

A large, stylized title 'Footprints In the Snow' in a light blue, gradient font. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a snowy street at night, with a large window of a building in the background showing people inside. The snow in the foreground has several footprints.

THE COLD, MOUNTING SNOW HAS DRAWN SO MANY THROUGH OUR DOORS. Outside our doors, all throughout Chicago, shovels push to clear the streets and sidewalks. The cold snow can be so wondrous, as it draws families together indoors before a dinner meal and reminiscences of the day's events. Yet, if you give occasion to look, there are those with nowhere to go who shuffle through the cold, snow-filled streets. Where are they to turn to, where are they to go, where is there warmth and food and shelter for them? Truth is, they, human beings—human beings—really have nowhere to go. No words can conjure the mental anguish of one who has become homeless with nowhere to turn to, nowhere to go but a park bench in freezing temperatures.

continued on page 2

“The LORD  *is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart*

**Tracing their footprints lead to
Pacific Garden Mission**

**continued from page 1
FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW**

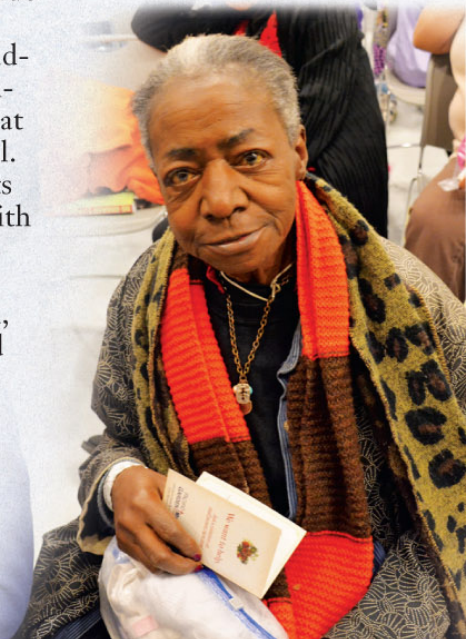
I spend my evenings after work riding my bicycle for exercise along Chicago’s lakefront path, even in the frigid cold and darkness. I recall stopping to use a restroom and inside saw a homeless man sleeping in one of the stalls, trying to keep warm and alive. We like to think our government cares for these unfortunate souls in their time of need. I wish this were altogether true. Truth is, in these days of increasing social, political, and economic unrest, few find themselves reaching out. I am reminded of Jesus’ words as He described the End of Days—“the love of many shall wax cold” (Matthew 24:12).

Outside our building, a hosts of footprints appear in the snow. What is the story attached to each pair? So many are the footprints outside the windows of the Old Lighthouse. The snowy prints, though, this snow-filled night, are all pointed to our doors, and all were left by their owners who have now passed through our doors and been met with love, food, and a blanket to help them warm up a bit and stop shivering from the cold they have now found shelter from. They all leave footprints in the snow before our doors. Here, within the warmth of PGM, we are humbled beyond measure. And you, our donors, allow us to stay open all hours of the day, every day of the year, to receive into our care those whose footprints are still visible in the snow just outside

our doors; we are able to bring these individuals into our home and minister to their needs, needs that are both physical and spiritual.

Pacific Garden Mission exists to reach out unconditionally with the life-changing Gospel message to those who need help in their time of need. We, though, without you, our donors, would simply cease to be the Old Lighthouse. So many men, women, and yes, even chil-

**Men and women
with no place to go find
more than help here at
Pacific Garden Mission...
they find Jesus Christ
and the way Home**



...and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit”—Psalm 34:18



Kerry Kyle who was forced in by severely cold weather and has been in the Men's Bible program for one year



A woman who had her entire house burn down and did not have a winter coat or a place to stay and she received both here and received the Gospel through the Christmas tract sent in from our donors.



Shirley Nelson rescued by the Police and Catholic Charities when her heat was turned off, pipes froze, burst and rendered her apartment unsafe to live in. With nowhere to turn for assistance Catholic Charities dropped her off at Pacific Garden Mission and she joined the woman's Bible program.

dren, pass through our doors literally each day, each with his or her own story. Yet, the story is the same for each: each needs a helping hand. You know, who among us would be where we are without a little help from another? The Old Lighthouse is a light in the darkness casting rays of light—Jesus' arms are wide open to meet the needs of all

who pass through our doors.

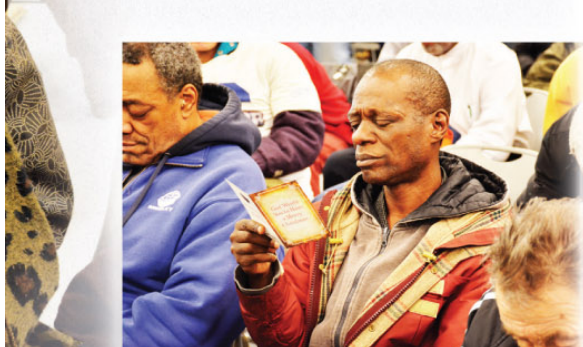
Still, we need your support to continue our simple mission of sharing the Gospel message with the thousands who pass through our doors each year. While the world waxes cold, love becoming cold, we Christians must increase in love. As the old hymn goes, "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

Handwritten Invitations Given to Overnight Guests

OUR FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS who wanted the guests we serve to know how much they care and how much more Jesus Christ cares for them hand wrote hundreds of invitations to receive Jesus Christ. These special invitations to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord were handed out at overflow services Christmas Eve at Pacific Garden Mission. Your help, as with these these tracts, and financial gifts are given through the mission to those in need. We are committed to creating an environment where Jesus Christ can transform lives.



A LABOR OF LOVE. A sampling of the heartfelt letters given to our overnight guests



The footprints in snow daily grow before the windows of the Old Lighthouse. And being a Lighthouse, we offer a way of safety through the cold, glazed path that so many now homeless pad upon. Please, find a place in your heart, to help us help those whose padded footprints are imprinted on snow just outside our doors. Without your help now

in our time of need, the Old Lighthouse, which is the oldest mission in America, may drift away and become simply an abandoned old lighthouse. Please reach out and help us minister to those many, who, even as you read this newsletter, are shuffling towards our large, well-lit Cross that has defined our building, our ministry, for so many decades.

Dental Ministry Update

SHAKESPEARE, IN HIS DRAMA *Much Ado About Nothing*, wrote, “There was never yet philosopher who could endure the toothache patiently” (Act V, scene 1, 31-38). You know, the philosopher will turn his eyes to God when his tooth brings him to his knees. I myself know what it is to have a toothache, a cavity that has reached the very core nerve of the tooth because I did not have the means to see a dentist. Complete, constant agony of pain with no relief in sight controlled my entire being.

Recently, a Bible program man, Daniel, came into the library where I work. He was so suffering with two teeth. He opened his mouth so I could see these two teeth—they were blackish and undoubtedly filled with, not just decay, but puss embedded in the gums. I immediately rose from my seat in the library and sought help for him. I spoke to two individuals, and Daniel was able to enter our dental clinic and find relief the next day. The two teeth were beyond repair, but after the two extractions, Daniel was no longer in constant day-and-night agony. As Daniel sat near me before a computer two days later pain-free, I looked up to my glorious God and prayed, “Lord, let not my love ever wax cold to those in need, to those suffering.”

You, our donors, heard our prayer a year ago, in our newsletter a year ago now, and helped us create an up-to-date dental clinic under the now direction of Dr. David Chiang, DDS, who now comes here three days each week to minister to those in need of dental care. He is a blessing here at PGM, perhaps even a miracle from God, because you cared enough, heard our



Dr. James Chiang works on a grateful PGM patient. Those who come to PGM for dental procedures generally display an attitude of thankfulness and trust. Our professional staff sees their work as crucial to those who otherwise could not afford this care.

prayers, and reached out. We, and the hundreds who have received such unbelievable relief of pain under the care of Dr. Chiang, are so thankful for your support to ease the unbearable dental pain—an unbearable toothache—so many homeless suffer from on a very real, daily basis. Again, all here at the Old Lighthouse find such occasion to rejoice in our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, Who continually shows us His amazing love and work before our eyes each day. Rejoice with us, you, or supporters, those who gave to this wondrous work a year ago, rejoice with us—“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

STAYING TRUE TO OUR CALLING

RECENTLY, PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION reaffirmed its purpose, mission statement, and vision. Most organizations have a tendency to drift from their original calling. Consider this statement, “To be plainly instructed and consider well

that the main end of your life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ” (Greer & Horst, 2014, p. 16). This statement could come from a Bible college, but it’s from Harvard University. As Harvard began to drift, Yale was founded in 1701 to combat that drift. Today, neither remains true to its original call. While celebrating the 350th year anniversary of Harvard, Steven Muller, former president of Johns Hopkins University, said, “The bad news is the university has become godless” (Greer & Horst, 2014, p. 18).

Not only schools but many organizations slowly drift from their original call; as they seek to accommodate outside pressures, they begin to compromise and cease to function as they were originally intended.

As we reaffirm our purpose which is to “reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ,” I am more convinced than ever that we are staying the course of our original calling. Every social service we provide, every class we teach, everything we do is viewed through the prism of this purpose, to reach the lost with the Gospel. This sets us apart. We are not just a social service agency, or an educational institution, or a shelter—we do all these things well—but rather we are a Gospel preaching ministry foremost. Every day I see men and women

who were once hopeless now living productive, fulfilled lives only because of transformation by the Gospel.

Even the unsaved note the difference. Matthew Parris, a British journalist, wrote in the London Times, “As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God” (Greer & Horst, 2014, p. 35). He continues to write, “Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people’s hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good” (Greer & Horst, 2014, p. 36). Even an atheist can see what man needs, not a change in environment but a new heart only given by Jesus Christ.

This is confirmed by what we see here at Pacific Garden Mission—heroin addicts are clean, thieves can be honest, and drunkards are made whole, not through any government program but by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do not receive government

money but believe that God’s work will be done God’s way supported by God’s people.

We do not need to reinvent what we do, just reaffirm what has worked since 1877 that Jesus Christ changes lives. We will not drift but stand with our feet firmly planted on the Rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

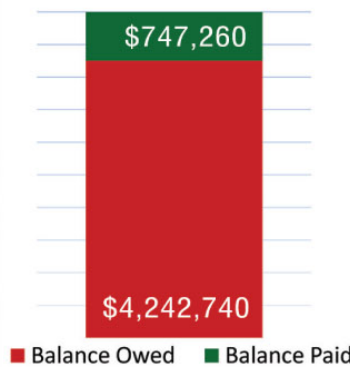


Greer, P., & Horst, C. (2014). Mission drift: The unspoken crisis facing leader, charities, and churches. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House.

FINANCIAL UPDATE—During this past Thanksgiving and Christmas season, there was a tremendous outpouring of financial giving to PGM. Small gifts and large, each played a part in meeting the daily needs that go on and on. All of the funds will be put to work rapidly as we minister to the homeless with the Gospel of Jesus. Please keep PGM in mind and in your prayers during these upcoming winter months.

Please help PGM erase it's financial debt.

\$5 Million – PGM Mortgage



RETIREES IRA TAX BREAK BACK?

In March of 2014, you were informed that “The curtain has gone down on the IRA charitable rollover—at least for the present. We all hope it will rise again soon.” It appears likely that “curtain” will rise again. Congress is poised to reinstate this break retroactive to 2014 and allow donations from a qualified retirement plan made prior to April 15th of 2015 to be applied against 2014 taxes. Congress has done this several times before, so there is precedent for how it will likely work.

If you are over 59 ½ years old and will be taking a distribution from any qualified retirement plan, you may want to take advantage of this option for making a donation to PGM. Be watching for Congress to re-enact this IRA tax break; it will likely happen in January of 2015.

DECEMBER 2014 NUMBERS

- 1,010** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 95** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 63,788** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 113,652** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 256** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 101** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,902** Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish)

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION does not 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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