



His *conscious* choice led to a transformed life and a restored family.

## A LAST RESORT BECAME A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

When Otis came to Pacific Garden Mission, he saw it as his very last resort for intervention. Knowing he needed to break free of his life-crippling drug addiction, Otis was willing to do whatever it took to change. Soon after his arrival, Otis surrendered his heart to Jesus Christ—and since that day, his life has never been the same. Thank you for your support! Without the help of donors like you, these stories of change, and the freedom from unnecessary suffering, would not be possible.

### OTIS

“My life was out of control . . . and drug use was the primary thing I wanted to address when coming here to PGM. My venture into drugs was subtle—it started with one little compromise. My first exposure to drugs was in my freshman year of high school. I saw it destroy some of my closest friends at a very young age—they too were just freshmen.

“In my junior year, I made a compromise to try marijuana, and it led to a whole new life. King David didn’t know that on that day, he would have an adulterous affair that

**“[*Unshackled!*] would talk about this place in Chicago called the Pacific Garden Mission and how God has used this place to restore people’s lives for well over 100 years.”**



would lead to a child and later murder . . . and so many coverups, just like me. When we compromise truth that God has revealed to us, it takes on a whole new life. I became the guy that would try just about anything, except a needle with heroin.

“Little did I know that one day, I would try crack cocaine. And unlike all the other drugs, crack cocaine devastated my life. It led me to be homeless for the first time, and I have been arrested between 20 and 30 times for shoplifting. I ate from dumpsters! All of this because of my addiction. I was 17 when I made my compromise, and that season lasted until I was 54 years old—*that’s 37 years.*

“I found out about Pacific Garden Mission in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. There’s a program we record here (at PGM)

called *Unshackled!*. It is played throughout the world, and I heard it. A loving pastor friend of mine—I will always remember him—took me off the streets and allowed me to live in his church. And while there, I felt compelled not to listen to secular or sports radio like I normally would. Instead, I listened to the Gospel on Moody Radio. That’s when I heard *Unshackled!* for the first time, and I became a regular listener. They would talk about this place in Chicago called the Pacific Garden



**A recent family photo of Otis with his sisters. They now look to him as a family patriarch.**



***“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh...” —Ezekiel 11:19 (KJV)***

Mission and how God has used this place to restore people’s lives for well over 100 years.

“Finally, I got desperate enough to come to Chicago, and here is where the contrast is: I made a *compromise* decision to smoke marijuana at 17, and I made a *conscious* decision to come here and join the Bible program. Choices take on whole new meanings. And the life I have now . . . I have had steady employment for 14 years as of this September, which in the past was something I couldn’t do. But walking with God . . . He establishes your ways.

“I was unreliable to my family—a derelict and someone who just couldn’t be relied on. And now, my family looks to me as the pillar. One of my sisters said, ‘Otis, you’ve replaced our father as the patriarch of this family.’ What a compliment! That would not have happened on my own. God has truly transformed me, and He is constantly transforming me still. Thank God for the counselors and the people who have allowed me to be transparent and have not been judgmental toward me.”

**Gentlemen left to right: Otis McClam, Ron Childers, Pastor Phil, and Samson Green**

**The chains of addiction are broken, and Otis is now a fully functioning follower of Christ! He is a pillar of faith to his family, in his church, and here at Pacific Garden Mission. He was once a source of heartache to his family—but now, he is a source of inspiration, hope, and stability. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make stories like Otis’s possible. One changed life, a new heart for Jesus Christ, has a lifelong impact—for Otis and for all whom he encounters on his walk of faith. Thank you for all you do.**



**A solid pack of Christian men, Otis has now found a family of support, love, and fellowship at PGM.**

# BLESSING OUR FRIENDS THIS CHRISTMAS

A light shines brightest where it is darkest, and here at Pacific Garden Mission, you are helping to shine the light of the Gospel into the lives of those who come through our doors. By adding a little bit of love, hope, and a warm meal, these events that YOU make possible hold significant meaning to those who rely on the care they receive here at PGM. Thank you.



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

With your help, we will serve 90,000 meals in November and December.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski  
President, Pacific Garden Mission

## THANKFUL HEARTS AT CHRISTMAS

For many of us, Christmas is a time for good food and quality time with family and friends. Our thoughts conjure up images of turkey with all the fixings, a warm fire, and laughter around a big table. For the homeless, however, this season is difficult and emotional. Difficult because every door is closed, and the only one that remains open is that of the shelter. Emotional because they are often haunted by the memories of Christmases past and the reminder of Christmas present, where other family members are enjoying time together without them.

During such a painful season, I am amazed by how thankful some of our residents are. Some have nothing but the clothes on their backs, yet they are still thankful. I asked some of our ladies what they were thankful for, and I was humbled by the response. One writes, "I'm Thankful for PGM. I'm so grateful that the Mission would

welcome a stray from Connecticut with open arms. It blows my mind that I'm offered a warm bed, three meals a day, a roof over my head, and lovely clothing—all for free."

Another writes, "I am thankful to be here at Pacific Garden Mission, enjoying God's Word every morning, noon, and evening. I am isolated, so my second blessing is for being around other women and having fellowship."

Someone else says she is thankful for "the ability to be around amazing stories so I could not feel alone or hopeless."

**We have so much to be thankful for. So this Christmas, let's think about those who are thankful, despite having absolutely nothing. And thank you for providing so much care for these men and women! Because of you, they are surrounded by the love of Christ this holiday season.**

## 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 October your support made a true difference:

On average, **320** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **19,065** plates of food were served

**43** people professed faith in Christ

**3,130** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

**4,037** items of clothing were distributed

**With your encouragement and support, we minister hope to the homeless, addicted, and brokenhearted.**



## UNSHACKLED!

Timothy Gregory,  
Program Director

"That night, I sat in my car in a parking lot, drinking, getting high, and flipping through the radio. And then I heard it . . . 'And his heart, and mind and life were *Unshackled!*' I listened to the whole show. It was entertaining, and I began to look forward to the program every week. Then, I made an important phone call."

The phone call Angel Feliciano made that day was to Pacific Garden Mission, which was the first step toward redemption for Angel. He is now the evening superintendent here at the Mission, and he's a testament to the transformative power of Jesus Christ and to your faithful prayers and support for this Gospel ministry.

As the program director of *Unshackled!*, I am privileged to see these types of stories play out regularly as we produce the longest running radio drama in history.

From the writers to the engineers, the sound effect artists to the musicians, and the actors to the story subjects themselves, getting to be a part of dramatizing the most important decision anyone will ever make is a humbling and awe-inspiring experience. And we get to

do it every Saturday at the Old Lighthouse (Pacific Garden Mission). Like a shining ray of light piercing through the blackness of night to guide the poor wanderer home, Pacific Garden Mission has, by the grace of God, stood as a beacon of light in the turbulent sea of Chicago's South Loop area. And the outreach of this Old Lighthouse has been multiplied a thousand times, maybe millions, by the open door of the radio broadcast, *Unshackled!*

The growth in popularity of this unique radio program ministry is indeed the work of God. And God's work continues to bless by expanding the footprint of *Unshackled!* with its own app, multi-themed podcasts, and an upcoming children's program.

**Thank you for your prayers, support, and notes of encouragement. You are helping to reach millions of people like Angel through the ministry of *Unshackled!*.**

**Angel poses in front of the *Unshackled!* mural at the PGM offices.**



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