

A Transformational Ministry

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

Graduates of our one-year New Life Program reflect the joy and excitement of what Jesus is doing at Pacific Garden Mission. Each is an expression of our Vision: We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.

ARTICLE BY **STEPHEN WELCH**

Rose Woodberry pictured receiving her diploma

MANY OF US WHO HAVE WALKED through these doors of hope at Pacific Garden Mission came in with a sense of despair and abandonment. For some like myself, it was a temporary layover—a time to regroup my plans. For others, it was an oasis in the desert—a place to satisfy their physical hunger and thirst and find a warm, clean, dry bed for a good night's rest. Some have been homeless for years while others have walked the streets all night. We were lost in the multitudes once again, and we felt

hopeless in this new environment composed of society's broken souls. The environment is much like an airport, with the only baggage being the heavy load they carry in their hearts. Yes, Pacific Garden Mission provides food, clothing, shelter, rest and other immediate needs, but they are so much more because Jesus Christ is waiting inside to meet every individual right where they are and change their lives.

Many may ask how this is possible, yet every month hundreds are saved and redeemed

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Our transformational ministry and graduates are not an end product but a well equipped beginning to fulfill our vision

Top row men left to right: Paulie Drechney, Brian Berg, James Kirksy, Robert Lockman, Ricky Norman. Bottom row left to right: Mohamad Yasin, Revon Jones, Courtney Ward, Nenad Nikolic, Will Davis, Trinity Dean, Charles Thomas. Sitting: Rose Woodberry. Not shown: Charles Fisher

by Jesus Christ in our Gospel services. The unending flow of complex problems from those who come forward at the invitation has one simple solution—Jesus Christ.

We thank God we are more than a shelter. We are a Gospel Rescue Mission with a transformational ministry. Through your support, God has provided an environment for His dear saints to grow. *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.* — Matthew 5:6

This month we want to share three testimonies of lives transformed by Jesus Christ. Lives that no longer hunger and thirst for the physical, but for the righteousness of God through His Word and His Son Jesus Christ. They are “blessed” and truly being “filled.” You will rejoice when you read what Jesus is doing at Pacific Garden Mission through those who graduated the one year New Life Program, which you supported, on January 26, 2017

ROB

“I came from a good Christian background. My family was fractured; my dad lived in Atlanta, and my mom in Chicago, but both were good Christian households. I have always had these opportunities, and I have known how to live a good Christian life, and I haven’t, I didn’t, I neglected all of that stuff. I sometimes wonder if I am in bigger trouble and if I have more to make up for because I did know better. Pacific Garden Mission is a good place to figure all of that stuff out. I got here October 29th of 2015. I was living in a tent before I got here. I had hair down to my back and a big beard. You wouldn’t have recognized me. I was a heroin addict for six years, and I would steal from my grandparents. I accidentally caused the overdose of my best friend, and he never woke up from that. Luckily the Lord spared me from receiving involuntary manslaughter charges for that. Eventually, I got caught on the west side of Chicago



Rob is shown at his desk. His workplace ministry assignment is to serve in the Unshackled! offices.

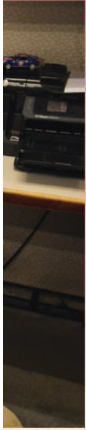


buying heroin and went to jail for 17 months. I am glad to say I never got back on that stuff but instead I substituted by drinking alcohol. Things got worse and worse, and I was doing what I wanted to do. I had been working still, and after a series of events I went to the store and bought a big tent and pitched it on the side of the Des Plaines River and lived there for almost six months. Then one night as I was walking home to my tent after work, and I got robbed at knife point. I had just cashed my check at the currency exchange, and then all of my money and my cell phone were stolen. I got back to my tent, and I knew about this place, Pacific Garden Mission, so the next morning I packed the little I had, left my tent behind, walked through the rain and voluntarily got into the back of a police car to get a ride here. Since being here I felt like leaving several times; I couldn’t figure things out on my own and I didn’t know what to focus on to improve my life, but I later learned that God did. It is so important to thank God for what He is doing here right now because if He can save a wretch like

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Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. — MATTHEW 5:6



me, there is hope for anybody, I don't care who you are or what you have done. There is forgiveness in this building, there is hope to be had in this building, there is a great joy to be found in this building, and there is salvation to be had in this building. God is moving in our midst here in this building, and God alone is our source.

We are one today, the graduates. How does this place work? None of this seems possible, in this building where there is no government authority or government funding. The majority of the workforce here are people that were in prison, or off the streets, or people like me. How does it work? There is only one answer. There is only one answer why we are standing here like this, and it is God. God works through people. His spirit lives in us, and He works through us. God Bless all of you."

ROSE

"I thank God for this awesome privilege to stand before God and His people to share my testimony with all of you. I was addicted to crack cocaine for over thirty years of my life. I was in and out of drug treatment programs, in and out of the church. I just couldn't get this thing right. I was clean for a year, and I went back because I felt alone. I don't like being alone. To make a long story short, I began to use because of my loneliness issues. After awhile I had gone through all of the money that I had. My daughter Ashley had been staying with me, and she moved out because she said she couldn't go another round with me. All of my children and family left me. I didn't have any friends. There was no one left to turn to for any help. I didn't have any money. I couldn't even get anything from the drug dealers. I was at a point where I wanted just to end it all. I said that even my family, the world and God would be better off without me! I was going to commit suicide. I was going to cut my wrists. I was laying flat on my back in my bed, and I just looked up to the ceiling, and I told

the Lord, I said; "Lord, I don't want to die like this." I started to cry out to the Lord and asked Him; "Can you save me just one more time?" The very next thing that came to my mind was Pacific Garden Mission. I knew that was God because I was all alone. I was like, why do I have to go there? I can stay here. Can't you work a miracle here? But He told me to go, and I said: 'Ok God, I am going to step out on faith and I am going to trust you, and I am going to go to that place.' So I came to Pacific Garden Mission, and I have been here ever since. I came in on the third of February of last year (2016). I came with a determined spirit. I was committed to God. I said to God; 'I am going to do this for you.' I had never done it for Him before. I had always done it for my children, my family, my church members. I said: 'I am going to do this for you this time.' So I left my apartment, I left my family, and I came here seeking a change, and as the pastor preached one Saturday, 'We have to want to change.' I wanted to change, and I saw a need to change, and God stepped in. Through this program, He has changed my life. The Word says if anybody is in Christ he is a new creation. All

things have passed away, behold, all things are new, and my life has truly been changed through God and this New Life program. I recommend Jesus and this program to anybody that



Rose is a light that shines brightly at Pacific Garden Mission. She reflects the joy of the Lord serving in our staff Canteen.

Mohamad is responsible to bring gift-in-kind donations back to the mission from our corporate sponsors like Starbucks, McDonald's, Chipotle, etc. It's a big job!

is struggling. God is good. He has been faithful, and I love and trust Him today. Everyone here has been so kind and nice to me; all the pastoral staff, my counselors, sisters, and brothers have been wonderful. Through God, this program works. On January 26, 2017, I have completed, and I have graduated, the one-year women's Bible program. I have a diploma in Biblical Study. I am staying for the second year New Graduate Program. Glory be to God for great things He has done in my life."

MOHAMAD

Some of you may remember reading about the young man named Mohamad who came here as a 21-year-old devout Muslim early last year. Mohamad has made remarkable growth in his faith and Christian character as he faced difficult trials while in the New Life program. Mohamad sought God's will through prayer and counseling as he heard the news about the death of his father and the abandonment by his family for his beliefs in Christ. These are the trials that James talks about that lead to completeness (James 1:2-8).

In our recent graduation, Pastor Phil introduced Mohamad and presented to him a picture that they had taken together when he first arrived at Pacific Garden Mission. Pastor Phil said; "Mohamad, I can't help but remember the day I first saw you sitting in the Day Room. You had your head down on that green bench, and (now) I am proud of you (as you graduate). We have laughed together, and we have cried together. He came here a 21-year-old from Palestine, and God has changed this man's life." Holding his picture, Mohamad spoke; "When I came here I was a devout Muslim from Palestine. I was one of the people that would always stand up for our family, our country, and our faith. I came into the mission because I was homeless. I had lost everything I had owned. My testimony is to share what God has done in my life. I have been separated from my



family for six years now, and when I found out my father died it was very painful, but what was even more painful than that is when I told my family I had become a Christian. I was disowned by my brothers and my mother, even receiving threats from them. In this time I turned to scripture, and the verse that came to mind was Matthew 5:11-12a: 'Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad...' Being in the Bible Program I learned what it meant to become a Christian. I knew about God when I accepted Christ, but I didn't know what it was to be a true Christian.

Growing up in my family I had ten brothers and sisters which I have now lost, but God has given me new brothers and sisters in Christ. I have had a good experience here in the mission, and God has used a lot of people to help me grow in Christ. I encourage you that if you do not have Jesus in your life, you need to get Him in your life!" Mohamad concluded his testimony by sharing the scripture from John 3:13-15: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Our sole purpose at Pacific Garden Mission is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We offer life answers through faith in Him, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ. We thank you for your partnership and faithful support. Without Jesus Christ and you, none of this would be possible.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

Caring for the Needs of the Individual

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. —Matthew 14:14

UPON SEEING THE MULTITUDE, our Lord was moved with compassion. At Pacific Garden Mission the numbers are so great and the needs so many that it is easy to lose sight of the individual in the midst of the crowd. I recently came upon two people that came here and received help and left. They never joined our program, never got to know too many people here; they were just faces in the crowd, but Jesus had compassion on them.

“In November of 2016, I came to PGM to seek shelter, after living on the streets of Chicago for ten years. I (had become) a heroin addict. I was shooting 13 bags a day into my system. I developed an abscess on my leg; I thought, great, I have a new place to shoot. My leg hurt so much I started praying to God. While in the hospital I was told about PGM; they said it was a teaching establishment that would provide me with housing, food, clothing, a doctor appointment as needed. I arrived here

on November 25, 2016, sick and scared of losing my leg. With the help of Jesus Christ and PGM, I overcame the need to feed my sickness and started to heal. I was feeling stronger every day, so on Christmas day of 2016 I called my brother; he told me he and his wife had decided to let me move in. Now I’m heading home in a couple of days. PGM saved my life. Now, (1) I get to keep my leg, (2) I’m drug-free for the first time in 20 years, and (3) I’ve gained 25 plus pounds. I’m healthy and happy and going home”.

We preach the gospel to all our residents, and this is just one story taken from the multitude. Jamal came to the mission in August of 2016; he was saved but had fallen on hard times. He was unemployed, had no ID and was homeless. After working with our counselor James Black, James own words state: “On January 6, 2017, Jamal pulled me out of the cafeteria at dinner time, with his suitcase in tow, and a smile

on his face. He had been approved for his rental and wanted to say his goodbyes and give thanks to PGM for our efforts in helping him to re-establish himself in society.”

With thousands of people walking through our doors, these two simple stories remind me of the needs of the individual; these people are gone, but what happened to them will echo throughout eternity.

PACIFIC MISSION Transforming lives since 1877

PURPOSE

To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

We serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel.

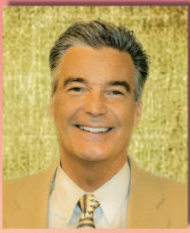
VISION

We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.

CORE VALUES

Faith • The Word • Truth • Love

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
— Psalm 119:140



FINANCIAL UPDATE Stephen Welch, Director of Development

December 2016 donations were enthusiastic and slightly over December 2015. January 2017 donations increased from the year before. The trend we see is encouraging.

The building mortgage is below \$3.8 million. Praise the Lord.

Thank you, dear friends, for your faithful support of this amazing transformational ministry. Jesus Christ and your partnership make what we do possible.

We are also in desperate need of godly men and women to serve as staff members in ministry and security. However, due to our finances, we are unable to hire any, and the needs are great. In 2016 we saw a little under 5,000 unique individuals that came to PGM for help

Finally, to meet our financial responsibilities, as of January 30, 2017, we needed an additional \$3,000,000 (\$500,000/month) before our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2017.

Please pray for us. Pray that funds will come in so this ministry can continue to flourish.

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 (JANUARY)

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**703**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**108**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**49,948**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**52,123**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**237**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**416**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3,051**

PGM NEWS MARCH 2017 • Vol. 82, No. 3 Published monthly by **PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**
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