



## MY LIFE WAS SAVED BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT

The faces and stories of hope here at PGM may be vastly different, but the common threads of brokenness and salvation in Christ are not. We share one such story with you now, of Will. After surviving a suicide attempt and waking up on a ventilator in a dark hospital room, Will cried out to Jesus Christ. Shortly after, he came to PGM to join the Bible program. As you read his story, remember testimonies like Will's would not be possible without donors like you—thank you for your care and support!

### WILL

“A few years before I came to Pacific Garden Mission, I got addicted to drugs in a very bad way. The drug use started as a recreational thing, maybe once every couple of months . . . but then, it just spiraled out of control, *beyond* control.

“I got married when I was 18. We have seven children together. But because of my addiction, my wife left me about two years ago, and she took the kids. I was stuck in the house by myself. I was still working and taking care of my family financially, but I had no guidance



**True brothers in Christ: Will posing with fellow kitchen crew before lunch**

anymore. I just gave up hope on life. I didn't want to commit suicide, but I wanted to die because of the disappointment I saw in my wife's eyes—and my sons and daughters. I lost respect from everybody . . . and I lost respect for myself. So, I started doing heroin in addition to the other drugs, and I quit my job.

"There came a point, around a month before coming to Pacific Garden Mission, where I was doing heroin heavily. I overdosed. I woke up in an ambulance, went back to sleep, woke up six hours later in the hospital and went back to sleep. The third time I woke up, it was three days later in a dark room on a ventilator. I had tubes in me and coming out of me. I woke up screaming, and the first thing I could think of was Jesus—I called on the name of Jesus!

"It was like the breath of

life came back into me, and I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit just wash over me. The first thing I said was, 'You got me—you got a soldier in me, Lord. I promise I am going to serve you for the rest of my life.' The nurse started screaming loudly and calling on the name of Jesus, too! And from that day forward, I promised to serve God, and I haven't looked back.

"Afterwards, I had to go to a



**Will leads morning prayer and devotions with his kitchen crew**



psychiatric hospital where I told them I purposely overdosed on heroin and methadone. I wanted the easiest, softest way out, but God wouldn't let me. I spent six weeks in the mental health facility. I hadn't heard of PGM at all, but it just so happened that there was a young man in the room with me who told me to try the Bible program at Pacific Garden Mission. I was released from the hospital and came straight here, where I did the 90-day addiction program.

"To effectively be a servant, you have to be in a better relationship with Him. I would get up early each morning and study. I would read, pray, and really try to dig into the Word. Now, I have a willingness and desire to get close to God.

"One thing I really wanted to learn about was the Holy Spirit. I felt like He breathed life into me. Now, I call upon

Him for strength, guidance, and comfort. After I did the 90-day program, I continued to the New Life Bible discipleship program, and I recently graduated! I work in the kitchen now. It's great to be able to minister to others in



**Will is rebuilding relationships with his children and relatives**

need. I am also able to relate to a lot of the guys here, including the overnight guests who are still struggling with addiction. "Those relationships are meaningful to me because they are going through the same thing that I went through. There is a sort of genuineness to them, and there is no acting. I am just here now and grateful to

God for saving my life and saving me from myself."

**"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."**

**—Galatians 2:20 (KJV)**

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**When Will made the decision to surrender to God, he needed a place where he could begin to nurture that**

new relationship with Jesus Christ. Places like Pacific Garden Mission, where this spiritual nurturing can take place, are few and far between. Yet, they are so vital. Will is now employed in our kitchen ministry, and he is witnessing to others who

are still in their own brokenness. We thank you for making stories like his possible and for helping the presence of Christ shine forth through the steadfast and prayer-driven ministry of Pacific Garden Mission. We couldn't do it without you.

## NEW LIFE GRADUATION MAY 2020

**Our most recent graduating class** was confronted with many unforeseen events during their year-long participation in the Bible Program. Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the looting occurring within a block from our location, these graduates faced unexpected but character-building hardship. Their participation and volunteering provided much-needed help in keeping our ministry running during these struggles. Will is now on our staff, and so is Chris, who you may remember from the August 2019

PGM News. As they celebrate this accomplishment of graduation and employment, they are also thankful for the help from donors like you and for the peace that comes from their salvation.



Graduation night with Will and Chris. Both have been employed in the PGM ministry since graduating.



**GIVE NOW at [pgm.org](http://pgm.org)**

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## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

# THE ONLY PATH BACK TO PEACE

As I write, the Mission's surrounding neighborhood has been looted, stores are boarded up, and the military police are on the corners—all this while in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Many of the homeless are confused and scared, but as I have heard over and over again, they are thankful that they have a place to stay during uncertain times.

What's happening here is a snapshot of what is happening across the country. Many people are huddled in their homes, worried about the virus, while scenes of looting and violence are on display in front of them.

Old Testament Israel experienced similar emotions, as told in 2 Chronicles 15:1-10. "And in those times there was no peace to him that went out nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity."

Many pundits have tried to wax eloquent in trying to figure out the reason for all the vexation, but the reason for Israel's vexation is stated in 2 Chronicles 15:2-3: "And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. Now

for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law."

The cause of Israel's vexation was that they were without the true God, had corrupt preachers, and had disregard for the Bible. Sound familiar? Our nation continues to exclude the true God from our nation's conscience. Greedy preachers continue to fleece the flock for their own gain, and we have contempt for God's law and His Word. Could this be the problem?

After seeing the problem, King Asa began spiritual reforms throughout the land: "And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD" (2 Chronicles 15:8).

### **Pray for a revival to heal our land and cleanse our souls.**

On behalf of so many hurting and homeless families and individuals, I want to thank our donors for providing a shelter in the midst of a global storm, a place where suffering men and women *do* receive healing from the Lord. Thank you.

Learn more by visiting [Pacific Garden Mission](#), where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.



## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

Many individuals walk through these doors for the first time, as I did, wondering *how did my life get to this miserable state? I'm homeless and overwhelmed with loneliness, grief, and pain. There seems to be no hope.*

Yet, after a short time at the Mission, guests discover that there is hope and new life in Jesus Christ. Our answer is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ and by reading and studying the Bible. We discover that the cross is the answer to our deepest needs.

**Even with the challenges of this year, it was a joy to recently celebrate Independence Day with our guests. Your donations provided a wonderful meal and allowed us to celebrate together and share the Gospel.**

The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation that reaches the heart, which is the root problem.

Yes, Jesus is the answer to the seemingly infinite problems and burdens we all carry.

We thank God for our donors, volunteers, and prayer partners that keep the doors of Pacific Garden Mission open. Because of you, we are able to proclaim the Gospel to the homeless in Chicago and people around the world through *Unshackled!* radio and the Pacific Garden Mission television program. We have one message that transforms lives for all eternity—***Jesus saves!***

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### MORTGAGE UPDATE:

**Together, over the last five years, we have lowered our mortgage a little over one million dollars. Thank you for your faithful support. May God be praised.**

#### Fiscal Year-end Mortgage balances:

June 30, 2020	\$2.85M
June 30, 2019	\$3.2M
June 30, 2018	\$3.5M
June 30, 2017	\$3.7M
June 30, 2016	\$3.9M

## 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, **201** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

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

About **19,908** plates of food were served

**1,370** items of clothing were distributed

**205** patients received free medical/dental treatment

**6** people professed faith in Christ

**3,168** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*