



With God's help,  
Candice is learning to  
trust others again.

## PGM IS A HAVEN FOR HEALING, THANKS TO YOU

With Jesus, a heart can be made new in an instant! But for this new beginning to work its way into a person's whole life, it requires some time and help. Even with a willing heart in Christ, the hurdles of life transformation for someone struggling with homelessness or addiction can be immense. Success in the transition to a healthy and productive life, however, significantly increases with help from others—*like you!* Your support as a donor provides hurting people with the opportunity to rebuild their lives and relationships through

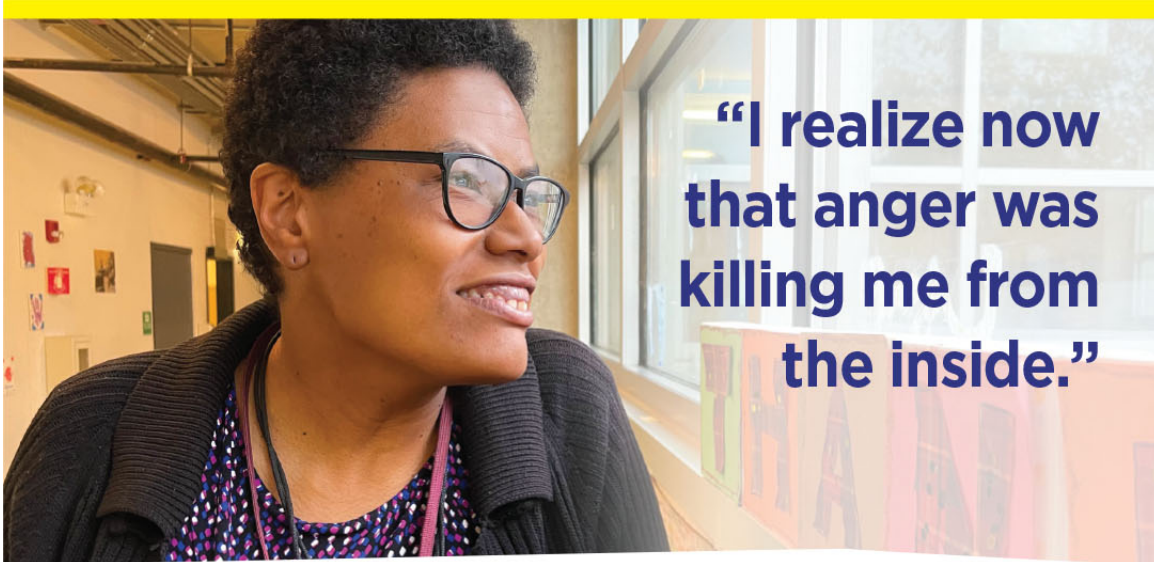
discipleship as they become fully-functioning followers of Christ. And as we begin a new year and look ahead with grateful eyes, we want to thank you for making stories like Candice's possible.

### CANDICE

"I feel like I was born between my grandmother's anger toward my mom and my mother's anger toward me. My grandmother had my mom when she was ten because she was attacked by a farmer.

"When my father was with my mother, he wanted her to have a boy.





**“I realize now  
that anger was  
killing me from  
the inside.”**

I wasn't the boy he wanted, so he left my mother and me. My mother was angry at me because I looked like him. I tried to keep myself away from my house. Every time I stepped into that place, I could feel her anger. She didn't hug me at all while I was growing up, *none*.

“I tried to separate from my parents. I didn't want to see them, and they didn't want to see me. I told them how much I hurt . . . how much I hated them. I had a whole bunch of anger. I tried to jump off bridges. It didn't work. I tried to take drugs. Didn't work. I was like, ‘This isn't

going to work. I need to try something better than this.’

“I came to Pacific Garden Mission with my mother because she needed help and I needed help. I was trying to take care of her, but I wasn't able to at that time. We had been living with my grandmother, but after my grandmother passed away, we became homeless. When I got into the women's New Life Bible program at PGM, I began working on myself and healing with God. I have learned how God cares, heals, and protects, and that is something I did not get from my family growing up.

“At Pacific Garden Mission, I am learning to let people into my life and trust them. God is helping me deal with my anger and is freeing me of the chains it held over my life and happiness. It was a road . . . a hard one, a mean one, and a frustrating one. But I wasn't going to let it get to me anymore.

“If it wasn't for me coming here, I think I would still be obese, angry, and frustrated. I have



Candice studies and discusses Scripture in the women's library with a fellow believer.



learned a lot since coming to Pacific Garden Mission. Now, I am learning to calm down and let God take it. My anger has ceased; I have learned to hug people. Before I came here, I didn't even want to be touched, so I wouldn't let anyone hug me. They didn't even know I had teeth in my mouth because I never smiled—but now, I smile! My mom wouldn't hug me at first, but she hugs me now.

"I realize now that anger was killing me from the inside. All that anger was like a big, dark cloud on my chest. We are God's children, and He sees everything we go through. The Bible helps you understand that your problems are not your own. Pacific Garden Mission helped me see that God is helping me.

"Anyone who's struggling, I would tell you to never give up. Read and meditate on the Bible. God's Word is the best thing for me. Find a nice spot to read a Bible, on a patio or quiet spot, and let God handle your

***"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."***

***—Matthew 6:31-32 (KJV)***

problems. That is what I had to do. I had to sit down, meditate, pray, and let God take my problems, and He helped. He helps."



**Accompanying Candice in her graduation from the New Life Bible program was Craieasha who also successfully completed her studies and was featured in last month's newsletter.**

**For someone living on the cold, unforgiving streets of Chicago, there is no safety. When Candice put her trust in Christ, and then into the arms of the staff at Pacific Garden Mission, she took a step of faith. The healing**

**she has experienced here was life-changing. Whether it is learning to trust people, simply being comfortable enough to smile, or allowing a friend to hug her, the transformation she has undergone is remarkable and encouraging. We thank you for your continued support, and we hope that as you look forward to the new year, you**

**remember how significant a difference you are making in the lives of people like Candice.**

# pgm New PGM TV Website!



Did you know that we have a weekly television program where you can watch testimonies of lives changed through your support? PGM TV shares the life-changing work of Jesus Christ occurring daily within our building. The programs also share true Biblical teachings and a weekly Gospel invitation, given by Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski.

There are nearly 300 hour-long episodes, and now you can watch them online, at [PGMTV.org](http://PGMTV.org)! Whether for your personal spiritual growth or as a means to witness to others, we hope the program blesses your spiritual growth and walk with Jesus Christ.

**Visit today!**

## PGMTV.ORG



### Christmas Meals with a Message

Grateful men and women read Gospel tracts and your encouraging letters during the holidays at PGM.



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

Whether through television programming, Gospel tracts, or daily sermons, PGM is reaching lives.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski  
President, Pacific Garden Mission

## THE GOSPEL LIGHT SHINES ON

**The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."** This reminds me of a man who was living on the Chicago streets in January of 1897:

"Mel Trotter staggered through the streets of Chicago bound for Lake Michigan, where he had determined to commit suicide by jumping into the icy waters. As he staggered along Van Buren street in his uncertain course, he staggered also into Pacific Garden Mission. The waters of Lake Michigan were colder than usual that night, but Mel's heart was really warm for the first time. He was headed not for the Lake, but for the pulpit. He had tasted living Water."\*

Mel went on to found over 70 rescue missions in the country, but it all began that frigid January night.

There are many who are wandering the frigid streets of Chicago looking for hope today. Our doors are still open, the Gospel is still being preached, and the light is still on at the Old Lighthouse. Thank you—through your partnership, and by the grace of God, the Mission is still about the Father's business.

This winter, you are providing a safe, warm shelter and place to begin a new life for many men and women. I asked some of the women in our Bible program what the new year means to them, and this was what they said:

*"When I look to the new year, I see it as a new opportunity to reach for the life I wish to have."*

*"It's the one day where people plan to evaluate their life better."*

*"To have better health, less stress, and a new start."*

**These words are encouraging. Instead of giving up and accepting a dire life situation, these women have hope. These are the stories of the people who walked through these doors looking for hope, and they are finding it, thanks to you.**



**A woman's heart is touched as she reads an encouraging letter from a PGM supporter.**

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\* Reference to Mel Trotter quote: Henry, C. F. H. (1942). *The Pacific Garden Mission: A Doorway to Heaven*.



## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

**When you think of Pacific Garden Mission, think about the stories of those who walked through these doors looking for hope for one reason or another. Because of YOU, they found that hope in Jesus Christ.**

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for your generous support in the Christmas season. Christmas can be the most painful and lonely time of year for men and women facing homelessness and addiction. Many have told me it's been years since they have experienced a joyful Christmas dinner with anyone close to them. Some told me they have never experienced the joy of Christmas. But because of you, hundreds of people were welcomed, in Jesus' name, at the Mission this Christmas. You provided a loving, joy-filled environment with hot meals, refreshing showers, clean

linens, fellowship, and a safe place to come in from the cold.

Thank you for sending in your Gospel tracts and messages of encouragement. We handed these out at Christmas dinner, and you helped share the Gospel with the lost. Please pray that the Gospel would reach the hearts of all those who heard it at PGM this Christmas and that they would begin a new life in Christ in this new year.

The year ahead will bring many challenges. Right now, the freezing cold is threatening the lives of men and women on the streets. And it would be easy to become overwhelmed by the burdens our guests carry when they come through the Mission doors. But then, God reminds me of you—our wonderful supporters who are passionate about caring for the homeless and sharing the Gospel with the lost. **You are fueling this ministry, and I can't wait to see and share what God will do through your faithful support this year.**

## 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, **364** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **19,680** plates of food were served

**43** people professed faith in Christ

**3,132** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

**2,131** items of clothing were distributed

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