

# YOU GAVE ME LOVING SUPPORT

"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

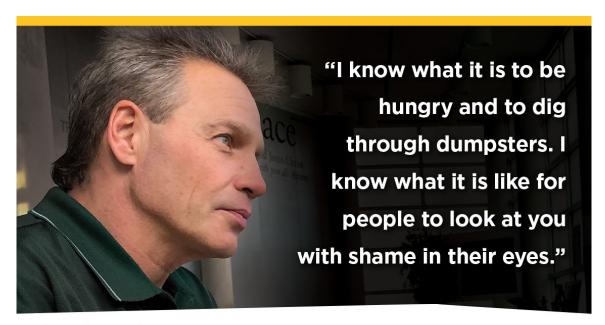
-Ecclesiastes 4:12

The nurturing environment of Pacific Garden Mission, prayerfully modeled from biblical discipleship, helps trust grow between the "lost and hurting" and the "saved and transformed." This vital fellowship often creates earthly lifelines of godly support. Through trust the heart tends to open, not only to compassionate words of advice and wisdom, but more significantly, it is trust which helps open one's heart to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a donor you are part of the threefold cord—you, the Mission, and our guests standing together. With your

support, we have a ministry of over 150 disciples sharing Christ's love and nurturing relationships with the lost and hurting. Christopher fought a 25-year drug addiction until his encounter with one of our counselors led him to Jesus Christ.

# **CHRISTOPHER**

"When I got introduced to crack cocaine that was my downfall. I experienced a drug with a high that I had never felt before, and it took over my life. I lost many relationships because of that and lost many jobs. I even got three DUIs. I lost the love and trust of my family because I chose drugs over them. I even stole from them, and I saw the pain I



brought into their lives. I was addicted to cocaine for 25 years. I would get clean only to go back to my old life and do it all over again. I burned a lot of bridges and hurt a lot of people, all of which I regret to this day.

"I found myself, after being out on the streets for a couple months, crying out to God. I never imagined I would be in that situation. I know what it is to be hungry and to dig through dumpsters. I know what it is like for people to look at you with shame in their eyes.

"People would look at me like I was a bum, I even felt like a bum,

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." —John 15:12

because I was. I cried out to the Lord and said 'What am I going to do now? Please help me, God.' I went to a church and they told me about Pacific Garden Mission, but I was resentful in my heart and I wasn't done yet. Until one day, I was getting high, and my heart starts fluttering, and felt like it was almost about to beat out of my chest, and I said, 'I am done!' That's when I went to PGM for the first time.

"I came walking through these doors, and when I saw the other people, I told myself this place wasn't for me. I left for a few days and then returned out of necessity. Until one day, while sitting in the day room of Pacific Garden Mission, evangelist Phil talked to me, I reached out to him and he accepted me with open arms. I related to him because he had been the same

as I was. We hadn't done the same exact things, but I related to him and his struggles. He told me I should join the addictions recovery program, but I was hesitant. I waited a

couple of weeks before I joined, but Phil kept an eye on me the whole time with loving encouragement until I approached him and said I was ready.

"I prayed with him that day and

rededicated my life to Christ, and ever since then I have been walking straight. God never gave up on me even when I gave up on myself. I will never give up on being the man I need to be. I know He has something for me. Even though I am 53 years old, I know in my heart my spirit is content and I know He has something for me and my life. If it is God's will I will graduate the New Life Program and build a new life with God and my Christian brothers. I'd like to close with this scripture, which is Psalm 86:12-13: 'I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy love toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.' In Jesus's name, Amen."

Christopher has graduated the 90-day addictions recovery program and is now in the one-year New Life Bible program. Chris's relationship



Chris attends morning Bible classes at PGM starting each day in God's Word.

with Phil helped encourage Chris to surrender his life to God. The physical needs are addressed which allows the spiritual healing to begin. Many who come here, with addictions that have extended for decades (often coupled with guilt-ridden memories) feel as if God can no longer love them. Fortunately, your support ensures we can patiently share the truth about God's love through both sermons and daily interactions between staff and guests. Through love and compassion, hardened hearts can be softened allowing trust and faith to begin entering into their lives again.



**Evangelist Phil encourages and prays with Chris** 



The resources you help provide through Pacific Garden Mission are oftentimes the last available lifelines of love, support, and compassion that the homeless may receive. For those living the lifestyle of addiction, death or insanity is many times not far off, but praise God that transformation and a new life is not far away either. Our 90-day residential addictions recovery treatment program, called New Day, provides meals, dormitory housing, clothing, classes, counseling, and nursing care. We address the root of drug and alcohol addiction by focusing on the Word of God and Christ.

The Holy Spirit leads precious souls into repentance and people are freed from life long addictions. These programs are free of charge and because of this, when they arrive, they don't have to worry about how they will pay for the help they so desperately need, because of you.

Only Jesus Christ was able to set Christopher free from a 25-year drug addiction, and he received the loving support and inspiring Word of God here in this old lighthouse becasue of our faithful supporters. Thank you.







### A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski President, Pacific Garden Mission

#### **PGM: A TRUE SPIRITUAL HOSPITAL**

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

-Matthew 25:34-36

The words of Jesus are sobering; they remind us of the practical way in which we minister to people. So many come to us because they think what they need is food or shelter or clothing, but once at PGM, many realize their needs are much more than physical.

This week I met a 24-year-old young man named Aaron. Both his eyes were blackened, and his face was swollen. When I inquired about his injuries, he stated he was beaten up in the neighborhood. With nowhere to go and in a weakened condition, our doors were open to him. He received love as well as the Gospel.

I think of Edger Howard, an attorney who came to PGM years ago for a coat, but once inside, he heard the Gospel and now he runs a Christian legal service.

I think of Rachel, a young woman who was so excited to be at PGM because while in jail, she came across our TV program and listened to Unshackled! "One day I was sitting in my cell, I was surfing the channels and I heard something," she says. "The voice that was on the TV spoke with such conviction, it resonated with me. It was PGM. From that point on, I watched PGM and listened to Unshackled! from my cell. I promised God I would make it my business when I got out, I would make it to PGM." She was true to her word, and I was thrilled when she walked through our doors, recounting what God did to set her free.

You have made these life transformations possible, as you provide for both the physical needs and the deep spiritual needs of those who come to the Mission. As the harsh reality of winter has brought multitudes through our doors for their physical needs to be met, pray that their hearts would be open to the real reason they come. Thank you for your support and for making PGM a true spiritual hospital whereby many are set free.

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### GODLY STEWARDSHIP Stephen Welch, Director of Development

We are blessed to have many supporters who have faithfully given to the Mission for years. Whether you are a new supporter or have been involved with PGM for years, I want to thank you and encourage you as you support this Gospel work.

We cherish your continued, faithful giving to support life transformation—because often, change takes time! I think about the number of people that walk through our doors, and many are not initially receptive to the Gospel and struggle to accept the help we offer.

I remember talking to a man in a wheelchair by Walgreens. He was there for more than six months. I thought he would come to the Mission, so I tried to visit with him several times. He did not want to come to the Mission or even share his name. You can imagine my surprise when I saw him in the men's

dayroom here at the Mission last Saturday!

"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."—Luke 6:35

As the cold weather moves in, many more people who would never come here will come in and be warmed with food and shelter and receive the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. They are somebody's son or daughter, or mother or father. We watch as God builds a new family in Christ who you will meet in eternity.

Without Jesus and our donors, there is no Gospel rescue mission here. Thank you for your faithful support and encouragement. We embrace your love for what God is doing and what He has done at Pacific Garden Mission.

**GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate** 

## 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 December your support made a true difference:

On average, **630** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

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

About **67,711** plates of food were served

13 mothers with their children stayed at PGM

45,000 items of clothing were distributed

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

**155** people professed faith in Christ

**3,123** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!* 

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