

# PGM 140 YEARS A GOSPEL LIGHT



NOVEMBER 2017  
**PGM**News

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST SINCE 1877

ARTICLE BY DANIEL WOOLMAN

*Serving Thanksgiving meals at Pacific Garden Mission*

**A**ND WHEN HE SOWED, SOME SEEDS FELL by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But

other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

— Matthew 13:4-9

A new Christian, like a tender sapling, faces many dangers and uncertainties in our world. As Jesus declares in the parable of the sower,

*Continues on page 2*



# SERVING OTHERS WITH THANKSGIVING



**Edgar Lee Howard, serving the Lord  
and his community with distinction**

**140 Years Serving the Needy—Continued from page 1**

weeds and birds oftentimes eat the seeds of the Gospel that people receive. The longer one is a Christian, the more apparent the importance of discipleship and fellowship is in helping to ensure that young Christian believers grow and overcome the struggles they face, especially today. Not only does the Mission plant the seeds but they also water, feed and nurture it. Bible classes, counseling, discipleship with seasoned pastors, and having a safe place to live for over a year are just some of the ways that PGM ensures that someone can reach their full potential in Christ. In this month's article two men share their testimony, both of whom began their spiritual pilgrimage over 20 years ago, right here at Pacific Garden Mission.

## EDGAR LEE HOWARD

**I WAS A YOUNG ATTORNEY** right out of law school. I was doing a lot of partying and drinking. I found myself on the Rush Street area one day in Chicago. It was the day before my birthday, January 20, 1992. I was living for the devil basically because I was not living for the Lord and it wasn't working out for me. I had been exposed to a lot of demonic type influences in my life. I didn't grow up that way but being a lawyer in criminal defense I got exposed to a lot of bad satanic type influences. I was getting into trouble and in jeopardy of losing my law license. It had been my lifelong dream to become a lawyer and to help people ever since I was a little boy and the devil had just about taken that all away from me.

That night I had been drinking a lot, heavy drinking, and a friend of mine was supposed to show up and take care of my bill at the establishment I was at but he never showed up. So, I left my cashmere coat and briefcase with the manager and told him I would be right back and that I just have to get some money to pay my bill.

I was walking around downtown Chicago freezing without a coat and I happened to pass by Pacific Garden Mission. He asked me if I needed a coat and told me they could give me a free jacket inside the mission. At that time, I didn't know it was the Lord leading me to PGM, but I said "Okay" and figured I would grab a coat and then go hustle up the money that I owed the restaurant.

I came into the mission for a jacket but started hearing the Word from people in the mission, people that were living in the Word. They weren't hypocritical; I felt the power. I decided to join the Men's Bible Program after that. I heard the Word and I figured that I had already been living for the devil so I ought to try this "Christian" thing and see how it works out. I took

**See Edgar's inspiring testimony on Pacific Garden Mission's YouTube channel, Episode 127.**



**You Tube**





**Honorable Hearing Judge Edgar Lee Howard for the village of Hazelcrest IL. He is also a lawyer and founder of Christian Legal Services.**

ahold of a couple of verses like Proverbs 3:5-6: "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." I realized these verses were actually working and I knew there was something to this. It was peaceful and fulfilling and I loved the Word and soaked it up like a sponge.

There were a lot of good Christian people here on fire for the Lord; I was in the perfect

environment. It was a structured and protected environment that allowed me to stay rooted and nurtured. I graduated the Men's Bible Program and here it is, almost 26 years later, and I am coming back as often as I can to hold a free legal clinic giving out free legal advice to overnight guests and staff.

I would strongly urge anybody who needs salvation, needs a new life in Christ, or knows somebody who is going through trials and tribulations, to refer them to Pacific Garden Mission. This is a true Bible program, there is no fooling around here, these are true Christians, they take God seriously, they live Holy and they are on fire for the Lord and that fire spreads."

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. —PHILIPPIANS 1:6 KJV*

## TOMMIE PICKENS

**"MY NAME IS TOMMIE PICKENS.** Throughout my childhood, my parents taught me moral and ethical standards, and to have respect and dignity for all. However, as a teenager, I strayed from the foundation my parents taught me. I began to associate myself with friends who sold drugs and alcohol. Subsequently, I began to sell drugs and alcohol.

I realized I needed something different after 17 years of drug and alcohol abuse. I felt hopeless. My sister shared with me the gospel, but at first, I rejected it. However, the seed was planted in fertile ground. My brother-in-law and sister both asked me to go to counseling to help me cope with the demons inside. I made several appointments to many drug and alcohol facilities but to no avail.

It was not until March 20, 1993 at Pacific Garden Mission my life changed. I spoke with Pastor Arnett. He shared with me a clear presentation of the Gospel. However, I did not comprehend what the Gospel really was. I was then asked to remain in the hallway until the counselor, Mr. Kermit Hagerman called me into his office. Mr. Hagerman shared with me a Bible verse, Titus 1:2 *"In hope for eternal life which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"*. This particular verse is what convicted my heart. I was a sinner and on my way to a Christ-less hell. I asked God to forgive me of my sins and come into my heart. From that day forward, God has been the Lord of my life.

**Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain Tommie Pickens shared his testimony at PGM's 140th Anniversary.**





I remained at Pacific Garden Mission for two and half years. I attended the Bible program and Bible Institute. I surrendered to preach the gospel one year after being saved.

God called me to move to Virginia in July 1995 to become the assistant pastor at Sure Foundation Baptist Church. I remained at the church for 11 months. Realizing that I needed further study, I enrolled at Atlantic Baptist College in 1996. I completed one year of study then transferred to Victory Baptist Bible College/Seminary in Hampton, VA in 1997. I completed my studies in 2002 with a bachelor, master's and Doctorate of Theology degrees.

In 2002, I joined the military to serve God and country to continue to spread the Gospel to our men and women in uniform. I have been assigned to various assignments and deployments around the world with the assurance that God was there with me and our nation's sons and daughters. The leadership I learned here at Pacific Garden Mission has already prepared me to continue to learn how to be the best spiritual leader I possibly can."

When asked about the hopelessness of many that come to PGM, Pickens explains, saying, "Hope is not in humanity, hope is not in the place (PGM), but hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ." He clarifies that Jesus is the reason lives are changed at the mission, not the building or the mission itself.

"For those who find themselves displaced or homeless, this is a place where you come and get shelter. PGM will meet your needs as a holistic environment taking care of you physically, mentally, and spiritually. I would encourage anyone who is down and out – struggling and can't see a way – to come to Pacific Garden Mission. Come talk to an intake counselor so they can be able to assess your situation and come up with a comprehensive healing plan for you."

\* \* \*

The outstanding connection between the two previous testimonies is that each remembered Pacific Garden Mission as a safe, structured, and nurturing environment for spiritual



**Respected for his leadership qualities Tommie has had many opportunities to share the Gospel while serving his country. He is shown here baptizing a new convert.**



development. Both men were not only exposed to and accepted the Gospel but were continually fed by God's Word. With limited places available to provide this holistic environment for the spiritually lost, PGM remains as one of the few. Without help from our donors, Pacific Garden Mission would not exist. If this were the case, thousands of people, including the two in this article, may have never received the opportunity to be saved, spiritually nurtured, and have a complete life transformation. With our sincerest thanks, we appreciate your help in allowing PGM to remain on this earth and in God's care though your continued physical, financial and spiritual support. Your efforts have eternal rewards through the many souls that are saved here.

#### THANKSGIVING ARTWORK



**Personalized placemats from PGM donors minister to our guests.**







## **A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski**

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

### ***Be Encouraged!***

**IN PSALM 3 KING DAVID WRITES** during one of the most difficult times in his life. David has had difficult times in the past but to have your own son rise up against you must have been heartbreaking.

You may be experiencing some difficult times but let this Psalm be an encouragement to you.

#### **1. DAVID'S PERIL VS. 1-2**

David mentions what his enemies are doing, they are increasing, his son, his trusted friends and counselors, many people in his nation have all turned on him.

David mentions what they are saying, "There is no help for him in God." They did not say that God cannot help but only that God cannot help David. He is being maligned and misrepresented.

#### **2. DAVID'S PRAYER VS. 3-4**

Instead of fighting and scheming David goes to God in prayer. He acknowledged that God was his shield, protector and the only one that could encourage him.

Charles Spurgeon said, "I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer." I love the fact that David cried out to the Lord, and he did so with his voice.

#### **3. DAVID'S PEACE VS. 5-6**

The fact that while fleeing from his son David could go to sleep and have no fear, is a

testimony to his faith. When you trust in the living God it is not about circumstances but perspective.

Isaiah 41:10 reads, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Fear not . . . God is with you;  
Fear not . . . God is your God;  
Fear not . . . God will strengthen you;  
Fear not . . . God will help you;  
Fear not . . . God will uphold you.

David knew this so he could sleep well at night.

#### **4. DAVID'S PAST VS. 7-8**

David mentions how God had smitten all his enemies, Goliath, Saul, the Philistines, the Edomites etc..

When you are struggling in the present look back and see how faithful God has always been. He did not bring you out of Egypt so you could starve in the wilderness.

Our God is a faithful covenant keeping God, thank you for your love and support for this ministry.

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## **FINANCIAL UPDATE** Stephen Welch, Director of Development

Think for a moment about someone who has greatly impacted your life. Perhaps it was a grandparent or teacher, the person who introduced you to Christ, or a friend who offered help when you needed them most. I think it's safe to say that most people hope to leave a positive, lasting impact on others. As a supporter of this ministry, you've already impacted PGM in a powerful way — thank you for playing a significant role in our story. Today I want to introduce a way you can play an even greater role in our next chapter.

Have you ever heard of the terms “planned giving” or “legacy giving?” These phrases refer to the practice of leaving a financial gift in your Will or Estate Plan to a ministry or charity that's important to you. While creating end-of-life plans can be intimidating or burdened with legal-speak, deciding to “get your financial house in order” and give a legacy gift can bring great peace to your heart.

For many stewardship-minded Christians, legacy giving:

- ▶ Represents a unique act of worship; an opportunity to honor God with the resources He's entrusted to them throughout their lives.
- ▶ Provides a powerful way to punctuate their lives with meaning; share their values and leave a legacy of faith for generations to come.
- ▶ Feels like a natural and satisfying decision to make once their loved ones have been provided for.

Not only do Estate gifts help ministries like PGM to confidently plan for the future, these gifts directly impact the lives of those we serve. Including PGM in your Will or Estate Plan ensures this Kingdom work will continue for years to come — creating space and opportunity for needs to be met, and lives to be changed.

## **WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS AND 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 come along side of us financially you're not giving to the mission, but through the mission to the people that need your help the most. We are serious about demonstrating our stewardship, and we invite you to learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.

### **Here are just some of the ways your giving is measured (SEPTEMBER)**

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**545**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**88**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**29,675**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**29,708**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**124**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**37**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting “Unshackled!”....**3,070**