

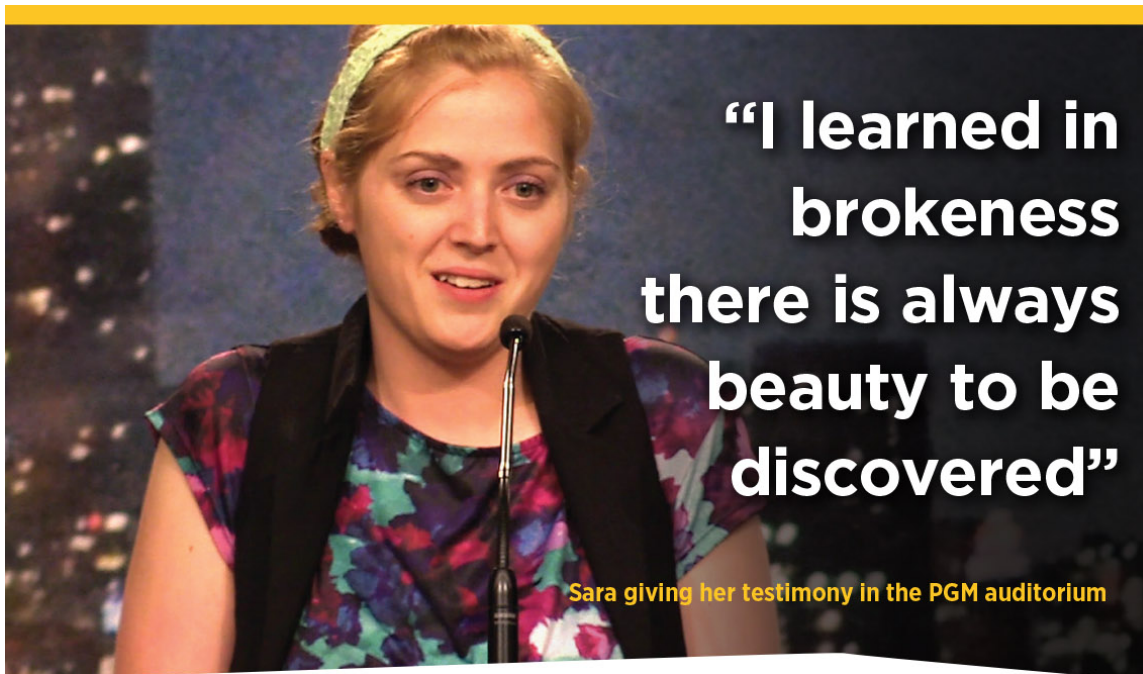


WITH YOUR HELP HE GAVE ME NEW LIFE AND PURPOSE

This Christmas season, we would like to share Sara's testimony of transformation as we remember the goodness of our Lord and the generosity of our donors that make these testimonies possible. After a tough childhood and misguided search for love and acceptance, Sara found her new life in Christ after coming through our doors at Pacific Garden Mission. Sara, like many others, gives us one more reason to celebrate Jesus Christ, His Gospel, and know that the Great Commission continues through His grace and the loving support of His people.

SARA SILVARREY HOLTSINGER

"As a child I saw a lot of stuff I shouldn't have seen, and having to grow up too quickly left me angry. In my search to find love and acceptance, I formed bad relationships and made poor choices. I was trying to be accepted, loved, and cherished, but I could never find what I needed, that which only God could provide. My self-image? I didn't have one. It came to a point where I lived my life through a facade, as though I were invincible. Deep down, though, I was hurting, and I avoided



this hurt by getting and staying high because I didn't want to feel anything. I didn't want to deal with what was going on.

"I found myself making choices that I had told myself I would never make. Many times I didn't even want to face another day, and I often wondered what it would be like if I just disappeared. When I came through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission, however, I decided to join the Bible Program. While I was here, I made mistakes, but I always had the love and support of those around me. My relationships with the pastors,

elders, and fellow believers helped me to grow in my faith and walk with God. It was at PGM that I learned that in brokenness there is always beauty to be discovered. I also learned that we are not our past and we are not our circumstances.

"After graduating the Bible Program in 2014, I went to Dayspring Bible College where I graduated and received a "Missions" major in May, 2017. I have learned so much! It has been a wonderful experience working in the church's preschool as a teacher's assistant, and it was there I had hands-on training for the Missions

field. God has blessed me with the joy of learning what "faith like a child" means! In 2014, I traveled with 25 people to conduct a Missions groups to The Philippines. We had the joy of spreading

**"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."
—Jeremiah 29:11**

the Gospel and giving medical relief.

After knowing each other for eleven years, my husband (Chris) and I have now been married for nearly a year; God knew exactly what He was doing. We live here in Atlanta where I work as an after-school tutor for a ministry called the City of Refuge. I would have never thought a few years back this would be what God had for me. He kept and cared for me even though sometimes I chose to be selfish.

“I will be honest and say my life isn’t perfect, and that God keeps reminding me that my effort and strength isn’t based on me. In my shortcomings He is greater, in my despair He is my strength, and even when I don’t have the words, He intercedes for me. So, for those weary souls out there I write this for you. If you are hurting I will tell you that you are not alone! Everything that you are

feeling Christ felt before. I can testify and say God has a plan for your life! It may look bleak at this very moment but know that you are loved.”

Sara continues in her ministry by loving, edifying, and serving others as God leads her. The discipleship she found at Pacific Garden Mission has prepared her for a life of ministry in Christ. As she becomes a fully functioning follower of Christ, Sara’s reach in spreading the Gospel has grown. Today God has placed her into a ministry where she helps to spread the light of Christ. As we turn to God with thanksgiving and love this season, let us remember that Sara is one of many who continues to be helped here at Pacific Garden Mission, and these stories of transformation would not be possible without your help.

Now happily married, Sara has built her life on a solid foundation.



Sara and Chris live in Atlanta where she is involved in Christian ministry



HELP HURTING PEOPLE FIND HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

At Pacific Garden Mission we teach the true meaning of Christmas, and nothing comforts the soul more than God's love and the knowledge that He will never leave nor forsake

us. The message of salvation and forgiveness is the true gift this Christmas, and it is being proclaimed here with your help.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us pray for those

who are still lost and be the people of God who help them.



GIVE NOW at pgm.org



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

REMEMBERING THE LESS FORTUNATE

Christmas at Pacific Garden Mission

is exciting as well as heartbreaking. For many of us, Christmas conjures up images of families, elaborate meals, presents strewn around a freshly cut tree, and a church service with a well-dressed choir. For those on the streets, this can be the most difficult time of the year. Haunted by memories of what was, tempered with the reality of what is—the reality of the harsh, lonely life on the streets.

One of our residents, discussing Christmas, writes, “My experience growing up as a child in my house was somewhat lonely...I didn’t have the chance to get most things that a child would expect. I looked at sales papers with hopes and dreams, and with a lot of faith in a Santa that never showed up. Although I was taught at an early age about Santa Clause, my experience was that Santa was my mama struggling to raise four children on her own, with my being the youngest. So you can imagine my pain growing up.”

At the Mission, we don’t preach

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” —Luke 2:11

Santa as the giver of gifts but Jesus, who gave the greatest gift of all. During the Christmas season, we desire to help ease the pain that some may feel by introducing them to a friend who will stick by their sides no matter: Jesus Christ. Other Mission guests remember spending Christmas in abandoned buildings all alone, surrounded by the silence of their misery, shackled to their addictions. During this season we desire

to shower our residents with Christian love, in the hopes that they can forget the pain of the past and open themselves to the unique hope found in Christ Jesus.

This Christmas let’s remember the less fortunate through prayer, a visit to the Mission, or financial support. The Bible tells us, in Galatians 2:10, “Only they would that

we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.”

Thank you for your support, let’s make this a Christmas to remember for those that are less fortunate.

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GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

As we approach the close of 2018 we are forever grateful for what God is doing, and we realize that the work of Pacific Garden Mission would not exist without three of our most important members – Jesus Christ, our beneficiaries, and you, our donors.

Pacific Garden Mission is the oldest continuously operating Gospel rescue Mission in America, and it is here that we have created a true model of discipleship. With Christ as the foundation, and donors and beneficiaries advancing the Kingdom, we continue forward faithfully in His name.

Thank you for partnering with God to bring the Gospel message to thousands here in Chicago, and tens of thousands across the country

through television and radio.

We are excited to see what God will do in 2019 as we advance the Kingdom in our numerous ministries that we were preordained to walk in together, as we become the light in a world of darkness.

John 14:12: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

We hope that as we partner together, “living for the cause of Christ” will continue to be a part of your future funding plans. We also hope you will join us in living out that vision with excellence.

We desire to love you, minister to you, and bless you as we serve our Saviour together.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from all of us at Pacific Garden Mission.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS & 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 support us financially, you’re not only giving *to* the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people that need your help the most. In October your support made a true difference:

On average, **456** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

98 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

13 mothers with their children sheltered

About **31,712** plates of food served

36,098 items of clothing distributed

286 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

358 people professed faith in Christ

3,096 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

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