



I AM SURROUNDED BY SUPPORT

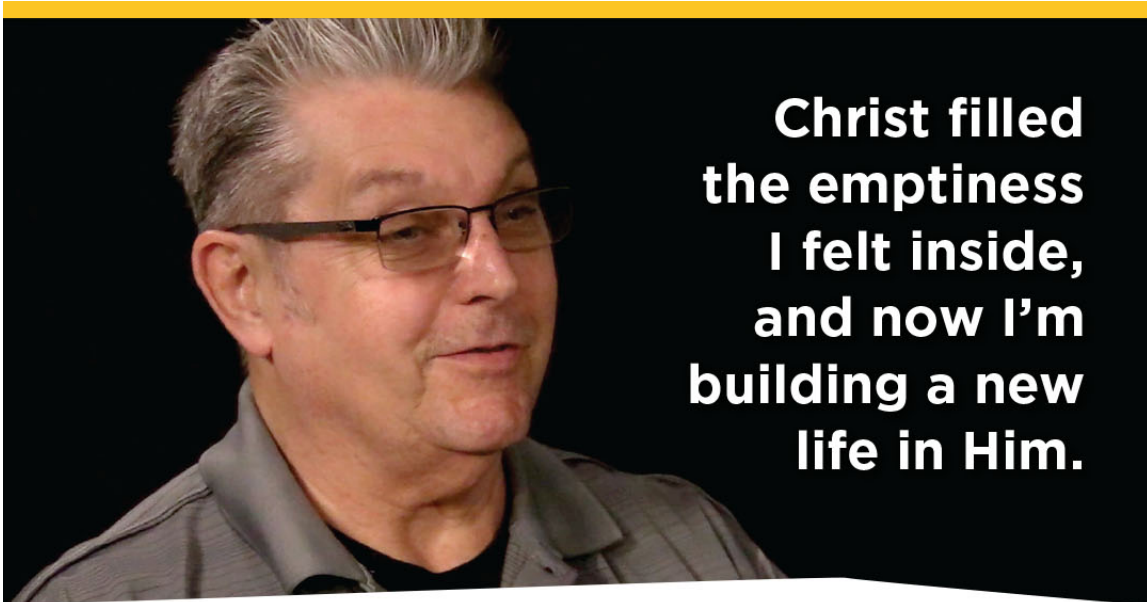
Overcoming homelessness, especially when coupled with years of drug addiction and depression, can seem like an insurmountable feat. But as hundreds of testimonies shared at Pacific Garden Mission will attest, anything can be overcome with Christ. Christ-centered

programs and resources, including loving words of wisdom and correction, are the backbone of our discipleship programs. Here at PGM, we help mold those who have surrendered to Jesus Christ into new creatures in faith, just as 2 Corinthians 5:17 describes. Nick, whose story you'll find in this Newsletter, graduated from our New Life Program and currently volunteers in our second-

year graduate program. His new life in Christ has only just begun, and Nick has the support of everyone here at PGM.

NICK

"I walked away from the Lord for 16 years, and it was devastating. God saved me as I went through prostate cancer, after I was shot in three places (the bullets just missed my heart), and when I overdosed on heroin seven times—twice my heart stopped beating. The only thing I said, lying on the ground after being shot, was to ask God for help. I always came right back for His help, and He was there indeed, mercifully. God brought me back to



life. I knew there had to be a change in my life then, but I felt as if my relationship with the Lord was lost forever. I didn't even know if I was still saved, but I knew there was only one place to come, and that was Pacific Garden Mission. I came here 21 months ago and joined the New Day Program, and I can say with confidence that it was the best decision I ever made in my life. I learned spiritual, Biblical answers—

food for my soul that nourished and enriched my life. I graduated from the addictions program and then joined and graduated from the New Life Program. God has been renewing my mind and spirit.

I used drugs for over 40 years of my life and have now been clean for almost two years. It takes time to rebuild one's life with new daily habits and people. Christ filled the emptiness I felt inside, and now I'm building a new life in Him. It takes time and support to do this, and Pacific Garden Mission has provided the structure and guidance I desperately needed. I still attend weekly classes and prayer groups. I volunteer in donor development daily, and, thankfully, I'm still surrounded by people who care about and encourage me.

All the teachers and ministers at PGM are incredibly caring and very



Nick, graduated the New Life program at PGM and looks forward to a life in Christ applying true Biblical life principles.

loving. God has truly blessed them with a great deal of wisdom. They have dedicated their whole lives to the people struggling here—to people just like me.

It's been a wonderful year, it's been so rewarding. When I close my eyes on earth, I want to see Christ and hear him say 'well done, good and faithful servant.' Amen."

When men or women graduate our New Life Program, they have only just begun their journey as Christians. Working in donor development now, Nick is surrounded by staff who love and mentor him. Nick didn't just rebuild his life in Christ, but is actively part of a thriving ministry here at the Mission. At Pacific Garden Mission, we offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.



Nick serves in the Development Department

Graduates like Nick would not have the loving support of pastors, counselors, and mentors if it were not for you, our valued supporters. The Godly structure of support that is provided here at PGM is not only a safety net to new Christians growing in Christ, but also act as a fishing net to catch lost souls, and because of you, countless lost souls are hearing the Gospel Message of Christ and responding in faith to be saved.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." —Luke 15:10





Celebrating His Resurrection

Thanks to you we were able to serve over 800 special meals to our guests over the Resurrection weekend. Representing caring and compassion, meals like this allow our donors and volunteers to see the impact they make in the lives of the homeless. Smiling faces and gentle words help to spread His compassion.

Through each gesture of love, a seed is planted and nurtured in the hopes that it may bring the Gospel Message into fruition. Without your help, meals and hopeful inspiration like this would not be possible.

Thank you for your generous support.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

A HEART AFTER GOD

Many cities have adopted a philosophy called “Housing First” to address the growing homeless crisis.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, housing first is defined as: “a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues”.

While I agree that people need the basic necessities to survive, this approach does not take into account the nature of man and the root problem that led to homelessness in the first place. Substance abuse plays a large role in homelessness, according to the addiction center, “tragically, homelessness and addiction go hand in hand. The end result of homelessness is often substance abuse, and substance

abuse often contributes to homelessness. The National Coalition for the Homeless has found that 38% of homeless people are alcohol dependent, and 26% are dependent on other harmful chemicals”. To put people in homes without dealing with the root issue is not a permanent solution, but rather a temporary fix with no lasting results. Is man basically good and just in need of a better environment? Or is man inherently sinful and in need of regeneration? The Bible says: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). Since our hearts are wicked, what we need is not a new home but a new heart.

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

—Ezekiel 36:26

At Pacific Garden Mission, we believe in the “Heart First” program. Man does not need a new environment, but a new heart inspired by faith in Jesus Christ. And thanks to your support, we are seeing hearts turn to God every single day.

PGMNews JUNE 2019 • Vol.84, No.6
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission

Philip Kwiatkowski, President
Stephen Welch, Director of Development
Daniel Woolman, Editor • Paul Higdon, Design

1458 South Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60607-5201
P: 312.492.9410 F: 312.492.9414
Email: pgmnews@pgm.org
Websites: www.pgm.org www.unshackled.org



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

Our Fiscal Year ends June 30, 2019. Over the last year we have witnessed first hand how God can do the impossible when no man can. We see the remarkable power of the Gospel to transform lives. We watch God rebuild lives and hearts in our discipleship programs, classes, and counseling—the ministry that you help provide every day because you are part of His ministry here at Pacific Garden Mission.

Without Jesus, nothing is possible—and without you and Jesus we wouldn't be here. You may even be asking God how you can help more—by partnering with Him to take men and women, boys and girls to their highest potential.

Through your prayers and faithful support, you are the evidence that God is providing to advance the Gospel. We see the fruit of being co-laborers in Christ with you here every day.

As long as our financial partners are part of this ministry, we will never limit God in the scope of His work or His providential care. We are praying and asking God to help us meet our fiscal year-end budget.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help us reach our fiscal year-end goal of raising \$300,000 by June 30, 2019.



Stephen, Nick, and the PGM team pray over each mailing for the Lord's provision and blessing on all who give.

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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 that need your help the most. In April your support made a true difference:

On average, **496** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

101 men and women are enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

13 mothers with their children sheltered

About **35,670** plates of food served

47,917 items of clothing distributed

223 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

356 people professed faith in Christ

3,106 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

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