

Robert's life has been transformed  
because you cared.



**PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**  
Transforming lives since 1877

## “JESUS FREED ME FROM A LIFE OF VIOLENCE.”

**From a young and susceptible age, Robert only knew a life of violence. Growing up in a neighborhood where gangs and criminal activity were a means of survival, Robert found himself consumed by a dangerous and destructive lifestyle. While he learned hard life lessons through the deaths of those he was close to, Robert didn't seek change until he came to Pacific Garden Mission.**

**As you read Robert's story, know that without your help, his testimony would not be possible.**

### ROBERT

“I came through the Mission from prison. My past was bad. God rescued me from a life of drug usage, addiction, and violence. I found myself in and out of jail, drugs, guns, and gangs. To come from that and make it to my age, I am very thankful. In gang life, I have seen many die and get hurt. There is violence on any given day in the gang culture because you must make money, and do it by any means.

“Here at PGM, I took the discipleship classes. I went through the



**“Pacific Garden Mission helped me with everything that I needed. I had to lose it all to gain Jesus.”**

New Day drug treatment first and completed that, and stayed to do the Bible discipleship program. I have been here for a year and a half, but this season is ending soon. I have learned what I believe to be the coping skills to live a productive Christian life, which is important to me now that I am saved.

**And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.  
—Colossians 3:23-24 KJV**

“I am happy, and I am content with what I have today. My health is getting better. Every breath I have I am thankful for because He gives that breath. Pacific Garden Mission helped me with everything that I needed. I had to lose it all to gain Jesus. When I sin now, I know that I am offending the Lord, and I think

that is what hurts and convicts me more. Jesus did not die in vain.

“The youth are still lost in that life of violence and quick cash, and you see it glamorized in video games and movies, and the youth think that it is fine. But in the films, the guy that gets shot gets to go home and see his family. In the streets, the person that gets shot does not go



**Prayer and a relationship with God has become Robert's focus.**



**Each day Robert leads a transformed life and has formed new bonds with Christian men who are able to mentor and guide him at PGM.**

home, and the person that shot him goes to jail, so in the end, both families lose someone.

"I believe my calling is service to help others, because where I came from I was not an asset to society at all. So, to do a 180 is to the glory of God. The staff here are teaching us; many come from similar rough backgrounds too. I knew it could be done. It's just that I had to do it; I had to walk the steps, and heed what they were saying and what I was learning, and apply it. Now I belong to a church, and I am in the service ministry, helping at food pantries and doing whatever it takes to give back.

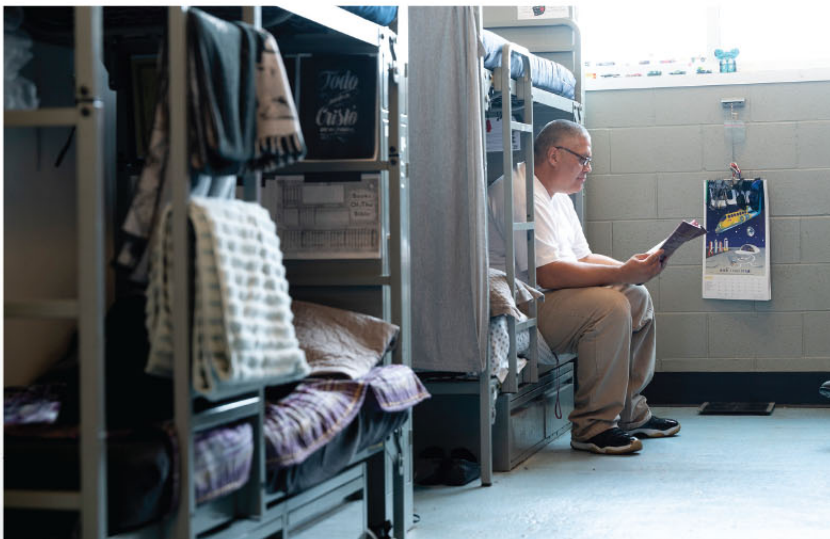
"The Gospel means peace, serenity, and love to me; everything the Gospel explains is love. Imagine if the whole world came to the same accord. What a world it would be,



and it would carry on to the next world. What I look forward to is eternity. The Gospel had to come; Jesus had to come back because we made a mess of this world. Humanity was messed up and He gave us a chance, and still gives us a chance to go out and do something about it. I believe Jesus died for us all because we all have a purpose in this lifetime to help others, to love God and people."

**Robert will soon be taking the next step in his walk with God, and will be ready to enter society as a fully functioning follower of Christ. The tools he received here will enable him to teach others, especially the youth he encounters, that there is a better way of life outside of the gangs and violence that**

**dominate the culture. Jesus is leading Robert's steps now, and it is only because of you and the Mission that he was able to receive these tools and build his relationship with God. Thank You.**



**During off time Robert and program participants can relax or study on the dorm in peace.**

# From Darkness to Light

The heaviness of homeless life, and the wearing down of the spirit from trying to survive daily, can bring people to a breaking point, of just wanting to give up. The men, women, and children utilizing the resources at Pacific Garden Mission may have different stories, but they all need help and hope.

The Gospel message of Jesus Christ provides the peace and hope that many have lacked their entire lives. Thank you for helping us give the hope of Jesus

Christ and the physical help needed to change a life significantly.

Together we are making a difference, and people like Robert and many others are finding refuge within our walls.

We are thankful for your support of our ministry as Thanksgiving approaches. During these emotionally tough times for those who are alone the PGM ministry becomes a family to those with none.



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

Visit our website at [pgm.org](https://pgm.org) to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski  
President, Pacific Garden Mission

## A LIFE-TRANSFORMING MINISTRY

It is amazing how quickly fall has come upon us. With COVID hopefully in retreat, we expect the number of men, women, and children seeking refuge from the elements to increase. Chicago's climate can be harsh, especially in the winter. I am amazed at how many people come here for shelter and find a deeper purpose for their lives.

We provide food, shelter, clothing, help with permanent housing, medical care, etc., but the most important thing we do is proclaim the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. The social services are good, but the Gospel is the most important.

Years ago, a group of shelter providers met with me and were curious about why we required chapel attendance for our residents. Instead of sharing the reasons, I introduced them to people who were impacted the greatest. I introduced them to a former gang leader that just came through intending to spend one night. I asked him if chapel were a choice, would he have gone, and he said NO. Because they were

required, he heard the Gospel, came forward during the service, accepted Jesus as his Savior, and his life was changed. He joined our program, left the gangs, got married and lives in the suburbs, and still preaches at PGM today.

A number of our residents said if chapel were voluntary, they would not have gone but are glad that it was not. Pacific Garden Mission is much more than a shelter; it is a life-transforming ministry meeting the needs of those who may be hurting and introducing them to life's answer: Jesus Christ. Winter will soon be here, and the elements will drive them in.

**Thank you for your love, prayer, and support that we will be able to meet those needs and share the love of God with them.**



Pastor Samson Greene shares the Gospel with a guest at PGM.

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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

### Consider the Power of Your Legacy

#### What Kind of Legacy Are You Building?

Much of our lives are spent raising families, building careers, and preparing for retirement. We all want to make a difference in the world and be remembered fondly. Are you building a legacy that aligns with the values you most want to express? You can leave:

**A legacy of provision.** Nearly 70 percent of Americans do not have an up-to-date will. That means the majority of the people you know have yet to 'get their financial house in order.' But an up-to-date estate plan is not only good stewardship of the resources you've been given—it also establishes a plan to ensure your loved ones are provided for and any

minor children will be raised by the guardian of your choosing.

**A legacy of love.** Many people are incorporating the idea of an "ethical will" into their estate planning. An ethical will passes along the riches of the heart. Personal letters, special family stories, affirmations of love, and your own life stories make an ethical will a rich and enduring gift.

**A legacy of generosity.** What causes and ministries have you felt connected to throughout your life? Would you consider leaving them a gift in your will? Planning a legacy gift to Pacific Garden Mission is a powerful way to communicate your values and inspire loved ones to think about how they may practice generosity in their lives too.

**For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Consider the Power of Your Legacy" by contacting Stephen Welch at (312) 429-6700 or [welchs@pgm.org](mailto:welchs@pgm.org) —or bless your family today with a will at [christianwill.org/pgm](http://christianwill.org/pgm)**

## 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 August your support made a true difference:

On average, **324** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **19,612** plates of food were served

**30,740** items of clothing were distributed

**3,159** media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

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

**87** people professed faith in Christ