



by Daniel Woolman

GOD USED MY BROKENNESS

"I was raised in a dysfunctional home and grew up struggling with abuse and abandonment issues that pushed me to turn my back on God as an adult. I became a father at age 20 but the mother never allowed me to meet my daughter in person. Being separated from my daughter pushed me over the edge. I dived into addiction and self-destruction. Many years later, I married and had my second daughter. I was very devoted to her

but still plagued by my addiction. After my wife left me, God used my brokenness to remove the blindfolds I had—my entire life was full of pain and bitterness.

As God providentially led me to Chicago, I walked through the doors of PGM on August 10, 2014. Initially, I was in so much shock over not only being in a huge city but also being in a homeless shelter. Two days later, I found out about the Bible program and also

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made the eternal commitment to surrender everything to God and ask Jesus Christ into my heart. That heart change has consistently molded and shaped the man that I am today.

The two years I spent at PGM gave me the necessary time to heal from all the hurt in my life—to forgive not only those who had damaged me but also the more difficult choice of forgiving myself. Now, God has provided me with a high-paying job as a construction worker. I have become a member of a Bible church for the first time in my life, and my current wife and I are planning to buy our first home.

As I travel daily from job to job, I often reflect on what God has brought out of me. I cry tears of joy at the redemption that has taken place in my life. A once abused and abandoned child has now become a man who has such a passion and love for children—that only comes

from God Himself. In the summer of 2017, my daughter was able to fly out here to Illinois for two weeks. During that visit, I was given the opportunity before our church to dedicate my daughter to the Lord and show her how important God is in our life. I have had many conversations with her about sin and what Jesus did for us on the cross. For a time she used to call me at night, scared and crying from nightmares and she would ask me to pray for her. The power of prayer would give my daughter peace and soothe her to sleep.

“I cry tears of joy at the redemption that has taken place in my life.”

The supernatural strength He gives me to stay committed to my wife and family is something I need daily—that comes only from the Word of God. The Christian life is the most difficult life to live because it does not come naturally to us but it is the most rewarding, fulfilling, and impactful life I could ever dream of. My life verse will always be Romans 12:1-3, and I ask God every day to heal and renew my mind. His grace is sufficient for me!”



I AM A CHILD OF GOD

"I came to Pacific Garden

Mission last year because my son and I didn't have a place to go. We went to a few shelters, and they led me here. When I first got here it was shocking to be in a shelter, and I was depressed at first. But I met other guys here that were friendly to me, and it made the experience more bearable. Since being here, I have just been trying to be the best father I can be. Sometimes I struggle—especially financially. Pacific Garden Mission provides us with housing and other things that we need so I am thankful for that. I have a job right now, and I am just trying to be patient with myself and with God."

Donnell often imagines what he could have accomplished in life if

he had his father's advice and encouragement growing up. He wants to teach his son all the things that his dad didn't teach him.

"I grew up in foster homes and didn't have a stable home during my childhood. It was hard growing

"God wants to teach me."

up without my parents, and even now it's hard not having family support for my son and me as we struggle during this time. No matter what I go through, I know that God can bring me through it. He has helped me before. I am a child of God, and I know He will stay with me. I want to thank PGM for what they do by providing housing, clothing, food, and other essentials. It is a blessing."

Donnell looks forward to one day having his own home and transportation for him and his son.

"God is putting me through this to humble me. He has something better for me. There is something God wants to teach me. I am just taking it a day at a time and keeping the faith."

Through these men, I'm sure you can see the urgent needs of our guests as well as the deeper, long-term, and spiritually eternal change that they find here. David is now a godly father who has a Christ-based influence on his daughter and wife. Donnell, while just starting to get his feet on the ground, now has both the physical and spiritual resources to accomplish his goals.

It is important to remember that your faithful gifts make this possible. In a world that continually tries to hide the Truth of Christ, Pacific Garden Mission has remained a safe place where God's healing word empowers the lost to grow in an intimate relationship with Jesus.

Through your support, PGM has been offering new life to Chicago's homeless and hurting for more than 140 years. Thank you for being a part of this legacy of faith, love, and transformation.



"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

— John 8:12



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

No doubt if you are reading this, you have seen God move, change, and transform lives at the Mission when no one else could, and you know He has used you to help. You may even be asking God how you can help more—by partnering with Him to take men and women, boys and girls to their highest potential. Without Jesus, nothing is possible—with you and Jesus we wouldn't be here. For we know that we do what we can and God does what we can't. Through your donations, you are the evidence

that God is using to advance the kingdom.

Our financial partners are part of this ministry. We are co-laborers in Christ. More money means more ministry which means more changed lives. We will never limit God in the scope of His work or His providential care. We are praying and asking God to help us meet our fiscal year-end budget.

Prayerfully consider what you can do to help us raise \$800,000 by June 30, 2018.

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS & PROVIDES

Pacific Garden Mission's budget is completely donor-funded. We receive no government funding. We are eternally grateful for the individuals, businesses, churches, and foundations that make it possible for PGM to serve thousands of homeless men, women, and children each year.

When you support us financially, you're not only giving *to* the mission, but *through* the mission to people that need your help the most. Your support is making a difference today:

On average, **474** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

105 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

14 mothers with their children sheltered

About **36,299** plates of food served

38,087 items of clothing distributed

217 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

418 people professed faith in Christ

3,081 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

FATHERS & CHILDREN

In America, we have seen an eroding of the influence of fathers in the home. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children in America, one out of three, live without their biological father. Research shows when a child is raised without a father, the child is 4x more likely to experience poverty, 7x more likely to become pregnant as a teen, and 2x more likely to drop out of high school. The statistics are staggering.

“He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children...” Malachi 4:6

Many of the men at the Mission have a hard time talking about their fathers. One man wrote, “My father didn’t play an active or even a significant role in my life. He wasn’t there for me when I needed him or didn’t need him. He wasn’t my father. I loathed him with a passion. But the first time I met him when I was 21, that little boy in me was just happy to finally meet his dad.”

Maybe that’s why Malachi says, *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And He shall turn the heart of the*

fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5,6. Before the Lord comes back it seems that the relationship between fathers and children needs mending.

God has legally bound Himself to the fact that if we do not honor our parents, we will live a short, troubled life. (Ephesians 6:2) As a Christian, I need honor my parents. I also need to be involved in the lives of my children and not sow seeds of bitterness in their hearts. Bitterness destroys people and relationships (Hebrews 12:15). Drugs, alcohol, and poor education are spiritual symptoms of the brokenness in American homes. That means that parents and families need to be part of the solution by representing Christ in our homes.



At PGM, David learned how to be a godly father to his daughter.