

Dental **MINISTRY**

February 2014

Modern Heroes
Serving the Poor
of Chicago



Providing Vital Services to Our Struggling Neighbors

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877

JESUS TELLS US to feed the poor and give drink to the thirsty. He says that what we do for the least of His people, we do for Him. And although Pacific Garden Mission has for so many decades sought to meet the essential needs of those who come here, freely providing food, shelter, clothing, basic medical care, and always the soul-

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saving message of Jesus Christ—still there is a great need even now here at PGM, a need that we have been providing yet it still lacks. Perhaps you yourself have awakened during the night, awoken with a toothache, a pain so

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great that you wished even death to relieve such agony, such misery. Imagine being homeless and unable to call a dentist that same day, that week, or even that month. PGM is unique in that it provides dental care, yet the dental needs here at the Old Lighthouse are well beyond our current means. PGM needs your help to ease the pain of those suffering from tooth and oral health problems.

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO have recently added to our dental clinic much needed help—namely, Dr. James Chiang, DDS, who came to volunteer at our dental clinic this past August. He remembers Pacific Garden Mission when it was located on State Street before he became a Christian in 1975; he remembers listening to the “Unshackled!” series on the radio back then. Empathizing as a Christian with those in pain, he has come to the mission to provide his much needed services. He says, “When I first toured the new dental clinic, I realized there is a great need to get the clinic in full operation. With much prayer, I became a volunteer serving in the dental

clinic at Pacific Garden Mission. The need for dental care is great here at the mission. With God’s grace, we are able to perform a wide range of dental services for many who come into the clinic. We have provided dental fillings, full dentures, and partial dentures, as well as gum treatment including gum surgery, oral surgery, extractions, and root canal therapy. All of the procedures are performed with equipment that was donated. Some of the hardware here is very outdated and in need of an upgrade. This upgrade is more than a cosmetic improvement: it is a necessary change to continue to provide quality dental care to meet the ever-changing demand of the clinic. Some of the most needed equipment are the dental chairs, dental drills, x-rays machines, sterilizing equipment, and the digital record keeping equipment. These components are the backbones of providing quality dental care in the unique environment at Pacific Garden Mission.”

Sharing his vision for the mission for 2014, Dr. Chiang says, “Now, we can all serve with the ministry of Pacific Garden Mission. You can be blessed by becoming a partner by giving to this long-standing and faithful ministry. Let us give sacrificially in a financial way to help Pacific Garden Mission

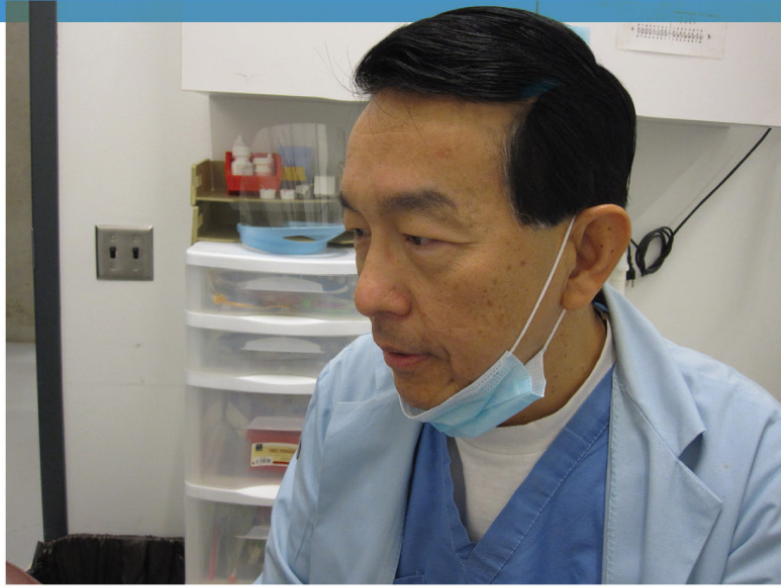


Dr. Chiang examining the x-rays of one of his patients before deciding on a course of action.

meet the challenges in 2014.”

Dr. Chiang recalled a personal story, how that in December 2013 he was “excited to have the opportunity to meet with a family [the Anderson family] that came from Minnesota to Pacific Garden Mission as a short-term mission’s project for ten days. A daughter of the Anderson family was a certified dental hygienist assistant. I pulled her aside and put her to work. She ended up helping me with a wisdom tooth extraction, and then she performed a cleaning on another homeless person. The Lord works in wonderful, mysterious ways.”

PGM needs your help to cover our dental clinic needs. Even now, for example, dental drills are down to two, which is really too low, because if one is down and one is in the sterilizer, work cannot be done. Two dental chairs we have now that need to be replaced will cost



five to seven thousand apiece. A great sadness is that the waiting list here at PGM for dental care is nearly a year long. However, because Dr. Chiang, one dentist, has become a regular volunteer, the waiting list has dropped by one month.

It is our prayer and Dr. Chiang’s that anyone in the dental field—dentists and hygienists—will help us in this great need, a need that can ease so much pain for so many. “The need is so great,” Dr. Chiang says. He shares a Scripture passage that touches his heart: “Matthew 25:37-40 says, ‘Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.’”

Dental care is a huge problem for the homeless, one for which there is very little being done. If you can assist financially, please designate your gift as Clinic. If you are experienced in the dental field and interested in assisting Dr. Chiang, please contact Gerald Casey at 312-429-6702.



Those who come to PGM for dental procedures generally display an attitude of thankfulness and trust. While conveying godly character and professionalism our staff sees their work as a crucial ministry to those who otherwise could not afford this care. Shown above: Dr. James Chiang, Samantha Gonzalez – patient (in Woman’s Bible program), and Rhonda Davis, R.N.

Grateful PGM patients express their thanks



Jonathan Sheats being prepped for work in the Clinic. Shown with Rhonda Davis, R.N.

JONATHAN SHEATS, resident of the Men’s Bible Program, recently had five cavities filled and a general cleaning, as well as a molar extraction and a wisdom tooth extraction. “I was in excruciating pain, could not focus or sleep, and was missing work due to the pain. I can’t tell you how much relief I received once the molar was pulled and all the work was done.”



CARDINAL UWAIFO, who recently graduated the Men’s Bible Program, had his teeth cleaned and two cavities filled. Cardinal was born and raised in Nigeria, came to America in 2007, and suffering hardship arrived at PGM in October 2012. His back-

ground in Nigeria includes security for Ministry of Foreign Affairs; currently, at PGM, he is volunteering in the security department, helping to oversee the record numbers of overnight guests. His plans are to continue to expand his work in the ministry of Jesus Christ.



Dr. James Chiang, Cardinal Uwaifo, and Dental Hygienist Miss Anderson from Minnesota.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

TRUE MINISTRY

AS I WALKED THROUGH the building this morning, I was struck by the multitude that is here. The women's day room has more people than chairs, and the situation is the same with the men. Last night we housed 1067 individuals. The needs are so great—medical needs, emotional

needs, addiction issues, all under one roof. I think of what Jesus says in Matthew 15:32, "Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." Jesus was concerned enough about their physical condition that He provided for them, as well as preached to them. We at Pacific Garden Mission are committed to the proclamation of the Gospel while understanding the great physical needs of our residents. Luke 2:52 states, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." For a man to be whole, these four areas are important. Jesus increased in wisdom (intellectual), in stature (physical), in favor with God (spiritual), and in favor with man (social). We challenge our residents to address these issues. Our clinic meets the needs of hurting individuals while addressing their spiritual needs. We have G.E.D.

prep classes for those with no high school diploma; we have food, clothing, and medical care for those who have physical needs.

Nonetheless, the most important aspect of the ministry is the proclamation of the Gospel. All our residents, and homeless guests sit through Gospel services in our auditorium where the message of hope and salvation is taught. Pastor Sampson Green, Director of the Men's Division, came here with two broken hands looking for help while involved in a gang dispute. If we would have just healed his hands and not dealt with his deeper issues, where would he be today? He says, "God used my physical need to address my deeper need and that was a relationship with Him." Now married and living in his own house while serving here, he believes that God can use the temporal to address the eternal, as do I. We indeed have a multitude of people with various problems, and we are thankful that we can use our social services to address the deeper, more pressing issues of Jesus Christ and eternity.



More Letters from Foreign "UNSHACKLED!" Listeners:

"Brethren In Christ, I am a regular listener of your program – "Unshackled!"—courtesy of a local radio station. I really congratulate you for the work of saving souls here for the kingdom of Christ. Thanks."

—MARGRETH N. Liberia, West Africa

"Thank you for producing "Unshackled!" I was saved March, 2011 by listening to your program on the radio. I wouldn't trade listening to "Unshackled!" for anything. I'm now serving the Lord in a Bible believing preaching church. May God bless you abundantly. Thank you so much for the work you're doing."

—SAMUEL, POTOSI, Bolivia



John Brewster,
PGM CFO

THANK YOU to the many of you who have given so faithfully to PGM in December. At the time this *PGMNews* went to the printers, the December numbers were not all in. However, it is clear that December was a strong month financially and has provided a temporary easing of PGM's cash flow issues.

It seems there are inevitably more opportunities/needs than would be wise to fund, and as we know, spending decisions always affect ministry to individuals. Thus God's wisdom is being sought in making funding decisions to such ministries as dental care, expansion of foreign "Unshackled!", or additional staff for areas of ministry being stretched by the increased number of overnight guests (Note: over the last 18 months, staffing levels have been decreased through attrition by nearly 15%). Money discussions are always overwhelming but a necessary part of doing ministry. The effect of these decisions on the lives of those touched by the ministry of PGM is so important. Please pray for PGM leadership as it prioritizes spending to effectively minister to those in need.

DECEMBER 2013 NUMBERS

- 1001** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 120** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 70,468** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 96,538** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 372** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 160** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 3,024** Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish)

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION makes no charge for care. Food, clothing, overnight accommodations, and medical treatment are totally free. Financial gifts from faithful supporters—and their prayers—keep this ministry alive. PGM receives no city, state, or federal aid.

Areas of ministry include the Mission for Men, Women's and Children's Division, Medical/Dental Clinic, "Unshackled!" radio, Bread of Life outreach, Polish evangelism, and PGM Men's Choir.

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