



I WILL FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

Like a germinated seed, tiny and vulnerable, but strong with potential, newly born followers of Christ need a safe place to slowly and steadily grow their roots of faith. In the very moment of weakness that allows them to surrender their heart and life to Jesus, there also lies a susceptibility that the “world” is ready to pounce on.

Your support is cherished and prayerfully used at Pacific Garden Mission to provide sanctuary for young Christians who at this pivotal point need to have the loving arms of support and structure to begin building a new life upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. As you read Chris's testimony, please pray

for him and the Mission, that we may continue to fight the good fight.

CHRIS RIDGEWAY

“My drug addiction quickly took control of my life. Escalating from prescription drugs to harder drugs, at the age of 19 years old, I found myself driving from the suburbs of Northwest Indiana to Chicago to buy heroin and cocaine. At first, my parents and the people around me didn't know what was happening. It was one of those things where I would be taking drugs in the bathroom of my parents' house and then going down for Christmas with mom and dad. In a short time, however, my family did start to notice



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that not only was my physical appearance faltering, but so was my mental state. During the second intervention that my family held for me, they offered the opportunity to send me to Thailand to join a Buddhist monastery to see if it would help me overcome my addiction.

“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” —Matthew 17:20b

“When I returned home from Thailand, several months later, my addiction continued. My parents moved to Australia, and I was bouncing all over the place with nowhere to go and found myself in Chicago’s notorious Cook County jail several times. In 2003, I found myself in a treatment facility where I met a woman who would become my wife. I had thought that the relationship

with her would fill the void I felt within myself, but it was not enough. Both of our addictions progressed and resulted in one of the hardest things for us, losing our four children. The reality is we gave them away by our choices, and I haven’t seen them for nine years.

“Living the same repetitive and destructive lifestyle, I recently found myself at a rescue mission in central Illinois. My wife encouraged me to go there after being born again several years ago. I accepted Christ into my heart

while at that rescue mission, but there was still something missing. I may have been walking with God, but I was not walking completely with Him. While staying at the mission in Central Illinois, a staff member told me of his experience in the New Life Program at Pacific Garden Mission. He suggested I transfer there and join their discipleship program. I felt led to come; I really felt a sense of peace and

a calling to come to Pacific Garden Mission, and now that I have been here, it has been amazing.

“A lot of the emphasis in the classes I have been attending at Pacific Garden Mission has been on the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit comes into you, you are a new creation in Christ, and that’s what’s happened. I have started praying now, which I think is so essential to having a God-centered life. Without that communication, I know I am up a creek without a paddle. Every day I can feel that inside of me, and I can feel it so much that I know there is no reason to look back and there is no reason for me to feel like I have to look for something else because I found it. It is God. He is the true deliverer of everything. I am a new creature. I hope I can continue to feel this and continue to walk this way and be thankful every single day.

“I look forward to the day when I am able to be back in my children’s lives again. I believe that wholeheartedly.”

God can restore even the most broken of lives, and what may seem impossible to His most devoted followers is possible with Him. Often, when people find themselves at Pacific Garden Mission, it is their last resort. It is this time, as difficult as it is, which God uses to bring someone to the point of surrender



Chris prays with men from the Bible Program.

and open their heart to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pacific Garden Mission is more than the building; it is the people who make up the mission and those who support it, the body of Christ, that has allowed it to persevere. As we continue to walk together in this service of God, sharing the words of Jesus and the good news we have in Him, please pray that He provides us with the resources necessary for us to not only cast the seeds of faith but also nurture them to become fully functioning followers of Christ.



Chris and his wife, Rachel, have new hope for a bright future.



NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY! **Boy's Axios Dorm**

At Pacific Garden Mission, we don't like to turn anyone away who is seeking help. Recently a donor asked where we could use financial help the most. We have a great need to open a dorm for young boys between the ages of 8 and 17—currently we have no place for these young men, and tragically we have to turn away teenagers and moms with young sons. We had stepped out in faith and begun preparing the space for the dorm, but we still needed \$150,000 to open, staff, and operate the dorm for the first year. This generous donor put forward a Matching Challenge of \$75,000, half the amount needed! Will you give today, to help raise the remaining funds and open this dorm for young men?

The new dorm will be named "Axios," which is Greek for "worthy." With your help, we will be able to provide up to 25 boys room and board in a safe and godly environment, where they can learn to live lives worthy of the Lord.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we build this new ministry together.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

AN ALARMING TREND

Do you know that the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population is families with children?

Approximately 40 percent of the homeless population in our city is comprised of families, and these numbers are trending upwards.

In 1941 PGM's superintendent Harry Saulnier was approached with the plea, "Start a women's work. Women are being neglected." The years may have changed, but the need has not. The lack of adequate means of dealing with women needing spiritual counseling had been a major concern to Saulnier. Winning the lost women of Chicago to Christ was his chief aim.

In 2019 we are also bothered by the lack of adequate recourses for women and their children. By the time they arrive here, many women and children have been shuffled

through the system. Tired, lonely, and afraid, they walk through our doors.

The most difficult thing would be to tell a mother with young sons that there is no room—yet we are currently faced with this reality, because we do not have a space for boys and teenage men. Women with boys are one of the most difficult groups to place. With that in mind, we are working to open a new dorm designed for boys, so we can welcome both mothers and their sons to the Mission.

Mothers with their sons will be received, cared for, and presented with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. At city-run shelters, they may receive temporary external help, but at Pacific Garden Mission, they will receive external as well as internal spiritual assistance designed to make them fully functioning followers of Christ.

Pray for the Mission as we seek to continue to minister to the fastest growing segment that are homeless, and thank you for making it possible to open a long-awaited dorm. As mothers with their boys will find a place of refuge, praise the Lord that you helped make this happen.



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GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
—Proverbs 29:18**

In 1877 God gave our founder a vision based on His Word. We were founded on the power of God’s Word to change lives, and we still operate by this truth today. God has drawn to our doors those who need a personal relationship with Him through Jesus, and those who want to share the Gospel to reach the lost and make disciples. Everyone in the body of Christ shares in this calling. You are part of the body, and you stand alongside Him with your faithful support of Pacific Garden Mission.

As I write this report, we have closed May 2019 with favorable

results. Year-to-date donations through May continue to trend favorably and are up a modest 3% to the same period last year.

But there is still so much need in our city—and we appreciate your support now more than ever, as we strive to open a dorm to keep young men and boys off the streets. These younger men are facing the same challenges and temptations that faced Chris, whose harrowing story you can read in this issue. They need someone to point them to Christ, the only true source of salvation.

With your support, we can plan the best way to handle the overwhelming needs that are brought to us daily. Weak and fragile people experience God in a nutritive spiritual environment at the Mission through His Son Jesus Christ. Please pray for every man, woman, boy, and girl we minister to together.

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 June your support made a true difference:

On average, **436** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

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

About **47,500** plates of food were served

48,000 items of clothing were distributed

205 patients received free medical/dental treatment

281 people professed faith in Christ

3,100 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.