



APRIL 2013

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION

A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877

USS Harry S. Truman

Born into an American Naval family, Conrad knew first-hand the power of man, but only after surrendering his life to the Highest Power did he finally understand true strength.

From Here to Eternity

LIFE HAD BECOME A MESS and wasn't getting any better for Conrad; "I've got to do something different. Maybe a fresh start in a different place will give me a chance to straighten out." California was selected as the place for the fresh start because a buddy from High School and the Navy had room for him there and a lead on a job. But things quickly went bad as the job didn't materialize and his friend helped him get the \$25 medical marijuana card which opened the door for excessive use of "weed". In four months he had used up his

money and knew he had to leave the state, so he used his last few dollars to get back to Chicago. "How did my life get so messed up and how can I straighten out the mess I've become?"

Life began for Conrad Niehoff in Piti, Guam on November 11, 1985. He was the older of two children, Amber, his sister, was three years younger. His father was a Navy Seal and moved often so the family had lived in several countries by the time his father finished his Navy career. Conrad says that his father was a strict disciplinarian (as you would expect of a Navy Seal) and that he was often in trouble

God is our refuge and strength, a very pre

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in the preteen years, usually for pestering his sister. In 1992, the family moved to Chicago while his father finished his last tour in Japan.

Conrad discovered early on that he was a good athlete; he especially excelled at football which he played through his senior year of high school and was good enough to receive a full scholarship to University of Michigan. However, that wasn't the only thing Conrad was involved in; he was also selling and using illegal drugs. In the 8th grade he started using drugs and alcohol. The selling of drugs led to serious legal difficulties when he was arrested for breaking into the home of a guy who owed him money. This legal trouble was largely responsible for Conrad's forgoing his college scholarship and choosing instead to enlist in the Navy. The enlistment prevented him from having to serve time in jail.

Conrad began his Navy service at sea on the USS Harry S. Truman, the Nimitz-class supercarrier in 2004. His responsibilities included working the recoil lines when aircraft landed on his ship. Later in October of 2005 he was sent to Iraq where he served until August 2006. During his time in Iraq he was involved in transport; the convoys he was a part of were attacked at

least 6 times. The bombs, injuries and death were extremely intense and frightening, prompting nightmares which he has to this day. After the tour of duty in Iraq, Conrad had completed his

Conrad and his mother at boot camp graduation before going off to sea in 2004.



contract and was released from the Navy.

Returning to Chicago he discovered that his parents had divorced which

was a total surprise—something he didn't see coming. So he moved in with his father. Conrad's drinking got much worse and he was going from job to job. Alcohol abuse led to problems, a bar fight incident resulted in his being charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon in 2008. Conrad served ten months in the Illinois state penitentiary for this. To be released he was required to be on probation for four years including mandatory rehabilitation programs. By 2010, Conrad had been through three 90-day programs and yet nothing had worked. This is when Conrad decided to violate probation and head off to California for a fresh start.

This is where our story began. Conrad is heading back to Chicago, but to what? His dad wouldn't let him stay with him with his history, not even his grandmother would let him live in her house. This grandmother had been a good influence on him the times he'd been with her and he knew she always prayed for him, which he'd always considered weird. She did want to help Conrad, she just wasn't going to do it the way he wanted. She contacted her pastor and brought Conrad to see him. Pastor knew what to do; he contacted Dr. Leon Gombis, a regular volunteer and board member at Pacific Garden Mission, who agreed to take Conrad to the mission. So the next morning, 11/17/2010, Dr. Gombis introduced Conrad to Pacific Garden Mission. However, Dr. Gombis could not do it personally since he had a class to teach. He left Conrad with Pastor Phil who shared the Gospel with him. Previously Conrad had considered all "religious" people to be weird and never listened to them, but life's difficulties and the Holy Spirit had broken Conrad down to the point where he was ready to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord of his life! Conrad immediately joined the Bible Program and spent the next year learning how to live for the Lord. During the first few months he didn't talk to people much when he wasn't in class or working, he just absorbed the Bible. He read it cover to cover in the first six months. It didn't all make perfect sense but he applied what did know while God kept growing his understanding. In the fourth

Present help in trouble. —P_{SALM} 46:1 (KJV)

month of the program Conrad began helping in PGM's "Unshackled!" radio program where he oversaw the stockroom. Later he was given the responsibility as back-up sound man for the "Unshackled!" recordings.

While at PGM Conrad went to college earning 28 credits even while working full time. Before coming on staff at Pacific Garden Mission, Conrad had applied with the Pipefitters Union for an apprentice position, a field that pays well and has steady work. This was a great opportunity for Conrad and soon he announced his intentions. Though he'll be missed, it is a great opportunity which we feel is from God.

Conrad says that he really appreciated working in "Unshackled!" because he got to hear many stories of what God had done in others' lives and often even met the story subjects. This helped him grow by seeing God's powerful hand in restoring lost lives—and then realizing that God's promises were for him too.

Conrad wants everyone to know that God is a God of hope. This is what has kept him moving in the right direction these last couple of years. He says, as long as a person is following the Lord, nothing can go eternally wrong.



Photos of Conrad working with the sound equipment for "Unshackled!" Shown on right assisting Nadine Alosio.



Conrad working in the PGM stock room.

GED DIPLOMA RECOGNITION

John Kimbrough had been working on something for more than 20 years, his GED. There have been several other GED classes for John but he had never passed the test. Now he has! It wasn't easy, the first time he was short points in the math section, he needed 410 to pass was 10 points short. With extra tutoring from the GED instructor, Dean Lake, John passed on his second attempt. John's persistence paid off!



In today's work environment, a GED is almost a necessity in order to obtain a job. With this in mind, Men and Women joining the Bible Program without a high school diploma are now required to be in the GED training classes.



Angel Feliciano, shown standing in the center next to the column, is actively involved in the lives of our Spanish speaking men. Recognizing this growing need PGM is expanding this ministry and has invited Angel to a full-time position.

Pacific Garden Mission Spanish Services

MR. ANGEL FELICIANO, a graduate of the PGM Bible Program, is bilingual and heads up the Spanish services at Pacific Garden Mission. Angel handles intake translations, homeless letters, classes, and services which are all centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Under his leadership the number of Spanish speaking men routinely involved has grown from less than a hand-full to near 30. Word has gotten out that Spanish speakers can be helped at the Pacific Garden Mission. The ministry has grown so much that we have asked Angel to join our staff full-time. PGM is pleased that Angel has accepted the offer and excited about this growing outreach. Your prayers are coveted for Angel and his work with the homeless Spanish speaking men coming to PGM.

Urban Outreach Ministries

IN FEBRUARY Pacific Garden Mission was invited to participate in a Moody Bible Institute event called Urban Outreach Ministries. The close relationship between Pacific Garden Mission and the Moody Bible Institute goes back to before either had its current name. Both have a strong drive for evangelism and Christ centered service to the community. In fact, it is said that D. L. Moody himself helped give Pacific Garden Mission its name.

Gerald Casey and Robert Galberth represented Pacific Garden Mission at the event. Both enjoyed meeting the students. Mr. Casey, the director of volunteers, was especially pleased because it offered him the chance to connect with students. He hopes to see many of these students volunteering or performing their PCM (Practical Christian Ministry) at Pacific Garden Mission in the next few years. Pacific Garden Mission is thankful for the Moody Bible Institute and the excellent Christian training it provides. In fact, Philip Kiatkowski, the Vice President of PGM is a Moody graduate.



Gerald Casey

Robert Galberth

A Word from Dave McCarrell

President, Pacific Garden Mission



The Strength of God's Word

IT SEEMS THAT the devil likes to attack us after times of great victory in our Christian lives. He uses several methods. He tempts us with thoughts and sights which will hinder our spiritual life. Or he will do his best to let our circumstances discourage us. I believe our strongest weapon against such attacks is God's Word. When we read Matthew 3:16-17 we see an example of great spiritual victory in the Baptism of Jesus. However, immediately after that we are told in Matthew 4:1 "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." When we read of the three temptations, we should be encouraged by the fact that Jesus used the Word of God to overcome these temptations. I believe that He didn't use His supernatural powers as the Son of God because he wanted you and me to see the adequacy of God's Word in thwarting the devil.

God's Word is our strongest weapon when we are tempted or discouraged by the devil. Jesus also knew that in the years to come, the Word of God would be our only resource, we wouldn't be able to perform miracles, but we would have the Word of God at our fingertips. God's Word has a positive answer for all our negative thoughts.

- We say, "It's impossible." God's Word says, "...The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).
- We say, "I'm tired." God's Word says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
- We say, "Nobody loves me." God's Word says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
- We say, "I can't figure things out." God's Word says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own

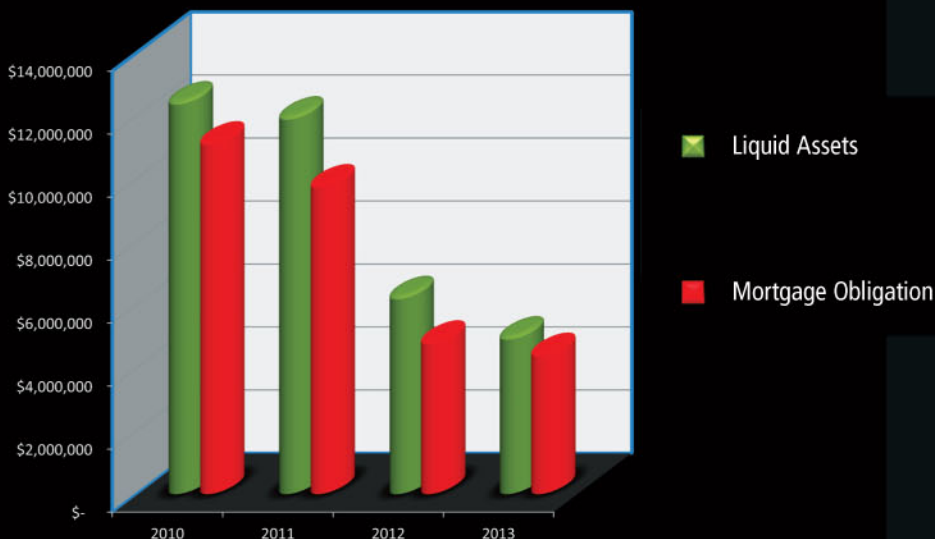
understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

- We say, "I can't go on." God's Word says, "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- We say, "I can't do it." God's Word says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).
- We say, "I can't forgive myself." God's Word says, God forgives you. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- We say, "I'm afraid." God's Word says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).
- We say, "I am worried and frustrated." God's Word says, "Casting all your care upon Him: for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).
- We say, "I don't have enough faith." God's Word says, "...God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).
- We say, "I'm all alone." God's Word says, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

When the devil tempts us or attempts to discourage us, may we apply these wonderful promises from God's Word to help us live victorious lives.

AN IMPORTANT PRAYER REQUEST:

Please join us in praying for our president Dr. David McCarrell who is suffering through health difficulties. These began when he experienced complications after knee replacement surgery done in June of last year. Thank you.



FINANCIAL UPDATE: As you can see, the amount of money to cover the cost of our current mortgage consumes most of the available money for ministry. It is necessary that we keep our asset base strong to adequately fund the needs of the homeless we serve. Please pray that God will bless our cash flow so that we can continue to pay these ever increasing monthly obligations. Your faithfulness in the past encourages us as we rely on your generosity to keep PGM's ministry ever fruitful in the Lord's service.

FEBRUARY 2013 NUMBERS

- 905** Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services.
- 695** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 102** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 63,785** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 33,515** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 400** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 123** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,762** Radio stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!" in English, Spanish, Arabic, Romanian, Russian, Polish, Japanese, Farsi, Albanian, and Korean.

Pacific Garden Mission makes no charge for care. Food, clothing, overnight accommodations, and medical treatment are totally free. Financial gifts from faithful supporters—and their prayers—keep this ministry alive. PGM receives no city, state, or federal aid.

Areas of ministry include the Mission for Men, Women's and Children's Division, Medical/Dental Clinic, "Unshackled!" radio, Bread of Life outreach, Polish evangelism, and PGM Men's Choir.

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