



PGM's New Day program gives hope and purpose to those captured by addiction.

“I HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE BECAUSE OF YOU.”

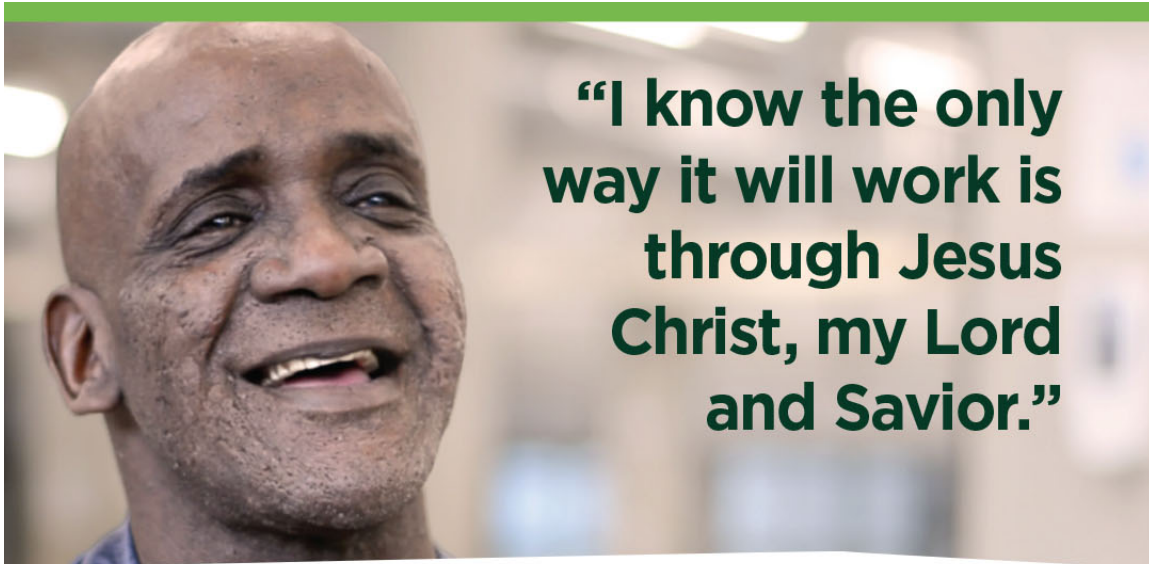
Many of those who find themselves in the arms of Pacific Garden Mission receiving the services you help provide have overcome some extraordinarily difficult paths. Guilt can often be a burden, weighing heavily on the shoulders of those seeking to change their lives for good—and without help from God and friends like you, it can seem like an impossible task.

El shares his testimony in this month's issue of PGM News. His story highlights the power of God and how *any life* can be transformed through Jesus Christ. As you read about El, you will hear him say, “I am not proud of what I have done,

but I am learning to do better . . . I am just trying to be a better person today. I know that I can, and I am.” And rest assured, that is precisely what he is doing today, and it wasn't without the help of generous friends like you. We hope you enjoy his story.

EL

“I grew up on the west side of Chicago. I had a nice childhood and came from a very loving family. We were close-knit—we always shared and looked out for each other. God wasn't in the picture, although my



mother and father were raised by preachers. We moved into the Austin area in 1969. We were one of the first black families to move there, which was something new to me.

"The school was wonderful. In the mid-seventies, gangs moved in, so I had to fight a lot. When I was a teenager, my mom and dad divorced, and my oldest brother went to prison. School became unimportant. I wasn't really a gang member, but I hung around many guys who participated. My oldest

brother was my role model, and when I lost him, it left me feeling alone.

"At the age of 21, my first child was born, and then I got married. Around 1984 is when I first discovered I was addicted. Initially, I didn't feel like I had an addiction because I was working, had a family, and was doing what a husband was supposed to do. But to make a long story short, we went our separate ways. I just gave up. I lost my wife, my kids, and my job. During that time, I was steady into my addiction, and it was getting worse and worse.



El takes notes during a New Day class about addiction.

"I was sleeping in abandoned buildings and on trains—it was *hopeless*. My mom and dad would always open their doors, but I took to the streets because of my addiction. I just felt empty. Homelessness and addiction were nothing to smile about. I wound up

going to the penitentiary at 37. From the time I became a teenager until I became a grown man, I had avoided going that route, but my addiction sent me down that path.

“I have been in and out of different shelters, and that’s how I found out about Pacific Garden Mission. When I came to PGM, I was an overnigher, and I didn’t know about the program. One day after being here, I asked one of the young men working in the men’s dayroom about it, and he told me about the New Day program. I met many interesting people trying to put their lives back together, and they inspired me.

“Today, I can say it has only been through the grace of God and PGM that I can see a little light at the end of the tunnel. My daily routine now: I wake up and thank God every morning. I come downstairs and do my ministry work—I work here in the cafeteria. I have classes three times a day.

“I am here today to try and build a relationship with God and get my life back on track. I am not proud of what I have done, but I am learning to do



better. Without Jesus, there is no hope, and that is the bottom line right there. I just thank the program and PGM for allowing me to get back on the right track, and I know that the only way it will work is through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I have accepted Him back into my life since I have been back here.

“I am just trying to be a better person today. I know that I can, and I am.”

Today, El is not the man he was when he first walked through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission—something that wouldn’t be possible here without you. He is also allowing God to do for him what he could not do for himself, and through the Bible classes and Biblical counseling he receives here at PGM, he is overcoming the past that has held him prisoner to addiction for many

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”

—Isaiah 43:18-19 (KJV)

Pictured above: El’s workplace ministry is in the kitchen where he serves daily.

years. His daily roles here at the Mission give him a healthy purpose and the opportunity to learn how to live life in a wholesome, safe, and Christ-honoring manner. With your help, he has all the resources he needs to begin a new life in Christ. We thank you and are appreciative you are allowing men and women like El the chance for a *new life* in Christ.

El speaks with Theo, one of his counselors in the New Day treatment program.



PGM's New Day program

At New Day we use a unique and proven Christ-centered approach to healing a person's bondage to substances. In our positive environment we take a person through five distinct phases to root out the core issues that keep an individual bound to substance use. Pictured here with El are several others in our program. Through your remarkable help, they each have a clear and exciting path to a new life filled with hope and purpose.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

Visit our website at pgm.org to learn more about PGM's New Day program.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

OUR RAPID ACCESS PROGRAM

We know that we will always have the poor, but the Church has an obligation to help ease the suffering of those who are most vulnerable. The apostle Paul says in Galatians 2:10, "Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do."

When we encounter someone on the street asking for money, what should our response be? It is often difficult to discern between a legitimate request and somebody playing on your sympathies for their own purposes.

If I encounter someone on the street and give them money for food, once the food is consumed, they will still be hungry and in the same situation. If I can get them to a facility designed to meet their immediate needs and address their long-term problems with real-life solutions, this would be preferable.

Our ministry team has developed a rapid access program, which seeks to help those on the streets by meeting

their immediate need with an introduction to long-term help. This is how it works: we have cards available for distribution that guarantee the holders quick access to shelter, clothing, food, or a warm shower.

How does this differ from regular residents? We have scheduled times for showers, meals, and clothing. This card will grant the holder immediate access to all services, as well as an introduction to all of our programs. Our desire is to engage the chronically homeless who may not typically enter a shelter with an understanding of their options for long-term sustainable help. It is also an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ one on one with a hurting soul.

Continue to pray for Pacific Garden Mission and this new initiative, as we are on the front lines of homeless ministry in the heart of a city in need.

Thank you for your Christ-like love and support that make these programs possible.

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 APRIL your support made a true difference:

On average, **437** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **21,800** plates of food were served

57,000 items of clothing were distributed

3,147 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

5 mothers with their children stayed at PGM
2 mothers 3 children

99 people professed faith in Christ



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

Being good stewards of God's Word

You have helped us feed, clothe, shower, provide safe shelter for, and offer medical services to the dear souls who wander through our doors. But above all, you've helped share the life-transforming message of the Gospel with each guest who walks through our doors.

Our purpose at Pacific Garden Mission is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ, and we believe that it's the preaching of the Gospel that brings faith. Preaching the law is also necessary, of course. It's necessary to bring us to repentance and to guide us in the Christian life—but it does not bring faith. Faith comes from hearing the promises of the Gospel.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17 KJV)

God's will for us is that we have life in Jesus Christ. *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* (John 17:3 KJV)

Since 1977, we have been reaching the lost with the Gospel of

Christ. We use the same Book we were founded on—God's Word. Thank you for making it possible to reach thousands with the Gospel locally at our Gospel rescue mission, nationally through PGM TV, and globally through *Unshackled!*

PURPOSE

To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

We serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel.

VISION

We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.

CORE VALUES

Faith • The Word • Truth • Love

"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 25:35-36)

"For the poor always ye have with you, but me ye have not always." (John 12:8)

PGMNews JUNE 2022 • Vol.87, No6
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission
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Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.