

# STANDING FIRM IN JESUS CHRIST!

As one faithful donor wrote in a recent letter to the Mission, "Pacific Garden Mission ministers to the whole person the way Jesus did." On the front lines of two of the most challenging mission fields, homelessness and addiction, Pacific Garden Mission has held firm to the conviction that the answer to these complicated and sensitive issues is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At the center of everything we do here, both small and large, is the love and wisdom of Jesus and His enduring Word. While the world and everything in it ebbs and flows on shifting sands, we can stand firmly—

with peace and humble confidence—upon Jesus Christ and His Word.
With your support, we meet physical needs and help people see that their greatest need is Christ, in order to save souls with the Gospel and provide both lifelong and eternal freedom in Christ. The stories that come from within this spiritual hospital would not be possible without YOU. Thank you!

## **GRACIE**

"Hello, my name is Gracie. I came to the Mission after a 25-year drug addiction. I ended up at the back door of the



women's division of Pacific Garden Mission. I was broken, running from my life, and I wanted to know God. I wanted a closer relationship with Him. I was an alcoholic, I was a drug addict, I was a street woman . . . and I was broken. I was headed for hell. But God touched my pastor's heart—he and I were talking, and that's how I ended up at the Mission. I had an apartment and was working, but I could not get that relationship with God. And I knew that where I lived, I would be drawn back to the world and back to my drugs. Two weeks later, I quit my job, I gave rights for my daughter to my mom, and I joined the Pacific Garden Mission Bible

Study Program.

"As a Bible Program student, I fell in love with Pacific Garden Mission. I began to delve into the Bible and meditate on the Word of God, and I grew so close to Him. I graduated from the Bible program, and I just wanted to serve the Lord and be an encouragement to women. One of the greatest joys I've found working and serving the Lord here at the Mission is that I get to see men and women come through the doors and watch the transformation God does in their lives. It's awesome!

"To see a person come in torn down, broken, hurting, depressed, abandoned, abused, used, hopeless . . . and watch

> them as their hearts are opened by the Word of God, as they study, read, and meditate, is truly awesome. Through the counseling, classes, mentoring, and chapel services we have here, it is a blessing for me to watch God change lives.

> "He is changing me. He has given me more joy, more strength, and more power. He is making me to be



Gracie assists a woman in the Bible Program in finding a new outfit from the donated clothing.

who He wants me to be. The power of the Word of God sustains me through the trials of life. This is what God has done for me. There are still many trials in my life, but He has kept me on fire for Him. I am still trying to encourage the men and women I work with in the Bible program on a daily basis.

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."—Philippians 1:27 KJV

"My advice to anyone is to turn your life over to the Lord. Open up your heart—allow God, who is knocking at your heart's door, allow Him to come in. If you're struggling, if you're hopeless, if you are depressed, if you do not know what to do with your life, if you have thoughts of suicide, if you are lonely or alone—



"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

#### -1 Corinthians 15:58 (KJV)

without the Word of God, without talking to God and praying, you're going to struggle. When I understood what the love of God really was . . . He, the creator and the sustainer of the whole world, loved me and loves us, you, so much, that He sent His son to die on the cross so that you can have life.

Shortly before coming to PGM, Gracie signed over her parental rights for her daughter to her mother. Their

relationship—fractured by drugs and a life separated from God-was seemingly in shambles, but today, it's been restored! Gracie is now a happy grandmother and speaks to her daughter, son, and grandkids daily. They are not just mother and daughter-they are friends and prayer partners, too. At Pacific Garden Mission, we have seen countless lives restored, and just like Gracie, the transformation started with a relationship with Christ after hearing the Gospel. As a donor, you play a crucial role in carrying out the Great Commission, sharing the life-changing Message of Jesus Christ.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

THE DAY-TO-DAY MINISTRY
HERE, serving the homeless and
addicted, can be heartbreaking. It is a
learning experience for everyone
involved. Mental illness, active
addictions, overpowering grief and
depression, hopelessness... all of
these are common afflictions of those
seeking our help. Many come broken
and desperate, not knowing what
they really need. And while we rejoice
in sharing the many success stories at





PGM, we also pray and mourn for those whose hearts have not yet been opened to the Gospel. We covet your prayers here on the front lines of our ministry. As you support those here in need of a place to sleep, a meal to eat, a counselor to befriend them . . . remember—through all the darkness, the light of Christ shines the brightest, and your prayers and support mean more than ever before.









**GIVE NOW at pgm.org** 

With your encouragement and support, we minister hope to the homeless, addicted, and brokenhearted.



# A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

## MAKING MEN AND WOMEN WHOLE

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." — 2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

Jesus not only wants to forgive us and give us eternal life, but He also wants to change us in the here and now. One of the greatest joys here at PGM is witnessing the change that takes place in the lives of men and women who were once bound by their sin but now walk boldly in Christ's love and forgiveness.

Last week, I saw a man that I've known for over 30 years. Alphonso came to us as a young gang member and joined our program in 1989. He was lost and had no direction in life. But he accepted Jesus and began to change! When I saw him last week, I saw a grown man raising his family, serving his church, certified in heating and air conditioning, and encouraging his brother who recently joined our drug program. The change in his life was astounding—from being gang-affiliated to becoming a confident, Jesus-serving

family man. It is a miracle. It all started when he walked through these doors.

I recently saw a family that was here a few years ago. The father was in and out of jail, and the wife, bitter about her situation, was dragging the two daughters around between the homes of different family members. The father joined our program and surrendered to Jesus while the wife came with the children—but she wanted nothing to do with God. The father left and got a job, and God began to work on his family. The mother eventually got saved, recommitted to the marriage, and their daughter is now in Bible college. What a miracle! It all started when they walked through our doors.

There are so many more stories, but praise God that our doors have been open for over 143 years, receiving men and women who may have come looking for temporal relief but found a permanent solution through faith in Christ!

Our desire is not just to see them forgiven . . . but changed. Jesus asked the man who had been infirm for 38 years if he wanted to be made whole. John 5:6 says, "When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto

him, Wilt thou be made whole?"

If Jesus makes a promise, He has the power to fulfill it. Thank you for your prayers and support for the many who need to be made whole.





GODLY STEWARDSHIP Stephen Welch, Director of Development

When I think of Godly stewardship, I think about the responsibility we all have—to advance the Kingdom by preserving His message: the Gospel of Christ. We are grateful to you for helping us reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ and disciple the men and women who come through our doors with the Word of God. With your support, men, women, and children are reached with the Gospel every day.

Over the last year, you have supported projects that brought men, women, boys, and girls to Jesus Christ. Two such projects are the boys Axios dorm and the Gospel warming center—a greenhouse converted to handle the overflow during the colder months of the year.

We have nine mothers with children who had nowhere else to go. They are in a safe place filled with God's love—the Axios dorm and two other dorms in the mothers and children division. They are all being ministered to by counselors and God's Word. We are seeing a rise in numbers among women.

Last week, one of our evangelists took the men from the Gospel

Warming Center to our auditorium, where He preached God's Word, and 14 men came forward to repent and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior. They gathered together in prayer, soon to meet with a counselor to learn about our discipleship programs.

People come to Pacific Garden Mission for every reason imaginable. And all of their problems have one solution . . . His name is Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your prayers, faithful support, and being a part of this Gospel rescue mission. To God be the glory; great things He has done!



An Evangelist preaches the good news of the Gospel to the homeless in the PGM Auditorium.

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