

Man's Greatest Gift

Godly Mothers

ARTICLE BY STEPHEN WELCH

"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her." —LUKE 1:38

How beautiful that Jesus had an earthly mother who knew Him personally and tenderly through His birth, childhood, ministry, death and resurrection. The Bible tells us she lived according to the Word of God. We thank God for the mothers who have lived that way and influenced many for Christ.

My Godly mother would be proud of what God is doing in my life if she were alive. My mother was my best friend and the most important person in my life. She spoke of submitting to God and trusting in Him daily. Many of you can relate to the value of a Godly mother.

I often think of how important Godly mothers are to raise up a nation

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PACIFIC GARDEN
MISSION. SINCE 1877
REACHING THE LOST
AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

*Mothers in
critical need find safe
lodging for themselves and
their children at PGM's Women
and Children's Ministry.*

of Godly men and women. As we move into the month of May where we celebrate Mother's Day, I want to share with you what God is doing to raise up great women of God at Pacific Garden Mission who are also mothers.

The mothers who walk through our doors at Pacific Garden Mission have told us that they had no idea what would happen inside the Mission. Many were frightened. They only knew they needed help and care for themselves and their children. They had to get off the streets or perish. The mothers and children find that Jesus Christ is waiting to minister to them personally and completely without fail.

Whether the mothers at the Mission

are born again or recommit their lives to Jesus Christ, an amazing transformation begins because of their personal relationship with Jesus Christ through His blood at Calvary. Their desire is to submit to God's will completely. Our desire is to create an environment to see this through.

You and I have a responsibility to provide a safe place for Jesus Christ to minister to mothers and their children. We start with one family at a time teaching women their God-given greatness and role as mothers. We teach them the value of a Godly husband. We know there is greatness in all of the mothers that walk through our doors and this month we share the testimony of one such mother transformed by Jesus Christ here at Pacific Garden Mission.



Jasmine's Story

JASMINE came here after leaving a bad relationship in which she had been trapped for over four years. She didn't have the strength to leave the relationship until she reached a point where she only had God to turn to and cry for help. She recently shared her story with us about how she and her daughter found their way through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission. Her spiritual walk with God and growth is an inspiring testimony.

“**W**HAT BROUGHT ME HERE was fleeing fornication. I had been saved for almost three years, but during that time I still was struggling with fornication. When I got saved, I expected everything just to change overnight, but I quickly found out it doesn't always change overnight. I would get frustrated and ask God why aren't things going right for me? My pastor would always tell me you have to come out of the fornication, and he would share the verse 2 Corinthians 6:17a: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate..." He would tell me that all of the time but I just didn't understand.



Jasmine's infectious smile lights up the Mothers and Children's Ministry at PGM. Shown here with her daughter she now has true hope and joy, and the promise for a bright future.

Our modern facility provides a safe environment to minister to both the spiritual as well as daily needs of the increasing number of women with children seeking our help.

I was in a relationship for four years before I was saved, and after I was saved we were unequally yoked. There was a lot of fighting, and he did not respect me. It got to the point where I had nothing. All I had was Jesus. I would ask the Lord to help me leave because I didn't know how to leave. I didn't have the strength to do it. I would beg him and ask him all the time to help me. One day I got so tired I finally made the decision to leave, and that is what I did.

I didn't know where I was going. I didn't know what I was going to do. I didn't have any money or job. I went to one shelter, but I knew I couldn't handle it there. That night I was there I cried because I knew I wanted better and that my daughter deserved better. I was tempted to go back where I had left from, but I knew I couldn't. If I had gone back, nothing would ever change for me. I cried that night, and the Lord comforted me with his Spirit.

The next day my mom told me about Pacific Garden Mission and recommended that I come here. So we came here, and through staying here, I have come to know the Lord in such a different way. I have known His love, I have known His joy and how much He cares for me, His peace, His mercy, His grace. Just everything. I always thought of God as just being this big entity in the sky waiting for someone to sin so He can cast them into hell, but when I got here and started to read about Him more and started to spend more time with Him, I started to learn that He loves me. He cares about me so much, and He is so much different than what I thought He was.

At the same time, I felt like asking God, 'Why aren't you doing what I want you to do? I want a job. I want my own place. I don't want to be in a Rescue Mission.' I still had those thoughts. My pastor had taught us one time at church the verse Psalms 46:10a: "Be still, and know that I am God..." I asked God what does that mean? Do you want me to just sit here like a bump on a log?

Being here though I learned that what He meant was to seek Him first. Stop trying to do everything on my own and trust Him. We are so used to the world's way of doing things that we don't have the understanding that

Her children arise up,

God has. So I have been seeking Him for every little thing.

I had nothing, but He led me here to Pacific Garden Mission, where He gave me a bed, shower, food, clothes. Everything that I need, really, and I don't have to pay for any of it. I don't have to do anything but thank Him for it. I don't have to complain about why I am here because all things work together for good for those who love the Lord. He takes care of the birds and the grass, so how much more will He take care of us? I smile so much more because He has broken chains, He has destroyed yokes, He has taken me out of things that I never saw myself getting out of.

I am thankful for the people at Pacific Garden Mission and all the different classes we are invited to come to and to be able to talk to everyone where I can share with them and also learn from them. Without Him, I wouldn't have had the strength to stop forni-



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Your generous giving helps Chicago's homeless women and children. No one is ever turned away.

and call her blessed... PROVERBS 31:28 (KJV)

cation, or find the strength to keep going. Things can be tough, but I go through it with peace and joy because I know who is by my side.”

* * *

JESUS CHRIST has touched many mothers like Jasmine and their children. There is bonding and fellowship among the mothers and staff and the children are ministered to. Many mothers have become sisters in Christ. The smiles they can maintain despite being in a less than ideal position, especially as single mothers, is comforting, and a testament that not only does a place like Pacific Garden Mission provide essential needs, but also nurtures the relationships between the residents and staff members alike. The family of Christ is alive and strong in this building.

Thank you for partnering with us at

Pacific Garden Mission. Together we can change the lost world through the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We will do this one man, woman, and family at a time. There is power in the name of Jesus. Together we will take the lost men, women and families that we love with us into eternity. These testimonies would not be possible without your faithful prayers, visits, letters, and financial support. To God be the Glory great things He hath done.

We thank God for all the mothers who labor to make a difference. Happy Mother's Day from all of us at Pacific Garden Mission.



All mothers and children are provided with a shower, food, clothing, and overnight accommodations. Each woman is counseled to determine her specific needs and is helped accordingly. But more importantly, she is given an opportunity to experience the life-changing love of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Women who choose to receive salvation through Jesus Christ are invited to join the Resident New Life Bible Program. Through these daily classes women can mature in their relationship with Christ, with their family and with society. Many of these women leave the Mission and move on to become wonderful testimonies of God's grace. Day care is also provided.

Our Mothers and Children's Ministry helps meet the daily and long-term spiritual needs of women with children who seek our help.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

The Importance of Mothers

In 1928, and delivered to a Mother's Day audience, the Reverend W. L. Caldwell had this to say. "Well may we pause to pay honor to her who after Jesus Christ is God's best gift to men...mother."

It was she who shared her life with us when as yet our members were unformed. Into the valley of the shadow of death she walked that we might have the light of life. In her arms was the garner of our food and the soft couch for our repose. There we nestled in the hour of pain. There was the playground of our infant glee. Those same arms later became our refuge and stronghold. It was she who taught our baby feet to go and lifted us up over the rough places. Her blessed hands plied the needle by

That address was delivered in 1928, and sadly for some that is not their memory today. Some here at Pacific Garden Mission have a difficult time with Mother's Day. 23-year-old David writes, "I witnessed my mother almost overdose...she took all her pills attempting to kill herself. I saw her cut her veins...seen her trying to hang herself in the closet. She would drown herself in alcohol." 21-year-old Revon writes, "When I was eight years old my mom made me stand in a corner all night. To this day I still remember having child protective services take pictures of my bruised and scarred body. My mom used to not let me eat lunch or dinner." Carnell writes, "At the age of seven my mother lost her house, and we had to move into a shelter. My mother then became depressed and began to use drugs. She then left us at the shelter."

**"NO NATION IS EVER GREATER
THAN ITS MOTHERS, FOR THEY ARE
THE MAKERS OF ITS MEN."**

— REV. W. L. CALDWELL

day and by night to make our infant clothes. She put the book under our arm and started us off for school. But best of all, she taught our baby lips to lisp the name of Jesus and told us first the wondrous story of a Savior's love. The pride of America is its mothers. There are wicked mothers like Jezebel of old. There are unnatural mothers who sell their children into sin. There are sin-cursed, rum-soaked and abandoned mothers to whom their motherhood is the exposure of their shame. But I am glad to believe that there are comparatively few in this class." So said Mr. Caldwell.

Compare these stories with what Paul says about Timothy, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." —2 Tim. 1:5. Timothy came from a godly mother and grandmother; their influence was evident in the life of this young man.

Mothers have an opportunity to shape a life for the glory of God or set a young life on the path to pain.

Remember, "No nation is ever greater than its mothers, for they are the makers of its men."



FINANCIAL UPDATE Stephen Welch, Director of Development

Each month I do my best to report to you what Jesus Christ is doing here at Pacific Garden Mission. I pray that God would write through me with His inspiration and use the precious words on these pages to report to our dear friends who support us the very reason we are here—Jesus Christ. Your giving makes all this possible.

The mortgage as of 3/30/2017 is \$3,697,000

May and June will conclude our 2016 – 2017 fiscal year, and we pray to receive \$1,000,000 to bridge the shortfalls and meet our \$8,400,000 budget. Together we can do this. Every gift matters.

We are grateful for your faithful support and partnership in this amazing ministry of Jesus Christ. Your investment is eternal. You are sending your treasures ahead.

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” —Matthew 6:20-21

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 (MARCH)

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**646**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**91**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**45,718**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**39,661**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**115**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**288**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting “Unshackled!”....**3,048**

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