




## YOU PROVIDED A REFUGE FOR ME AND MY DAUGHTER

Homelessness for a single mother is one of the most difficult situations imaginable. In the dead of winter, living outside with no heat can have deadly consequences. The younger the children, the more vulnerable. Yet your support and prayers provide a safe and steadfast spiritual presence at Pacific Garden Mission, and together we share the sustaining Word of God that causes hearts to be renewed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the time of this writing, we have eight mothers with 12 children staying with us. We would like to share the story of one mother, Yvette, who came here with her 4-year-old daughter after

fleeing an abusive relationship. We hope it encourages and reminds you of the eternal healing and salvation your support has within this house of God.

### YVETTE

"My name is Yvette. I am 29 years old, and I currently live at Pacific Garden Mission with my 4-year-old daughter, August. As a child, I grew up in a single parent household. We had a simple childhood and my mother always took us to church. So from a young age I had always known about God, but it wasn't until I was a teenager that I knew about Jesus Christ. I



**“His Spirit was speaking with me the entire time, waiting for me to turn to Him.”**

tried several times at my church to restore my relationship with God, but my heart wasn't fully surrendered. In school I was bullied, and I didn't have any friends, not even neighborhood friends. That really affected how I saw people and my surroundings. The high school that my twin sister and I went to was all Latin American; we were the only African Americans in our entire graduating class.

“Because I was bullied so much in school, both verbally and physically, I didn't care to even do my homework or study, and as result my grades suffered. I did graduate high school, and I went on to college where I graduated with a high GPA. That showed me that no matter what was going on around me, as long as I focused, I could succeed.

“After college, I began the relationship with my child's father. He was very abusive. I endured eight years of abuse from him. I would break up with him several times each year but would always go back. It was literally a cycle. I had heard about there being cycles of abuse

**“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”  
—Jeremiah 29:13**

but had not realized it until I was experiencing it. Even law enforcement officers, doctors, and nurses told me to get away from him and that I didn't need him, but I seemed incapable of believing it for myself. The first time I had come to PGM was in 2014, and I stayed as an overnight guest for about two months due to the abuse. After two



months I left to live with my mother, but I ended up in the same relationship for another four years. From that I had my daughter August, but in 2017 because of the unstable nature of my life, I gave my mother legal guardianship of my daughter until my situation improved.

“I even found myself living on trains in the middle of February for several weeks when it was below zero outside. I truly did not know what I wanted from my life. I felt so lonely and I wanted someone to be there with me, but because the relationship I was in was not from God, I got everything that was not from God. Yet His Spirit was speaking with me the entire time, waiting for me to turn to Him.

“The reason why I am here now at PGM is to restore my relationship with God. Here at PGM, the staff members have taken their time with me. They have realized that it is not something that can be rushed and that we all learn to grow close to God at our own pace. I believe He



**Yvette and August with Pastor Phil**

meets us exactly where we are in our lives. We have scheduled counseling once a week, but every day at PGM you can go to someone and tell them how you're feeling. The counselors are not going to tell you how they feel, they use the Bible to tell you what God says. That is something that I really need, especially for my spiritual growth, someone that is spiritually mature in themselves and has a close



**Yvette receives her Certificate of Completion from the New Day Program.**

relationship with God. If I surround myself with people that are like that, I will grow spiritually and heal, but Jesus is my number one example to teach me how to be spiritually mature.

"I just thank God every day for this place. My daughter and I pray daily and thank God for PGM, because if I had never come here, I don't know where we would be. Today I am actually able to be a mother and she loves me for that. I thank my mom too because she never stopped praying for me, and to this day she tells me she prays for me and that she is proud of me, and even at 29 years old, hearing those words from her is amazing. My daughter August and I are very thankful."

**Nothing speaks of truth and transformation more than the story of a changed life. Yvette**



**There is a special joy of fellowship among the sisters in Christ at PGM.**

**and August are safe, and within the walls of PGM, they are able to heal and begin building a new life. There are 8 mothers with their children currently staying at Pacific Garden Mission, each with their own unique reason for being homeless. Whether it's the loss of a job, escaping an abusive relationship, or an unexpected health calamity, however these women and children found their**

**way here, you can be certain as a faithful supporter that they will be fed by the Word of God and have everything needed to begin a life on a Christ-centered foundation. We rejoice daily for your support and for the miracles happening each day here because of God.**



**Excited August gives Yvette flowers on stage to congratulate her at graduation.**

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





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### YOUR AMAZING PRAYER AND SUPPORT

In the 1946 classic “It’s a Wonderful Life,” audiences are captivated at the thought of George Bailey getting a glimpse of what life would be like if he did not exist. With that in mind I want to thank the supporters of Pacific Garden Mission for your prayers and donations, and give you a glimpse of what it would be like in Chicago if we did not exist.

I asked three people that have been through our ministry, coming in as overnight guests and then graduating the program, where they would be without Pacific Garden Mission.

**Charles** was a drug addict for 35 years. His life was unmanageable, and he ended up homeless looking for shelter. When I asked him where he would be without the Mission, he said a drug house or dead. I have met his mother, and without the Mission she would have either had to bury her son or live with the constant heartache of a son lost on the streets of Chicago.

I asked Charles what the Mission means to him. He simply said “hope.” Today Charles is employed, an active member of his church, and an encouragement to many. How different it all would have been if we were not here.

**Bonita** was a heroin addict for 25 years. She was suicidal and did not want to die a heroin addict.

When I asked her where she would be without Pacific Garden Mission, she simply said “dead.”

Today Bonita works as a counselor in our drug program, lives in her own home and enjoys a relationship with her children and grandchildren; they love Grandma Bonita. How different her story would have been if we were not here.

**Theo** was a drug addict for 20 years and was out on the streets looking for help. I asked him where he would be without Pacific Garden Mission, and he also said “dead.” He would have died as another statistic in Chicago’s endless body count number, with no children to mourn him and no parents to weep. His death would have gone unnoticed as just another drug-induced death in a cold and dark city. Today he leads our addiction recovery program and has impacted many for Christ. His adoring wife serves alongside him, and his story has been an inspiration to many. How different it would have been.

Your prayer and support has made a difference. Thank you for partnering with us this year and changing the narrative in so many lives.

**John 8:36: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”**



## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

**Thank you for helping provide the many meals that we offered to hungry guests in 2019. Your response was overwhelming.**

Proverbs 10:21 says, “The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.”

A meal and a safe night’s shelter can make all the difference in a person’s physical life, but most people walk through our doors in spiritual bankruptcy. They are lost, and the Gospel messages you provide bring the Gospel of Christ and the power of God into their shattered lives.

Many who need help and a warm meal are still “out in the cold” physically and spiritually and have, so far, resisted coming in. When God uses the frigid cold to drive people

into the Pacific Garden Mission, we pray that we will earn the right to be heard by serving with the compassion of Christ. Your faithful support demonstrates your partnership with this Gospel rescue mission that stands on the values established in 1877. You are ministering to those that God sends our way.

You have also supported the calling to reach more lost souls through our radio and television ministries—all of which receive free airtime.

Together let’s reach more with the Gospel of Christ as we serve together in His ministry.

**We invite you to stop by if you are able for a tour on a Saturday to experience what God is doing through your support.**

**GIVE NOW [pgm.org/donate](http://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 November your support made a true difference:

On average, **623** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

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

About **56,309** plates of food were served

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

**36,654** items of clothing were distributed

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

**300** people professed faith in Christ

**3,118** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*