



PGM 140 YEARS

OF CONTINUOUS MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2017

Luke 6:48 — He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

PGMNews

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

ARTICLE BY DANIEL WOOLMAN

For 140 years Pacific Garden Mission has been faithful to preach the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ. We began when God gave Sarah Dunn Clarke a vision to reach the lost in Chicago. She was obedient and a woman who exercised her faith to see God's purpose fulfilled in her life. Since our humble beginning in 1877 the stories are countless of those who received faith in Christ and were born again.

Continues on page 2



140 Year Anniversary—Continued from page 1

On September 9, 2017, we will be celebrating God's faithfulness and bringing the faithful together into an open house for all to see what God is doing at Pacific Garden Mission. We are grateful for your support in providing an environment for the Gospel to be preached and discipleship to take root. Jesus Christ is using your support and this ministry to fulfill the Great Commission.

The following testimonies share how we serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel. Let's look at what happens when someone arrives at Pacific Garden Mission looking for help and finding Jesus.

James



Before coming to Pacific Garden Mission, I was very much a “post-modern man.” I was distrustful of any grand ideology, and I fully embraced the idea that there was no moral absolute; that truth was in the eye of the beholder. This thinking allowed me to live my life in any way that I deemed fit without fear of spiritual reprisal. So I willingly embraced a dark, hedonistic lifestyle. I denied myself no pleasure, not knowing the price that I was paying.

Eventually, I realized that if I continued that way, I would die. I got engaged to my then girlfriend and the two of us decided to trade crazy, city living for a slower, domestic life. It



You can see James's inspiring testimony on PGM's YouTube channel, Episode 120

was not good. My problems, of course, traveled with me. I didn't know how to live, and the two of us grew apart. Like countless others before me, I filled the void with alcohol.

Four states, three jobs, two engagements, and some years later I found myself sleeping in a Chicago doorway on a stormy night. The next morning I chased rumors and made my way to the big neon cross over Pacific Garden Mission. I was physically and spiritually sick. I was at the end of my life. I had nothing left. I was all “lived” out. I had lived life to the fullest, and I was utterly empty.

The mission saved my life. Or I should say, the mission provided a safe haven, Jesus Christ saved my life. For that, I will be forever grateful.

I decided to join the Men's Bible Program. I was broken down, but here I began the rebuilding process. With good Godly counsel and sound biblical lessons from the PGM staff, I finished a year of very necessary spiritual refining. I pray every day to become finer, and I now know that I can, through the saving grace of Jesus Christ and

As part of his ministry work at PGM James helps men as they transition from a life on the streets to gainful employment and a new start in life—physically and spiritually.



the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I graduated the Men's bible program in September of 2016 and was blessed to be hired by the mission the following March. It's now my privilege to help men "get back on the grid," find employment or employment training, and transition to stable housing. But first and foremost, I'm in a position to provide spiritual counsel to men as they come into the mission. I now have the privilege to plant the seed just as it was planted in me. I'm on the front lines of an active and vibrant ministry, and I'm discovering every day what it truly means to live life to the fullest. Glory be to God!!!"

1 Corinthians 3:11 – *For other fo*

James now works with our transient men helping them to make life changing decisions. A couple of years ago the Mission implemented a policy that allowed people to stay for 30 days before being required to join a program. As difficult as this was for some that had been here for a long period of time, it also pushed them into making choices to better their lives. Charles is one of these men who when faced with a tough decision, made the choice to turn his life over to Christ.



Charles's story can be seen in full on our YouTube channel, Episode 123. Working in PGM's Security Division he has ample opportunities to share how Christ has transformed his life.

Charles

I grew up in the streets of Chicago. I was using drugs for over 30 years. I was in a gang and regret a lot of my gang activity. I came to Pacific Garden Mission because I was homeless for several years.

When I came into the day room at PGM I was still using. I was still in the darkness. I was here for 90 days and then had to decide to either leave or join one of the programs. I decided to join the New Day Addictions Program to help me get sober. While in the 90-day addictions recovery program I learned that there was a spiritual battle for my soul and the only solution for me was Jesus Christ.

After graduating the New Day Program, I joined the New Life Program, which is a year-long Bible Program. I learned a lot about the Lord and the Bible. The Light is shining on me now and I thank God for bringing me here. If it wasn't for Jesus I wouldn't be here. If Jesus could change me, a gang banger and drug addict for over 30

years, then Jesus can change anybody.

I now work on security here at PGM and I can now minister to others that come in seeking help. I tell them my testimony and tell them that the only person that can help them is Jesus Christ. All you have to do is seek Him and He will help you. I have been sober since 2015 and it is a great feeling. The feeling I have now with Jesus is like no other."

How amazing it is that Charles is now witnessing to men that are sitting in the same seats he was two years ago. With the power of God anything is possible. Hope, who you will read about shortly, spent 13 years living in abandoned buildings. To see the transformation she has gone through has been truly remarkable, and she is not only employed at PGM, but she is moving into her own place this week. This is Hope's story.

Photo of Charles ministering to a PGM guest



Foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



“**B**efore I came to the mission I was a mess. I came from abandonment. I came from abusive relationships and that was all I had known from a very young age. As a result of that, and being afraid of people and wanting to escape from it all, I turned to the streets. I turned to other people that were like me who had been thrown away and that nobody else cared about. That is when I started drinking really heavy, passing out and often raped.

This life style rolled on through my late teens and early adult years, and eventually I was living in abandoned buildings which lasted for 13 years. What had started out as something fun grew into something very dark. My addictions also led to me doing a lot of stealing, and I would get arrested repeatedly for that. I came to the mission one day to lay low after stealing something from someone. I joined the Bible Program. I got into the Word of God and it started changing me, changing my heart and changing my desires. He changed everything about me. He healed the pain that was in my heart. He healed all the abusive memories I had and put forgiveness in me. Now I am able to forgive people.

As a result of coming to the mission and graduating the Bible Program, I was offered and accepted a position on staff. It was Jesus that did this for me, because if I could have done this for myself I would have. I used to think that nobody loved me, but now I know Jesus does. The transformation that has taken place is amazing. Being on staff here allows me to share my testimony with the women that come in. I can encourage them and lead them to the Lord and show them that there is someone else here that loves them and

cares about them, because I went through the same thing. If Jesus can do this for me, He can do it for anybody.”

James, Charles, and Hope are the reason why Pacific Garden Mission was opened 140 years ago. Nothing shows the power of Christ more than a lost hopeless soul coming to faith and having a full life transformation like these three have. From homeless and hopeless to fully functioning followers of Christ.

God uses you; our donors, volunteers, prayer partners, and us to serve Him faithfully. Offering life answers through faith in Jesus Christ through any season of life so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ takes energy, patience, love, and sacrifice. Together we worship God through His Son Jesus Christ as we fulfill His purpose in our lives. To God be the glory, great things He hath done.

Hope celebrates getting the keys to her very own apartment after 13 years of homelessness. Shown here with Pastor Phil and Dr. Gombis, Hope also surpassed three years of sobriety as she endeavors to walk in purity. See her inspiring story on our YouTube channel, Episode 124.



PGM OPEN HOUSE INVITATION!

Come join us on September 9 to see firsthand the Transformational Ministry of Pacific Garden Mission

OPEN HOUSE HOURS: 10 am–4 pm

Tours: 11 am, 12:30 & 2:30 pm

President's Update: 2:00 pm

Unshackled! Live Production: 4:30 pm

Dinner: 5:30 pm Gospel Service: 6:30 pm



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

No Greater Foundation

In light of our 140th-year celebration, I would like to share the story of the founding of the Mission.

On September 15, 1877, at 386 South Clark Street, Chicago, the first rescue mission in the Northwest flung open its doors. Only five years earlier the world's first rescue mission had been founded

by Jerry McAuley on October 8, 1872, at 316 Water Street, New York. Word spread from both places that the drunkard was more welcome than the tee-totaler, the thief than the policeman, the harlot than the choir singer.

How aware Mother Clarke was of the New York enterprise, if at all, is unknown. The Clarkes proudly opened house in the tiny store. Fitted with long, wooden, backless benches, the mission boasted a seating capacity of forty. Oil lamps flickered from the side walls. The stove was of ancient design, but it gave heat. The old organ groaned, but it was better than none. The rest of the paraphernalia was limited to a few huge signs painted on the walls. One of them, centered halfway across the front, read GOD IS LOVE. That on the left wall read THOU GOD SEEST ME. On the right was the great invitation COME UNTO ME ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

There was no pulpit, only a chair, and table used by Colonel Clarke. The Colonel was no evangelist nor pulpit orator. Friends hesitated even to rate him among the world's worst preachers. But God was there in approval of a ministry steeped in tender compassion for the souls of men. As he talked to boisterous crowds, often on John 3:16, his favorite text, tears ran from Colonel Clarke's cheeks. He was regarded by some as the most

easily affected man ever born.

The influx of men was under way. Without order and without respect they came, many of them drunk beyond consciousness. It was no small job just to maintain a minimum of boisterousness. Mrs. Clarke seemed to possess a remarkable influence over the offenders, a service which she accomplished usefully throughout all her years of mission work. But even amid the confused babbling of drunkards, God's presence was manifested.

During the very first days, four persons professed conversion, three giving evidence of a real conversion experience. The Clarkes had put out the fleece. Night after night the old, old story of Jesus and His power to save rang out to patrons of brothels, gambling joints, and opium dens. Night after night thieves, harlots and alcoholics were loosed from Satan's chains and wooed through the Clarkes' ministry into the loving heart of God. The nets of God were straining with precious souls.

A late 1870s era lithograph showing the first Mission, a tiny storefront operation on South Clark Street in Chicago. Seen are Col. and Mrs. Clarke ministering to the needy and lost.





FINANCIAL UPDATE Stephen Welch, Director of Development

We are greatly indebted to the many friends of the Mission for their continued donations, their manifest interest and words of encouragement. Contributions in place of money have been given by many organizations helping us with needs from food to printing, all of which our appreciation can hardly be expressed, but their reward will be from Him, for whose cause it has been given.

I came across the income and expenses from September 15, 1896. Our contributions were \$6,217. The utilities were \$234. The utilities for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, were \$433,910. Up until 18 months ago, we were never paying a water bill. Now water costs \$27,000 every two months.

Please pray for Pacific Garden Mission as we meet the increasing demands of this amazing ministry. Many things have changed in 140 years, but there is One that is always the same. That One is Jesus Christ and His message of salvation and glory.

Together all of us, the Mission and our dear friends who sacrifice to support us, will remain faithful and grateful as we worship God through His Son Jesus Christ.

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 (JULY)

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**510**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**80**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**33,335**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**32,517**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**130**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**327**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3,067**

PGM NEWS SEPTEMBER 2017 • Vol. 82, No. 9 Published monthly by **PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**
1458 South Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60607-5201 E-mail: pgmnews@pgm.org Phone: 312. 492. 9410
Fax: 312. 492. 9414 Websites: www.pgm.org www.unshackled.org

PHILIP KWIATKOWSKI, PRESIDENT **STEPHEN WELCH**, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT **DANIEL WOOLMAN**, EDITOR **PAUL HIGDON**, DESIGN