



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

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## NEWSLETTER — DECEMBER 2016

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### Wes

ONCE YOU MEET WES, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE ENCOURAGED BY HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE. HE IS A VERY HARD WORKER AND HAS BEEN A BIG BLESSING TO THE STAFF AND VISITORS OF THE CITY GATE ALIKE. HIS MOTTO IS TO CONCENTRATE AT ONE DAY AT A TIME AND TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE TIME HE HAS.

Wes was born in North Hollywood and grew up in San Bernardino, CA. As a teenager and young adult, he took a different path than many people would his age. Since school was “not his thing,” he dropped out of high school seven times and started working. His mom gave him the freedom to do that but also set a needed boundary: Wes either had to be in school or find a job and work, by which he abided. One could say that there are only a few jobs that Wes did not have. In the past, he worked as a Veterinary Technician at an animal clinic, as a secretary for a Dance and Modeling Studio, as an auto mechanic and as a hiking trail constructor for California State Parks.

In 2001, Wes decided to finish High School and graduated at the age of 22. Back in California, the same person who never liked school decided to everyone's surprise, to go to college. Wes earned a Bachelor's degree in Human Service in order to become a school teacher. His focus was biochemical reactions. Even though he worked hard for this accomplishment, Wes believes more in showing someone what he can do instead of handing them a certificate or diploma. He always seeks to be the best at what he does and knows there are only a few things that he isn't able to do.

His positive attitude translated well into his new life circumstances when he became homeless over five years ago. Even though living on the streets can be difficult, Wes views it as a “strengthening and educational” experience. He learned that money doesn't make anyone happy. All that he needed was to be able to eat and to survive; and since he found the necessary resources, he wasn't poor or unhappy but had all that he needed.

When Wes came to Spokane in June of this year, he had heard of The City Gate but it took him a while until he stopped by to have a coffee. After visiting a few times and helping out here and there for over a week, Wes was hired as a staff member. Working here has helped him stay grounded and has given him a safe surrounding in order to not return to an old and unhealthy life style. He is very grateful for all the blessings he has received since coming to The City Gate. He found a place where he belongs. He says, “being part of something is worth a whole lot more than anything.”

**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**Daniel Lee**, Kitchen**Elisha Shelton**, Alberta House Manager**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Wes
- Kathy's family (Lori, Elmore, Keith)
- Lilly, Memphis, Phoenix, David
- Elisha and his family
- Eric Murinko
- Board of Trustees
- Steve H.
- Fish
- Jocelyn

*Word from the Board*

By the time this newsletter article is published, the elections will be over and we will have not only a new president, but newly elected (or re-elected) officials in over 6,000 races in this country. Did you vote? Or were you so disillusioned by the various campaigns that you said you would not participate in this democratic process? At the risk of sounding pessimistic, I fear many people took the latter option. Edmund Burke famously once said, "**All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.**"

And yet, this is not the end of the story. While we may fret, and worry about the direction this country is taking (which is a distinctly non-biblical attitude), we should not fear that evil will triumph. For we have a God who IS in control and will ultimately prevail over evil. That is not to say that we should not be concerned, or uninvolved in our country's moral direction. On the contrary, we must uphold a biblical worldview and show through our actions, that we will not accept cultural movements that are contrary to God's teaching. And, as a positive step, we must again show through our prayers and actions that we care for the well-being of our country, the disenfranchised, the sick, the poor and anyone else who feels marginalized.

The upcoming holiday season can be a wonderful time of renewed hope, and a chance to demonstrate what a difference we, as Christians, can make. How can we do this? Here are a few examples: pray for our elected officials (and send them an encouraging note, rather than a complaint), our country, our non-profit agencies; volunteer your time; donate to your favorite charity; use "Pay It Forward" to bless a stranger; send an anonymous gift to a friend in need. The opportunities are endless. Be imaginative!

*John Kittel*

Board member

# Merry Christmas

Our Christmas Celebration this year will be in Friday, December 23rd from 12:30 — 3PM.

Christmas is always hard for those who don't have family or whose families don't live near them. They need to know that Jesus is their answer. We would like to show God's love to the people of the inner city by gifting a little something to each of our visitors. After all, the Christmas season is a great time for sharing. We need your help in order to be able to assemble and give out our gift bags. To your right is a list of our needs for these.

## Gift Bag Needs:

- 200 pairs Hand and Foot Warmers
- 125 pairs Men's Winter Gloves
- 125 pairs Men's Heavy Socks
- 75 pairs Women's Winter Gloves
- 75 pairs Women's Heavy Socks
- 25 pair Children's Winter Gloves
- 25 pairs Children's Winter Socks
- 200 Nail Clippers

**Lots of Wrapped Christmas Candy**



We also serve a meal and sing Christmas carols. If you would like to serve and / or donate food, please call us at 509-455-9670. Our office hours are Tuesday—Friday between 10 AM—12PM and 12:30—3PM.

*The City Gate wishes you and your family a happy and blessed Christmas season!*





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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[The City Gate Spokane](#)



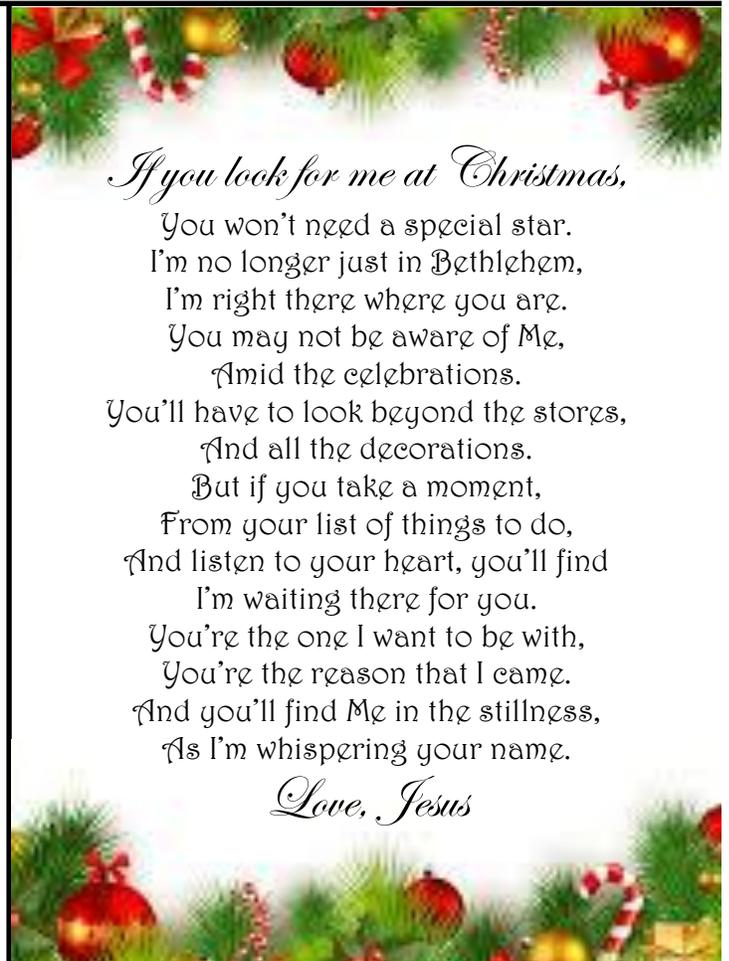
[www.thecitygatespokane.org](http://www.thecitygatespokane.org)

## *A Gathering Place...*

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

### NEEDS:

- Men's Clothing (Jeans, T-Shirts, etc.)
- Men's Winter Coats all sizes
- Winter Clothing for Men and Women (Gloves, Hats, Socks, Thermals Top and Bottom, etc.)
- Winter Boots and Shoes for Men and Women
- Belts
- Outdoor Blankets
- Sleeping Bags
- Rolls of Plastic and Tarps for Homeless Campers
- Hygiene Products
- Hand Warmers
  
- Plastic Soup Bowls
- Plastic Ware (Spoons, Forks, Knives)
- Sugar and Powdered Creamer
- Hot Dogs and Bacon
- Rice
- Ketchup



*If you look for me at Christmas,*

You won't need a special star.  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me,  
Amid the celebrations.  
You'll have to look beyond the stores,  
And all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment,  
From your list of things to do,  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came.  
And you'll find Me in the stillness,  
As I'm whispering your name.

*Love, Jesus*