




THE EYES OF GRATITUDE FOR WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE AT PGM

With your help, Pacific Garden Mission helps to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ. Not only are the saved witnessing to the lost, there exists here a strong brotherhood and sisterhood of discipleship. Once the seed has been planted, Pacific Garden Mission provides a nutritive environment for spiritual growth, and once they grow stronger, they begin to disciple others. Remarkably, over sixty percent of our staff members initially came through our doors homeless and seeking help.

Searching for food and shelter, they found true salvation by surrendering their lives to Jesus Christ, and who better to serve the lost and hurting than those who were once in the same positions? Bonita is one of those who works and ministers here, and whose incredible story of transformation could not have been told without your support.

BONITA

“When I came to Pacific Garden Mission I was a heroin addict. I had been on heroin for 25 years. I did

A close-up, profile shot of a Black woman with short dark hair and glasses, looking out a window. She is wearing a white shirt and a watch on her left wrist. The background is a blurred view of a city street with buildings and a red fire truck. The text "Today I am a fully functioning follower of Christ" is overlaid on the left side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**“Today
I am a
fully
functioning
follower of
Christ”**

not think that I was ever going to be off it. I thought I was going to die a heroin addict. You couldn't have told me that God was going to deliver me. I remember the night I came through those doors. I felt like I had hit rock bottom. I kept telling myself I must be close to dying soon. I didn't know I was going to come to life once I came here.

“It's amazing thinking of how I came here and joined the Bible Program. God used the women upstairs who worked here to mold me into the woman I am today. I was rough when I first got here, and I tell women every day about joining the Bible program. I tell the women here 'Why don't you come upstairs and give yourself a chance? Give God a chance.'”

“I tell them this is not an easy walk. After you have used drugs for over two decades, it is hard to know who you are. When I was first here, I was getting to know who I was just as much as the others around me were getting to know who I was.

“I have not looked back. Today I look at my children; I look at my grandchildren. My grandbaby brought tears to my eyes recently when she said 'Grandma, you're the best grandma in the world.' It's so amazing how I went from having no part in my family's life to where I am now. My family just sees it and smiles because they know it's only through the power of God, it is nothing that I did. It had to come from God because I could not have

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound in every good work.” —2 Corinthians 9:8

done this on my own. I now know the true power of God. I work for the New Day program here at Pacific Garden Mission as a substance abuse counselor.

“God has turned the negative into positive. Every time I think about my life I think of Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” I went from using heroin for 25 years to now having the opportunity to share my testimony and help these ladies that come here hopeless and

homeless, and I tell them to look at my life, see what God has delivered me from. If God could do it for me, he could do it for them. Today I am a fully functioning follower of Christ.”

Bonita is a counselor for the addictions programs, and she uses her past experiences and her newfound Biblical knowledge and faith in God as tools to mentor homeless, addicted, and hurting women. As of this coming November, Bonita will have been off drugs for four years, and God is at work in miraculous ways in her life. Her days are now spent as a live-in staff member here at PGM. Counseling and mentoring the women that come here seeking help and new life gives Bonita fulfillment and hope; she can share her experience with these women and show that, through Christ, there is hope for new-found life.



“I now know the true power of God. It is nothing that I did.”



Bonita is one of the incredible examples of a saved soul who now serves with the compassion of Christ, reflecting God's love towards those who find their way into the arms of PGM. The Word of God and the love of God's people is what has set Pacific Garden Mission apart for the last 141 years. We know that PGM and the work we do here would not exist without your help. Your support comes to us in so many forms: some volunteer to preach the

Gospel, some give their time to tend to the daily tasks of Mission life, and many pray for us and support us financially. Each contribution of time, love, and faith adds up to manifest a powerful light in a darkening city. Without your help this would not be possible, and we thank you for your continued support and generosity.

GIVE NOW at pgm.org





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

YOUR ETERNAL INVESTMENT

Ps 30:11 — “Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness”

Pacific Garden Mission has been a beacon of hope for multitudes for almost 141 years. For many, once they arrive, they feel a sense of desperation, that this is the end. I was encouraged when we received a letter from a former resident. Al never joined our program, but as an overnight guest, he found salvation and a purpose for life. “I became a guest at P.G.M.

January 15, 2017.

I was evicted from my home and had nowhere to go; no family member was taking in a grown man with drinking issues. My first day at the homeless shelter was an eye-opening experience. I had to make a choice, so one evening church service I got saved, put down the liquor bottle, and began to transform my life. I was hired at American Building maintenance; I have been with them for one year now. Now, today, August

1, 2018, I will no longer be a guest at P.G.M. I have found an apartment. I took what God did to me with pain and suffering, He brought me to my knees and began to work on me, and now I feel good to say Good-bye.”

When I read this letter I was thrilled. Without Pacific Garden Mission and your support where would an older homeless man with a drinking problem find help? We have a thirty-day stay for overnight guests but if they submit a plan their stays can be extended. Only God can turn

Our neighbors are struggling in the dark, and they turn to us to help them see the light of the Lord.

mourning into dancing. Al came with shame, fear, and desperation and left with joy, Jesus, and a job.

With all the bad news coming from Chicago, the shootings, the crime, the drugs, it is refreshing to take a moment and thank our Lord for what He is doing here.

Thank you for your support, you have invested in lives for eternity.

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GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

Cultivating Stewardship and a Meaningful Donor Experience

Proverbs 16:3 – “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

At Pacific Garden Mission, we are always making a continuous effort to practice effective and responsible stewardship in every way. The resources you donate are so meaningful to us, and to the lives they help change forever. That is why we have adjusted our administrative processes so that your financial support goes straight into our ministry, where it does the most good for as many people as possible. You will notice, for instance, that we have added a response form to our PGM Newsletters—this streamlines processing on our end and requires

less administrative energy. In this way we can focus on what really matters: creating a space for transformative life change through the Word of the Gospel.

We are also committed to you, our compassionate donors. Your cards, notes, and phone calls have helped us serve you better as you share your gifts, talents, and prayers with us. We are so grateful for your continuing patience and faithfulness as we strive to improve your donor experience and maximize your Kingdom impact.

As we move into the fall season, we need your support more now than ever to help us with the ministry challenges ahead. Your support helps us offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, in any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.

Thank you for partnering with God to help lead men and women to their highest potential: serving God and reaching out to the lost.

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 August your support made a true difference:

On average, **426** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

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

21 mothers with their children sheltered

About **39,225** plates of food served

42,945 items of clothing distributed

181 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

246 people professed faith in Christ

3,093 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

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