

# "WITH YOUR HELP, I AM LEARNING TO WALK WITH GOD."

After facing challenging circumstances, Jason sought refuge at Pacific Garden Mission. Ten years prior to coming here, God freed him of an addiction to alcohol-but Jason knew God desired much more for him in this life. Jason soon joined the New Life Bible Program, and with your faithful support, he has been here ever since. Our purpose at PGM is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we thank you for helping make this possible. The faithful generosity of donors like you wholeheartedly humbles us. Thank you for standing as a reminder that we are not facing

these spiritual battles on the front lines alone.

#### **JASON**

"My wife died after ten years of marriage—she was 38, and I was 34. After that happened, I turned to the bottle—ten solid years of drinking. In 2009, I was laid off by the newspaper industry. A 25-year career was over ... and I was still drinking. That April, I pulled over to the side of the road on the way home and called out to God because I couldn't keep drinking. He took away the desire, and I have been alcohol-free for 12 years now. God took that away, but I didn't follow

# "...I will continue to trust God to guide me into my next steps as I walk with Him."

through. I called on Him, but that was all I did. I believed but did not worship, and I never entered a relationship with God.

"I came to Pacific Garden Mission in February of 2020 after encountering severe financial



difficulties. I was an overnight guest here for four months, and because of COVID restrictions, I stayed inside the building and listened to the sermons. I watched the Mission staff deal with the COVID situation, and I saw how generous, loving, and giving they were.

Tommy from Guest Services would share sermons with the overnight folks, and one time, he shared on apologetics. It was a softer approach, which brought me to where I needed to be with God. Just as the quarantine was ending, I decided to enter the New Life Bible program, and I committed to building a relationship with Jesus.

"I have seen God at work every day here at PGM. His hand is mighty here—that was exactly what I was looking for when I came, and that is exactly what I have gotten.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." —Psalm 37:23

"There is something about Pacific Garden Mission that just shows you

Jason volunteers in the PGM cafeteria handing out plates during meal time.

# "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." —Psalm 37:11 клу

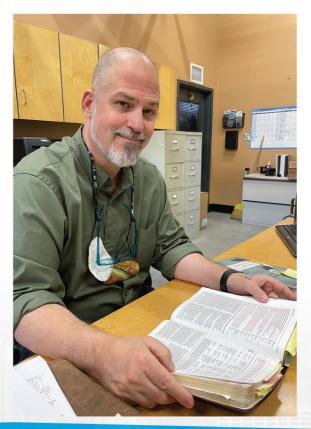
God's work, which demands you have a relationship with Him—I find that extremely exciting. When I joined the program, I was assigned to the second floor to help the overnight guests. I would get them ready for bed, get them up in the morning, and take care of their sheets and bedding.

"The program gave me discipline, including discipline in reading the Bible and praying. It gave me a foundation of understanding Scripture and how to pursue a more profound understanding as well. I think about 1 Kings 19:1-8: it talks about Elijah running and fleeing, but then the Lord gave him rest to restore, and that is what I found here being in the program at Pacific Garden Mission. I also think about Psalm 37: lean on the Lord, and trust in the Lord. These things are so important to me now, and I will continue to trust God to guide me into my next steps as I walk with Him.

In a world where the Gospel is often suppressed, the help you provide is key to ensuring the Gospel of Jesus Christ is openly shared with the lost and hurting people who find their way to the Mission. When Jason asked God

to help free him from a 10-year drinking addiction, God answered his call. But Jason learned there was more to being a fully functioning follower of Christ than just being sober.

Through the structure of the New Life Bible program and the guidance of his counselors, pastors, and teachers, Jason was able to build a new life investing in his daily walk with Jesus Christ. We humbly thank you for the crucial aid you provide in this ever-growing and vital ministry.



Jason's ministry is in Men's services.









# Spring: A Time for Transformation

Spring is near, a time for new beginnings, new life . . . much like what we witness daily at the Mission when someone makes a decision to follow Jesus. Even now, as the seasons change, we'll embrace even more lost and hurting souls who are looking for a new start. And after hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they'll receive a new foundation on which to build their lives upon, along with the resources and compassion they need to overcome whatever battles they're facing.

At PGM, we know that through Jesus Christ, anything is possible. We frequently see a lifetime of addiction or depression overcome as people begin to walk in freedom with Him. We've seen it happen countless times here, both within our walls and around the globe through the *Unshackled!* radio and PGM TV programs. And We thank YOU for making it all happen—allowing so many hurting people to find peace, stability, and salvation through the resources you help to provide right here at the

Mission. Please know, we could not do this without you.

**GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate** 



### A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

# **GOD IS FAITHFUL**

We have been facing an unsettling time in our country—a pandemic that won't go away, unrest in our city streets, an ever-widening political divide, global financial insecurity, and that is just the beginning. Many people are afraid; some are angry, while others are confused. It reminds me of the situation in the life of the prophet Jeremiah. The Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, burned the temple, and his countrymen were taken captive. You can feel his pain as he writes:

"I am the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath." (Lamentations 3:1 KJV)

"He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy. Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer. He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked." (Lamentations 3:7-9 KJV)

"He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood. He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes. And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgat prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD: Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall."

(Lamentations 3:15-19 KJV)

In the midst of despair and pain, he finds hope.

"This I recall to my mind; therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore, will I hope in him."

(Lamentations 3:21-24 KJV)

His hope rested in the faithfulness of God. He said when he recalled this, it changed everything. It was not his situation that needed changing, rather his perspective. God is faithful. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised." (Hebrews 10:23)

God is faithful to His people. He has promised to provide for our needs and hear our prayers, and in the end, He will make all things right.

In light of all that's happening, let us call this to mind and have hope because it is not our situation that needs changing—it's our perspective. GOD IS FAITHFUL.

Thank you for your love, prayer, and support—your kindness to the guests of Pacific Garden Mission is one way we are daily reminded of God's faithfulness.

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



#### GODLY STEWARDSHIP Stephen Welch,

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

There's no question: Our whole world is weary from the ongoing pandemic, not knowing when or if we'll ever get back to normal. And right now, we're all in need of encouragement, joy, and someone to point us to the things we can count on in life.

But for the guests coming through PGM's doors, their weariness is even more heartbreaking... because being homeless means every day is uncertain—what they'll eat, where they'll sleep, and who they can trust are all unknowns. And that's where YOU changed the story...

Even in this season of ongoing uncertainty, your faithful support has provided a sturdy foundation for every guest who walks through our doors. It's because of you they now have stability with food, safe shelter, and people they can count on.

Stephen reaches out to a homeless guest seeking aid and comfort at PGM. You help give them HOPE. Once they come through our doors, our weary homeless friends find the counselors, mentors, teachers, and pastors who will lead them to *lasting hope* in Jesus Christ. A building, a fantastic staff, and so much more . . . none of this would be available for those in great need without YOU. Thank you.

We hope you are encouraged to read *PGM News*, listen to *Unshackled!*, and watch PGM TV—all showing what Jesus is doing right here at PGM through your faithful support. Please share these wonderful stories with others and spread the Good News you're a key part of. Together, we're reaching the lost and creating disciples through God's Word, and *that* is Godly stewardship.



# 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, **393** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About 20,990 plates of food were served

68,000 items of clothing were distributed

**3,140** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!* 

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

**21** mothers with their children stayed at PGM. 6 mothers 15 children

58 people professed faith in Christ