

2018

STAYING TRUE TO OUR HIGH CALLING

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION **TRANSFORMING LIVES** WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST SINCE 1877

ARTICLE BY **DANIEL WOOLMAN**

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth —Acts 1:8 KJV

Through God's Grace, Pacific Garden Mission has remained true to its calling of sharing the Gospel Message for 140 years. We may feed the hungry and sleep the homeless but we address the physical needs in order for us to have the opportunity to address their spiritual and eternal needs. Many other organizations that started as light houses for Christ have slowly faded away from their original intent of spreading the Gospel. Here at Pacific Garden Mission we have kept our eyes on God and that God-centered focus is at the heart of everything we do.

When we started an addictions recovery program to deal with the ever-growing problem of substance abuse we knew that at the foundation of the healing process would be God's Word and God's power. The testimonies of lives changed and the threads of truth found woven between them all lead to Jesus Christ as the answer. As we enter a new

year we are committed to sharing with you lives changed by Jesus Christ. This month we are featuring the stories of two men who have only recently discovered the healing power of Christ after joining our New Day Addictions Recovery Program.

IAN



Ian had spent most of his life searching for answers. The search led him down

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a nomadic life of traveling, even becoming a Buddhist monk. In his search, he did not find the peace he was looking for and the void he felt grew leading him down a destructive road of addiction and depression. After losing the trust of his family and at the end of his rope he reached a breaking point.

"I was in so much pain that I wanted to die. I just wanted to die. I said "If I have to kill myself I don't care". I wanted to die but then I thought about going to hell. If I killed myself then I would be going to hell. So now I would have an eternity of feeling like this!

I was crying and sweating from all the drugs and screaming out. Then something came into me. I remember laying on my bed and I hadn't been eating for days. I had lost the energy and will to even make food for myself. I cried out to God and said "God, Please take this pain away. I can't bear this pain. Please just take it away." And God heard my prayer."

After shutting the last few doors Ian had open and with nowhere else to go, Ian found himself stumbling through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission as a last resort. Ian met with a counselor here and after hearing the story of Jonah he realized he needed to surrender to God. Ian realized he had been running from God his whole life.

"And I gave Him everything and all of the pain was instantly gone, just gone and it was replaced with peace and joy and strength. I felt like I had been walking

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" — ROMANS 10:13-14

around dead for 33 years and I felt for the first time that I had come alive. Where I had been trying to do everything on my own as soon as I gave it to Him, He took everything and made my heart light.

Since being at the Mission I have learned about what Jesus came here to



Ian sharing his testimony at his recent graduation from the New Day Addiction Recovery program

teach us, that God loves us, that God loves me. My father did a 90-day program. I am here doing a 90-day program. A faith based 90-day program. My father did a 90-day program that was not faith based and for ten years he was sober but he was a "dry drunk" and he went back to drinking at some point. A few years later he died from it and that's because he didn't have the power and the Holy Spirit behind him. Since coming here that spirit is moving here. I hope that anyone who is listening to me right now, I hope with all of my heart that you will feel this, will experience this and will know this. Jesus is amazing and He will transform you too."

JOHN

"I grew up in a good Christian home with Christian parents, four sisters and went to private schools. I dropped out of school in 9th grade and my parents talked me into getting a GED. Shortly after I met my wife and we have been married 23 years and have three kids. I joined the Marines the next year and that is when things started going downhill. I started drinking a lot. Had multiple military deployments and I think I used alcohol to deal with the stress and trauma. After the Marine

Corps, I became a federal agent with the Department of Justice. During this time of my life I continued to drink. Eventually I moved back to Kentucky where I became a cage fighter. After several injuries and surgeries, the doctor started prescribing Percocet and I became physically addicted to them. Once the

doctor stopped prescribing them I found myself buying them illegally off the streets to avoid getting sick from withdrawal. It got to be a habit of 120 dollars a day. My life slid down hill. I went from having a four-bedroom home, double garage, and 17 acres, to sleeping on the streets of Lexington just strung out.

A friend of mine let me use his gun, it was a thousand-dollar weapon and I pawned it for 400 dollars. I put some gas in the truck and bought \$350 worth of Percocet which only lasted me two days. I remember going to an abandoned garage to use them and I just felt so guilty.

It turned out that the guy who lent me



BEFORE CHRIST: Violence, guns, and addiction defined John's life.

the gun called me the next day to say that the FBI wanted the gun I had just pawned and I was terrified. We went and got it out of pawn and then we came up here to Pacific Garden Mission. That was my lowest point because I was stealing. We drove seven hours here to Pacific Garden Mission. It was time. I was broken. My kids didn't trust me. My wife didn't trust me and I was 44 years old and realized I had to do something about this."

When talking to John he explained how the New Day addictions Program has been for him and what he has learned. John explained:

"It is kind of like boot camp in the military but here it is with the Bible. The biggest thing I have learned is that I am not alone and I don't have to let all the mistakes that I have made define me. Now I am talking with my wife about going to Bible college. With all of this stuff I have been through I could witness to people in prisons and places like that. I think that is where my calling

is. Some 220-pound tattooed marine coming into places like prisons and saying 'Yes, I was addicted to these things too and I went through it but you don't have to go through it anymore. You can get set free. If I can do it anyone can do it.'"

AFTER TRANSFORMATION:
Pictured in the PGM Chapel
John radiates the joy that
comes from true freedom
in Christ.



"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

— MATTHEW 24:14

IAN AND JOHN found their answers through faith in Christ and by studying the Word of God. Both of them came seeking refuge and change and that is exactly what the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ has brought them. Because of PGM's unwavering dedication and commitment to preaching the Gospel Message we continue to reach lost souls. People may come to us for physical needs but they receive something far more important. As we have stayed true to our calling to spread the Gospel our donors have also stayed true to us. As the world frowns, more and more upon the Gospel it becomes ever more important to shine the light of Christ in the darkness.

We thank you for your faithful support.

“... if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” — 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION

Media and Online Resources

PGM Homepage

Please visit our informative website. From there you can access **Facebook** and all of our television testimonies on the **YouTube** link available on www.pgm.org.

Share these testimonies of lives changed by Jesus Christ and then a Gospel message by our president Pastor Phil. This one hour program will bless your friends and reach the lost in a real life way. The entire program is unscripted and unrehearsed. We share stories of lives transformed by Christ and a Gospel message from the Word of God. Every program is concluded with a crystal clear invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

Please also check our new **Unshackled! website**. America's oldest radio drama at www.unshackled.org. You can listen to the audio stories on your computer or phone.

We are so grateful to have friends like you helping us reach the lost. We are co-laborers in Christ reaching the lost. Yes we provide means, safe nights lodging, clothing and programs, but the most important thing we do is reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for being part of this ministry.

YouTube

UNSHACKLED! Unshackled! Website



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

“To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ”

AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR and having just celebrated our 140 year anniversary, it is always good

to remember why we are here. Many organizations experience what is called mission drift, where the original founding vision becomes lost amidst a sea of philosophical change. An example would be Harvard University, “World-renowned Harvard University, founded in 1636, originally only employed Christian professors. Their focus was on fulfilling the stated mission of instructing students to *“know God and Jesus Christ.”* But today this school has no ties to its Christian roots. In 1987 the president of the university acknowledged the school had strayed far from its original mission, becoming a completely secular university, with no option of turning back.” Another example would be the Y.M.C.A., “George Williams first started the *Young Man’s Christian Association* (YMCA) as a Bible study for displaced men in London, England. The core of this group was centered on learning about Christ, eventually training and commissioning over 20,000 missionaries. But as the organization grew and expanded to other countries, the focus became all about health and fitness with no reference to Christ. In 2010, the organization officially dropped three of its four letters to become simply The Y, removing any remaining ties to its Christian roots.”

The founders of Pacific Garden Mission placed the highest value on the soul, “one day, while Sarah Dunn was struggling with an elaborate decoration in her family’s New York home, she heard an almost audible voice that asked, “What are you doing to decorate your heavenly home?” That marked the beginning of her passion to

convert people to Christianity.”

On this day, September 15, 1877, Colonel and Sarah Clarke opened a mission on South Clark Street. In a space that had once housed a tiny store, they set up wooden benches to seat forty people. As the Colonel wept and struggled to speak words that would change hearts, Sarah did her best to keep order among the noisy, obscene and drunken people who came in. The Clarkes saw it as a work of the Holy Spirit when many lives were changed.

Five years later, the mission moved to a bigger building that had been the Pacific Beer Garden. Dwight L. Moody suggested its new name. “Strike out the ‘beer’ and add ‘mission,’” he suggested. And so the Pacific Garden Mission got its name. Among those converted in its meetings were Billy Sunday, who became an evangelist; Mel Trotter, who was on his way to commit suicide when he wandered in; and Harry Monroe who became a powerful leader of the very organization that introduced him to Christ.

Moody considered the Pacific Garden Mission the greatest slum work in the world. He often preached there.

We recently reaffirmed our statement of purpose, *“To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.”*

We will not drift from our original call, yes we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, but the main emphasis is still today as it was 140 years ago, the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached to sinners.



FINANCIAL UPDATE Stephen Welch, Director of Development

January 2018—Remember the Lord your God

We are grateful for the faithful support of this amazing ministry where Jesus Saves. Your response to what Jesus Christ is doing every day, through the Pacific Garden Mission ministries, is edifying to all of us here who are the missionaries you support. We covet your letters about how God has moved you and blessed you through God's radio and television ministries and our outreach in America's oldest continuously operating Gospel rescue mission.

We face many financial challenges in 2018 but God is faithful and we are faithful to His Word. Our statement of purpose is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. We are praying with all of you that God will provide funds to support our growing demands especially in human resources. We are still overwhelmed and understaffed. We no longer have space for the growing number of mothers with children who walk through our doors. We need to double the existing dorm size to accommodate 60 mothers and children. Our legacy water bill is still over \$275,000. Praise God our mortgage balance has declined to \$3.6 million dollars. The response to our mailings has been generous and we value your notes and letters. You share God's love with the ministry He builds through your gifts and prayers.

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." —Deuteronomy 8:18

Thank you for your faithful support and generous gifts. We will continue to grow together in 2018 using the Word of God as our gold standard. May God's blessings fall upon you in this New Year.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS AND 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 come along side of us financially you're not giving to the mission, but through the mission to the people that need your help the most. We are serious about demonstrating our stewardship, and we invite you to learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.

Here are just some of the ways your giving is measured (NOVEMBER)

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**572**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**76**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**37,468**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**37,251**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**251**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**334**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3,089**

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