



## “I COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST.”

**We find our hope in Jesus Christ at Pacific Garden Mission, and the stories of growth and transformation we see here inspire us to share with you the people you help. Nick, whose story you will read next, was struggling to overcome the strongholds of depression and addiction for decades. He found his way into our New Day program and now, over a year later, continues to persevere and grow closer to God. He is learning to find peace, and we thank you for helping to make his story possible.**

### NICK JOHNSON

“When I was a kid, my mom was a single mother, and she also struggled with drugs and alcohol. I didn’t have a father figure. I feel like a lot of my childhood was missing because she struggled with her addiction. I was always the one left home to watch the kids and take care of everyone since I was the oldest. That’s how my life started and whenever my mom came home, that was my time to run.

“Growing up in that era left me open to influence. I started drinking and smoking cigarettes in fifth

**“I need to be the mighty man of valor that God put me on this earth to be, and I am getting that here.”**



grade, and in sixth grade, I was introduced to a drug gang where I started selling drugs. I thought I was grown. There are a lot of things I did that I regret. Later on, I tried smoking crack cocaine, and the high I got from that was like nothing else; that was all I wanted. I found myself in a situation where I robbed a store to get it and had to do time for that.

“After meeting with counselors,

I realized I have been dealing with depression all my life, and I was just suppressing it with alcohol and drugs. I would get back on track several times, but then got comfortable and made some bad decisions which brought me back to using drugs. I faced homelessness, and a hospital referred me to Pacific Garden Mission.

“When I came in, I met a New Day counselor named James, and we sat

and had a talk. The weekly sessions I had with him really helped me. I think I feared being judged for getting help, but I am tired and know I can't go back anymore. I need to be the mighty man of valor that God put me on this earth to be, and I am getting that here. I am excited about life again. I can't say I



Nick participates with other New Day students in a class about addiction.



***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” —Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)***



Nick receives biblical counseling from his New Day counselor, James.

am at peace, but I am working in that direction. I am eager to get back into the Bible and read His Word, so I can have my defense that will save me now. I need to move forward and know from my heart and soul I can't do it without Him.”

**Nick joined the New Day program for help with an addiction, and through dedication and perseverance, he finished the addictions recovery program and joined the New Life Bible program. He remains active in classes at the Mission and has been an important part of the PGM TV Saturday evening video**

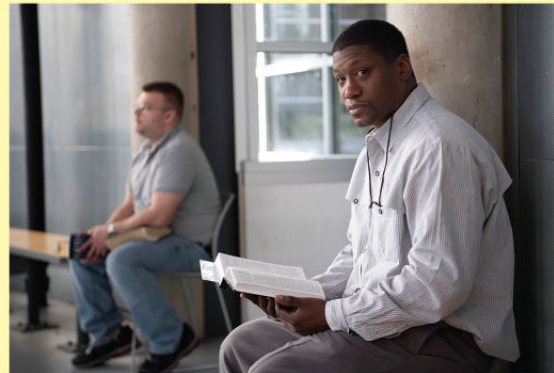
**recordings, and he serves on the kitchen and maintenance crew. Nick graduates this upcoming January. Please pray for him that God helps him find peace and that he stays the course. He is learning to find peace, and with your help, he is taking the steps he can, allowing God to take care of the rest.**



Nick prepares a lunchtime meal in the PGM cafeteria where he volunteers.

# The Bible Is Our Textbook

*“Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” —Psalm 119:140 (KJV)*



At Pacific Garden Mission, all that we do is centered around the Word of God. The Bible is our cornerstone of truth and wisdom, and from the Gospel messages shared in the dayrooms to the content taught to our students, it all is based on God's Word. A Bible program graduate recently said, “Whatever you are going through, God has an answer for it in the Bible.” And here at PGM, we know, through experience, this is true.

We are thankful for your financial support, which has allowed

us to share the Word of God openly and freely since 1877 here at Pacific Garden Mission. Remaining financially independent of state and government funding has allowed us to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, whose fruit we see daily here at this old lighthouse. Maintaining the freedom and ability to preach the Gospel is essential to souls, and you are ensuring this continues.

**GIVE NOW [pgm.org/donate](https://pgm.org/donate)**

Visit our website at [pgm.org](https://pgm.org) to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### THE ONLY FAMILY THEY HAVE

**“A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.” —Psalm 68:5**

God sets the solitary in families. I love this verse because that is what we are to so many. Many of the homeless are estranged from family, separated from their children, and feel like outcasts from society. There is no one to share their joy, no shoulder to cry on, or a listening ear to vent to.

This is especially manifest when they are sick. Last week I met a man in our dayroom who was going to have his toes amputated. As I was listening to his unfortunate plight, I realized we had become his family. There would be no get-well cards from family or balloons in his room or calls of concern; he would deal with this alone. We have become his family.

I remember a man in our dayroom who had throat cancer, and he would go

to treatment, meet doctors, and get sick, all by himself. We would bring him up to his bed early to get some rest. He was so appreciative that someone would ask about his welfare. We became his family.

I still remember several years ago, a man in a wheelchair was terminal and sitting in the hallway. He came from Michigan and made his way to the Mission for one purpose. He told me he simply did not want to die alone. Here was a man in the throes of death who simply wanted to hear a kind voice, receive a compassionate hug, or meet a concerned soul just to ask about his welfare.

I thank our wonderful Lord and you for supporting this amazing ministry, making it possible to connect people to their heavenly Father. Our vision statement reads, “We offer life’s answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.” Through any season of life; homeless, sick, addicted, whatever it may be, we are here.

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

About **21,406** plates of food were served

**38,400** items of clothing were distributed

**3,154** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

**12** mothers with their children stayed at PGM  
*4 mothers 8 children*

**69** people professed faith in Christ



## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

We rejoice as we report what God is doing here at PGM. For without Jesus and your support, this Gospel rescue mission would not exist. We want you to see what God is doing here, so each month we select and highlight one life transformed by the Gospel of Christ and mail it to you. There are many such stories in our dayrooms and our Bible programs waiting to be written. We see the fruit of your thoughts and prayers and faithful support every day. You have made it possible for hundreds of people to be touched by the Gospel of Christ each day.

God has kept Pacific Garden Mission open continuously since 1877, through wars, pandemics, riots, and the Great Depression, because we are faithful to proclaiming the Gospel and discipling men and women with His Word. God uses your support to make this ministry possible through even the darkest days.

Never has the world needed the only message that can bring lasting change more than now. Your support provides the Gospel proclamation locally here at the Mission, and nationally and globally through *Unshackled!* radio and the Pacific Garden Mission television programs. Your letters, calls,

and testimonies reassure us that God is moving in a mighty way. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth" (Romans 1:16).

We hope you will come and visit us and experience first hand what God is doing here at PGM. Every Saturday, experience the live radio drama *Unshackled!*, tours, dinner in the cafeteria, and the praise and testimony service, preached by our president, Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski. Come and visit us for the Saturday Destination Experience and see how you can partner with God to take men and women to their highest potential.

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### SATURDAY DESTINATION EXPERIENCE AT PGM

**2:45 pm: Arrival**

**3:00 pm: *Unshackled!* live recording**

**3:30 pm: Tour the Mission—meet the people behind the scenes**

**4:15 pm: Dinner in the cafeteria**

**5:00—6:00 pm: Saturday night praise and testimony service**

**You can sign up on our website (TOURS AND EVENTS under GET INVOLVED) or call us. We look forward to meeting you!**

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