



Gerald's journey to Christ and the resurrected life led him to PGM and ultimately restored his family.

“MY FAMILY IS WHOLE AGAIN BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP.”

At Pacific Garden Mission, we offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ. An essential part of this process is healing and restoring families to God and to one another with God's help. And it's because of your steadfast support that these broken lives are made whole at the Mission. *Without you, this would not be possible.*

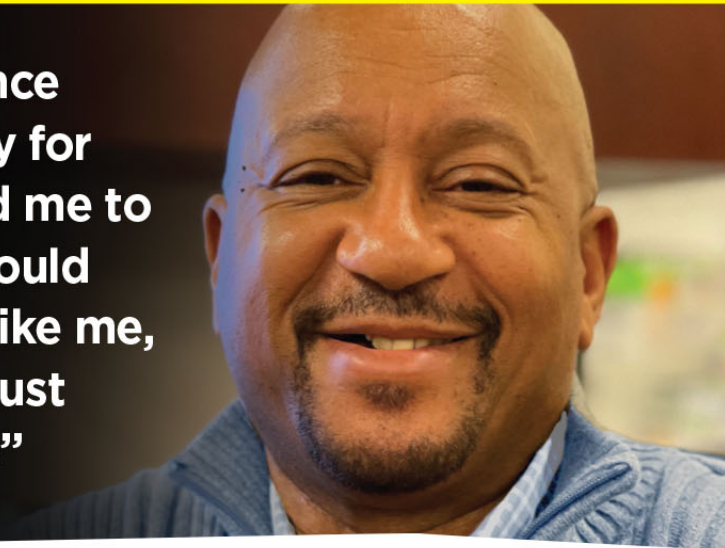
GERALD

“My mom, my wife, my grandmother . . . they all died, and I

decided to deal with the matter by using alcohol and drugs. My mother was the type of person I could call anytime. Day or night, no matter what issue I had, simply talking to her seemed to help make my problems disappear. I was at a crossroads in my life. The person I leaned against and depended on was gone, and I lost everything.

“It was the hardcore drugs that ended up bringing me down. I turned to alcohol, which led to smoking marijuana, and that eventually led me to smoking crack cocaine. I ended up overdosing three times, twice in one day, on cocaine. It came to the point where every time I overdosed, I

“My daughter once asked me to pray for her . . . she asked me to pray that God would send her a man like me, her father. That just blessed my soul.”



wanted to do it again. I was eating out of garbage cans, panhandling, and sleeping in apartment buildings. I lost my house and my family; no one wanted to deal with me, and there came a point in time when I realized I needed to get off the streets of Chicago.

“I lost all hope for living and became suicidal. There was anguish towards God. I felt like He didn’t have to take my mother. But I believe God knew her pain was more significant than anything I could’ve ever

acknowledged and that the best thing for Him to do was bring her home to Him. Before that, my knowledge and understanding of what God does and why He does it weren’t at that level.

“Eventually, I went to a neighborhood hospital and told them I was homeless and needed a place to stay. They said the only place to stay was Pacific Garden Mission. I decided to go to the Mission to get a couple of meals in me, get some sleep, and then head back out. But when I went inside and heard the Gospel preached, I was

like, ‘Wow!’ God had to be the one who led me here because I had a completely misconstrued view of what Pacific Garden Mission was about.

“After hearing the Gospel at PGM, I believed this is where God had brought me to. Then, someone told me about the men’s one-year discipleship program. It wasn’t as if I didn’t know Christ and what He could do in my life, but I had never surrendered my heart to Him—



Gerald helps volunteers serve during a PGM meal.

that's what made all the difference.

"At that point in my life, all my bridges were burned—my connections with my family and my children . . . nobody wanted to be bothered with me because I was a thief, a liar, and a manipulator. I was messed up, using drugs, and I didn't even want to be around myself. It wasn't until I got here that I was ready to confront my depression.

"After about ten days in the Bible program, I decided to make a little prayer closet for myself by placing a blanket over a table. I would crawl under the table and just cry out to God. I told the Lord I was tired of making bad choices; I was 43 years old . . . had been in and out of jail for drugs. I told God, 'I need you. I can't do this in my own strength, and I am praying for you to help me change.'

I didn't want that one year in the discipleship program to go by without anything changing in my life.

"I graduated from the Bible program a year later. They gave me the scholarship to go to Bible college and put me on staff as an intake counselor. Today, I serve as the Volunteer Coordinator and Director of Outreach Ministries at Pacific Garden Mission. But I don't say that I have a 'job' here at PGM; I say I have a 'JOY' here. God has been a wonderworker in my life. I moved out of the Mission, and today, I own my own house. My daughter once asked me to pray for her . . . she asked me to pray that God sends her a man like me, her father. That just blessed my soul. It was a warm moment when my family embraced me back, and I know that it is all God's doing."



"And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." —Job 42:10 (KJV)

Pictured above: Gerald now spends precious time with his family and grandchildren.

Gerald, employed at PGM as our Volunteer Coordinator, continues to play an essential role as an ambassador for the Mission, while also helping volunteers who come to PGM to serve. He was able to buy his own house in 2019, where he currently resides with his grandchildren.

If you are interested in volunteering at Pacific Garden Mission, please feel free to reach out to Gerald at CaseyG@pgm.org with

any questions. Today, he is a proud and respectable family man and an essential witness of God's power to those who see how far the Lord has brought him. His family has been restored through vital support like yours, and we are forever grateful that, together, we can help transform lives with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This lighthouse of God is needed now more than ever before. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Resurrection Sunday

We are looking ahead eagerly to our upcoming Easter meal. We know this is a special time set aside for praising and reflecting upon the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And at PGM, all of the residents will hear the Gospel message before taking part in a warm meal that partners like you helped provide.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

THE RESURRECTION GIVES HOPE

1 Peter 1:3 — “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

The historical fact of the Resurrection has many applications, but one word I think of is *hope*. The Resurrection brought *hope* to the frightened and confused disciples . . . *hope* to a lost and fallen world. Our God can do anything—if He can come back from the dead, He can make a spiritually dead man alive.

The one thing many of our guests need is real, lasting, transformative hope. I talked to a man today who said four years ago, his wife told him to get out and never return. He walked through our doors lonely, hurt, and in need of hope. After receiving Jesus Christ as his Savior, he decided to join the discipleship ministry, *and that's when everything began to change*. After graduation, he was employed on our

security team and started to make occasional visits home to see the family. His wife noticed a change and began to warm once again to her husband whom she'd previously exiled. He was now serving the Lord, testifying to His goodness, praying with overnight guests, and doing all he could to honor the God who saved him. Finally, his wife called and said, “Come on home!” And she doesn't want him to fly home . . . she wants to come and pick him up and *take* him home. He is ecstatic, and the once banished husband can now go home to his family as a fully functioning follower of Christ.

This is just one story of many. As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, let us remember Matthew 19:26, “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (KJV). ***The tomb is empty—so we have hope!***

Thank you for your love, prayer, and support.

THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

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 support us financially, you're not only giving *to* the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people who need your help the most. In February your support made a true difference:

On average, **395** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **19,040** plates of food were served

53,000 items of clothing were distributed

3,143 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

41 men and women were enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

12 mothers with their children stayed at PGM

47 people professed faith in Christ



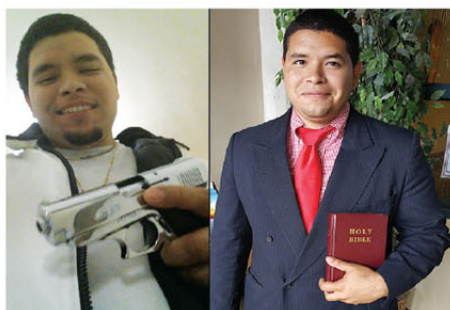
GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

Your Godly stewardship brings men and women to their highest potential in Christ Jesus.

Because of your faithful prayers and financial support, we are part of the solution to Chicago's crime. We know there are many problems in our city and country, and this solution reaches every corner of the United States. The answer is faith in Jesus Christ—the Gospel of Christ.

Over the years have seen many men and women step into our doors and repent away from their past into a new life in Christ. Gang members turn in their firearms for a Bible by joining



our free discipleship programs that continue to grow. We see endless problems meet one common solution, and that solution is Jesus Christ.

We have seen God draw people here locally through our neon sign that reads *Jesus Saves*. We've also seen people come from afar through the *Unshackled!* radio and PGM TV programs. Coast to coast, border to border, and even from Puerto Rico, guests have come to experience the transforming power of Jesus Christ. And as a result, many men and women in many seasons of life have discovered life's answers through faith in Jesus, having now become fully functioning followers of Christ.

As we remember and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of His burial following His sacrificial crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary, we are grateful for your faithful support and Godly stewardship.

Before and After:
David left his street gang and joined the Bible Program at PGM.

If you're looking for a tax-smart way to share your blessings with those served at PGM, consider a gift of stock. When you give appreciated stock that you've owned for more than one year, you can avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable

income tax deduction when you itemize. For more information on designating a gift of stock for Pacific Garden Mission, talk with your financial planner and call Stephen Welch at (312) 429-6700 or email me at welchs@pgm.org.

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Philip Kwiatkowski, President
Stephen Welch, Director of Development
Daniel Woolman, Editor • Paul Higdon, Design

1458 South Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60607-5201
P: 312.492.9410 F: 312.492.9414
Email: pgmnews@pgm.org
Websites: www.pgm.org www.unshackled.org

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