

JULY 2017

HOLY BIBLE

PGMNews

# JESUS SAVES LIBERTY FOLLOWS

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION. TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST SINCE 1877

*Written by John Adams  
to his wife on July 3, 1776*

"I AM APT TO BELIEVE that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. — I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. — Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not."

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. — I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. — Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.

From the Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society.  
Not to be reproduced without permission.

*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. — GALATIANS 5:13*

Continues on page 2

# Thanking God for deliverance from bondage to

LIBERTY—Continued from page 1

ARTICLE BY STEPHEN WELCH

**M**ANY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN that come to Pacific Garden Mission seeking refuge have tried solving their problems on their own. Often, it takes years for people to discover they can't solve their problems in their own strength. Domestic abuse, drug addiction, and job loss are all situations those entering the mission face. These strong-

holds can be near impossible to overcome. However, when they realize change cannot happen in their own strength and turn to God for their deepest needs, they are freed from what has kept them in bondage. Only the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, the power of God unto salvation reveals our deepest need and greatest freedom—a Savior. A common testimony of people here is the realization of their lack of dependence on God and how they are now free indeed. Two of the testimonies we recently recorded shared this realization.

## DONALD HUBBARD

Donald, a New Life Program member since last November, shared his account by saying:

"After I blew the smoke out I remember it was like a vail dropped down over my eyes and it was shaded for a long time. Over the next 27 years I was addicted to crack cocaine, doing things that I wouldn't normally do, lying, stealing, cheating and just doing things that I normally wouldn't do. During the process of that I had got married and had a daughter but my wife ended up divorcing me because of my usage. I have experienced everything a homeless person has done, including sleeping in cardboard boxes and going from site to site finding meals to eat. After going through all of that I wanted to try to get myself together. At that point I knew it was hard to do it by myself."

Many like Donald have faced not only a couple years of drug addiction, but some for five, ten, and sometimes twenty years of

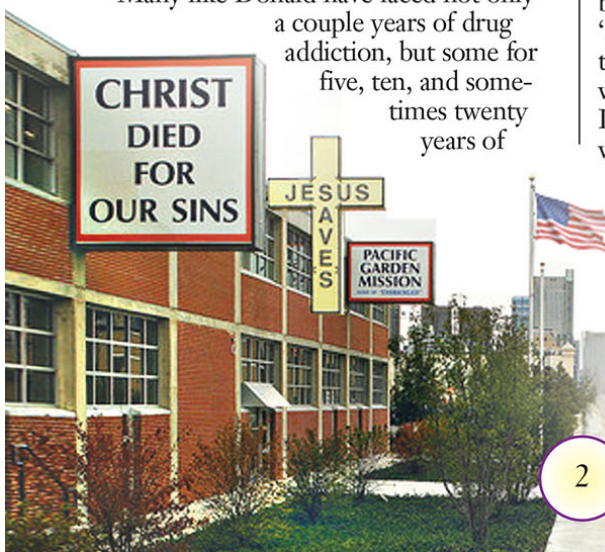


Donald studying Scripture in the courtyard

their life. It's the breaking point that leads them to Pacific Garden Mission. As a result, Christ is reaching even the most broken of souls.

"I was locked at a county jail once again. It was 2am. There was a dim light coming from the jail bathroom. I was just reading my bible. I remember reading 2 Corinthians 3:16, 'Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.' I interpreted the verse as saying that anyone that came to the Lord wholeheartedly, God would remove the vail. When I read that it seemed like the same vail that had been thrown over my head 27 years ago was lifted and through the light it seemed like the room got ten times

lighter and I could actually hear the angels applauding. I was so overjoyed and felt like I had to tell somebody, but everyone around me was asleep. I ended up telling a guard near me and he was like, 'Yeah, that's great



## *freedom in God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



**Donald joyfully assists in the PGM food pantry.**

Hubbard, now go back to bed.' but that was the most joyful time of my life.

I got out of jail and decided to join the program here at Pacific Garden Mission. I remember sitting in the lobby area before I joined. At that time, the only thing going across my heart and mind was that a new day had dawned and I knew that this was going to be my last time ever doing drugs again.

Since I have been here everything has been great. The teaching, the preaching, the classes are all good experiences for me. They are con-

tinuing to help me grow. Everything I have heard here is just packed with so much power and I always pray that my ears will never grow dull to listening and learning to what God has to teach. So far, I have gotten all of what this program has to offer.

How do I see my future? I see myself entering ministry by serving youth or the people at Pacific Garden Mission."

The drug addiction vail Donald wore took twenty-seven years to be lifted. The Word of God and faith in Jesus Christ was the saving grace that lifted this vail. Despite his attempt, he couldn't break the chains of addiction.

Remarkably, God reached him in the middle of the night in a jail cell simply by His overwhelming peace and power. As Donald is able to grow here in his faith, he is building a solid foundation for a new try at life. At the same time, Donald is continually reminded that it's our dependence on God that truly frees us.

## **CHASE EPPS**

Chase, a young man who found himself in a life of rebellion and crime, surrendered to the realization that he needed something supernatural to save him.

"I was in jail in 2012. I was sitting there in my cell with two of my brothers who were there at the same time. My mom was really stressed, and she wrote me a letter and asked 'What are you going to do?' She had basically said that it was time to start getting your life in order. Since then, I started to think. I had already realized that I had to do something because I was getting older and wanted to change. I wanted to be somebody in this world. So, one day, in the quietness of my heart, I told God I didn't want to leave that jail cell the same person I was when I entered. Two weeks later, I was released from jail and I knew that I needed something divine. This change couldn't come from man, a program, or some encouraging words; it had to be something divine.

I came through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission really unsure of what God was doing with me at that time. I was still unsaved and searching for something that I could latch onto, something that would give me some substance, some kind of direction. I talked to an employee here and he told me about



**Chase shown leading a service inside PGM**

Jesus Christ. At this point, I didn't know who Christ was. I was asking, 'Who is this man Christ that everyone is talking about?' I had been to other places for drug treatment, but I noticed something different here at Pacific Garden Mission. I saw that there were happy young guys, there were happy old guys, and there were happy women. I wondered why everyone was so happy. Meanwhile, I sat in my misery on the bench observing the happiness surrounding me. They told me about the Bible program, and said if I liked it I could stay, so I decided to give it a try. I enrolled in the Bible

Program and was saved in my sixth month of the program.

I stopped wrestling with God; I submitted. God started to show me that it was not about who you are or where you came from, but it's about His power and His might. For example, it has nothing to do with whether you can 'do it' on your own or not. Instead, it's about submitting to God's power and what He did on the cross to bring life to those who trust Him. From there, I started moving forward in Christ. I wasn't trying to pave the path. I didn't worry about what I was going to do in the future; I solely trusted in Christ. My service to Christ is what helped me.

I ended up graduating the New Life Bible Program and moved forward in my new life. Everything I prayed and desired God gave me. He sent me a beautiful fiancée and a good job. I also started letting those things take up my time. I started not doing devotions and stopped going to church and my relationship with God started fading. My Grandma who had been in a hospice died. A short six months later, my mom also passed away. These losses caused my heart to lose trust in God's plan for me. I started wrestling with God about my faith and asked God what He was doing. I got really depressed and started reaching out to pastors. They told me I need to get back in a situation that would help me get reestablished with the Lord. It seemed like the devil was attacking me from all over."

Like Chase, sometimes the devil puts roadblocks in our path that cause us to doubt and often become rerouted in our spiritual walk. It can be the loss of a family member, a job, or being around the wrong people that distracts us from our newly found hope in Christ. Frequently, this diversion from Christ happens quickly and without notice. Jeremiah 17:9 speaks of the variability of our hearts, saying, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Even still, God's voice can supersede our often deceived hearts. His voice is a beckoning of freedom awaiting a reply. In Chase's experience, he responded to this beckoning.

"One night in the quietness of my heart I felt God leading me back to the Mission. I made a decision to press forward and came back to Pacific Garden Mission ready to wholeheartedly submit. Christ is my desire

**Chase with his guitar at PGM**



now, and wherever God is moving me toward I am submitted to Him, and wherever he moves me to I am going to grow," Chase said.

In Chase's situation, he struggled with trusting in God's plan. He had a broken heart from the loss of his family members. Our hearts, especially when they break, wear deeply on our spirit, causing us to doubt God. Chase was grieving the loss of his grandmother and mother at that time. These moments of grief bring us to the realization that we, indeed, need God's help. For Chase, he reached out to pastors when the weight of his grief led to depression. This depression was a signal for Chase to find help. Likewise, it reminded him of the teaching he received at Pacific Garden Mission the first time he came. More importantly, God continued the work he started in Chase since the beginning of his spiritual journey. God loves us enough to not let us go even when we become overconfident in our abilities.

God is the strong refuge in this unpredictable life. His love is committed, reliable, and steadfast in any circumstance. We can rely on Him for our peace and comfort in trying times of depression and hopelessness. He will meet us where we're at. He'll love us where we are. He will save us if we ask. He will rescue us if we're willing to be rescued.

Chase and Donald are just two of the hundreds of men and women that join our Programs each year. These are men and women looking for answers to the complex problems that brought them here and they find the answer in Jesus Christ. Thank you for supporting this ministry where captives are set free into eternal life in the heavenly realms with Jesus Christ our Lord.

*And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. —Ephesians 2:6-7*

*make you free, ye shall be free indeed. — JOHN 8:36*



## **A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski**

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

# *Our Help is in the Name of the Lord*

### ***Psalm 124:1-8***

A SONG OF DEGREES OF DAVID

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say;

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:

Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:

Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

**F**OR NEARLY 140 YEARS Pacific Garden Mission has been a lighthouse for those that have faced the tumultuous storms life has brought their way. Our main focus has been the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeing lives changed. I recently asked a number of our residents where they would be without Pacific Garden Mission and their answers were amazing.

21-year-old Ladarius writes, "I would be in either two places still out in the

streets on and off or in jail maybe even dead." 25-year-old Chase writes, "I would probably be locked up facing life or dead or completely lost, but now I'm saved moving forward in School and life." 21-year-old Revon writes, "in my previous cycle of smoking weed and drinking." 23-year-old David writes, "Gangbanging, selling drugs, dead or in Jail." 19-year-old Jonathan writes, "I would probably be in jail for theft or I would have started doing drugs."

With all of the problems society is facing we believe we have an answer and that answer is Jesus Christ. Where would these young men be without Pacific Garden Mission? Thank you for your prayers as well as support, you have made a difference investing in the lives of these young men as well as investing in eternity.

**MEN TRANSFORMED! Pictured left to right—Ladarius Abston, Chase Epps, Pastor Phil, Jonathon Wilford. Sitting—David Mendez, Revon Jones**



*Thanking God for deliverance from bondage to freedom in God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



## **FINANCIAL UPDATE** Stephen Welch, Director of Development

As we close the fiscal year 2016–2017 and begin the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2017, we are thanking God for your faithful support of this ministry. Your private donations represent 95% of our funding. You are the ones God has chosen to support His ministry and you responded in faith. We cherish your letters and prayers and gifts.

Our entire organization focuses on reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ. We are missionaries. The need is great and while many organizations focus on physical needs, behavioral needs and social needs of their clients, we address the soul with “the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; ...” —Romans 1:16

We trust God to supply our needs. We don't sell anything, have no thrift store, we do not have marathons or golf outings to raise money or fundraising events. We accept no government or state funding. The main way we are funded is by those who have a heart for this ministry. It is through faith and by His grace and much prayer that the support has continued since 1877. In September 2017 we celebrate our 140th year in ministry and our doors have never been closed for a day. We will be having an open house in September and invitations will be sent out. We would love to have you visit us. Come see what God is doing and how your treasures are being sent ahead.

## **WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS AND 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 come along side of us financially you're not giving to the mission, but through the mission to the people that need your help the most. We are serious about demonstrating our stewardship, and we invite you to learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.

### **Here are just some of the ways your giving is measured (MAY)**

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**564**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**73**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**45,786**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**30,577**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**184**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**272**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting “Unshackled!”....**3,061**

## **PGM NEWS** JULY 2017 • Vol. 82, No. 7 Published monthly by **PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**

1458 South Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60607–5201 E-mail: [pgmnews@pgm.org](mailto:pgmnews@pgm.org) Phone: 312. 492. 9410  
Fax: 312. 492. 9414 Websites: [www.pgm.org](http://www.pgm.org) [www.unshackled.org](http://www.unshackled.org)

PHILIP KWIATKOWSKI, PRESIDENT STEPHEN WELCH, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT PAUL HIGDON, DESIGN