



The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2017



CHUCK

FOR THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO INTERVIEW CHUCK. HE HAS BEEN COMING TO THE CITY GATE FOR MANY YEARS. CHUCK IS VERY KIND TO THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM AND IS ALWAYS READY TO HELP OUT WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.

Chuck was born in Spokane and moved to Seattle when he was six years old. During high school Chuck was a wrestler and because of that had the unique opportunity to travel to almost every state in the US and to three different continents. For three years, he was part of a cultural exchange program called United States of America US Wrestling Federation Armature Athletic Union. He got to compete in Germany when he was 14, in Japan when he was 15 and in Puerto Rico and Mexico when he was 16 years old. During those week long trips he stayed with a local host family, did sight seeing tours and served the community.

After his graduation, Chuck moved to Arizona and attended ASU to earn a Bachelor's degree in History. His long-term goal was to pursue further education and to become an Archeologist. But everything turned out much differently than he had planned. Within a month of his graduation, his mother passed away unexpectedly and Chuck had to take custody of his 12-year old brother. He sacrificed much in putting his dreams aside and raising his brother, but for Chuck that was a given: "in my family, family comes first before [anyone or anything else]." His brother is now a school teacher in Seattle, has a wife and two children. I think we would all agree with Chuck when he says, "I guess, I didn't do too bad."

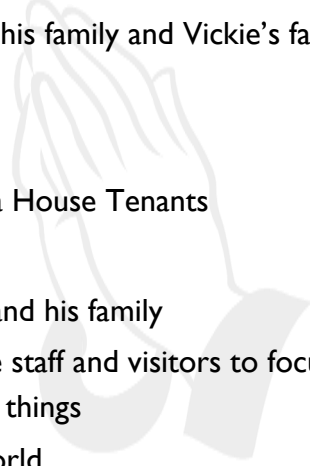
Later on while he was living and working in Spokane, he ran into financial difficulties and started visiting The City Gate. For him this ministry is a place where he can sit down, eat a meal and clear his head. He can tell that people here honestly care about him and will work through things with him when he needs help. For the last twenty years, The City Gate has been a place for him that he could rely on during difficult times.

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 staff
- Elisha Shelton**, Alberta House Manager

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Jimmy, his family and Vickie’s family
- Elisha
- Curly
- Alberta House Tenants
- Daniel
- James and his family
- For the staff and visitors to focus on eternal things
- The world



Word from the Board

February, the month we celebrate Valentine’s Day, a day to show love to others. As I have been focusing on God’s abundant love for us, I am reminded that love takes on many facets in scripture.

Agape love: This special type of Christian love, “whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered.” Reflecting the fact that human marriage is modeled after the divine relationship between Christ and the Church, husbands are told to love their wives with this kind of outgoing, selfless love (Ephesians 5:25-32). This kind of love is perhaps best expressed in Jesus Christ’s statement in John 15:13, “*Greater love [agape] has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*” Jesus Himself perfectly exemplified this kind of love throughout His lifetime, continually giving of Himself and His time and energies to serve others and ultimately offering up His life as a sacrifice for all of humanity. This is the kind of love God wants each of us to exemplify in our lives and particularly in our marriages.

I pray your marriage is filled with agape love for each other, your marriage is modeled after Christ and His love for the church and that you always take time to show your love and appreciation for your spouse and hold them up in prayer.

Continued on next page

Phileo love is to have ardent affection and feeling. This is the natural, human type of love and affection that we have for a friend and is often defined as “brotherly love.”

In John 21:15-16, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him with the *agape* type of love and Pete responded that he had the normal human *phileo* type of love for Him. Later, after receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter would be able to genuinely demonstrate *agape* -type godly love, serving others throughout his lifetime and making the ultimate sacrifice in martyrdom. “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10 [ESV](#)).

Eros refers to erotic love or desire. True love, as explained in the Bible, isn’t focused on oneself and one’s feelings or emotions, but is instead *outwardly focused on others* —wanting to best serve and care for them. True love is beautifully described in I Corinthians 13:4-8, which is often read in marriage ceremonies: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails” (NIV).

A poem that my husband and I had at our wedding is called Marriage Takes Three by Beth Stuckwisch. This beautiful poem reminds us to always keep Christ in the center of our marriage.

Marriage takes three to be complete; “It’s not enough for two to meet. They must be united in love by love’s Creator, God above. Then their love will be firm and strong; Able to last when things go wrong, because they’ve felt God’s love and know He’s always there, He’ll never go. And they have both loved Him in kind with all the heart and soul and mind and in that love they’ve found the way to love each other every day. A marriage that follows God’s plan takes more than a woman and a man. It needs a oneness that can be only from Christ-Marriage takes three.”

I am so grateful for The City Gate and the love that is shown to each person who enters our doors. The ones who come in seeking warmth, friendship, acceptance---agape and phileo love. They find this love here. The amazing staff we have, practice love to others every day. They show true acceptance and love to each person who comes in. To the wonderful volunteers we have, that serve and love our clients and staff. The Lord has blessed City Gate in so many ways and has shown His great love for us. He has met our needs so faithfully over the years. We are so appreciative of the many who come through our doors to be served and the staff and volunteers who are here to meet needs. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34 [ESV](#)). “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35 [ESV](#)).

May your heart and life be abundantly filled with the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Laura Wintersteen-Arleth



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CONTACT INFORMATION

170 South Madison
Spokane, WA 99201
Phone: 509.455.9670
E-mail: thecitygate@qwestoffice.net



[The City Gate Spokane](#)



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:

- Outdoor Blankets
- Winter Clothing
- Boots for Men and Women
- Gloves for Men and Women
- Jeans for Men and Women
- Rolls of Plastic and Tarps for Homeless Campers
- Hand Warmers
- Coffee
- 33 Gallon Trash Bags
- Dried garlic flakes
- Tomato sauce
- Crushed tomatoes

“

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give
way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

”

- Psalm 46:1-3

HELP US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR FINANCES

To receive our newsletter **IN COLOR** via email, simply email us at thecitygate@qwestoffice.net.

Please include your name and “email newsletter” in the subject line.