



WITH YOUR HELP I FOUND THE ANSWER I WAS LONGING FOR


The joy the indwelling Holy Spirit gives someone is undeniable. One instantly recognizes it in the spark of life that gleams in the eyes of believers. Therein lies the pure, unadulterated joy and freedom that doesn't come from earthly means. While society

searches for answers that only numbs and masks uneasy emptiness, the joy of Christ's indwelling Spirit never runs dry and nourishes the spirit. When a life is transformed from one of despair to one of hope and freedom, it's like a switch has been flipped and the blinders drop away. To see this transformation is incredible and it speaks to the ever-present power of Christ. At Pacific Garden Mission, we offer life answers

through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ. Your prayers and support allow us to continue to share the good news and its fruit—transformed lives.

Craiesasha

"I attempted suicide three times. Once at age 14, once again at 17, and then again when I was 19. My third attempt occurred shortly before I came to Pacific Garden Mission. I was going to start engaging in things that were not of me, which included using drugs and selling my body. After my third suicide attempt, I prayed out to

A woman with short dark hair, wearing glasses and a plaid shirt, is looking down at an open book. She is standing in front of a wall decorated with religious art, including a large cross and the word 'JESUS' in blue letters. There are also colorful handprints and other religious symbols on the wall. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a window with more religious art.

**He is calling me
to put my faith
into action for
Him. The joy I
now experience
is such a relieving
blessing.**

God and told him 'I am tired of living this lifestyle. Everyone says I am young and have my whole life ahead of me, but I don't feel like I do.' I cried out to Him and said: 'I am tired of feeling this way; I am tired.' No matter where I ended up, I felt like He was going to take care of me and was saying 'It is OK, I am here now.'

"When I got to PGM, I met with an intake counselor, and she asked me if I wanted more out of life. I told her I would think about it, and didn't join the Bible program right away. I wrestled with the choice and kept going back and forth in my mind. On Christmas day, after getting a lot of encouragement from the women around me, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to go upstairs and join the women's program.

"After the third day upstairs, I had an emotional breakdown, and as I faced my life and my circumstances I wept tears after tears after tears. It was after this that I finally opened myself up to Jesus and let Him move

into my heart. I was saved permanently on January 19, 2019, and at that time I said 'I'm all yours God. I don't care if I lose or gain people, as long as I know who my God is, I can prosper.' I opened my soul to Him, I was so tired of holding back by that point. It was finally time for me to face my past and what I had done, which helped me to become brave, and I know not a lot of other 19-year-olds are brave enough to do that.

"For those in the younger generations coming up now, if you do not yet know God that's okay. One day, He will send someone like me or the leaders at PGM to share the news of His incredible love for you. There is a God, and He loves us all no matter what we are going through. That's really the amazing thing about God—I am speaking right now on His behalf. He is already there helping you out. He is already there, ready to answer your prayers and lift you up.

**"For whosoever shall call upon the
name of the Lord shall be saved."**

-Romans 10:13

"I called, He answered, and I am saved. I take classes here including 'Mending the Soul,' 'Self-Confrontation,' and 'Twisted Thinking'. It's truly transformative to be in the classes and learn about the Bible and myself. God is molding us, and all we need to do is to open our hearts up to His plan.

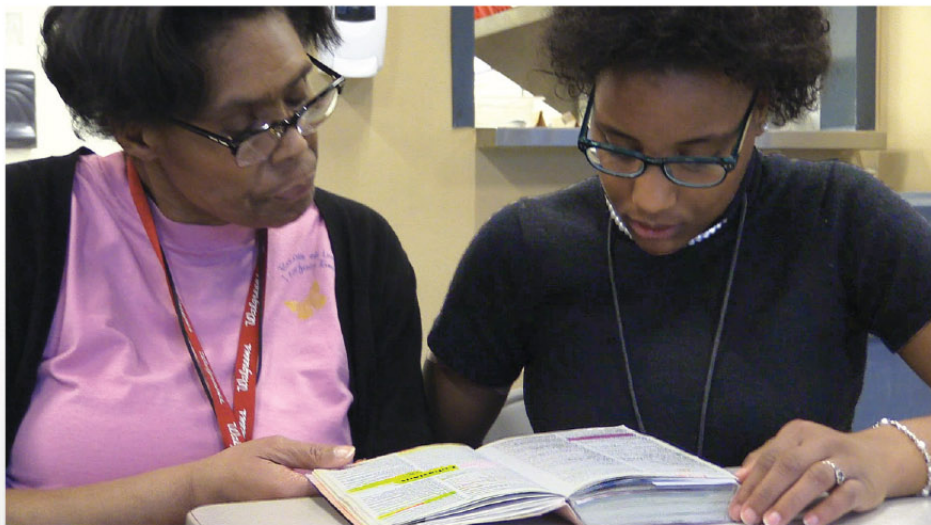
"Just allowing God to open that door of trust for me was what allowed me to give God my hand and follow Him. What can you do after being saved? You can struggle, you can tug and pull all you want but at the end of the day He is there, and you are going to have to answer to Him.

"Jesus is my personal savior, and He is calling me to put my faith into action for Him. The joy I now experience is such a relieving blessing. The peace, hope, and motivation I have now is all-encompassing."

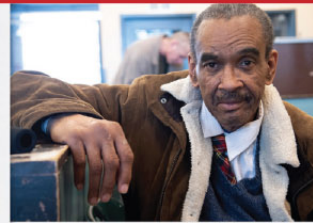
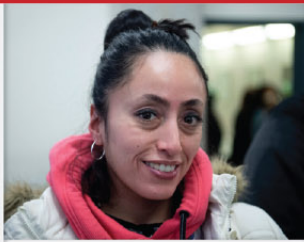
Craiesasha, only 19 years-old, has a new life. The gleam in her eyes and the words of her testimony are a strong witness to the power of having a relationship with Jesus. While the world continues to feed off of negativity, anger, and division, Jesus Christ calls us to be a lamp to the lost. The Bible is the Christian's map while mainstream media has turned into the secular world's map. One, the Bible, focuses on love and faith, while the other, mainstream media, promotes hostility, conflict, and discord. Many of the lost souls who come here for help spent their whole lives fed by the darkness of the world. For many of them when they arrive here, however, they experience their first taste of Christ-based insight, which we know as the gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of God.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

—John 4:14

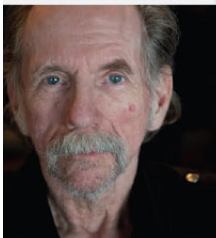
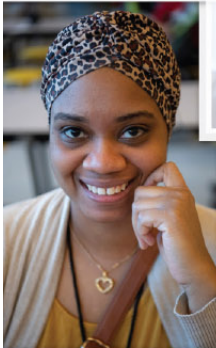
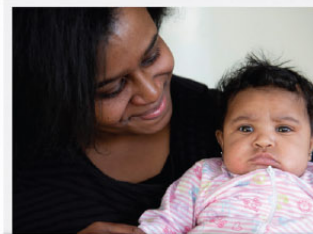


Craiesasha's hunger for Scripture typifies those whose lives have been transformed at PGM

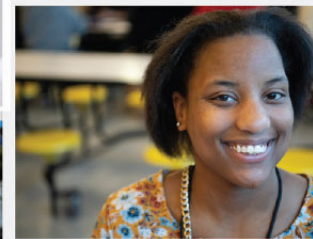
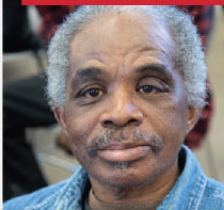


FACES OF HOPE

What are the faces of homelessness? They may be different than you imagine. We invite you to view and share these photos of the men and women helped at Pacific Garden Mission. Without your help, this refuge of hope and safety would not be possible. These are just a fraction of the nearly 5,000 men, women, and children that come here for assistance each year. Each face represents someone's son, daughter, brother, sister, father or mother. With your support, we continue to minister with the transforming message of the Gospel.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

HOMELESSNESS HAS A NEW FACE

Walking through the Mission, one is surprised by the number of young people with no place to go. Gone are the old stereotypical images of the homeless. Now women, children, and a number of young people occupy a significant proportion of those with nowhere to turn. Chicago's dysfunction, violence, and corruption continue to permeate the news, and left in the wake of all this mayhem are the new faces of homelessness, young people. According to ABC news, "An estimated 140,000 homeless people live in the city including thousands of public school students in shelters, in tents, in parks or just in whatever place they can find across Chicago." That's up nearly 20-percent from the year before.

Shurna is a longtime homeless advocate in Chicago. "Last year there were 2,500 students who had no adults in their lives. Those numbers, to me, have changed over the past 20 years," he says. Proverbs 29:15b says, "a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." We, as the people of God, have an opportunity not to leave the young to their own devices but to provide a healthy, God-honoring environment where they can come to hear the gospel, receive council, and be safe.

So many have said to me they don't know where they would be without PGM. Yesterday I saw Mohammad, formal-

ly a homeless teen, stop by. When he first came to the Mission he gave his life to Christ and stayed and graduated from our one year discipleship program. Now, Mohammad is gainfully employed at Job Corp and enrolled in college. He frequently stops by PGM and gives his testimony of conversion from Islam to Christ. He refers to the Mission as the best thing to have happened to him. If you and I had not been there when he needed Christ's love the most, where would he be now?

As the face of homelessness changes, we retain the same message we had in 1877: Jesus saves. I want to thank you for helping keep the doors open and the lighthouse light burning bright.



Pastor Phil welcomes all to PGM seeking shelter from the storms of life.

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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



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

“Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.” –Proverbs 27:23

We continue to strive to maintain the best relationship with you, our friends and faithful supporters, as humanly possible, and we know that without Jesus Christ and those who support us, we would not have a gospel rescue mission. We are full of gratitude to be able to serve and save the men and women who walk through our doors and into the arms of Jesus Christ.

Everyone in Donor Development here has chosen to live a Christ-centered life and, likewise, we operate in a Christ-centered manner. As such, and because the Bible tells us to know our flock, we love to get to know you

more. And doing so requires more than just updating accurate addresses. We want to know how we can better serve you, and we want to continue to pray for you.

We will never share your information or call to ask you for money. Together we planted, you watered, and God brings the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:6: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

Our purpose in Donor Development is to love, bless, and minister to you as we partner with God in His ministry here at Pacific Garden Mission, bringing men and women to their highest potential to become fully functioning followers of Christ. Thank you so much to everyone who updates their information on the reply devices in the monthly Newsletters, and especially to those who sent back prayer cards from our April Newsletter.

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 that need your help the most. In March your support made a true difference:

On average, **467** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

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

16 mothers with their children sheltered

About **54,094** plates of food served

35,305 items of clothing distributed

299 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

374 people professed faith in Christ

3,107 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

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