



YOU HELPED BETHANY HEAL!

As Mother's Day approaches, we have a young mother's hope-filled testimony of how she was made whole through Jesus Christ. You have helped Bethany begin a new life! Delivered from her afflictions, she has recently completed our free 90-day recovery program and gone home to be with her young daughter.

We hope her story of redemption and freedom from addiction brightens your heart and mind to the ongoing love and power of God's work. God is using your support to powerfully restore many lives at Pacific Garden Mission.

BETHANY

"I am Bethany, and I am from Tampa, Florida. I came to Pacific Garden Mission because of substance abuse. My drug of choice was alcohol. I knew it was becoming a problem because I would want to drink all day, every day. I was trying to numb the pain that was inside of me.

"Starting at the age of 12, I would self-harm. I wasn't suicidal, but it felt like the pain was leaving me. The next day, I would see what I had done to myself and would promise I would not do it again, but I did.

"[As an adult], I also had been hospitalized several times because



“Now I can turn to God and ask Him for humbleness. I’m nothing but grateful to have that.”

of my drinking. The last time I went, the doctors told my parents that I needed to stop, or I would cause my own death.

“I have a beautiful and intelligent nine-year-old daughter. I was in high school when I found out I was pregnant, so I was a young mom. At first, I didn’t see my drinking affecting my daughter. I didn’t realize how much it was affecting her until I had a clear mind.

“My dad was having heart issues, and he told me his heart

could not handle what I, his daughter, was putting him through because he was so worried about me.

“Being here helped me to not only forgive other people but also how to forgive myself.”

“I heard about this place from my dad. I decided to try it, and so I came all the way to Chicago to go to Pacific Garden Mission. I joined and completed the 90-day addiction recovery program. Being here helped me to not only forgive other people but also to forgive myself. In the past I wasn’t happy with myself, because I thought it was my fault for things that happened to me in my life.



Weekday morning gatherings of Bible study follow each breakfast

**“Trust in the Lord with
all thine heart; and lean
not unto thine own
understanding. In all thy
ways acknowledge him, and
he shall direct thy paths.”
—Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)**

“The counselors at Pacific Garden Mission have helped me through a lot, and I have grown so much. At first it was kind of hard to have all of these feelings flow through you, all at once, because I was so used to drinking something to numb the feelings.

“I am not used to dealing with these emotions, but now I can turn to God and ask Him for humbleness. I’m nothing but grateful to have that. If I pray and talk to the Lord, it gives me humbleness and peace—instead of turning to a substance to deal with the pain.

“I know when I leave here, I am always going to have God. He has helped me through this. I pray to Him almost every

day now to give me strength, and He really does. It’s a great feeling to know that if anything is going wrong in my life, I can just pray about it. Having a faith-based drug addiction program at PGM is really good. I don’t think I would have made it through if it wasn’t.

“I feel like a weight has been lifted off of my shoulders because anywhere I am, whether on the train or walking down the street, I can call upon the Lord. I am just really grateful for this experience; it was like I was drawn to it.”

As Bethany returns home to her family and daughter as a spiritually renewed woman, she can begin the life God wants for her. She has found a new life! Amelia, Bethany’s



In the women’s library is a place of fellowship and reflection

daughter, and the rest of Bethany's family will now be able to have her back, made whole as a fully functioning follower of Christ.

You are helping mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters just like Bethany every day through your praying and giving! We ask you to pray for Bethany as she begins her new life and to pray for everyone within the walls of Pacific Garden Mission. Thank you for your continued support.

Bethany has been restored and is now back home with her daughter, Amelia, in Florida



OUR MINISTRY CONTINUES

As our society faces events most of us have never experienced in our lifetimes due to the COVID-19 virus, we give God praise that we are able to continue ministering and sharing the Gospel with people like Bethany. This time has been uncertain, but your faithful giving has allowed programs like the New Day addiction recovery program to go on. Praise God—so

many are in need, but you help us continue to preach the Gospel of hope, peace, and eternal salvation every day, and provide meals and shelter. May we all stay strong in prayer.



GIVE NOW at pgm.org



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

WISDOM IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

These times are interesting to say the least. Fear is the most common emotion. Sports seasons have been put on hold, streets are empty, and life as we know it has come to a halt.

God has kept Pacific Garden Mission open continuously since 1877. He provided through the 1918 flu pandemic, which killed 675,000 Americans, and during which many rescue missions closed. He provided through World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and 9/11. Thanks to faithful supporters, PGM has stood as a beacon of hope, opening our doors to all in need.

Now is no different: we are welcoming the poor, the hungry, the lonely, and all that need hope. The Bible describes the last days in Luke 21:26: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Though men's hearts may be failing, we can have hope in what Jesus says in Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Jesus has all power! None of the events that are transpiring are beyond the power of the One that sits on the throne. The Lord Jesus Christ has all power.

We also know:

- Jesus has all authority (Colossians 2:10). Nothing in the universe can happen without His approval. The Lord Jesus Christ is in control.
- Jesus has all knowledge (Colossians 2:3). There is not one event that the Lord is unaware of. He knows every event taking place and nothing takes Him by surprise.
- Jesus has the keys of hell and death (Revelation 1:18).

I don't need to live in fear because nothing can happen to me outside of the power, authority, knowledge, and permission of the One that holds the keys.

So, yes, we need to take proper precautions and use wisdom. But ultimately, our God is on the throne, and nothing takes Him by surprise.

Pacific Garden Mission has been open and will continue to be open as we trust the One that has all power, all authority, and all knowledge. He is the One who holds the keys. That is what brings me comfort, and that is truth we can hold on to. Thank you for your prayers and support during these difficult days. Many need hope, and that is why our doors continue to be open. *Thank you.*

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



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

There is no mistaking the sign on our building: "Jesus Saves." The message is clear, and so is our purpose. We are here to reach the lost with the Gospel.

We feed, clothe, and shelter the souls that walk through our doors, and I believe we earn the right to be heard and share the most important message in history. We reach far beyond Chicago with our radio and television ministry. Together, with you, we are making a difference. And as you read in this newsletter, lives are being transformed.

Your gifts are helping those like

Bethany, who had tried every rehab program with no results. She came from Florida because you support our television and radio programs—these programs reach people across the nation.

People are reading, hearing, and seeing lives transformed by Jesus Christ. Some like Bethany receive help in our New Day programs for 90 days, and others stay for the entire year. The programs are free because of your support.

Jesus saves and transforms, and Romans 12:1-2 comes to life every day here as we study the Word we were founded on in 1877. Because of you, people are discovering "what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

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 March, your support made a true difference:

On average, **574** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

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

About **60,751** plates of food were served

3 mothers with their children stayed at PGM

10,378 items of clothing were distributed

450 patients received free medical/dental treatment

143 people professed faith in Christ

3,157 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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