

“Behold, All Things are Made New!”

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

The Graduating Class of May 2017!

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” —Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

WHILE MANY FAMILIES are celebrating the graduation of a loved one, friend, or neighbor, many dear friends who walk through our doors of hope have never completed anything. They were simply happy to have survived. One man said this graduation is the first thing he has completed other than a prison sentence. The ministry at Pacific Garden Mission rejoices with you in the May graduation that you made possible in Christ Jesus, where men and women have learned to love Jesus Christ, read and memorize His Word, and becoming fully functioning followers of Christ.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.—John 8:32

In the one year New Life Bible Program, men and women learn that their perspective and circumstances will change only when their heart changes. The most complicated problems we face have one simple solution—The Gospel Message of Jesus Christ.

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Graduates Pictured Above: Left to right—Jonathon Williford, Kevin Goode, Lewis Eggleston, Michael Ellis, John Weems, Ivan Hatchett, Charles Overton, Martin Adams, Rosemary Brown, Jose Banda, Martha Moore, Paulette Larmond. Ricky Pickens, Michael Berry, Peter Dobrowolski, Tunisia Paul, Tamera Hunter (not shown)

Rosemary and Charles, two May graduates, offered to share their testimonies, and we hope you will enjoy what God is doing through His Son Jesus Christ in their lives here at Pacific Garden Mission.

Rosemary, a single mother of 9 children,

who after suffering from a severe illness that left her unable to work back in 2002, has been struggling with bouts of homelessness for well over a decade now. She is one of our recent graduates from the New Life Bible Program, and she shared part of her testimony with us.

ROSEMARY'S TESTIMONY

“I HAD MY UPS AND downs here at the mission, but overall it is truly a blessing. It is of the Lord's doing. Around the city there aren't places where you can get three meals a day, a shower, and a bed to sleep. Here at PGM, you hear the Word of God three or four times a day, which is very important because when you go out in the world you can forget if you don't hear it. When you come back into the mission and hear God's word again it is sweet, it is like sugar to your soul. When you hear the Word of God you can go a little further, but without God's Word you're just going to perish, you will crumble. With the Word you get strength day by day because it is spiritual food, it is life, it is God, it is Jesus.”

While Rosemary initially came here to get her physical needs met, she found herself getting fed spiritually. Being an unwed mother of nine children, she faced what seemed like hurdles of Goliath proportions. Even though she didn't initially join our Program, she was slowly being fed, and the seed of change was being planted in her heart.

See Rosemary's Story on PGM's YouTube. Ep. 86



Rosemary sits peacefully at Pacific Garden Mission

“God sent someone to witness to me, to tell me that God loved me, and that no matter what I was going through that He could help me. So I said OK, and I put my faith in Jesus. I said, ‘Ok Lord, I am going to put everything and give everything to you. My kids I give to you, my life I give to you, I am going to let you work it out, Lord.’ Jesus changed my life. He turned everything around. I didn't have a desire to live the way I was living because God had changed my heart, and He was telling me that He loved me, and that if I continued to trust Him things would get bet-

ter. Things have gone up and down, and it has not been smooth sailing. I have been going through some hills and some valleys, but the Lord has been taking me through all of it. God has been faithful and merciful with me.”

Rosemary did end up joining the Women's New Life Bible Program and is excited about graduating. It has now been over a year since she joined, and since then she has been participating in GED classes, career development classes, and most importantly, Bible classes. For the first time in 15 years, Rosemary has a new foundation to build from, and not only the encouragement of the people around her here, but most importantly she has her faith in God.

“I praise God for this mission and I praise God for each person here. I praise Him for the Bible Program and that I had a desire to join the Bible Program so I could learn about Jesus. There is no one like the Lord. He loves me and I know that He suffered and died because He loved me so much. He could love even a nobody like me. I just want to learn more about Him and how to live right. He is a God of Love, pure love, holy, righteous.”



CHARLES'S STORY

"I HAD SPIRALED DOWN to a point where I was broken and hopeless. I was about to be homeless with nowhere to go. I was so depressed and broken that I contemplated suicide. At this point of desperation, the only words I could get out of my mouth were, 'God please help me.' I couldn't pay the TV cable bill so my cable went out; however, I figured out that putting tin foil around the end of the cable cord I would receive about 5 local channels. What would happen next was nothing less than a miracle.

I turned on the TV. One of the 5 local channels I received was WVCY channel 30, a Christian station in Milwaukee. The Pacific Garden Mission TV show happened to be on. I remember seeing the host of the show, Stephen Welch, announce that miracles are happening every day at Pacific Garden Mission, and he was about to show some stories of hope. This caught my attention. I watched the first testimony of a woman about my same age who was college educated like I was. She was successful in her career and then lost everything like I had done. In addition, she broke trust with her children and family members just as I had done. She then shared how the program at the mission had transformed her life. The show was keeping my interest and taking my mind off of what I was plan-

ning to do. After the testimonies, I watched Pastor Phil preach a powerful message and it seemed as if he had prepared his message that night specifically for me to hear; it convicted me, and I felt led by God to go seek him there.

My sister was kind enough to purchase a bus ticket for me. I arrived at the Pacific Garden Mission on April 4th, 2016. On April 5th I signed into the New Life Bible/Discipleship Program. I met pastors and counselors who were committed to assisting everyone who entered the program to become fully functioning followers of Christ. I learned that the battles I had gone through had a biblical explanation and biblical solution. I was pursuing worldly fame and fortune. The desire to possess, the desire to impress people and the desire to indulge were my fleshly lusts. The bible says in 1 John 2:16: *'For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.'* My despair was being replaced with an appetite to learn more about the solutions rooted in the bible.

I started by working in the kitchen washing pots and pans and going to my New Life classes and bible studies. I was so broken; I was willing to do whatever they told me to do. After a few months, the fog began to clear and I was making good progress. I was moved from the kitchen into a position in Guest Services. I worked the 10 pm to 6 am shift on the front lines processing men and woman off of the street into the mission. I met men and woman from all walks of life with testimo-

nies that would leave most in astonishment. Many were hurting young people ages 18-22, lost and unwanted, many of whom were running from the war zone of the west side. It was here where I learned the heart of the mission services and how to put into practice what I was learning in the New Life program. The mercy and love of Jesus Christ, The Gospel message that can

transform a broken life like mine into a new creature in Christ. I was able to pray with those in despair. I was now sharing the fact that no matter how far down you are



Stephen Welch welcomes Charles to the Ministry of PGM

or hopeless you may feel, Jesus knows and is here to bring a new life to those who believe. After working in Guest Services for several months, I was then promoted to work in Program Services. In this position, I was able to assist my brothers in Christ that joined the New Life Program. I also received the privilege of being able to preach the Gospel message on a regular basis to my brothers who are homeless in the day room.

In my final phase of the program, I was promoted one more time to work in the administrative offices' development department under one of my mentors, Stephen Welch. It is amazing to me that I get the opportunity to assist the PGM TV show that not only saved me but gave me a new life.

It's hard to believe a year has gone by as I graduate from the New Life program. By far

this program has been the most life-changing experience I could have hoped for. My appetite continues to increase for learning more about the Word of God, and I plan on continuing my studies within the field of apologetics. As Peter said in 1 Peter 3:15: *'But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.'*

In addition to my other duties here, for the past ten months I have enjoyed giving our donors and visitors tours of our incredible facility. I hope and pray one day, I will be able to meet many of you reading this newsletter so that I may have the privilege of showing you around this amazing house of God personally."

JULY 4TH – CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S FREEDOM!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."—Psalm 33:12

MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS have never experienced the holidays from a Christian perspective. We want to help our residents experience the founding of our nation in a God-honoring patriotic way that changes lives with a focus on Jesus Christ. Please come along side of us when you receive the invitation to provide a delicious summer meal at the July 4th summer picnic at Pacific Garden Mission, realizing that you are not just funding a picnic and a meal. You are prayerfully funding the beginning of a lifestyle that is eternal.

The Gospel will be preached at an outdoor service on 14th Place where the multitudes will come to be fed and receive our love the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Your partnership is dearly needed, and all additional funds will be used to help this amazing ministry reach the lost with Gospel of Jesus Christ.



"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

~Patrick Henry





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

A Call to Be Men of God

The last book in the Old Testament ends with Malachi saying, *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth*

with a curse." (Malachi 4:5,6) To the people of that time faith was a mere formality; the religious leaders were interested in their own gain, and frequent divorce had broken apart the family unit. Most any man can father a child, but fewer can be a Dad. Biblically as well as statistically it has been observed that the reduction of Fathers in the home leads to more challenges for the child as well as a weakening of society. Secular studies observe, "Children who live without their fathers are more likely to engage in criminal behavior" (Horn & Sylvester, 2002), or "Commit a school crime—such as possessing, using, or distributing alcohol or drugs, possessing a weapon, or assaulting a teacher, administrator, or another student." (Jenkins, 1995).

The world has come to agree with what the Bible has always taught, that the role of the father is invaluable, and if absent the consequences will be devastating. *"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his stat-*

utes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey." (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)

A young man here at PGM wrote the following note to me, "My Dad was never around to teach me and it's hard trying to teach myself something I don't know. But praise God for Pacific Garden Mission and the people He placed around me to show me what my family couldn't. I appreciate you Pastor Phil for taking me in with your everyday high fives and fist bumps, you have kept me in the notion that everything will get better soon." In Malachi's day, family reconciliation was needed no differently than in our own day. Men, let's not be just biological fathers but men of God that exercise our God-given calling.

INVITATION TO VISIT PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION

We look forward to sharing with you all the exciting things God is doing here at Pacific Garden Mission in 2017.

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

- Tour the mission – individual or group tours.
- UNSHACKLED – radio drama recorded live
- Dinner and fellowship in our cafeteria
- Evening Service – Praise and Testimony recorded for PGM TV

Please join us and attend as little or as much as your schedule allows. Call 312-492-9410 to R.S.V.P.

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FINANCIAL UPDATE Stephen Welch, Director of Development

Our purpose at Pacific Garden Mission is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ. I can't help but reflect on how the Gospel message impacted me as I walked through these doors of hope in May of 2012 absolutely broken. I was looking for help to rise above my circumstances realizing my hope is in Christ. I joined the new Life Program and prayed, "Lord Jesus, I'm investing a year of my life in you."

Investing a year in God's Word affected the way I see everyone and everything around me. The ministry supported by our loving donors gave me a safe place to live and become transformed by Jesus Christ. My circumstances changed when my heart changed and my mind was transformed right here at Pacific Garden Mission. I thank God for a place like this. Then God used me. I now live a productive life as a staff member, which is my calling.

God's justifying work for us and transforming work in us commissions a path of good works prepared beforehand *"that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). On this path are real people with real lives full of real stories, and, how when we encounter them is a divine call to us. They are an opportunity, a welcomed mandate, for us to be who we are in Christ.

May we never lose sight that the central issue has to do with how the Gospel miracle bears on our own souls. God has made us new creatures in Christ, righteous before him, and empowered to love others for His sake, and then make disciples to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are *"partakers of the divine nature."*

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." —2 Peter 1: 3-4

As we close this fiscal year at the mission on June 30, 2017, we are praying for your support and partnership in this amazing transformational ministry where Jesus saves and transforms. We want to help more people who walk through our doors. This effort requires Godly men and woman and resources. We pray this month's offering from our faithful donors will help provide the required funding amount to end our fiscal year with all of our financial obligations being met. Our end of year fiscal ask is \$1,300,000. I have faith that we can do this together. Some of us will give a little and others will respond to God's call to stretch, yet we will do this together. Every gift will be a blessing.

If God moves you to invest in this Fiscal Year End challenge, please write FYE 2017 on your giving envelope or letter. May God bless us as we serve as partners in His transformational ministry together as His Church, where Jesus Christ Saves. To God be the Glory, great things He hath done.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS AND PROVIDES

Pacific Garden Mission's budget is completely donor funded. We receive no government funding. We are serious about demonstrating our stewardship, and 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 (APRIL)

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**577**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**96**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**40,793**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**29,968**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**110**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**312**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3,050**