



WITH YOUR HELP GOD TRANSFORMED MY LIFE!

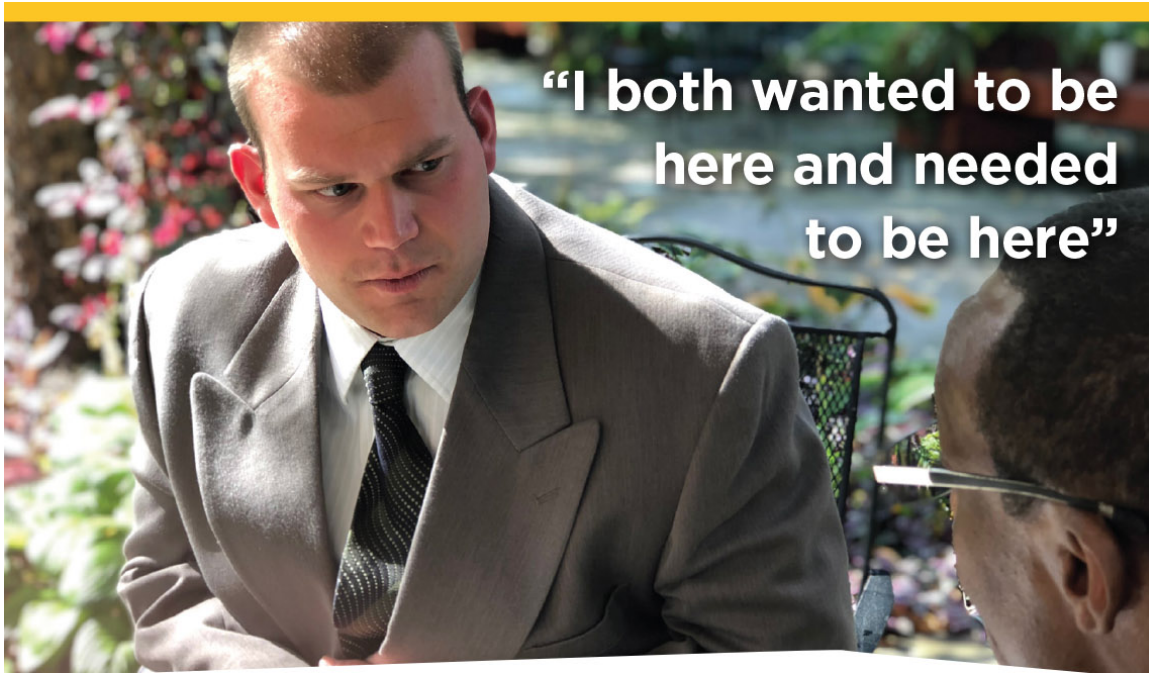
At Pacific Garden Mission, the transforming message of the Gospel mends broken families, frees the addicted, and lifts the hearts of many in despair. Through God's grace and your generosity, we share these life transformations with you each month. All of these modern-day miracles are possible with your help.

We are happy Ryan wanted to share his testimony with you in the spirit of thanksgiving and praise. Ryan recently graduated our New Day addictions recovery program.

RYAN

"Going through school I was bullied because I was in special

education. I had a lot of anger, and I didn't know how to deal with that. I didn't want to turn it over to the Lord. As I got older, I thought the right way to get through things was to justify violence with violence. When I got to high school, I saw people around me getting bullied, and I felt like I had to do something. People would come to me asking for help that were being raped molested, and taking on that kind of responsibility at only 16 or 17 years old--I didn't know what I was getting myself into. Before I knew it, I was trying to deal with those things, and that is when I took my first painkiller. From there I was hooked. From the first painkiller I took, my life



"I both wanted to be here and needed to be here"

went down that road of destruction. I would steal the pills from my mom, and from there it just kept getting worse. Not knowing what addiction was at an early age and using all throughout high school to cover the pain and the hurt, depression came to be a really big thing. The cycle never stopped.

"Last year, it was me, my fiancée, and my dog living in a car in the middle of January when it was negative 30 degrees outside. I remember just thinking 'What are we going to do?' I didn't think we were going to make it because we were so cold some of those nights that it was scary. The only thing I was thinking about was my next use. My mind was not right. What you are thinking is not what you are supposed to be thinking that is for sure. The urge to use opiates was so strong that I didn't want to give it up yet.

"After I moved back home I was

really struggling with depression and even though I didn't want to use I still found myself using heroin. I decided to go to a secular treatment program. During that time, I knew it wasn't right, and all they tried to do was load me up with antidepressant medications and

As long as I truly seek the Lord I have nothing to worry about.

prescription narcotics, and it just wasn't the answer. I thought it was the answer and I wanted it to be the answer. My way, Ryan's way, was the way I wanted to take but it was not the way the Lord wanted me to take. I ended up using the day after I got out of the program and I was right back to the point of wanting to die.

"Three months ago, I tried killing myself by overdosing on heroin after stealing and selling some of my dad's possessions, and I intended to die by shooting up the drugs in my car. I

woke up two days later and knew I needed help. That is when I told my parents what had happened and we decided to come to Pacific Garden Mission. That was the best decision I ever made.

"The Lord has been really working in my life. I both wanted to be here and needed to be here and it didn't take long for the Lord to begin working in my life. I just started reading the Word, praying every day, taking care of myself again and it has just been amazing how God has begun revealing Himself to me. I didn't really know where to start when I first arrived here, I would just open the Bible and begin to read, and through classes and counseling I was encouraged to learn. I learned *how* to learn things, how to interpret scripture. You have everything you need here and if you really let the program work, it will work. There is nothing that can stop you when the Lord works through you. The things that I have learned, and the way that He has taken me,

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." —Colossians 3:15

have just been amazing.

"I am coming up on my graduation day. When I graduate I am going back home with my church family—I can't wait! I have been very far away from them and I know they have been praying for me every step of the way. I am ready to start my life over and do it the right way, not Ryan's way, but God's way. To have my family again, a job and just a normal life is what I want now. I know that if I stay with the Lord all of these things are possible. I am going to do what He wants me to do and let His light shine through me. One of the verses that I have always turned to is Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." It is unbelievable how true this has been already. As soon as I started seeking Christ, everything was lifted

from me. The stress, the desire to use drugs, and the depression has all been lifted from me. As long as I truly seek the Lord I have nothing to worry about. You can be going through



Ryan focusing on a sermon in the PGM Auditorium



As we prepare to serve our yearly Thanksgiving meal for our guests, it is important to remember just how difficult being homeless during the holiday season can be. For those with no family or loved ones, feelings of loneliness and despair are very real and powerful. The PGM Thanksgiving meal is more than a dinner, it is an expression of love and caring. One guest recently shared, "I almost wept when I saw the pumpkin pie set before me at the Mission Thanksgiving Dinner. For the first time in years, I found myself surrounded by love and laughter and something special. It reminded me of family and gave me hope that life was not over. I knew someone loved me." –Stephen

Together we partner with God to share His love and to advance His Kingdom through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

GIVE NOW at pgm.org

trials and tribulations and have peace if you seek the Lord, and I have been learning to do that and it has just been amazing."

Christ-centered resources are helping men, women, and children every day at Pacific Garden Mission.

Your help is the only way this has been and continues to be possible. We continue to see souls freed from addictions, depression, and many other afflictions through Christ.

Thank you for making Ryan's story of transformation possible.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

FULLY FUNCTIONING!

As I sat listening to a former staff member give his testimony this past Saturday night, I was reminded of our vision. "...that our guests may become fully functioning followers of Christ." The question is what does fully functioning look like? I needed to look no further than the testimony I was hearing.

Nate came here in 1995 as a homeless drug addict. He stated that

**And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world, and
preach the gospel to every
creature. — Mark 16:15**

he had lost his business, home, and family, and ended up on his mother's doorstep. When his mother opened the door, she refused him entrance and said that he was not her son. Alone and destitute with nowhere to go, Nate ended up on a park bench where he tried to spend the night. His sleep was interrupted by two rats that he saw vying for his space. Nate got up and just began to aimlessly wander the streets when a stranger he never saw before or again engaged him in conversation. The stranger told him that if he needed a place to sleep, to

go to Pacific Garden Mission. Hebrews 13:2: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Upon entering the mission, Nate heard the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. He originally came for a meal and a place to sleep, but God got a hold of his heart. Fast forward for more than twenty years to Nate's retirement celebration, where his son spoke

adoringly about his father as Nate's grandchildren ran around him, his wife by his side. As I looked at that respected family man, my mind went back to over twenty years before when Nate washed ashore at our doors, hopeless, addicted, and all alone. What if we were just a social organization that gave him a meal and a place to sleep and nothing else? Nate would have been hungry the next day while still struggling with drugs, no grandchild to play with, no son to honor his father, no wife by his side. At Pacific Garden Mission, we are more than a shelter, our core message is to preach the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Nate is what a fully functioning follower of Christ looks like.

**Thank you for supporting this
work and this vision.**

PGMNews NOVEMBER 2018 • Vol.83, No.11
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission

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

**“Commit thy way unto the Lord;
trust also in him; and he shall bring it
to pass.” —Psalm 37:5**

During the first three years of God's ministry at Pacific Garden Mission, Colonel and Mrs. Clarke bore the cost of the Mission themselves, but as expenses grew and the ministry expanded, their funds ran low. Eventually, the day came when Colonel Clarke was told he would lose his lease, and that Pacific Garden Mission would close.

After receiving this news, Colonel and Mrs. Clarke prayed through the night, asking God to guide them and to provide in His own way and time.

The next morning, something white covered Colonel and Mrs. Clarke's front yard. Looking closer,

they discovered their lawn was filled with mushrooms of the very best quality, which they found mysterious as it wasn't the season for mushrooms.

Feeling God's miraculous work was at hand, the Clarkes carted the mushrooms down the street and sold them to the chefs at the Palmer House, the famed hotel just off of Michigan Avenue. The receipts from the mushroom sales were enough to pay the rent for Pacific Garden Mission. And if that weren't enough, there was also enough money left over to meet all ministry expenses.

Throughout the years we have relied on God and His people, and though there continues to be many challenges, His ministry has flourished. Through every trial, God has placed a love in our hearts to bless and minister to you, our partners, as we pray for you and share how God's Kingdom is advancing with your continued faithful support.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS & PROVIDES

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 September your support made a true difference:

On average, **456** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

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

7 mothers with their children sheltered

About **36,452** plates of food served

34,680 items of clothing distributed

269 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

406 people professed faith in Christ

3,094 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.