

# PGMNews

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION • SINCE 1877  
REACHING THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

## WORSHIP IN A GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION



AUGUST 2016

ARTICLE BY STEPHEN WELCH

WE OPEN THIS MONTH'S newsletter with the words from our dear Savior Jesus Christ as He spoke to the woman at the well: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Many dear friends who come to Pacific Garden Mission have a religion like the Samaritan woman, but they lack the transforming power of a relationship with Jesus Christ; others are lost, but there is an answer.

Since 1877 Pacific Garden Mission has been a very special place of refuge. Countless men and women have walked through our doors of hope. The cross out front may have triggered a childhood memory of religion, or it may have given them a feeling of safety. Many dear friends have come to the mission for a cool drink (like the woman at Jacob's well) and met the Savior Himself. When religion turns into a personal relationship with God Almighty, miracles beyond our imagination happen, and men and women will worship in spirit and in truth.

The stories and testimonies of what happened to our dear friends that find themselves inside of Pacific Garden Mission are as numerous and diverse as their individual

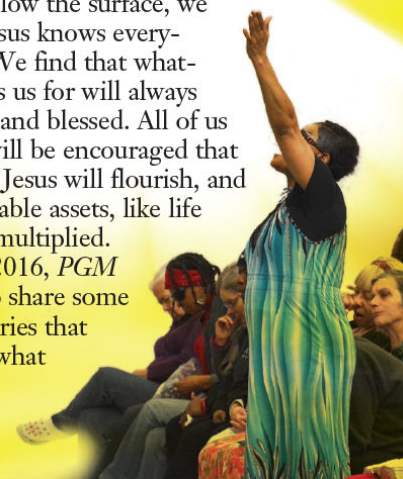
designs. They come looking for help with many problems in their lives that are overwhelming. Many are looking for solutions to their outer circumstances. However, the Creator Himself is waiting for those that seek help, with a message that will focus on the inner heart that only He can reach through any circumstance. The message is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it is the power of God.

Like the Samaritan woman who came to the well for water and was surprised by Jesus' deep request to give Him a drink, so is the case with many who have met the Savior here at PGM.

As we look below the surface, we realize that Jesus knows everyone's issues. We find that whatever Jesus asks us for will always be multiplied and blessed. All of us reading this will be encouraged that a life given to Jesus will flourish, and our most valuable assets, like life itself, will be multiplied.

This August 2016, *PGM News* wants to share some amazing stories that describe what

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# GOD IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST



**WORSHIP AT PGM:**  
Continued from page 1

Jesus Christ is doing here at Pacific Garden Mission every day. As you read these, you will hear how your faithful support makes this possible, as we build a ministry together to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for helping us offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.

## **Our first story is Leticia**

"I GREW UP IN THE PROJECTS. My family was all together. I wasn't without my mother or father, but I was a rebellious teenager. I went out with a drug dealer, I ran the streets, drinking and smoking marijuana.

My grandmother used to watch Pastor Richard Daniel 'R.D.' Henton (pioneering TV evangelist). She said, 'Sit down and watch him and put your hand on the TV and connect.' I did that, and once I started watching him things started changing for me. I found a job at Walgreen's, and there I met a woman who got me a job at a currency exchange. I was at the currency exchange for 14 years, and things started to transpire there when I met some people who were not good for me, and I was not good for them. I lost my job; I lost my apartment, all of my belongings, all of my personal effects, and some things I had to give away to the Salvation Army. I had to pack up everything that I worked years for, and I had to see it go. It was heartbreaking. My advice to people in general, especially to women, is to be careful who you date, and who you surround yourself with because everyone isn't for you.

And that is how I ended up at the mission. When I came here, it was overwhelming at first. I thought, 'What is this? I don't want to be here.' I was in serious denial that I was in a shelter. Then I saw some girls go past that were in the Bible Program, so I said 'I will see how this is.' I was there for 60 days, but I was going through some very traumatic things. I have come a long way

since then. I am being introduced to God in a whole different way, in a whole different light, and it took me a second time in the Program to see this. I am on and off about staying, but right now He is changing me, and maybe I will just have to give God that year He is looking for, and that is probably why I am back here. He has given me so much. He saved me from people who could have killed me.

I am learning to put God first, to let Him be the man in your life, the brother in your life, the sister in your life; whatever you're seeking, He is. He will change your whole perspective about those things you seek and that you think you need; He will give you a different outlook, and He will bring the right people into your life.



I had to learn Leticia all over again. She is still in between the new one and the old one; she was not pretty, and I don't believe I was doing some of the things I did. I often think of how Jesus met the woman at the

well. She came trying to draw water, but just like me, as I came thinking of drawing water, Jesus was waiting for me with a gift. And that gift was deliverance."

Jesus continues to perform miracles here at Pacific Garden Mission. Leticia is looking forward to graduating the New Life Program. Much like the woman at the well, she is looking for real love which Jesus delivers to all those who believe.

Sara Silvarrey graduated the New Life Program January 2014 and began attending classes at Day Spring Bible College in Lake Zurich, Illinois. She is back for the summer and works in Hospitality/Switchboard. Sara is part of the Pacific Garden Mission family and shares her struggle to find Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth.

## **Sara's story**

"MY FATHER IS AN ADDICT, and my mom is an alcoholic. As I was growing up, I saw a lot of things that I probably shouldn't have seen. I had to grow up quickly. My sister and I are two years apart, so my sister was there for me a lot more than my mom was. I guess you



## WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH. (JOHN 4:24)

can say I was angry as a child, but I didn't realize how angry I was. So it got to a point of the wrong relationships, the wrong choices; I was trying to be accepted and loved and cherished, but I could never be. I started to believe the lies of what people said to me. As for my self-image, I didn't have one. It was to the point where I lived my life as a façade, as if I was invincible, but deep down I really hurt, and I think that is why I stayed high a lot of times, because I didn't want to feel anything. (Tears began to flow from her eyes.)

I didn't want to deal with what was going on. I didn't want to face anything. It got to a point where I didn't even want to face another day sometimes. I remember so clearly one day I was wondering to myself, if I left would anyone miss me; I remember being on the bus on the way to school thinking that. That day I looked up a church and started going there. And then I was good for awhile, and I would mess up again. Then I tried a Christian program, tried to get clean; and I was there for almost a year but messed up again. I thought God was done with me then.

I ended up going back home to North Carolina, and that was a very dangerous part of my life because I was doing things that I said I would never do. I remember going home and was high, and I went upstairs, and I remember lying down and saying out loud why can't we go back to the way things were. At that moment I didn't realize that was a prayer, and God heard me! That morning I woke up and went downstairs, and I told my grandma I needed to go back to Chicago to get help.

I was going back to Chicago to go to another program, but it was closed for the weekend, so I had to come to the mission. Now looking at my life, God does have to strip everything out of your life sometimes; sometimes that is what it takes to bring you to your knees. I tried so many times to fix myself on my own. My problem was I would go to a church, but when I would mess up I didn't have anyone to come along beside me and tell me it's ok if you mess up, but let's get back up again.

I needed someone to teach me how to live the Christian life successfully—to live in Christ.

I discovered the opportunity to grow and live in Christ when I came here and went through the Bible Program. I worked here for a year and now I go to Bible college. The main thing I am learning is that we know what the Bible says, but living it (the authentic Christian life) is the biggest challenge. I have to love and forgive someone that hurts me? God is so opposite. Now I understand that God loves me. It was at PGM that I learned I could never lose my salvation. I am going to mess up, but I know He is greater than that. One of my favorite verses is from 1 John 3:20–21: 'For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.' No matter what we feel at the end of the day, no matter what we go through, no matter

what hurts us, God is greater than that. And that is what is important.

I am going to mess up, but God is greater than where I mess up at. Now it comes to mind that I deserve to be loved and respected because I am a child of God. When I look in the mirror at times, I have to tell myself I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I don't care if I have to sing it from the mountaintops, I understand that now.

Because God loves me, and I cannot lose a gift that He gives me. He will never take that back; there is comfort in that. To know that, to understand that I am His child, that I am created in His image. I can't understand His love, but I accept it.

When I talk to people, I say Jesus didn't go to the cross and ask for a resume of our mess ups. He went anyways. He knew we would have shortcomings, but He still chose to go. He could have taken Himself down, but He never did. He chose to save us."

SINCE 1877 JESUS CHRIST has been transforming lives here at Pacific Garden Mission. We see our dear friends walk through our doors of hope and sit down and experience a Gospel service, some for their first time. We counsel them and read the Bible to them individually. We pray the Holy Spirit will be present in converting and convicting power. Our God-ordained desire is to see them grow







# 4th of July

## **PGM Hosts Gospel Service and Barbecue!**

Hundreds of men, women, boys and girls received the Gospel message of Jesus Christ followed by a wonderful dinner of barbecued chicken, hamburgers, potato salad, watermelon, corn-on-the-cob, and cold water. God gave us a perfect day to celebrate his goodness as Americans.

A heartfelt thank you from all of us to everyone who donated to the July 4th summer meal ticket. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and served the magnificent plates of food from the grill to tables. By helping create an environment of love and hope at Pacific Garden Mission, you are reaching people for Christ. Many who come here hungry or thirsty are satisfied, much like the woman at the well, and will never hunger or thirst again.

in Christ—to become disciples. At times we are overwhelmed and understaffed. The soldiers for Christ work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. As our staff members give and serve to reach the lost, their spiritual lives are quickened by the study of God's word; a blessing few organizations have the privilege to share.

We rejoice when men and women come forward to receive Jesus Christ personally. We are further encouraged when men and women make commitments to stay with us and join our New Day or New Life programs for lasting change. A fair portion of those in our New Day Program are earnest and intelligent students of the Bible. Others are recent converts of the Mission, just beginning to learn the word of God, while a few of the unsaved may reside in the New Day Program. We see accelerated growth and long-term com-

mitment in the New Life program. We envision a day when more dear friends receive Christ as Savior, stay to become a disciple, and then leave after graduation prepared to be a role model for Christ in this dark and violent world.

Will you pray about helping us reach more men and women who walk through our doors looking for answers to find Jesus Christ? As you do, we look forward to sharing what God is doing through our joint efforts to advance His Kingdom. Thank you for your faithful support.



***The PGM Choir leads our staff and guests in heartfelt worship***





## **A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski**

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

### ***Getting to Their Real Need***

**Many times God allows what seems to be bad situations in order to get our attention or just come to know Him.** In 2 Kings 5, Naaman, captain of the host of Syria, had what he thought was a physical problem called leprosy, but he had a bigger problem that he was unaware of called unbelief. God used Naaman's leprosy to bring him in contact with a man of God called Elisha. After being cleansed, look

at what the once pagan Naaman had to say: "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant." —2 Kings 5:15

I hear many similar stories of people that came to the mission for one thing, but ended up receiving the most important gift, eternal life through Jesus Christ. A man currently on our Program that came here with a drinking problem and no place to stay writes: "I went to the library and looked up Pacific Garden Mission. I came, and at first I thought it was another shelter, then I started hearing sermons 2-3 times daily. I heard a few guys who were talking about how the Program and God changed their lives. I realized that I needed not only emotional cleansing, but also psychological and spiritual heal-

ing and cleansing. I needed my life right, not just with myself but with God." He soon received Christ and is growing in the Lord. Like Naaman, his physical need brought him to a place that God could address the real problem in his life. I am excited that Pacific Garden Mission continues to be a place where the Gospel is the main priority. In a day and age when many organizations receiving government assistance tone down the message of the gospel, we at Pacific Garden Mission do neither. We do not accept government help, and we proclaim Jesus Christ. New people are walking through our doors every day looking for answers to their physical needs, but we stand ready to give them an answer for their real reason for being here, Jesus Christ. I want to thank all that support this ministry for making this possible.

### ***Homeless Children's Choir***



Who else but Jesus could make homeless children feel at home and sing with joy? The Children's Choir was singing a song for Pastor Phil that they had been practicing with Samantha Goff (far left). All of the children came to Pacific Garden Mission with their mothers. Mothers with children need more than food, clothing and shelter and a safe place to stay. Their greatest need is a Savior, and through Him, they have found peace in the midst of a storm.



## **FINANCIAL UPDATE** Stephen Welch, Director of Development

*Last month we asked for your help to meet a \$325,000 shortfall in our fiscal year end (June 30, 2016). We are grateful for letters and gifts you took the time to send. We value your prayers and your sacrificial giving. You are part of this vital ministry that faithfully serves and ministers with the transforming message of the Gospel. I think of Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Thank you for walking with us as we reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With your partnership, we met and exceeded the financial shortfall in June. Thank you, and to God be the glory, great things He has done.*

*Next month I hope to share more news on the balanced budget and challenges we will face in our new 2016-17 Fiscal Year. Thank you for investing in so many lives for eternity and for being an underpinning of this historic Gospel rescue mission.*

## **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 (June)**

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**732**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**93**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**51,007**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**30,080**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**175**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**139**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3124**

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1458 South Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60607-5201 E-mail: [pgmnews@pgm.org](mailto:pgmnews@pgm.org) Phone: 312. 492. 9410  
Fax: 312. 492. 9414 Websites: [www.pgm.org](http://www.pgm.org) [www.unshackled.org](http://www.unshackled.org)

PHILIP KWIATKOWSKI, PRESIDENT STEPHEN WELCH, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT PAUL HIGDON, DESIGN/ART DIRECTION