



YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING ME HEAL

From the outside, someone caught in addiction can appear to be simply selfish and seeking self-gratification. But the truth is most of these addictions are just “fruit” masking deeper root problems. A past physical or emotional trauma can turn into a spiritual malady, which can alter the course of an entire life if not addressed. The roots of addiction can be many, but often an addiction can stem from this pain and trauma.

As the world attempts to mend these spiritual issues—like addiction or depression—with only physical solutions, we at Pacific Garden Mission know Jesus Christ is the answer. You are helping introduce people like Freddy, who shares his story next, to the Friend who can truly help solve his

addiction through your support of this Gospel ministry.

Freddy was introduced to drugs by his parents at a very early age. While there is no true excuse for a person's actions, shining a light on these deeper hidden afflictions many addicts are attempting to live with helps uncover the full problem—allowing them to bring their pain before the Lord and find the solution through the hope they have in Christ.

FREDDY

“I started smoking crack cocaine at the age of 14 with my dad, my sister, and my mother. As a child, your sense of ‘normal’ comes from the adults around you. And as easy as it is to look back

“I lived in the trunk of a car, in a cave, and in tents. It seemed like a hopeless situation.”



and see the insanity of it, at the time it was as normal as I could know. By my 15th birthday I was fully addicted to smoking cocaine. My mind hadn't fully developed, and I didn't know anything else. The devil had me trapped in my own family.

“By the age of 24, I started going to jail repeatedly. That was when I actually started to pick up the Word and would read the Bible. While in jail, I would go to church and study the Scriptures. I would get close to God. But out of jail, I would slip back into my life of addiction. I was sick of it. The

problem was I kept going back to the same environment.

“Life continued, and I faced reoccurring bouts of homelessness and incarceration. I lived in the trunk of a car, in a cave, and in tents. It seemed like a hopeless situation. This year, I found myself living in a guy's garage and crying out to God every day, I pleaded with God to heal me and deliver me out of my sin. I needed a way out, and God had done it for me before. On August 10 of 2019, I overdosed on heroin for the fifth time. When I woke up from this, I had an overwhelming desire in my heart for God.

I medically detoxed from all of the drugs at the hospital. Then they sent me here in a taxi. The cab driver told me Pacific Garden Mission was a place that would help. I didn't know what a 'mission' was, and I had no idea it was a Jesus place. When I pulled up, I saw the sign said 'Jesus Saves,' and I asked Him, 'All right Jesus, is this is where you want me?'



Freddy volunteering in the food stock room at the Mission

**The LORD is nigh unto them
that are of a broken heart;
and saveth such as be of a
contrite spirit. —Psalm 34:18**

“I joined the New Day addictions program and graduated after 90 days. I then joined the Bible program and have been here ever since. I surrendered my whole heart, and now I just feel at peace. I feel that God gave me my strength back. Pacific Garden Mission has been a safe home for me to begin a new life in Christ and with a new family of support. I can have peace and not feel alone. I have the joy of the Lord. I feel so good. I can sit here and be sober-minded and share my story.

“Before I turned my life over to Christ, I was consumed by a daily anger towards my family, but now that I am in Christ, I have been able to forgive them and release my anger. I pray that as I change and grow, they will see Jesus in me and see that a person doesn’t need drugs to cope with life. Now, I am here at Pacific Garden Mission, and I have joy. With the Word of God coming back into my life, I have peace again. Everything is in



**Freddie is not alone at PGM and has
Christian brothers for support, including
his close friend John**

His hands, and I feel protected—like I don’t have to worry anymore. I examine what I do every day before I do it. I have a clear conscience. I feel more at peace with God than I ever have.”

Freddie, and many guests here, are battling lifelong addictions that have been numbing their pain. It is one thing to get sober, but to get clean and then face the root causes of the addiction is absolutely vital. This can be overwhelming for someone and require a large structure of support that is hard to find. You provide this Godly structure of loving support at PGM through your generous giving.

Pray that we continue to minister and provide compassionate Bible-based wisdom, structure, and support.

Your prayers and financial support help maintain this refuge of hope and transformation for residents in the New Day and New Life Programs. With the resources you help to provide, the Word and power of God are changing lives like Freddie’s every day.



Freddie in morning Bible class



Resurrection Sunday

As we look to the upcoming celebration of Jesus' resurrection, let us be thankful and always aware of His true power. What the world deems impossible or "genetically permanent" afflictions—such as addiction or depression—we as fellow believers know that through the power of Christ, transformation and healing are possible. Overcoming childhood abuse, learning to forgive, learning to cope, handle conflict, and praying in a Godly way are all possible through a relationship with our savior Jesus Christ.

We are also thankful for your support, which is reaching those who are struggling and allowing the light of Christ to shine and encourage them to live a different way, a better way. As we hold our Easter dinner celebration and feed the homeless, know that your support is needed, appreciated, and making a difference.

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

TESTIMONIES TO THE POWER OF CHRIST

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” —Romans 1:16

I was encouraged this past Saturday when a man by the name of Anthony stood up and gave his testimony during our service.

With his adoring wife looking on, he shared how his life of addiction and crime had driven a wedge between them. At the end of his rope, he walked through the doors of the Mission. He did not want a “Jesus place” as he termed it, but just a place to sleep. As he listened to the Gospel, something began to stir, and he accepted Christ and joined our program.

His wife was still angry and wanted nothing to do with him or his new-found God. Yet after he finished the program and secured employment, his wife saw the change was real, accepted Christ herself, and reunited with her husband. Today, they are committed to their church on the south side and regularly visit the Mission and encourage others.

As the world struggles with the

fallout from the opioid crisis, looking for solutions, the Mission continues to do what we always have done. Speaking about Evangelist D.L. Moody, Christianity.com says, “Moody considered the Pacific Garden Mission the greatest slum work in the world. He often preached there. The mission leaders kept their sermons simple. ‘...Nobody was ever too bad for Jesus to save. Amen, glory! You aren’t saved because you’re good; if you were good, you wouldn’t need to be saved. But Jesus died for your sins. He paid it all, glory to God! Make him your savior tonight. Come down this aisle for prayer. Come just as you are.’

“And men and women did. Prostitutes, gangsters, alcoholics, gamblers. They would stand and tell in meetings how God delivered them from their sins and gave them a new life. Their testimonies to the power of Christ played a big part in winning others to follow Jesus.”

They did then in 1877, and they still do now in 2020! Thank you for supporting the transformation of multitudes of men who walked through our doors with no hope...and walked out changed forever.

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



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

America needs a spiritual transformation that only Jesus Christ can offer. We pray that in America, God's name will be praised—and as the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed, many will find a new life in Him.

We thank you for partnering with us to reach the lost in Chicago and across America to provide a safe place for men, women, and children to come for discipleship and transformation. We have people

travel from out of state after hearing and responding to a clear Gospel message through *UNSHACKLED!* radio or PGM TV. Your support ministers near and far, and you are part of this ministry.

Yes, we are a shelter that feeds and clothes almost a thousand people a day, but thanks to your faithful praying and giving, we are able to offer so much more to help these men and women experience transformed lives through Christ.

Please make some time in 2020 to come and visit us any Saturday to experience and witness what God is doing through your loving support. You can register online at pgm.org/tour.

PLAN YOUR VISIT NOW to see the exciting ministry work happening at Pacific Garden Mission. Including a Facilities Tour, *UNSHACKLED!* Radio presentation, Dinner in the Café, and Praise and Testimony Service recorded for PGM TV. **SIGN UP ONLINE:** <http://pgm.org/tour>



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 January, your support made a true difference:

On average, **664** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

103 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

About **85,076** plates of food were served

10 mothers with their children stayed at PGM

67,000 items of clothing were distributed

217 patients received free medical or dental treatment

199 people professed faith in Christ

3,129 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*