I WAS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION

Sixty-four percent of the staff at Pacific Garden Mission came through our doors seeking help. They were lost, homeless, and many addicted. Yet as you gave and ensured they heard the Gospel, these men and women made a complete transformation through a relationship with Jesus Christ. They graduated from our Bible programs and now mentor those who are currently in the same situations they once experienced. This process of mentoring future disciples has been a core practice here at the Mission ever since we opened in the late 1800s. The ability of our staff to relate to and understand the life experiences of the homeless is not only essential, it also allows them to serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel, thereby nurturing their own discipleship. Because of your faithful support, when a person reaches out for help or goes through our Bible Program, they have the comfort of knowing they are not alone.

FLOYD

“My name is Floyd Turnbull and I was born in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I came from a mother who believed in keeping us in church. Every Sunday, like clockwork, we didn’t ask where we were going or if we were going, we knew we were going to church. Things
changed when she died when I was only ten years old. It was very hard for me, and from there I just started going downhill. Although I had never even smoked, I was soon introduced to marijuana, and then to cocaine. I really didn’t care about anything else after that, and for years I just did what I thought I was big and bad enough to do. I started hanging with the wrong crowd, the devil and his friends.

“When it starts going downhill it goes downhill fast,”

They talked with me the whole drive back to the Mission. They asked if I knew the Lord and I told them ‘no.’ They started explaining the Gospel to me and about Jesus Christ and I realized, this man, Jesus Christ, died for me, He gave his life for me. After we discussed it for a while, they asked me if I wanted to accept him as my Lord and Savior and I said ‘yes.’ They prayed with me for salvation and I accepted the Lord. My life has been changed ever since.

Floyd with his wife, Merline, and Godson, Tashawn
“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” —2 Corinthians 5:17

“When I arrived I found Christ, and after I found Christ I started to live in a different way. It was all about Jesus Christ; they teach about Jesus Christ, and that was the turning point for me. I started to realize the things I had been dependent on, the alcohol, the cigarettes, and I saw that there was something bigger and better than all of that. I started to realize that God could keep me and sustain me. After I graduated the Bible program, I got a job here at Pacific Garden Mission and I now work as one of the chefs. I bought a house, got married, attend a nice church, and am doing just what God has called me to do. I am loving it—it couldn’t be better, God has really taken care of me.

“Most of our staff came through these doors seeking help. They came to us with their burdens and problems and Jesus has helped them. We have a lot of folks that come through the kitchen and they too are broken. It’s good to be able to tell somebody, ‘Look, I’ve been where you have been, I know what you have been through, I know how it hurts.’ Because I have been there, I can show them by my words and actions the way to live life through a relationship with Christ. This is what people need to know, a relationship with God works, and not only can He deliver me, but He can deliver you too. I just continue to praise and thank God every day. If you want to be kept He will keep you. Today I am a new man.”

Floyd enjoys supervising volunteers in the PGM Kitchen

One can read about addiction, depression, and homelessness, but until one experiences and lives it, one cannot fully grasp the significance and power of those experiences. When you support this Gospel ministry, you are providing staff who not only know what it means to be homeless, lost, and helpless, but...
who have been transformed and are now discipling others. This is truly a living testament of God’s power. The power of having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the base of this testament and the source of living water that drives the healing and transformation within these walls. Pacific Garden Mission is not a homeless shelter with a church in it, but rather, it is a Gospel-preaching church with a shelter inside. With your help, PGM has remained true to our calling, and as persecution increases, more than ever before, we rely on God to carry us through.

Floyd with close friend Pastor McNeil

NEW LIFE GRADUATION MAY 2019

Your support provides a rich foundation of scriptural truth and practice for participants in our New Life Bible Program. It is a rigorous but rewarding year of classes, counseling and full-time volunteering (over 2,000 hours). Without the dedicated service of these men and women the Mission would not be able to function as it does. Most importantly, these graduates have turned their lives over to Jesus Christ and are walking in the Spirit. Please pray for our May, 2019 New Life Graduates and all the men and women currently in our programs as they begin to build a new life in Christ.
A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

A WATCHMAN IN THE CITY

The Chicago Tribune on June 3, 2019, ran the following: “At least 52 people were shot across Chicago over the weekend, the most violent of the year as summer gets underway, with a toll even higher than during the long Memorial Day holiday just a week earlier.”

More than half the victims were wounded during a burst of gunfire that lasted from Friday evening to Saturday morning. At least four of the 52 people shot during that time died after attacks on the West and South sides. By the time the weekend ended, at least ten people were dead, according to the Chicago Police Department. Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson held a news conference Monday morning, calling the level of violence “despicable.” These numbers are staggering. The violence in Chicago is comparable to headlines from Afghanistan.

God has strategically placed Pacific Garden Mission in the heart of this city, to be a light to those in need. Every day we see the victims of Chicago’s street wars end up at our doors. Some in wheel chairs, some hungry, some emotionally spent, looking for answers. Ezekiel 3:17 says, “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.”

I recently spoke with a young woman who came to PGM as a 19-year-old. I asked where she would be without PGM, and she told me, “I would be on a corner somewhere prostituting.” She has now confessed in Christ and is being discipled through our programs. God has placed us as a watchman in the center of this city to receive the hurting and sound the alarm.

Thank you for your kind support as we continue to stand watch and receive many of those damaged by the war being waged in our own city.
GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch, Director of Development

We are praising God this month for you, our ministry partners who make sure the Gospel work at Pacific Garden Mission goes forward through your prayer and giving.

You may recall we’ve been diligently working to pay off a surprise water bill we received from the city back in February 2017, for $357,013, when the city began collecting from organizations classified as churches. I’m grateful to report that with your support, this bill is now fully paid.

It’s your giving that allows us to operate in good financial health and maximize our energy for sharing the Gospel and meeting the physical needs of the men and women who come through the doors of PGM. We pray you know that when you give to Pacific Garden Mission, you are giving through the Mission to those that need it the most—the lost souls that find hope, compassion, and purpose in Christ.

You have partnered with God to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ in the city of Chicago and across America through airwaves of radio and television.

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support.

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

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, 436 homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

97 men and women were enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

About 52,412 plates of food served

34,000 items of clothing distributed

228 patients received free medical/dental treatment

272 people professed faith in Christ

3,106 media outlets around the world broadcasted Unshackled!

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.