



by Daniel Woolman

HURTING VETERANS HAVE A PLACE TO TURN — THANKS TO YOU

Pushing past physical age, we focus on the stories of an old man and a young man in this month's issue concentrating on the value of each eternal soul. As fleeting as life is, whether young or old, unless one has a relationship with Christ, one is lost. With your faithful contributions, we are helping the lost both physically and spiritually here at Pacific Garden Mission.

Wayne, a Vietnam veteran, has been struggling with chronic homelessness for over 20 years. He has also fought and suffered from addiction and mental health issues

ever since returning from the war. He debates what to do next in his life, and while he is encouraged to join the New Day addictions recovery program, Wayne is accustomed to the transient life, the life he now knows—frequently he goes out to panhandle on the streets. While Pacific Garden Mission's resources are here and waiting for this 60 year-old veteran, we know that it is truly a matter of showing him love and patience as we wait for God to do His work and move Wayne's heart.



ALL I HAD TO DO WAS ASK GOD TO HELP ME

Trevor, on the other hand, is only 23 years old and has suffered enough for anyone at any age. After crying out to the Lord, however, he found peace.

Trevor and his sisters grew up in an unstable home with both of their parents struggling with alcoholism. Their father finally succumbed to alcohol poisoning when Trevor was a teenager. In response to his chaotic home life, Trevor began engaging in destructive behaviors and eventually began using drugs. “I began isolating myself and would play video games all day. My drug use continued to get worse. It was a roller coaster of emotions, and I didn’t know how to handle any of it.” Trevor began to go down the

same path as his own parents; he drank to feel normal and began abusing injectable drugs. He soon found himself unable to hold a steady job and was isolated from his community as his addictions ruined his relationships with others. He felt alone and uncertain.

“It got to the point where I was thinking about killing myself.”

Trevor himself recalls: “It got to the point where I was thinking about killing myself. I knew that God created us but I didn’t think deep down that He loved us or me for who I was.” Finally, Trevor reached a breaking point and prayed to God for help. He confessed and accepted God’s

love into his heart, and God took Trevor into His hands: “This peace came over me like nothing else I have ever felt before.”

Soon after, Trevor gave his life over to Christ and joined the New Day addiction recovery program here at PGM. “The deeper I read into the scriptures, the closer my relationship to God grew, and I felt His love and that I was important to Him.”

Having graduated our 90-day addictions recovery program, Trevor is now in our one-year New

Life Bible Program.

During our conversation with Trevor about his journey to God, he closed by saying this: “Instead of shooting up now and getting high, I am reading the Bible and continuing my education. If He could do it for me, He can do it for anyone. I was eating food out of garbage cans and I was shooting up puddle water, and all I had to do was ask God to help me and I prayed and begged Him. God is real and He is working through my life.”

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HELP HURTING PEOPLE FIND HOPE THIS SUMMER

Because we do not receive government funding, we need the continued support of friends like you. Your generosity helps provide nutritious meals, warm shelter, and — more importantly — a transformed life filled with God's love!

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. In May your support made a true difference:

On average, **406** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

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

14 mothers with their children sheltered

About **40,472** plates of food served

45,521 items of clothing distributed

214 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

373 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

MAKE AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT

In Luke 16, Jesus tells of a rich man's steward who is about to be put out of his stewardship. This steward looks ahead and makes plans for his eventual dismissal; he acts wisely with his boss's resources while preparing for his after-work life.

We too have been given resources that are not our own but belong to our Lord. We know that we will have to give an account for our stewardship, but many of us do not give much thought to investing those resources in eternity.

This story reminds me that when I pass, I will see the eternal fruits of the investments I have made with my master's resources. And every supporter of Pacific Garden Mission is making an eternal investment through the mission that will be fully realized only in heaven.

Every gift you send is an investment in the lives of struggling neighbors. "I was in the E.R. three times for intoxication of alcohol," says one woman in our New Day drug program. "I would drink so much hoping I don't wake up, but I did. I wanted so bad to end my misery. While I was at the third hospital, a security guard asked me

if I had a place to go to. With no money, no job, no home, I had no place to go to. I finally arrived at P.G.M. Irene and Bonita introduced me to the New Day Program. I decided to join and have not once looked back. This program is teaching me how to have a personal relationship with God."

"I am eternally grateful..."

Another woman writes, "My drinking picked back up when I met the father of my youngest son. He introduced me to the art of drinking daily. He, however, was not a happy drunk. The beatings were so intense that at times I was left homebound for weeks." After joining the program, she states, "For the first time in my life I feel a sense of peace dwelling inside of me. I am eternally grateful to P.G.M. Not only for the bed I sleep in and the food that keeps me healthy, but the spiritual guidance I desperately needed that has led to this change."

The change in these women is partially due to the people of God making an eternal investment in their lives. Let's continue to invest in eternity.



THE TRUE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

There is no tangible way to thank you, our donors and partners, for the investment you have made in those who had lost all hope. As I recall the graduation we celebrated a week ago, I reflect on the true and meaningful impact your faithful support has had. Your continual belief in what we do at the Mission has provided graduates of our New Life Discipleship Program with the environment and tools they need to walk along the path God has created for them.

A few of the opportunities you have helped provide through our New Life Program:

- Christian counseling
- Bible classes
- Spiritual coaching
- Career development

- Levels of educational development designed to deepen and focus on personal relationships with the Lord
- Time and space to learn more about discipleship and God's plan for all of us

If these weren't already profound blessings, because of your help, the men and women who graduated last week have grown in the light of Christ so that they might reach out to others and continue to glorify Him. You have made it possible not only for vital programs like this to exist, you have made new life possible for so many people who walk through our doors and into Jesus Christ's arms.

Thank you for your support.

