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## NEWSLETTER — MARCH 2018

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### **Scott and Amber**

Scott was born in Gillette Wyoming and was raised here in Spokane. His family moved around a lot with his mom being a carnival worker. Scott has two brothers, one sister, three step sisters, and one step brother. He attended many different schools just trying to maintain his education and received his G.E.D. Scott was in the Army for 18 months and while on leave, got into a fight with his Grandpa and took off to start working for the carnival. There he got into some trouble which landed him in prison for 4 years. Scott took a few college courses while in prison trying to better his life. After getting out of prison he came back to Spokane and had a few odd jobs along with working for the union for a time. Tragically he lost all of his family within a short period of time.

Amber also moved around while growing up, living in many different states. She grew up with her mother and father who both had mental illness and abused alcohol. Amber says her and her father were very close even when he relapsed. He was very kind and loving to her. Her mother on the other hand was violent when she was drinking. Amber herself also struggled with alcohol addiction throughout her life. She is now clean, free from alcohol doing very well.

Scott and Amber met at The City Gate a week before Thanksgiving 2017. Scott was on his way to church and running late, when he saw Amber leaving church. He said he knew right away he had to be with her. Eight weeks later they were married by Pastor John. They are now ready to start their life together.

Scott has known Pastor John for many years and says he has always been there for him. Amber and Scott both feel very blessed to be a part of The City Gate Family. Giving the glory to our Lord and Savior for all the blessings they have received.



**THE CITY GATE STAFF**

John Murinko, Pastor  
 Shirley Murinko  
 James Gulbranson  
 Kathy Gibbons,  
 Dave Volluz  
 Buffie Harmon  
 Jimmy Hahn  
 Dale Sanchez  
 Misti Santos  
 Robert Santos  
 Eric Murinko  
 Elisha Shelton

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Shirley  
 Jason  
 Wes  
 Tracey  
 Joe  
 Buffie  
 Amanda  
 Frank  
 Kylie  
 Ruthie's Corner Espresso

**WHAT BLESSINGS?????**

“What blessing? I really don’t know what you’re talking about.” So often in my life I find that I am blind to what is so obvious to someone else. This is especially true with God’s abundant blessings in my life that I simply take for granted and as “normal”. Every time I interact with a guest at The City Gate, I am blessed by what they teach me just by being who they are. Their joy is in receiving a hot meal, or a new pair of socks, or a hot cup of coffee in a warm room, or a wool blanket, or just being safe and talking with someone who actually cares. But for the grace of God that would be me sitting on the other side of the table. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your mercy and unconditional love as we all struggle with the sin in our lives.

Perhaps you have been like me at times when I had to work so hard NOT to see and acknowledge a homeless person near me on the street. Now I make every effort to make direct eye contact and connect with those who God brings across my path. I cannot begin to convey to you the significant impact this has had on me personally. I have found that I am far less likely to be holding a stone of judgment in my hand for those whose lives have been so different from my own. I confess that I have three college degrees that have done more to blind me than to enlighten me.

The City Gate provides a loving and safe environment for us to explore the lives of so many who have seldom been seen or heard. I ask for your prayers to cover The City Gate staff and volunteers who press into this shadowy world to bring the light of Christ. You cannot be around our Pastor John without feeling the presence of Christ in the room. Please consider for yourself how Our Lord may be encouraging you to further explore this loving ministry. Our financial needs are always under attack by the Enemy, so please include that also in your prayers. My heart is that the closer you draw to this ministry you will discover this is as much about our receiving blessings as it is about our sharing God’s abundant blessings. May the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you and fill your life.

Respectfully submitted by Rich Paulsen, a member of The City Gate Board of Trustees

## February 2018 Food Bank Statistics

The City Gate food bank served:

- 370 individuals
- 303 families
- 8,400 pounds of food



To receive our newsletter  
by email & in color,  
message us at:

**thecitygate**  
**@qwestoffice.net**

**THANK YOU**  
for helping us to  
be good stewards!



## Alberta House Update

The Alberta House Apartments are moving in the right direction. With all apartments and shelter rooms full we are excited for the future of this facility. Families are being restored, careers are being developed, and most of all Christ being the focus of it all. The Alberta House tenants have come together not just neighbors but families that care and look out for one another. This was not always the case in the past but we have put it all behind us. Pastor John and management have worked very hard and diligently to protect the purpose of this apartment complex and plan to keep it a safe and clean environment. Moving forward we are looking to start a spring project that will focus on the entrance of the the Alberta House Apartments. We are looking to have the entrance repainted to make it feel a little more welcoming to our tenants and surrounding neighbors.

We still need lightly used dressers, night stands, bedding sets for single or double beds, and tools for our maintenance room. We appreciate all of your support and look forward to what God is going to do here.

Elisha P Shelton, manager

*(Jeremiah 29:11) "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*



# The City Gate

To Reclaim, Rebuild and Restore, Lost and Broken Lives

## 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:

- **We are in dire need of Men's clothes!**
- Jeans for Men, Size 30, 32, 34, 36, 38
- T-shirts for Men, All Sizes
- Shoes for Men (size 9 and up)
- Jeans for women
- Shoes for women
- Frozen vegetables
- Creamed Soups
- **Coffee!!**
- Tomato Sauce
- Meat
- Cheese
- Grocery bags (plastic or paper)

**DONATE TODAY**



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