



## “GOD’S PLAN FOR ME WAS TO BE TRANSFORMED.”

Every Saturday night, Pacific Garden Mission hold a Praise and Testimony service where everyone gathers together to hear testimonies of lives changed through Jesus Christ. Among the visitors in the audience are homeless men and women who came to PGM seeking more than just food and shelter. Their testimonies, followed by the Gospel, open hearts. Many will receive Christ and be born again in His light. Hope is then revealed to them through the programs they are inspired to enter, where the Word of God transforms their minds and hearts. With your help, we are spreading the light of Christ and changing lives.

### SENORA

Senora frequently shares her story of transformation, of overcoming hardships and finding salvation. “I have been through a lot. I grew up in an alcoholic family. At the age of eight, I saw my dad murdered. At the age of thirteen I had been sexually abused by a family member. At the age of sixteen, I started using drugs to hide from the pain I was going through, pain inflicted upon me by my family. At the age of twenty, my mother died. I had three kids at the time. Growing up I had no one to show me love. My mother was there, but she was unable to show us

love because she was drunk all of the time.”

After years of struggling with addiction, Senora reached a breaking point and knew she had to make a decision.

“At this point, I had nowhere to go. It was cold outside, and I was hungry. I just said to myself ‘I can’t do this anymore’, and I asked God to show me what to do and where to go. I went to the police station and said I was homeless and hungry. I just wanted someplace that was safe where I could rest. They said there was only one place they could take me. That was Pacific Garden Mission.”

Senora graduated the New Day addiction recovery program here and soon after got married. She now lives in her own apartment and often comes to the Mission on Saturday’s to join in the church service. Arriving with nothing but the clothes on her back and a little hope, Senora is now content and filled with the spirit.

**“I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed.”  
—Isaiah 63:7**

“I didn’t know that God’s plan for me was to be transformed.” Senora told the crowd. “Get to know God. Build a relationship with Him, and I guarantee you will be a totally different person when you walk out of these doors. Please! If you need help, do not leave before that miracle comes.”

Nothing speaks of hope to the hopeless more than seeing someone who once struggled so dearly, but is now living a fully functioning life in Christ. Once someone has decided to follow Jesus Christ and to begin a new life walking with Him, that person needs a family of believers to help them.

Helping someone completely rebuild their life can seem like a daunting undertaking, especially individually, but together we can help hundreds of people do just that. It wouldn’t be possible without you.

As we look forward to what God has planned for us, let us remember that together we can accomplish great things for His glory.



**Senora receives her certificate from PGM**





**“I fell in love with the ministry because they are shining a bright Gospel light”**

## **NATHAN**

With encouragement, prayer, and love, people who once had nothing but despair can become fully functioning followers of Christ with hope and a productive, stable life. Leadership at PGM prayerfully and intentionally makes the Mission a loving and nurturing environment to foster spiritual growth. On Saturdays, during our Praise and Testimony Service, we sing hymns and worship through song. Nathan Tanner many times helps lead in the service. He also frequently shares his testimony to the homeless here.

“It didn’t take me long to give up drinking because when you have Christ, it is easy to give that stuff up. You can fight so hard in a recovery or AA program, but if it is not about Christ, it is not going to work. If you have Christ, it is going to work. It doesn’t matter what kind of addiction you may have because it doesn’t stand up to the Lord Jesus. He set me free from drinking and a lot of lustful behaviors. I joined the Bible program here and fell in love with the ministry because they are shining a bright Gospel light. We

**“Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.” —Psalm 75:1**

**Shown above, Nathan shares an encouraging testimony to homeless guests**

preach the Gospel three or four times a day, and I am happy with serving Christ. Only the Lord can make you happy, and there is no joy like serving the Lord. If you are here tonight and thinking about giving your life to Christ, don't think about it anymore; run up here when Pastor Phil gives the invitation. Nothing bad will happen from trying to have a relationship with God."

Men and women like Nathan and Senora are lights to those around them. They are living proof of the power of God and the hope and future possible to those still in darkness. Like many of the graduates of our discipleship programs, they are busy fulfilling the Great Commission. God is working here every day, and without your loving support, this would not be possible. *Thank You.*



## WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS & 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 support us financially, you're not only giving *to* the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people that need your help the most. In November your support made a true difference:

On average, **463** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

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

**17** mothers with their children sheltered

About **35,387** plates of food served

**69,889** items of clothing distributed

**238** patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

**364** people professed faith in Christ

**3,098** media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### RENEWAL FOR TODAY AND BEYOND

**As the New Year arrives many people think about changes they can make in the coming year.** For most, these changes involve external things: weight loss, exercise, running, healthy eating, etc. The biggest changes occur not on the outside, however, but the inside. Romans 12:2 reads: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." "Transformation" in Greek is metamorpho, or metamorphosis, the process of the caterpillar becoming a butterfly. This perfectly illustrates what we know is true: gradual, intentional change on the inside leads to lasting change on the outside. Ephesians 4:22 tells us: "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." The old man here represents our old ways of living, those aspects we want to change—but how? Ephesians 4:23 tells us: "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Some ask, how are people at the Mission that came from such difficult situations changing? The answer is by the renewing of their minds. When I read Senora's testimony, I am amazed where she came from, but I see the outward change because she has focused on renewing her mind. She is here every

week involved in the ministry with her husband.

How do we renew our minds?

**1. Replace.** Replace old habits of the mind with new. What do we read and watch and listen to? If our minds are full of romance novels, violent movies, and cursing, no wonder we struggle with lust and anger.

**2. Renounce.** In a story about forgiveness Jesus says, "Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." Matthew 18:33-34. If we live without forgiveness in our hearts, we open ourselves up to being given over to our tormentors

We at Pacific Garden Mission are so thankful for your prayers, especially as we continue to help those like Senora on their paths to inner and outer transformation. Your support helps countless souls find renewal in the light of Jesus Christ.



Senora and Pastor Phil

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## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we give thanks for a healthy, prosperous, God-honoring year at Pacific Garden Mission, we also want to thank YOU! Thank you for your generous support, and for the impact you have made in the lives of so many who needed God's help. Your partnership has brought help and hope to those who are struggling; through 517,657 meals and 172,350 nights of shelter last year, your support and commitment have transformed the lives of countless lost people. You

have also helped keep our "Jesus Saves" light on and helped us build a safe place in Chicago for men, women, and children to receive the Good News with 4,129 professions of faith in 2018. That's a lot of men, women, and children who have had a chance at a fresh start in life and a chance to meet Jesus thanks to you! And many have also entered our discipleship programs, such as New Day and New Life, to become fully functioning followers of Christ.

Because of you and your commitment to our city's struggling souls, we know that 2019 will be an abundant year with many swept into the Kingdom. **May God bless you and your loved ones, today and in the days to come!**

## PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION TELEVISION PROGRAM



pgm.org



**Pacific Garden Mission** has a weekly one-hour television program of real-life stories from men and women whose lives were transformed by Jesus Christ, followed by the Gospel preached by our president, Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski. The Pacific Garden Mission program is broadcast across the country on TLN, TCT, The Walk, WVCY, and we invite you to join us. God provided a way for these stations to graciously air our program by providing free airtime. Like you, these stations help us spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in a creative and groundbreaking way, much as He did with Unshackled in the 1950s. The response to God's

grace by faith in Christ is great and growing. The fields are bountiful, and the country needs Jesus. Your prayers and financial support to reach the lost have brought an eternal harvest, and we will see for all eternity.



**GIVE NOW at [pgm.org](http://pgm.org)**