



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CHANGING LIVES BECAUSE OF YOU

When many first arrive at PGM they have lost every stable thing in their lives. The look on their faces is unmistakable and tends to be a mixture of sadness, anger, and detachment. Nowhere is this more evident than in our day rooms where homeless men and women sit, wait, and decide what to do next. The good news is that they are just one decision away from a new life. Mere words cannot convey the freedom and release that comes with a life surrendered to Christ. And it all starts with a decision made in faith.

Ayonda

"My life was very painful and I was always questioning God about why I suffered so much. Because I didn't understand my trials and tribulations my doubts towards God grew. When my guardian passed away, and 30 days later I lost my job, I reached a breaking point. It was on my birthday, I was all alone, and I was praying. That year I just prayed and prayed. I studied the Word and went to Church, but my heart just wasn't right. I was depressed and too prideful to ask for help; I was trying to fix myself, to make sure I was "OK", that I was "perfect" for someone else. My relationship with



God was just off.

When I came to Pacific Garden Mission, I came broken. I felt like I had nothing to lose. And like most people who come here, I was physically exhausted. I was also tired of not knowing and understanding God's plan for me. I met Pastor Phil, though, and he encouraged me to join the Bible Program. I said to myself 'What do I have to lose?' So, I went upstairs

and I started learning things about God I had never known. As I began understanding what my suffering and trials meant and grew closer to God, I knew I didn't want to leave here in the same way I came. I wanted to give Him the whole year in the Bible Program and that's what I did. I just focused on God

"Take the time and steps to give yourself up to God and He will transform you."



changing me. As I began understanding what my suffering and trials meant and grew closer to God, I knew I didn't want to leave here in the same way I came. I set my intentions to graduate the Bible Program and also to help others while I was here. I became a serving leader in our dorm, helping newly-arrived women stay focused on God.

When I got to the career development phase of the Bible program, I decided to go back to school

to learn to be a pharmacy technician. God opened up that door and I went back to school and graduated. I recently got a job working at a pharmacy. I am now moving forward and I can testify to God. I went through the day room and the Bible program, and I can tell you it was not easy. And I can also tell you that if you trust in God and walk with Him in your journey, He will be right there with you. Jesus says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). I know now that if I stick with that and trust in His word He is faithful to fulfill it. Take the time and steps to give yourself up to God and He will transform you."


Ayonda graduated the Bible program, finished her schooling, and is currently employed at a pharmacy. As Christians, we measure success differently than the rest of the material world. At Pacific Garden Mission, we strive towards Godly

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. —Luke 1:79

success by teaching Christian character based on love and sacrifice. When you donate to Pacific Garden Mission, you're helping men and women, like Ayonda, realize that success by becoming fully functioning followers of Christ. Their success doesn't just entail a good job and material possessions, but rather a heart that is content, at peace with God, accompanied by wisdom, compassion, love, and discipline. As Ayonda volunteers in the women's day room she is a living testimony of the power of God and shares the traits of a Godly woman. Ayonda's story and presence encourages those women who are newly arrived to our Mission to make the decision to turn their lives over to God.

Ayonda shares her light as a volunteer in the women's day room





**PACIFIC
GARDEN
MISSION**
HOME OF "UNSHACKLED!"

**HELP
HURTING
PEOPLE FIND
HOPE IN A
HARSH WORLD**

Because Pacific Garden Mission does not receive government funding, we need the continued support of friends like you. Your generosity helps provide nutritious meals, warm shelter, and — more importantly — a transformed life filled with God's amazing love!

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS & 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 support us financially, you're not only giving *to* the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people that need your help the most. In January your support made a true difference:

On average, **515** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

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

19 mothers with their children sheltered

About **40,446** plates of food served

31,712 items of clothing distributed

285 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

263 people professed faith in Christ

3,100 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

PGM: A LIGHT IN A DARK CITY

Pacific Garden Mission is in the heart of a dark city. Murder, crime, gangs, and many other vices often make national news. As the people of God, we are told, "that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life;..." (Philippians 2:15-16). For over 141 years, we have been guided by the life-changing gospel message that shines at the front of our Mission and declares: "Jesus Saves."

We must shine with this message brighter than ever before as we continue to face and meet the ever-growing challenges our city presents.

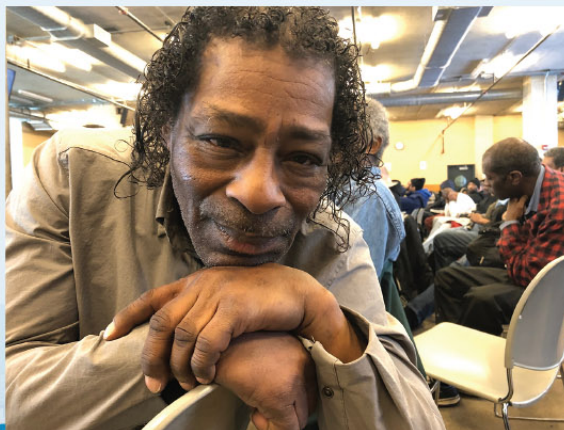
Recently, when temperatures plunged to -24 and life on the streets was simply unbearable, I recalled the circumstances of the early church in Rome. The church stood out in that time and place because of their response to human suffering and commitment to their Savior. History

tells us: "When a devastating plague swept across the ancient world in the third century, Christians were the only ones who cared for the sick, which they did at the risk of contracting the plague themselves. Meanwhile, pagans were throwing infected members of their own families into the streets even before they died, in order to protect themselves from the disease." (EarlyChurch.com, A Love Without Condition).

During this recent cold snap, we welcomed any and all that could walk through our doors. I opened the door for an elderly lady who came in from the cold with a walker. Imagine being on the streets with no family while dealing with a disability that requires maneuvering a walker through the snow in frigid temperatures. I want to thank you for helping us make sure she had a warm place to sleep.

Thank you for helping to make it possible that she had a warm place to find refuge in. Your support also allowed us to take in even more residents from another shelter in the city after their pipes burst from the cold.

Thank you for your support, and continue to pray for us as we truly shine as lights in a dark world.



A thankful overnight guest finds warmth and Biblical encouragement.

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



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

As we draw nearer to closing out 2018, I am again confronted with the incredible support and faith from our Pacific Garden

Mission community, of which you are an integral member. Because of your care for the lost, PGM has been able to serve countless men, women, and children, and introduce them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Bible-based programs offer so many the opportunity to make life-changing decisions that will affect them for eternity. Thank you for helping lost souls transform into mature Christians who are making meaningful differences in our community and beyond. God is truly using us and those we serve in miraculous ways.

Last night's temperatures on the streets of Chicago dropped well below zero and, combined with the wind chill factor, brought on severe cold. As a result, almost 800 people came through our doors looking for help. The Mission's shelter and programs are at capacity as more and more come in from the cold. I want to thank you for your amazing

responses to our cold weather emergency alerts as we strive to care for our suffering neighbors in frigid temperatures. Please know that your donations and prayers helped save lives and souls at a time when hypothermia, frostbite, and spiritual despair threatened to take them.

I also remain eternally grateful to God for your consistent dedication to our community's homeless, and I hope you will continue to prayerfully ask Him in what ways we can move forward in serving His people together in all stages of their faith journeys.

Additionally, we at PGM have been working hard to keep down our administrative costs so that we can dedicate as many resources as possible to those we serve. I am happy to report these encouraging updates:

Our mortgage balance as of January 31 is \$3,361,601.07.

Our Principle Paydown in 2018 was \$191,891.80—thank you to everyone involved in helping us reduce our debt!

Our Water Bill is also down by more than \$129,601.54!

Thank you for your faithful partnership in our journey to live out God's Great Commission.

PGMNews MARCH 2019 • Vol.84, No.3
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