



“I OVERCAME HOMELESSNESS WITH YOUR HELP!”

Once homelessness becomes part of someone's life, it can be a complicated feat to overcome alone, with no permanent address or resources to rebuild. In this month's issue of PGM News, you will be blessed to read Selena's uplifting testimony of persisting through hardship and drawing closer to God.

After losing her residency card, Selena was unable to be employed or receive help from any organization. Through a series of unfortunate events, which completely disrupted her life, Selena was led to Pacific Garden Mission, where she began a new relationship with Jesus Christ. Without your faithful support, her story would not be possible.

SELENA

“I was born in Panama and moved to the USA in my late teens. I had a fairly good life. I had enough money, a nice apartment, and a nice job; I was doing well. I guess I developed an arrogance in that I thought it was my own doing that gave me the success, and I verbalized that one day and said, ‘everything I touch turns to gold.’”

“I traveled from Florida to Nevada, where I was hired, and after working there for a year, I decided to look for other work because of problems in that workplace. I quickly found out that I needed my residency

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card, and it was as if I had ceased to exist without it. I could do absolutely nothing; I could not work and was unable to get help from any organization. Nothing was open for me, and the money that I had built up started to deplete. When my savings ran out, I became homeless.

“I lost my apartment. God fed me through a waitress next to a nearby cafe, and He gave me favor to get temporary work as a dance instructor. I started staying in my storage unit all day, but during the evening, I would have to leave and would be out on the street at night. It caused me to ask questions like, ‘Why is this happening?’ and ‘What am I going to do?’ and ‘How will I do it?’”

“Having to stay out at night and struggling to stay awake, sometimes feeling so hungry, I was beginning to learn and see why all of this was happening. God kept reaching to me again and again until I truly grasped

what he was trying to show me. I realized I wasn’t living with a grateful heart, and even though I knew Him, talked with Him, and prayed to Him, I didn’t have a relationship with Him. That is what I was going through.

“I had to get to an appointment for immigration in Chicago. God provided a way for me to get to Chicago, where I became stranded. I stayed in the U-Haul truck with my cats. A man approached the truck, the Lord sent him over, and he asked if I was all right. I told him I was stranded and asked if he knew of anywhere I could go. He told me to go to a hospital and they



Selena prays with a fellow PGM employee in the women’s dayroom.

sent me to PGM. There the Lord met me.

"I arrived at PGM in 2018. It was like being on an island with many people, yet alone. I was focused on the Lord and trying to hear and listen to what He was telling me, keeping my eyes on Him as He had instructed me to do years before. It was just Him and me. I did what He told me to do, for the woman who is now my supervisor; getting her Bible, what she needed to do her devotions, setting them on the podium, turning her music on. Setting things up. He alone got the glory. In 2020 I got hired.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." —1 John 5:3 (KJV)

"Today, I am currently working here at Pacific Garden Mission, have my own apartment, and everything has turned around. I serve as the front desk coordinator here in the women's dayroom, and I am also an intake specialist. I am constantly interacting with the homeless ladies. I try to make sure I am not doing anything out of the flesh. If I stay an instrument and let Him pick me up and use me the way He wants to, He will get the Glory, and they will be saved.

"I have learned to trust and obey, something He drilled into me for years.



I submitted, and He led. He killed desperation in me. Now, nothing affects me, I have died to many things and am dying to many more, but it is easier now. I know what it is to live according to the Spirit, to breathe, and have my being in the Spirit. We must wrestle against the enemies trying to continuously stir up our flesh. I don't have to do a single thing except obey. It is all about Him, what He wants to do, how He wants to do it, and who He wants to do it. It is all about Him."

Selena is now able to serve daily and reflect the love of Christ to women who are in the same position she was in not so long ago. This sharing of everyday experiences and the compassion for hardship can create a trust and bond that open someone's mind and heart to the advice and wisdom of others, including the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are many stories, like Selena's, of people overcoming hardship with the help of Pacific Garden Mission. It would not be possible without you. Thank you for providing hope for their future and eternal hope for their souls.

Pictured above: Selena shares a morning devotional with transient women staying at PGM.

PGM's Fourth of July Picnic and Fellowship



As people across America come together to celebrate our nation's independence, PGM program participants are able to gather in joyful and healthy fellowship—a new holiday experience for many who have come from destructive backgrounds. We thank you for helping to make this year's 4th of July picnic event possible. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for here, and events such as this one offer a welcome respite to our students and staff. Thank You!



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

Visit our website at pgm.org to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

EVERY LIFE MATTERS

I want to share an email I recently received. We are humbled and blessed by the outreach and impact your support has had on countless lives through the years:

"In 1993, I stayed at Pacific Garden Mission, I think, for about two weeks. I was about two months pregnant with my oldest daughter. I came to the Mission thanks to the help of a caring police officer and a wonderful cab driver. Being at the Mission helped me become right with and closer to God. I am not sure where I would be in life if I had not met that kind police officer and cabbie who sent me to the Pacific Garden Mission, where my relationship with God started to be repaired.

Thank you so much for your shelter for a young, scared, pregnant girl who had nowhere else to go that cold, wintry night. That young woman is now married with two grown daughters and a wonderful husband.

Thank you for your programs. Thank you for helping me. God bless you abundantly."

It's stories like this that keep me grounded in why we serve, give, and do what we do. I am reminded of the words of our Lord:

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."
—Matthew 25:34-36

Thank you for helping to support that young, cold, pregnant girl. Many are still finding their way here and our doors are still open. Thank you.

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 May your support made a true difference:

On average, **408** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **21,843** plates of food were served

95,000 items of clothing were distributed

112 people professed faith in Christ

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

2 mothers with their children stayed at PGM

3,156 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

Fulfilling the Great Commission

Over the years your support has touched tens of thousands of people as we fulfill the Great Commission together.

Through your support, our fulfillment of the Great Commission has been magnified:

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
—Matthew 28:18-20

We are reaching all nations with the Gospel of Christ through *Unshackled!* and PGM TV. Many have heard of Pacific Garden Mission's Bible-based discipleship programs through our television and radio programs, and have come here from foreign countries and from all over

America. We also help thousands of people locally with emergency shelter, meals, and clothing—all while exposing them to the Gospel with love and care.

When men and women come to Pacific Garden Mission, they hear about the person and works of Jesus Christ through the Gospel. Those who profess faith in Christ are invited to join in the discipleship programs. During that time, they use the Bible as their text and are discipled by our pastors, teachers, and mentors. They have devotions in their assigned workplace ministries (laundry, kitchen, security, program services, switchboard, and many areas of our ministry) to help them learn and demonstrate Christian character, achieve competency and consistency, and flourish in God's will for their lives.

During the last 16 weeks of our one-year program, they have career development classes to find their vocation.

Your support makes these discipleship programs free and helps produce men and women who are fully functioning followers of Christ.

Thank you for joining the Great Commission with us. You are making a difference for all eternity.

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