

**SINCE 1877, REACHING THE LOST  
WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**

*View of Pacific Garden Mission men's day room. A warm and safe environment where the Gospel message is preached and then shared individually. God uses cold weather to send the lost here.*

## *Pray for the Homeless in this Cold Weather*

by STEPHEN WELCH

**A**S I WRITE THIS ARTICLE, A MASSIVE SNOWSTORM is bearing down on our nation's capital. Predictions of one to three feet of snow are being made. "It has life and death implications, and (people) should treat it that way," Mayor Bowser warned Washington residents. "People should hunker down, shelter in place and stay off the roads." By the time you read this newsletter the snow storm will be history. The Earth is ever changing, yet God is not. The bitter cold and fierce wind come every year to Chicago. The adverse effects are the worst from January through March. Our guests have lost limbs and almost died due to the subzero conditions outside. They have no money, and even if they did, they still would have no place to stock up and prepare. Some can't even listen to news about the weather. It can blindsides them in hours. Out on the streets it catches many by surprise. I sometimes feel like we have survived something. Could it be that God uses nature to move man closer to Him in His divine purpose? During the winter season, even through March, our numbers hit records. Last February 2015 we saw almost 1,200 people in our building every night for weeks because of the extreme cold. People told me while I was handing out coats that pipes froze, heat was turned off, abandoned buildings were uninhabitable, and basically there was nowhere else to go. Tonight is January 22, 2016; the men's day room is packed.

*continues on page 2*



*Visiting church (above at the pulpit) presenting the Gospel before dinner*



*Continued from page 1*

All of the men and the almost 300 women will hear the Gospel message of Jesus Christ throughout each day, corporately in our three Gospel services, and individually with counselors and pastors. We know that God uses the weather to move people through our doors of hope. While others get snow blowers ready, stock up the pantry and batten down the hatches, we begin to prepare our front lines to receive souls and lead them to Christ.



*From the Day Room men beginning to move into our cafeteria for a hot meal.*

## **OUR PURPOSE is To REACH THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. WE HAVE DONE THIS SINCE 1877.**

**I**NTerviewed several of our guest services and security personnel about the cold weather. I was amazed by their efforts with the increased numbers they are seeing. We discussed that God can use the cold to bring someone to Jesus, and I found out how God was using the saints at Pacific Garden Mission to reach the lost.

RODNEY SESSOMS was helping several men almost all at once. Six men had just walked in, of which I overheard that two men were paroled here. Rodney directed them to the phones to call their parole agent. He then turned to the next guest. This continued one after another. Rodney was busy right up until he walked behind the pulpit and delivered a Gospel message to a full house. After his invitation he spent time with several men. What a busy evening! I asked Rodney about what God is doing here, and he shared the following:



“The Guest Services department is the front line ministry aspect of this Gospel rescue mission known as Pacific Garden Mission. All transi-

*Rodney Sessoms, Guest Services, preaching an evening service.*

tional male residents are received through this department. The bitter weather we are experiencing here in Chicago has caused the numbers to rise considerably. By 8 p.m. most of the shelters in the Chicago land area are full, which causes many homeless persons to flock to the local police stations for shelter, awaiting transport from the Catholic Charities vehicles to be taken to available shelters. We are open 24 hours. There are also those who are being discharged from hospitals with nowhere safe and warm to live.

Working the 3 p.m. to midnight shift has allowed me to meet many new people. Sometimes during the cold weather, I lose track of time and find myself serving through 3 a.m. I have received calls on numerous occasions from The Catholic Charities vans via the 311 service asking if we have room for residents. I have also received calls from other ministries and shelters that have reached maximum capacity, asking that if they were able to provide the transportation to us, would we be willing to house residents for the night or for a time.

I am pleased to say that to date, not one soul has been turned away, regardless of the hour. I am also grateful to say that some of these men and women through the Gospel messages preached here realize that what they thought was a night in from the cold was actually a divine appointment from God--speaking into their lives in the midst of their very circumstance that brought them here. Praise God for the teaching and preaching



*“And we know that all things work together for good to them who are the called according to his purpose.” —*

styles of the Gospel messages that go forth here throughout each day, and praise God for the many who have accepted Christ into their lives.”

LONZO JENKINS – “After serving here for 14 years I can clearly see how God uses the elements to send people to Pacific Garden Mission to save the lost. Security is an awesome job because we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with hurting men and women. I keep the peace inside and outside the mission by loving people the way Jesus would. When there is conflict between two of our overnight guests, I am quick to intervene and solve the problem, not just to intervene but to remind them that God has them here for a

reason. We encourage them to stay for God to work in their lives. I often remind them not to let anyone pull you away from the Blessing of God. So many lives have been changed.”



Lonzo Jenkins. Security

#### PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION 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.**

#### JANUARY 2016 NEW DAY PROGRAM GRADUATES

In JANUARY 2015, the New Day Program was launched with prayer and vision to help our guests deal with the strongholds of addiction that laid at the heart of their dilemmas. In the last year we have seen 40 people graduate the 90 day program, many of which have then joined the one year New Life Program (formerly the Bible Program).

*“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” —John 8:31-32*



We are here to set the captives free and break strongholds in Jesus’ name. We have grown so much in one year and now have a Certified Addictions

Theodore Jones,  
Certified Drug and Alcohol  
Counselor

Specialist, Theodore Jones.

“I came to the mission in 2012 when I needed a safe place that would allow me to get off drugs. I knew that I would find restoration through Christ at Pacific Garden Mission and I joined the New Life Program. The New Life Program is a one year discipleship Bible program that helped me to develop the necessary discipline and structure I needed to become a fully functioning follower of Jesus Christ.

I spent most of my volunteer commitment in Guest Services. I was assigned there by Godly leadership and I really enjoyed soul winning and helping the men off the streets, get a hand up with clothing, haircuts, jobs and more. When Pastor Phil started our New Day Bible based recovery program and asked me to be part of the team, I felt God’s calling and knew it was His will for my life. God took the very thing that almost destroyed me and used my addiction experience to help others.

We at the mission know that Jesus Christ is the solution to our nation’s crisis with drugs



them that love God,

—ROMANS 8:28

and alcohol. So many people come through our doors who are sick and run down requesting our help. We wanted to operate the New Day Program with the best and safest practices, so the Mission sent me back to school, and in January 2016, I obtained my CDAC (Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor). I am excited about what God is doing here! I praise God that we are seeing people graduate from the New Day Program

and go on to the New Life Program. They want to continue their miracle.”



**Graduates of the New Day Program with their families January 23, 2016**

## JANUARY 2016 NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATES



*The New Life Program* continues to teach discipleship, soul winning, and the importance of church membership. The goals are: how to grow spiritually, how to find God’s will for one’s life, and how to develop Christian character. We are excited about our GED and Career Development program that helps so many re-enter the workplace and provide for themselves and family. Pray that good role models developed by Christ at Pacific Garden Mission will change our world.

**Top row left to right: Christopher Blakely, Lanvll Davis, Jamal Knazze, Jonnie Anderson, James Johnson, Randy Gee**  
**Bottom row left to right: Peter Johnson, David Cintron, Melvin Appleby, Bonita Washington, Winona Wilson, Leeanez Goodson, Jocelyn Samanlego**

## NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

We celebrate everyone who is now working after graduating. Our employment is over 50% since January 2014 when Pastor Phil received the vision to develop an elite Christian group during their second year of residency. They are learning through their own experiences and fellowship how to stand alone with God.

Jesus has spoken to many of us who have been blessed as we passed through these doors, thinking our calamity and adversity was too much to handle. Little did we see the rich fruit of our adversity made possible by God through His Son Jesus Christ.

*“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

Remember us in your prayers.  
Remember us when it snows. Remember

the Saints who glory in tribulations.

*“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*—James 1:2–4.

May God reveal the fruit of every adversity we encounter. In light of what Christ did for us by providing salvation, the difficulties we experience in this life take on new meaning. Every adversity brings opportunity. For our guests the cold brings them to Jesus and offers them a productive future. For our staff the cold brings more people through our doors to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We don’t have to look for people to witness to. They show up here every single day.

Sweet are the fruits of adversity.



## ***A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski***

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

### ***True “Peace” is only found in Jesus Christ***

It seems as if the world is tearing itself apart. In the midst of all this turmoil, there is an answer: Ephesians 2:14 reads, “For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.” The answer to the world’s problems are found in the Gospel.

VIRGIL is an eighty-nine year old homeless man that was sitting in our day room with his walker in front of him, when one of our staff approached him. Asked if there was anything that we could do for him, Virgil said that he had not seen his daughters in thirty five years, and he was heartbroken. He shared with the worker the names of his daughters, and left it at that. Phil (staff member) contacted many people with that name, but had no success. Finally, on his last attempt, he found one daughter. She was stunned. Phil shared a picture, and she said “That’s my dad; I have not seen him in thirty-five years.” She is flying into Chicago with other family members this Tuesday for a reunion. Christ is our peace.

MUHAMMAD is a young twenty year old Palestinian man that was homeless. I

approached him, and he stated that he was a Muslim; after I shared the gospel, I told him to ask God if Jesus is really the Son of God, and to make Himself known. I gave him a book, and other staff continued to share the gospel with him and love him. Two staff members felt burdened for him, and began to pray in earnest for this young man’s soul. Last night after the invitation, he said he wanted to talk with me. He said something is going on inside of him, and he is now ready; we both bowed our heads, and I heard him confess Jesus Christ as his savior, believing He died for his sins. Wow, I was thrilled; Christ is our peace. These are just snapshots of two individuals in the mission; what these men needed was what only God can give, and that is His peace, found only in Jesus Christ.



***President Kwiatkowski shares the love of Christ with Virgil (left) and Mohammad at Pacific Garden Mission. Both of these gentlemen now have a peace... “which passeth all understanding.”***





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## **FINANCIAL UPDATE** Stephen Welch, Director of Development

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The last quarter of 2015 was strong. January 2016 our expenses were greater than our receivables. For example, our water bill was over \$25,000 in January—an expense that was never in our budget. Our staff needs have also grown, and it is clear that we need change organizationally to help more people. Our purpose is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. We are excited that we do not have to canvass neighborhoods to share the Good News because God continues to send dozens of new people here every day. We continue to serve with Christ-like compassion and humility, willingly making personal sacrifices to give one-on-one help, hope and prayers to anyone who has fallen on hard times.

The transforming message of the Gospel is our only answer to what plagues society. Not one soul will be turned away no matter how busy we get. Yes, we feed, clothe and shelter hundreds of people every day; however, it doesn't surprise me because our hearts are aligned with Christ's.

We never want the business end of the mission to be our primary focus. We desperately need more staff people to reach and disciple while we maintain a safe and peaceful environment. Our programs have become fruitful, and our heart is to help many to become fully functioning followers of Christ and role models in the community.

Over the last two years we have become aware of the need to acquire additional workers. Most days we are overwhelmed and understaffed. We have asked God to help us increase our payroll to increase our level of effectiveness and efficiency so that His Kingdom work may proceed. We will continue to share our heart as we move through 2016. Thank you for your prayers, volunteer hours and gifts with which you support us so faithfully. To God be the Glory.

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## **WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS AND PROVIDES**

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 come along side of us financially you're not giving to the mission, but through the mission to the people that need your help the most. We are serious about demonstrating our stewardship, and we invite you to learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission where lives have been transformed since 1877.

### **Here are just some of the ways your giving is measured (December)**

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**878**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**117**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**50,843**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**87,730**

Number of patients treated in free medical/dental clinic....**209**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**120**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3127**

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