A portrait of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue hoodie. He is smiling slightly. In the background, there is a blurred sign that says "the beginning God".

Javier has built a new life
on a firm foundation.

MY LIFE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED THROUGH YOUR HELP


At Pacific Garden Mission, we serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel. The stories of lives changed assure us that our efforts are not in vain—and without you, these eternal impacts would not be possible. Let us rejoice in stories like Javier's and celebrate the victories, knowing these works of God are occurring here each day because of friends like you.

JAVIER

"My name is Javier; I am from Puerto Rico. I want to tell you a little

bit about me and how God has been working in my life. At 16, I started storing drugs for a drug organization. Through that relationship, my drug business kicked off. I was selling and, at the same time, began using drugs. That's when the consequences started, including being in prison five times. I lost everything . . . *even hope*.

"I remember one evening, while I was in prison, when my cellmate told me about a program called *Unshackled!* My friend said, 'Why don't you listen to this?' I remember that night—it was about eleven o'clock when they listened to the *Unshackled!* radio program. I started listening . . . hearing the testimonies.



**“I truly
understand God’s
grace and mercy
in this new life He
has given me.”**

The stories were fascinating! God had transformed their lives. I thought God could do the same thing for me.

“I had heard about God before, so I knew a little bit about Him. I felt in my heart that He could do something for me just as He had done for the people I heard on *Unshackled!* A couple of months later, it was time for me to leave the prison, and I told my cellmate I had nowhere to go. ‘Why don’t you give yourself an opportunity at Pacific Garden Mission?’ my friend asked.

“I decided to give myself a chance. I connected with Pacific Garden Mission and found out I could come to this place. My primary language is Spanish, so it was complex for me here at Pacific Garden Mission trying to learn English. It was hard for me to understand, but they

started helping me. I would use a bilingual Bible, and thank God, through these people, I started growing closer and closer to Jesus Christ. God helped me through it.

“While enrolled in the New Life Bible Program, I started participating in the Spanish Ministry. Thank God, they allowed me to begin preaching in Spanish. I say this place has been a blessing by the hand of God. God has changed my life from hopelessness to a life full of hope!

“I can speak of God with other people. I can talk to my kids about God. That’s why I tell you of the

Javier has ministered to the Spanish-speaking men at PGM, both in sharing the Gospel and in practical, everyday help.



opportunity that God has given me through Jesus Christ. I have accepted Him as my only Savior, and He has changed my life completely. God used this ministry, Pacific Garden Mission, as a tool to change my life so that I could keep on growing. Thank God for what He has done in my life. It was through the program that I was able to grow . . . and continue growing.

“After graduating from the New Life Bible Program here at PGM, I started working in transportation, where I am currently employed. I got married in 2018, and I live with my wife in Chicago. Today, I can look back and see how God rescued me from the life of a young, drug-using drug dealer. I truly understand God’s grace and mercy in this new life He has given me.

“God blessed me with these things, but He is still the foundation and source of my joy and peace. I am a product of the mercy and grace of God, produced in Pacific Garden Mission, for the glory of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—and to Him be all the glory. My happiness is in Jesus. He is the principal source of



Javier is now employed at PGM driving for transportation.

joy in my life. He is my Savior and my Lord, but most importantly, I have Him in my life, and I am saved.”

After hearing the *Unshackled!* radio program, Javier came to Pacific Garden Mission. With his heartfelt persistence and the aid of the PGM family, he was able to persevere, complete the Bible program, and join our staff. Javier is currently an integral part of the Mission’s daily operations, and he shares what he has learned with those he encounters throughout the day. Your continued support allows us to offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ. Thank you.

“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”

—Luke 6:48 KJV

“Come inside from the cold.”

During life-threatening weather, it becomes easier to appreciate the stark contrast between surviving outdoors in the harsh winter elements and living inside a safe, warm environment like Pacific Garden Mission. We are thankful for your participation and support during this time of seasonally extreme weather and dangerous frigid temperatures. You are helping minister with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Your help is always appreciated—but remember, this time of year, it can be *life-saving*. We sincerely thank you for being part of this frontline ministry.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

SEEKING TRANSFORMATION

Our vision statement reads: **We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.**

One of the most satisfying moments I have is when I get to witness this transformation: men and women, having once walked through our doors broken, homeless, and defeated, who are now living life as fully functioning followers of Christ.

One such man is Carl. He graduated the New Life Bible Program a few years ago and has been working at PGM ever since. Carl recently graduated with a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is now working on his Ph.D.! While we celebrate his accomplishments, I am overjoyed because I remember where it began. In his own words:

I started to feel as if my life was in crisis and that I was no longer in control. I came [to the Mission] and stayed as an overnigher for thirty days. One Saturday evening, Pastor Phil spoke on how God can take our brokenness and make us whole.



Afterward, I committed to trust God and do life His way. I joined the Bible program . . . and I've seen how He has poured into my life since making this decision. After completing the one-year Bible program, I felt called into the ministry of Christian counseling.

I stand amazed to see a man go from walking through these doors homeless to now working on his Ph.D. to help others. Pacific Garden Mission is much more than a shelter. By the grace of God and with your help, we stand ready to meet the needs of any man, woman, or child in their time of desperation so they may return to society as fully functioning followers of Christ. Thank you for your support.

Pictured above: Men studying and discussing Scripture during a Bible study at PGM.

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GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

The snow outside may look beautiful, but the frigid temperatures in Chicago are lethal to anyone exposed to the elements for too long. “Freezing to death” isn’t just a phrase at the Mission—it’s a genuine possibility.

More people come to the Mission in the cold winter months. Every year, January, February, and March frequently test our capacity. But with your help, we have done everything possible to maximize our space this winter to help even more people get out of the bitter cold and into a safe, warm environment.

Yes! YOU help provide hot meals, winter clothing, hot showers, and warm shelter—but *your gifts also do so much more*. As people come into the Mission from the cold streets, the Good News is shared—individually by a counselor, then preached in three to five services a

day—because the Gospel of Christ is unto salvation and brings lasting change.

We know that God uses the elements to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. Cold, homeless, hopeless people in need enter our doors of hope daily and discover they are spiritually bankrupt and in need of a Savior. We have learned that the most crucial issue is their relationship with Jesus Christ, and without the Lord and faithful supporters like you, there is no Pacific Garden Mission.

Our purpose has always been to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ, creating fully functioning followers of Christ through discipleship. And with your help, that is exactly what we will continue to do.

Thank you for providing a warm, safe, nutritive environment for the Gospel to be preached so God’s Word can create disciples. Your prayers and gifts are making an eternal difference this winter.

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, **353** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **18,940** plates of food were served

29 people professed faith in Christ

3,136 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

4,060 items of clothing were distributed

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