



## YOU PROVIDED A SAFE HAVEN FOR ME TO HEAL

**People have referred to Pacific Garden Mission as many things, including a steppingstone, a safe haven, and a spiritual hospital. The Mission is all of these, and within our Gospel-based ministry of refuge, which you help to support, lost and hurting souls can find safety, peace, and healing through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Every person's story here is unique—but each person you have helped can agree that they came here lost, hurt, and spiritually broken, and through Christ, found peace and began healing.**

### LYDIA

“From 2001 to 2018, it was kind of rough for me. My son's father died of stomach cancer. I had known him since I was 11 years old. We had been planning on getting married and spending the rest of our lives raising our son together. After he died in 2001, I stopped reading the Bible and stopped praying; I just blamed God.

“I started drinking really bad, taking pills, and wouldn't listen to anyone. I had a bad attitude and bad behavior. I contemplated committing suicide, and then my son told me he



wanted to commit suicide too. At that point I asked God to help me take control of myself.

"I continued to drink and take pills, but I wouldn't let my son see me do it. I'd wait till he went to sleep. My sister and brother started telling me to get help. One of my brothers used to be a drug addict but got clean and is now a drug counselor. He would tell me about

Pacific Garden Mission, but I didn't want to listen. He told me that drinking was not going to solve the problems. I felt distant from God.

**"I wanted to build back my relationship with God"**



"Recently I was supposed to go to Indiana with my niece. She was going to meet me at the bus station in Chicago, but she never came. Not knowing what I should do, I remembered how my brother had told me about Pacific Garden Mission. I looked up where it was and came here. I was mad at first for the situation I was in. No one I knew, including my family, would come get me or help. I had a bad attitude and blamed everyone, instead of looking at myself and what I needed to do.

"When I met with the counselors

Lydia with the director of the women's department, Dr. Sibley



**“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me  
in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle  
shall he hide me; he shall set me up  
upon a rock. ” —Psalm 27:5 (KJV)**

here, I told them how I stopped talking to God and stopped reading the Bible, and they told me about the Bible program. I thought it would be good for me because I wanted to build back my relationship with God.

“At Pacific Garden Mission, I feel safe and can meditate on God. I am learning how to have a functioning daily routine. I am learning how to help others and also how to listen to others when they have advice or more mature words of wisdom. God put the right people in my life here. Since I have come to learn more about the Bible and God’s will, I have learned how to accept the

death of my son’s father. Pacific Garden Mission is my safe haven, and I am surrounded with support. I am very thankful I came.”

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**Lydia has been approved for independent housing and is awaiting her move-in date, which is quickly approaching. She plans to attend the Praise and Testimony services at the Mission on Saturdays and stay connected after her move. Lydia says if she ever feels alone or weak, she will seek out friends at the Mission because PGM is a refuge for her. It’s with your help that we are able to continually minister to people—both during their time here and after they**

**leave—to support them in their times of need should anything unexpected ever come up. It is only with your help that a safe haven like PGM can exist and shed the light of the Gospel onto every soul in need that enters through our doors.**



Bible study, both individually and with others, is an integral part of the New Life Bible Program

# *Celebrating America!*

## PGM's Annual July 4th Cookout



In just a few days, we will be holding our July 4th cookout. Because of your support, Pacific Garden Mission will provide safe and wholesome fellowship while celebrating our great country's independence. We appreciate everyone who contributed to this event where food, fun, and the Gospel message will be shared. This fifth year of our cookout will provide a welcome relief to our Bible students, those in our addictions recovery program, and the overnight guests. Learning how to celebrate life in a healthy and Godly manner will also strengthen these men and women for when they return to the world as fully functioning followers of Christ. We thank you for your contribution and for making this event and others like it possible here at PGM. For the homeless, and for those who are alone, events like this hold significantly more meaning and can brighten their spirits.



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





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### PGM—CARING FOR THOSE INFECTED

It is human nature to ask *why*. In John 9, Jesus encounters the man born blind, and His disciples ask the “Why?” question. John 9:2 says, “And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Why was he born blind? That is the question. When Jesus answers, He does not answer the specific why but goes to the bigger picture of God’s ultimate purpose. “Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him” (John 9:3). There was something bigger that God was going to do; the works of God were going to be made manifest in this man.

During this pandemic, many have asked the question of why. But what I have seen in the lives of many of our people is the works of God being manifested. One overnight guest was positive with COVID-19 and was so sick, he thought he was going to die. While lying in bed, his mind drifted to his son, whom he had left many years ago. He found his son’s phone number and called. When his son answered, he was amazed to hear his father’s voice—he thought his father was dead. They reconnected, the father recovered, and now they are friends who talk frequently.

Karen was writing to me after her quarantine and said, “I am writing to let you know how grateful I am that Pacific Garden Mission took care of me through the COVID-19 crisis.”

Another young lady who had tested positive and was quarantined writes, “I am grateful for this time in my life because this time brought to my attention that I am human. This time has allowed me and the Lord to get on the same page.”

Jamie writes, “It first started as a small pain in my chest cavity, and then progressed into a slight fever. I was officially tested for COVID-19, and the results came back positive. One may think that upon me finding out that I was infected with a life-threatening virus, that in a brief moment of time had claimed thousands of lives through the entire world, would have placed me mentally, and emotionally, in a state of distress, sadness, depression. But it didn’t—not at all. Here’s why: Jeremiah 17:7-8, ‘Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.’”

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



## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

**“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” —John 15:13**

Watching the body of Christ at the Mission over the last few months has given me a new appreciation of how God is working in our midst, bringing confidence and courage as we minister with the compassion of Christ, reaching the lost with the Gospel.

We have had to be willing to adapt like the early church. For example, some of the staff you support would preach three times a day because, for the safety of

volunteers, we couldn't receive visitors from the volunteer churches that typically come in.

New hires from the New Life Program filled in for staff members with preexisting conditions who were staying home to protect their health.

And God provided wise health care workers to counsel and work alongside Pacific Garden Mission as we fought to protect our guests.

**Ultimately our lives are in the hands of God. We may have been crippled and stretched, but we were not shipwrecked. We are not in the hands of a virus, but in the hand of a loving God who provided through His people—including through you!**

## THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

### **Pacific Garden Mission's budget is completely donor-funded.**

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, and most importantly, reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

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.



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