to move into one of the shelter rooms in the Alberta House and Brian is getting ready for a job interview. They say, “if we hadn’t found The City Gate, we wouldn’t be moving forward.” Thank God they did! They are hoping for a brighter future through moving into a new apartment, a stable income and staying connected with their church family.

**THE CITY GATE STAFF**

**John Murinko**, Pastor  
**Shirley Murinko**, Director/ Office Manager  
**James Gulbranson**, Assistant  
 Director/ Security  
**Kathy Gibbons**, Front Desk  
**Donnie Saunders**, Food Bank  
**Buffie Harmon**, Clothing Bank  
**Jimmy Hahn**  
**Wes Chriswell**, Coffee Station  
**Marie Siebe**, Kitchen Manager  
**Douglas Ceniza**, Cook  
**Daniel Lee**, Kitchen  
**Elisha Shelton**, Alberta House Manager

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Eric
- Marie
- James
- Jimbo's friends
- Vickie
- Alberta House
- Brian
- Monique
- Solutions



## Word from the Board

With Thanksgiving and Christmas upon us, we are in our busiest season. We want to thank the Lord for all He has done and continues to do for all of us. Thanksgiving is a time to thank Him for the bounty He provides, so we are able to continue providing about 10,000 meals every month. And our food bank serves hundreds of families each month. None of this can happen without His and our supporters' provisions. We are thankful to all of you who support City Gate with your food donations, your hard earned dollars, and especially your prayers. During Christmas time we celebrate His birth. This brings all our clients together to acknowledge His birth and life devoted to our salvation. And, of course, with Christmas comes winter! Our clothing bank converts to winter clothing to help keep our clients warm during these challenging times out in the cold. Many of our clients are homeless so they really need warm winter clothing – which is and has been provided by you, our supporters! To all our supporters we say THANK YOU. Without your support, City Gate cannot continue His ministry to the people of our inner city.

*Bill Davis*

President of the Board

**HELP US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR FINANCES**

To receive our newsletter **IN COLOR** via email, simply email us at [thecitygate@qwestoffice.net](mailto:thecitygate@qwestoffice.net) .  
 Please include your name and "email newsletter" in the subject line.

Wow, Thanksgiving is in a few weeks and then Christmas follows. We had better get moving!

We will be serving our annual Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 23rd from 12:30—3:30 PM. This is our 27th Thanksgiving Dinner at The City Gate and it's such a blessing to see God's faithfulness throughout all this time! As every year, 200—250 people are expected and we will serve them a full traditional meal. But we cannot do this without your generosity. You can help through food donations as well as volunteering your time to serve.

If you would like to donate or volunteer, please call us at 509-455-9670 during our office hours Tuesday—Friday between 10 AM—12PM and 12:30—3PM.



With Thanksgiving around the corner, Christmas is not far off...

We will serve our Christmas Meal on Christmas Eve again. This year cold cut sandwiches, snacks and lots of Christmas cookies are on the menu. The festivities will begin at 12:30 PM

Be sure to call early, if you would like to donate food or volunteer. In next month's newsletter, we will include a list of our needs for Christmas.

We would like to THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your generosity in giving your time and means to help make this year's holiday season special for the people of the inner city!





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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[The City Gate Spokane](#)



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

*A Gathering Place...*

“Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest” — Matthew 11:28

## NEEDS:

- Belts
- Winter Boots and Shoes for Men and Women
- Gloves for Men and Women
- Winter Socks for Men and Women
- Winter Coats 2X and up for Men and Women
- Winter Clothing for Men and Women
- Thermals Top and Bottom
- Outdoor Blankets
- Sleeping Bags
- Hygiene Products
- Rolls of Plastic and Tarps for Homeless Campers
- Hand Warmers
- Tomato Sauce
- Hot Dog Buns



We are excited to announce that the Grand Opening of

**Solu<sup>+</sup>ions**

will happen in the near future! Be on the look out for more information in the coming newsletter and celebrate this exciting event with us!



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