



**“My first smile in 10 years!”**

## **“YOU PROVIDE A SANCTUARY OF PEACE FOR ME.”**

**The New Life Bible discipleship program provides students with a safe and wholesome haven, allowing them to focus on changing their lives. Because of you, all their needs are provided free of charge here at Pacific Garden Mission. They have their own bed, locker, meals, and clothes, enabling them to focus on Biblical studies and growing in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Without you, this would not be possible.**

**God answered Cory’s prayers for a change in his life and led him to Pacific Garden Mission. He now serves in the PGM cafeteria and is in the New Life Bible Program. He is**

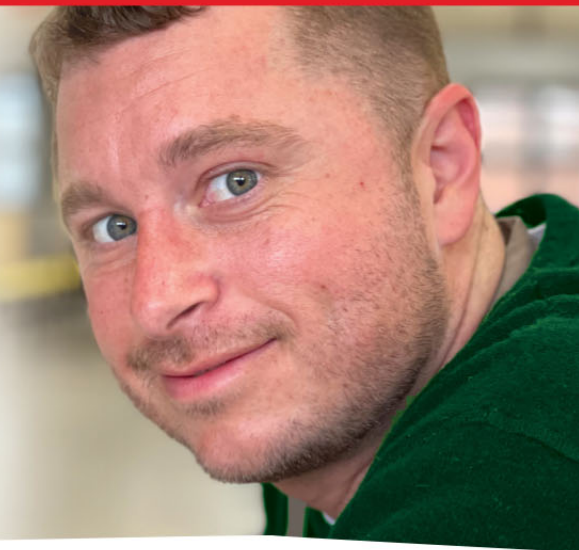
**finding a sense of peace in his daily routine and is growing in the Lord. His story will encourage you.**

### **CORY**

“I grew up in a small town in west Texas. My dad was verbally abusive—he would say I was worthless, and it kind of messed me up when I got older. I didn’t really use drugs in high school, but my drinking started to become an every weekend occurrence at parties.

“I went to college for about six years but didn’t complete anything, and that is when I started doing drugs. When I quit drinking, I started using

**“I am so excited to live now, and I see everything differently—sunrise, sunset, I see the whole world differently now.”**



pills like hydrocodone painkillers. When I first started doing them, I thought I had enough willpower to control them. I started taking those opiate pills to work because they gave me energy, and then I started working just to get the pills. All my money went straight into the drugs.

“From the ages of 16 to 26, I never really saw or spoke to my dad because he had a whole other family. At age 26, I went to live with him, trying to get away from the drugs and get my life right. But it was a small town where everyone was doing meth. My dad asked me to get some meth for him from our neighbor one day; I didn’t even know that he did drugs.

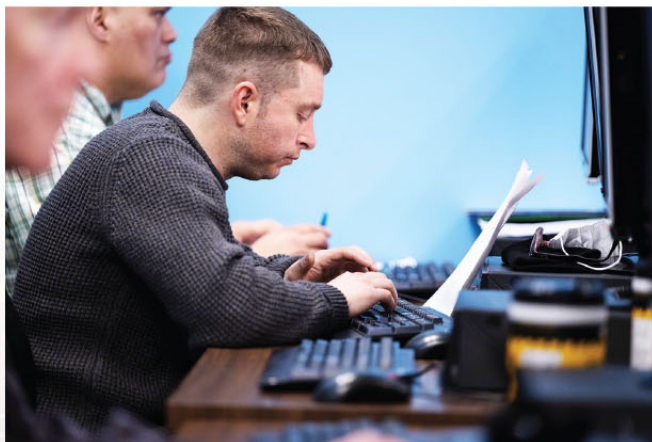
“We started doing meth together, my dad and me. We did this for about a year, and then he had a stroke after doing a bad bag of drugs. I took care of him for 3-4 years after his stroke. I was using drugs just to numb the pain.

“I moved on to using heroin, and I used both heroin and meth for about three years. I overdosed three times. I could never tell anybody.

“After overdosing on heroin and waking up in the hospital, the staff gave me a pair of underwear and pointed me towards the door. After that, I had a seizure while driving. I slammed my truck into an embankment going 40 mph. I should have died.

“I pretty much hit rock bottom after that wreck. I was depressed and suicidal. Everything I was doing wasn’t getting me anywhere; I was just surviving.

“That’s when everything started



Cory studies in the PGM library where classes are often held.



## ***We love him, because he first loved us.***

### **—1 John 4:19 (KJV)**



changing—I started praying every day. I had an epiphany where God was talking to me, and it felt like God was saying He loved me, He wanted me to love Him, and everything would be okay. The feeling hit me so hard that I just got in my truck and drove. I had no idea where I was going . . . I just drove and cried.

“I prayed to God and said I just needed a place where there was shelter and somewhere I could read the Bible.

“After a series of events, I found myself in Chicago with nowhere to go and asked people where a shelter was nearby. They pointed me down here to Pacific Garden Mission. When I got here, I was so excited to see this place. I was scared to death because it was so cold here in Chicago, especially being from Texas.

“I finally got something to eat. I had been wearing the same clothes for like a month. I talked to a counselor named Tommy, and he told me about the Bible program. It was everything I

needed and prayed for.

“I decided to take all my energy and put it into Jesus—to put all my focus and energy into getting right spiritually. I am excited!

“I didn’t know you could even live like this. I probably hadn’t smiled in ten years. I am so excited to live now, and I see everything differently. Sunrise, sunset, I see the whole world differently now. I have a bed, as much food as I need, and all the time in the world to read the Bible. I have a library with everything I need. I have the classes teaching me, and I am amazed how far above and beyond He went in answering my prayers.”

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**When speaking with Cory, the sense of peace he is experiencing shines through. He is taking each day as it comes and knows he is where God wants him to be. You and your support of this ministry are giving him the tools and help he needs to start a new life! Praise God, it is never too late to change!**

**Pictured above: Cory finds a peaceful setting for his daily devotions.**

# ***Mothers are safe because of your help.***



Facing homelessness can be a terrifying experience, especially for a mother and her young children. When mothers arrive at PGM, they receive the support and love they need. As Mother's Day approaches, we are thankful that both mothers and their children facing

misfortune have a safe place to live. They may be here for just one night, several months, or even longer—but rest assured, they are welcome to stay as long as is necessary. We wouldn't be able to do this without you, and the impact you are making is life-altering.



**GIVE NOW [pgm.org/donate](https://pgm.org/donate)**

**Mothers are welcomed, receive guidance, and their children are sheltered and fed at PGM.**





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### THROUGH OUR OPEN DOORS

**“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.”**

**—Proverbs 16:9**

I spoke to one of our graduates the other day and asked him how he came here. He said he was addicted to drugs and staying with his brother when his brother put him out. With an addiction he could not beat and nowhere to go, he was dropped off at our front door.

After receiving food and shelter, he listened to the Gospel message. Soon, he came to know the Lord and joined our program. Now, he has worked the same job for over two years, plans on going to technical school, and is drug-free. His brother asking him to leave and arriving at our door was the best thing to happen to him.

Thousands over the years have been led through these doors for a higher purpose than what they thought they came for.

Other men and women in our programs have recounted stories of being

dropped off by family, friends, parole officers, or Chicago police—and some have just walked in. They all came looking for immediate shelter.

What excites me is seeing God get ahold of an individual, and then that person coming to realize the deeper reason he or she is here. Many men and women in our drug program come here for shelter—but they soon realize they need help changing their lives and cannot do it on their own. They need the support that surrounds them at Pacific Garden Mission.

Years later, when some of our former guests come to visit, they have their families, jobs, homes, and, best of all, know Jesus as their Savior. They will recall the day that changed their lives when they walked through these doors.

**Thank you for being so supportive in keeping these doors open and the light burning bright. As I write, someone is walking through these doors looking for shelter, not realizing this moment may change their life forever.**

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

About **20,765** plates of food were served

**37,000** items of clothing were distributed

**3,143** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

**9** mothers with their children stayed at PGM  
*4 mothers 5 children*

**47** people professed faith in Christ



## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,  
Director of Development

### Supporting the Gospel of Christ and Discipleship

On May 9, 2022, it will be 10 years since I walked through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission as an overnight guest. At the time, I was hopeless and homeless—little did I know that here, I would meet Jesus Christ, who discipled me using His Word and the Godly men and women you support with your Godly stewardship.

The Lord has used you profoundly in my story, and in the stories of hundreds of others who come through our doors each year. You are making a difference, and it

is eternal. *Thank you!*

And this month, you have a special opportunity through a \$100,000 Matching Challenge to have double the impact through your giving! A dear friend of the Mission was moved to offer this Matching Challenge to encourage supporters like you in your giving and help all of us make a great kingdom impact *together*.

When you give this month, know that you are linking arms with many who support this ministry in prayer and giving. As part of this team, you make life transformation possible for the hopeless and homeless who continue to come to us looking for the answers we find in Jesus Christ. Thank you for welcoming them with a hot meal, safe shelter, and the life-changing power of the Gospel.



**A mother and her children received the food, shelter, and care they needed at Pacific Garden Mission because of your generous support.**

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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](mailto:pgmnews@pgm.org)  
Websites: [www.pgm.org](http://www.pgm.org) [www.unshackled.org](http://www.unshackled.org)

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