



Craieasha's radiant smile demonstrates to everyone the change in her heart as a committed follower of Christ.

YOUR SUPPORT MADE MY WAY BACK POSSIBLE!

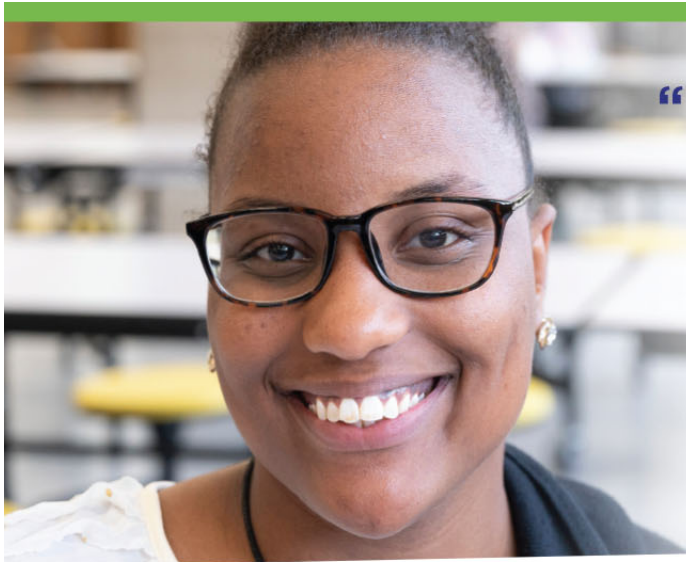
As Thanksgiving approaches, we look forward to family time and sharing blessings and encouragement with others this holiday season. But the holidays are not always a joyous occasion for everyone. In fact, for some, this can be the saddest and most lonely time of the year. But that's where YOU come in . . .

Always remember that the help you provide here at PGM gives warmth and safety to those who don't often experience these same joys in life. Your support helps ease people's suffering and makes an impact in God's kingdom.

You help share the Gospel daily at PGM with each hurting soul who comes through our doors for help, and we're overjoyed by the progress one young woman has made since surrendering her heart and mind to Jesus. As you read her story, please know that it was made possible because of you!

CRAIEASHA

"My mom was a single mother, and she would take us to church often. I started singing in the youth choir. As a young child, I was very happy, but when I was 10, I was sexually abused. The



**“It is like that song
‘No turning back,
no turning back;
I have decided to
follow Jesus . . .
no turning back.”**

abuse continued, and by the time I was 14, I wanted to end my life. I was bullied, and I just felt like I didn’t belong . . . I didn’t see myself being worth anything.

“Going through elementary and high school was a struggle because I would never socialize with the other kids. I was withdrawn and quiet. At 15, I started smoking marijuana. It would make me calm. I wasn’t as worried about my image, and I wasn’t as concerned about others. That was my way out besides suicide. By sophomore and junior year, I was fighting a lot. I was very angry and very sad.

“The reason I withdrew was that I

never told my mom about the abuse. I didn’t want anyone to know what happened to me—especially my mom because she said if someone ever touched me inappropriately, she would kill him. So, at that time when it happened, I just went into this shell. I didn’t want her to murder anybody because this happened to me. My dad was already not there, and where would that leave us? In foster care or separated from my brothers.

“At 17, I wanted to end my life again because, by this time, I had become this girl I never wanted to become. I was tired of *everything*. I didn’t know it, but I needed the Lord.

“The first time I was here at Pacific Garden Mission, I didn’t take it seriously. I joined the program, but everything about me was pretending. My experience the first time was meltdowns and trying to be this ‘Christian,’ trying to be someone I’d never met—it was like I was a stranger to myself . . . and I was.

“The second time I came to PGM, Jesus led me through the



After a Saturday Praise and Testimony service Craieasha prays with Pastor Phil.

door. June 2 of this year was the day I committed my heart fully to Christ. I am proud of my faith in God and that He still looked at me and took me in without me even realizing it.

“Now, I’m in the career development phase of the Bible Program, and *Unshackled!* is where I work as my ministry assignment. I am grateful that God has allowed this time in my life for me to be open and honest with who I am as a sinner, then come to know Him as my Savior. Now, I don’t see the guilt and shame as something to stay in. God gripped my heart, saying, ‘Come to me with everything, all your background, and decisions .

. . . *everything*.’ Jesus led me through the door, and these are things I never released . . . until now—I’ve had a weight lifted off of me, and I don’t have to live with regrets.

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

—2 Corinthians 7:10

“When I hear this verse, it makes me glad that God saved me—He kept me from wanting to kill myself, continuing to do those crazy things, and doing life my way. I don’t have to live with regrets, not one. All my pain, my childhood abuse, what I did or didn’t get, the



Above: Craieasha shown working on *Unshackled!* printed materials and sharing her testimony with a touring group of visitors on the women’s dormitory floor at PGM.

decisions I made . . . I want to let it go. I thank God for putting that verse in there. It is like that song, ‘No turning back, no turning back, I have decided to follow Jesus . . . no turning back.’”

Craieasha has found a new family here at PGM. Now walking with God and surrounded by people who love and care for her, she has been able to escape the chains of anger, guilt, and shame as she grows in her new life in Christ. Surrendering her heart and mind to Jesus has allowed her to embody a new sense of peace and meaning in her life. We thank you for helping to make this story of healing and transformation possible.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” —Romans 10:13 (KJV)

OUR 144TH THANKSGIVING AND COUNTING . . .

As we welcome the holidays and the accompanying cold weather, many more guests will come to us for help. It's a difficult time of year for the homeless, and feelings of loneliness can become overbearing during the holiday season. Taking this into account as we prepare our upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, our staff, volunteers, and Bible students will do their best to create a warm, friendly, and Christlike environment for those visiting us for respite—but we wouldn't be able to provide these necessities and comforts without your help.



As you spend time with family and friends this Thanksgiving, remember that the help you provide at PGM is truly making a difference. You are helping the hurting and instilling hope and freedom into lives that desperately need wholesome, positive life experiences and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

GIVE NOW at pgm.org

With your help, we will serve 90,000 meals in November and December.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

“IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS”

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I am often amazed and challenged at the expression of thanks I see in many of our residents. Some coming in off the streets have absolutely nothing, but I hear expressions of thanks for a place to sleep, a warm meal, and a warm shower. Some mothers can be heard giving thanks for a safe place to stay with their children . . . or even those with disabilities are thankful for a facility that will accommodate them. Some give thanks for the Gospel being preached or having free access to a Bible or a pastor. This always makes me look at my own attitude. How can some with nothing be so thankful, and yet, I complain at times?

We are told in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”* The difficult part about that verse is the inclusion of the words, “in every thing.” I only want to say thank you for the good things, but “everything” is a challenge. Then, I remember the men and women at Pacific Garden Mission—some sit in a wheelchair, forsaken by family, shunned by society, yet still thankful for another day. I am reminded of the story in Luke’s Gospel:

Luke 17:12-19: *“And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”*

Ten got what they wanted, but only one returned to say thank you.

This Thanksgiving, let’s thank our great God and His Son Jesus for their grace and mercy to an ungrateful people. As you celebrate, remember the men and women at Pacific Garden Mission. For some, we are the only family they have. And in everything, be thankful.

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



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

When you provide a warm, nutritious meal to an individual at Pacific Garden Mission, you are doing so much more. The \$1.94 meal is served with love on new dining tables you helped us purchase three months ago. Everyone sits in a Gospel service prior to the meal. Men and women often say that these meals are the first time they've felt loved. We know that love they feel comes from your

hearts and from Christ. Your compassionate giving and prayers have provided shelter, meals, clothing, medical services, safety, and so many other human needs that our dear friends were lacking on the streets.

With your help, we will serve 90,000 meals in November and December. Many men and women will make decisions to receive Christ and join the free New Day and New Life discipleship programs. How beautiful that you have helped share the Gospel.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

—Romans 10:14,15



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 September your support made a true difference:

On average, **313** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **18,241** plates of food were served

40 people professed faith in Christ

3,130 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

2,900 items of clothing were distributed