



21 Ways You Made Real Change Possible in 2021

We thank God for you.



1.

You opened doors to gospel conversations which resulted in **35 baptisms, including Christina's.**



7.

You shopped **UGM Thrift Stores** and helped make our two grand openings a success!



10.

You led your community in generosity through fundraisers like General Store's Round Up at the Register.



20.

You spread the news that real change is possible by sharing UGM stories, news and events with your friends and family.



2.

You gave sacrificially, like **Delaney who held a fundraiser** for her fourth birthday!

3.

You gave creatively, like Breast Intentions who provided free bras and bra fittings at the Crisis Shelter.



8.

You welcomed your churches, schools and businesses to partner with the Mission.

9.

You asked what was needed and humbly provided it whenever possible, like **Farmer and Dave who took UGM Chef Dale shopping** for the Men's Shelter kitchen.



12.

You helped send **hundreds of at-risk youth** to UGM Camp.

15.

You volunteered behind the scenes, offering writing skills, administrative expertise and construction services.

17.

You offered your retired vehicles to support UGM program services.

19.

You thought of UGM first when you had anything to give, like **Kenny who brought this nice stroller** straight to Anna Ogden Hall when his child outgrew it.

21.

You made whole-person recovery possible **for 214 men, women and children.**



4.

You donated high quality clothes and shoes so that **kids like Morty are well dressed.**

5.

You gave abundantly from **your gardens and farms.**

6.

You delivered special dinners to delight guests and give kitchen staff a break.

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11.

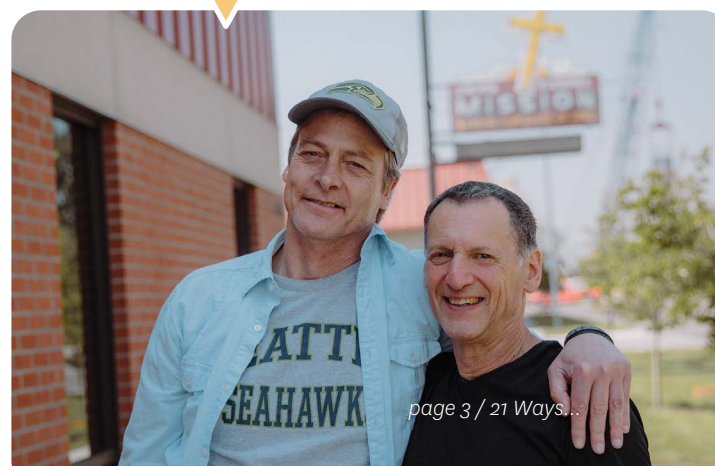
You walked alongside **men and women** in Recovery through volunteer counseling and mentorships.

13.

You provided cozy clothes, hats and scarves for the cold seasons.

14.

You showed up on World Homeless Day and **prayed for your city.**

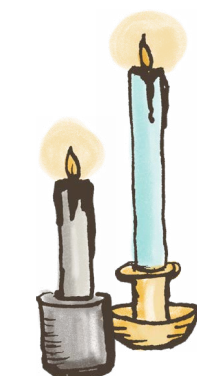


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18.

You showed up on holidays to serve meals and visit with those who are lonely.

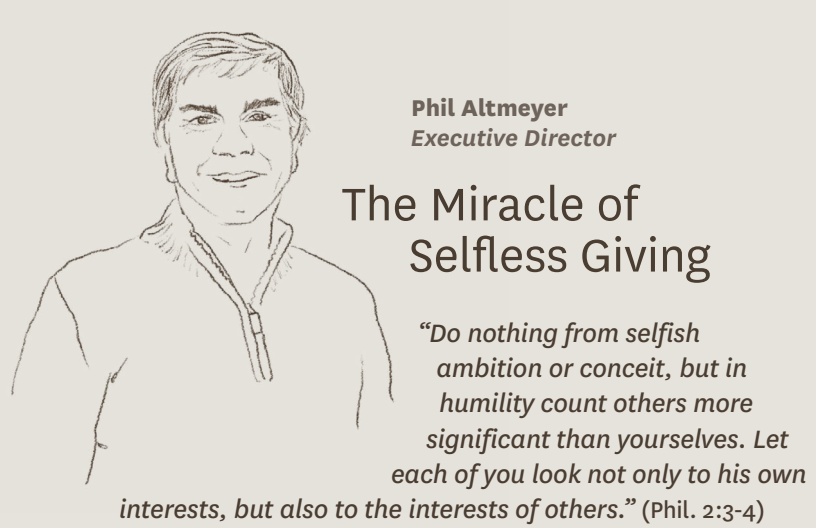


You have been the hands and feet of Jesus.

The 2020s are not proving to be easy years, but by God's grace, the work of Jesus in the hearts of men, women and children continues unabated. As we reflect on the last 12 months and launch into a whole new year, we stand in awe of all that God is doing through you. Thank you for being a friend to the lonely and a bearer of Good News to the lost and broken. May the grace and peace of Jesus our Savior be with you forever! ●



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Phil Altmeyer
Executive Director

The Miracle of Selfless Giving

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own

interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:3-4)

I’m amazed as I sit at my desk and sign thank you letter after thank you letter. Churches giving use of their space free of charge; restaurants delivering hundreds of free meals for our guests; individuals offering handmade quilts, expensive machinery, medical and legal expertise; and checks of all sizes. Every single day, people give freely – and they give creatively!

What strikes me most is that these gifts offer very little in return. Giving to a homeless ministry, you don’t get fame or accolades or even recognition from the one(s) you blessed. In fact, most of the time you don’t even know the people your gift will benefit. How this is possible on a scale so large astounds me. You care so selflessly for men, women and children you’ve never even met.

You know what it reminds me of? The early church as described in the book of Acts. I’ve been reading through Acts with my home group in recent months, and what stands out to me is how the Holy Spirit led individuals and groups to do the Father’s will. Throughout the narrative, the Holy Spirit is calling men and women to very specific tasks. In Acts 8, He tells Philip to go and speak with the Ethiopian eunuch who’s sitting in his chariot. Seven verses later, the eunuch asks to be baptized. In Acts 9, the Holy Spirit leads Peter to heal Aeneas and to restore Tabitha to life. Peter obeyed, and God worked miracles. Saul and Barnabas went on their mission to Cyprus because the Holy Spirit sent them (Acts 13:2b-4).

Just like in those days, the Lord is still directing His people. This is what I see when I step into my office each day, answer phone calls and sign thank you letters like those in front of me now. I see a people, following in the steps of Jesus, prompted by the Holy Spirit to offer anything He asks of them – anything and everything, at a moment’s notice, wanting nothing in return.

Thank you for responding to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life to partner with us in ministry. Your selfless giving is producing miracles in the lives of our guests every day. You are doing God’s work. ●



To watch Phil’s 2021 year-end message, scan here. ▶



It’s a Together Thing

JOHN AND VONNIE TUCKER HAVE A 61-YEAR LEGACY OF working together to build a strong marriage centered on following God’s call to love their neighbors well. In 1997, they settled in Spokane and learned about what God was doing at Union Gospel Mission.

“We fell in love with the results of what UGM was accomplishing. It was such a blessing to read the newsletters and the different testimonies of the people as they were being helped. We loved that and we wanted to support it forever.”

The Tuckers have stayed faithful to that intent. Over the past 23 years, no matter where they’ve lived, they have stayed connected to UGM. They’ve given over 236 gifts, providing meals at every holiday and providing a week of camp to an at-risk child every summer. Vonnie says, “I have the attitude that if we’re going to eat at Thanksgiving, you guys are going to eat. Easter, if we’re going to eat, you eat.” In addition to their financial support, Vonnie has been making quilts for the Mission since 1998. Today, each new quilt she provides goes to one of our new LIFE Recovery alumni when he or she moves out.

Eric Blackman (pictured) was the most recent recipient. “I’m in awe at how they were willing to take the step forward and do this. Not everybody actually cares for people going through these struggles, and doing small things like this is what spurs people on to continue the journey. Thank you.”

About their enduring support, John says simply, “God has His hand in it. We learned a long time ago that if His hand is on something you’re doing, you better do it. We have bounced around this country quite a bit, but it doesn’t matter where we’re at, UGM Spokane is number one. And that’s just because God has given us that enthusiasm.”

“It’s a together thing,” says Vonnie. “If we weren’t doing it together, it would never work.”

As a prime example of their unity, John and Vonnie recently agreed to include UGM in their will. John had the idea to divide their estate four ways: a quarter for each of their three children, and a quarter for Union Gospel Mission. He said, “I brought it up with Vonnie and she didn’t even take one breath before saying, ‘Yes, I’m on board with that.’”

Together, John and Vonnie are making a difference in the lives of men, women and children today and in the future. ●



Want to enter full-time ministry?

Find a career at UGM
Administration – Counseling – Resident Services – Thrift Stores – and more!

Apply online:
www.uniongospelmission.org/employment

How does a punch bowl create real change?



When you give what you don’t need to **UGM Thrift Stores**, the proceeds help fund food, shelter, counseling and recovery services for men and women seeking life change. **That’s how.**

Call for a pick-up. 509.532.3815



Save the date!
UGM Annual Gathering 2022

April 28, 2022
Lunch & Dinner

Mirabeau Park Hotel
1100 N Sullivan Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99037

www.uniongospelmission.org/gathering

TAKE ACTION



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 11 - Volunteer Orientation, Coeur d’Alene, 6:00 p.m.; Men’s Shelter, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25 - Volunteer Orientation, Coeur d’Alene, 10:30 a.m.; Crisis Shelter, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 8 - Volunteer Orientation, Coeur d’Alene, 6:00 p.m.; Men’s Shelter, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 22 - Volunteer Orientation, Coeur d’Alene, 10:30 a.m.; Anna Ogden Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8 - Volunteer Orientation, Coeur d’Alene, 6:00 p.m.; Men’s Shelter, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 28 - UGM Annual Gathering

To register for a volunteer orientation, call our offices:
SPOKANE 509.535.8510 | **COEUR D’ALENE** 208.665.4673



Mission News

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