

**PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**  
**A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE**  
**SINCE 1877**

# Safely Through the Storm

**T**WENTY-SIX YEAR OLD Carolyn, holding her one year old son Nathaniel, walked through the doors of the Old Lighthouse on January 26, a Sunday, during what Chicagoan's called the beginning of the Second Great Storm of Chicago 2014. A staggering -17 degrees on Monday, with a -50 degree wind chill factor, settled into the Chicago area. While Chicago was again adjusting to such weather, the overnight Women's Division at PGM struggled: how would we find shelter for so many women crossing our doorway, as well as try to meet the needs of each individual? We were given occasion to praise our living Savior, for although blankets were strewn about on hard floors though-out the women's sector, not one was turned away. Carolyn, holding her son Nathaniel, both cold and

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**April 2014**

# PGM News



Carolyn and Nathaniel are safe and warm, sheltered from the harsh winter inside the Women and Children's Division of the PGM facilities.



nowhere to go, entered the doors of PGM and found physical warmth, warm food, and a couple of understanding hearts to speak with.

The women attending to Carolyn listened to her story, which began with her difficult upbringing. She shared how she so wants the chain of pain to end. Carolyn and Nathaniel arrived at PGM upon fleeing an abusive situation. She spoke of her hopes, how she desires to earn her GED and move forward with her life. With tears forming, Carolyn shared her heart: “I don’t know where I would be if not here now at PGM; I was so scared.”

It is situations like Carolyn and her son Nathaniel’s that cause us here at the Old Lighthouse to drift back through time to its beginning, back to 1877, when Colonel George Clarke and wife Sarah shared a vision: present the Gospel message to all hurting and in need, as well as provide for those things needful to the body.

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*“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me”*  
—Matthew 25:35, 36

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Changes have occurred over the myriad of years: leaderships have passed the light to others, “Unshackled!” was birthed in 1950, Bible programs for both men and women have developed over the years, and in the past few years a new facility was built to accommodate the growing numbers of those in need. We rejoice, knowing that The Old Lighthouse is unique: it has never strayed in its doctrine over its 136 years of existence. So many winds of doctrine have arisen over these many years throughout America; yet the Old Lighthouse has stood it ground, shining forth the Gospel message of a living Savior, Who, bearing the sins of the world, was crucified and Who, resurrected, is seated at the right hand



of our heavenly Father. It is not a coincidence, thus, that in these trying times, so many come to PGM, for all who enter are presented with the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ.

Understood also is that for some several months now, the Old Lighthouse has been struggling to meet the overwhelming numbers walking through our doors. In fact, this winter has brought a single night’s record number of 1,139 men, woman, and children under our roof. The women’s overnight guest numbers, in particular, have grown dramatically over the last eighteen months, far exceeding the







*Pictured here are just a few of the many women and children who sought shelter at PGM in the last few months. (Top l. to r.)—Zulieka and daughter Kailany, Yolanda Trammel, (bottom l. to r.)— Michelle Chatman, Monique McBride.*

while Adrienne Crabtree counseled her and invited her to join the Woman's Bible Program, which Yolanda in short time did do. Yolanda, who has suffered with emotional stress, said recently, while sitting and waiting for a PGM driver to take her to Crawford Church on a Sunday afternoon, "Jesus is a heart fixer and a mind regulator."

number of beds. Our physical space is limited. However, with the creative work of our architect, two vendors, the leadership of volunteer Chance Litwiler, the labor of PGM staff and program men, and an investment of over \$30,000, the number of beds available in the main women's dorm has been increased by 50%, due in part to our structuring double bunk beds into triple bunk beds.

It is through such innovations that we were able to meet the needs of Yolanda, who, released from a Chicago hospital on February 5, was dropped off at PGM by a social service worker. Women's Division worker Gvantse Gogoladee immediately provided her with a coat, boots, and gloves,

It is personal experiences like the two shared above that we see most every day of the year here at the mission that give us reason to humble ourselves and glorify our Lord. It was Jesus' message that was rejected by the elite some two thousand years ago and continues to be rejected by so many; yet it was then, some two thousand years ago, that Jesus searched the byways and called to the poor and hurting to come to His dinner table. The vision here at the Old Lighthouse is to keep the light bright and be always vigilant.

We thank you for being joint members of the Old Lighthouse to reach out to the seemingly growing numbers of poor in our society, the ever-growing afflicted in these days of political, economic, and social unrest. It is difficult to describe the abject fear that one experiencing homelessness confronts; however, those who cross the threshold of the Old Lighthouse can be certain of one surety—each will hear the name Jesus within minutes. We do ask for especial support as we strive to meet the growing numbers in the women's division. As shared above, for now we are building triple bunk beds. It is through your prayers and support that the Old Lighthouse is kept burning brightly and is able to fulfill the greatest of all work started by Jesus Christ, Whom we shall meet in the clouds one day with such wonderment and a shout of praise. Even in the midst of difficulty, we are ever thankful and filled with praise!







*Chance Litwiller (center), directing his team as they assemble triple bunk beds in the Women's dormitory.*



**NRB  
2014**



**NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS (NRB)**, begun in 1944, held its annual convention this past February in Nashville, TN. Members of PGM's "Unshackled!" team, under the leadership of their director, Flossie McNeill, attended. A fact known, perhaps, to many of our supporters is that PGM's "Unshackled!" is the longest running radio broadcast in American history. At the convention, there were more than 6000 in attendance from at least 100 countries. The Albanian "Unshackled!" team received an International Radio Award for excellence. Also, key personnel from the Polish, Russian, Romanian, Turkish, Greek, and Macedonian teams visited the PGM team at our booth. A myriad of listeners stopped by to say how they love "Unshackled!" for the eternal impact it has made in their lives and other family members' lives over the span of generations. Comments came from the young and older listeners. Please pray for the continued success, and protection, of this vital ministry.

## **Letters from "Unshackled!" Listeners**

"I am writing you because me and a lot of the other men here [penitentiary in Texas] listen to your radio program called 'Unshackled!' We all like to hear the true stories of the reenactments of people's lives that have been changed. Thank you for having the "Unshackled!" series playing on the radio."

—Sergio

"I have been listening to the 'Unshackled!' series for about two years. I am so inspired by the stories that are shared. I want to do my part in helping others to know JESUS CHRIST (THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD) and to better their lives. I am reaching out and would like to be contacted with ways that I can PHYSICALLY volunteer. I believe GOD is leading me in this."

—Kim





## ***A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski***

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

# **A RADICAL FAITH A RADICAL BLESSING**

I WANT TO THANK OUR DONORS for your response to the needs of this faith-based ministry. A question that is often asked is, Where do you get your support from? I want to share a true story from the mission's history: "The day came when there was not enough money in view to pay the rent. It was necessary to meet the obligation

promptly. Colonel and Mrs. Clarke prayed all night long for the Lord to send them rent money, so the bill could be met on time the following night. Demands for mission lodgings had increased, and the reclamation of sinners showed constant advance. They could not tolerate the idea of shutting the mission for a single night. Though never discouraged, the question why God should permit them to come to such financial stringency when the work was being carried forward so faithfully crept into their hearts. Finally they determined not to question divine wisdom, but merely to pray and trust. The next morning God sent manna from heaven in nineteenth century terms. The entire front yard of the Clarkes' Morgan Park home was covered with mushrooms of the best quality. The event was the more mysterious because the plants appeared in advance of the regular season. With thanksgiving the mushrooms were gathered and sold to the then already famous Palmer House. There was enough and to spare. The rent was paid and also other mission expenses met. In her booklet, 'God Is Love,' written thirty-five years later by Mother Clarke, she commented: 'No mushrooms were ever seen there before — nor any since'" (Henry, 1942, p. 32).

This story illustrates the heart of Pacific Garden Mission.

With our new building, the expenses are increased. With the expanding population, it takes more resources to feed, service, and care for those who come. With new programs to assist our residents, a greater financial obligation is required. We have never, nor will ever, take government help; we can say along with Abraham in Genesis 14:23, "That I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich." We do not hold fundraisers; we do not have a professional group of fundraisers that take a percentage of what they raise. We simply pray and let our needs be made known unto you, our supporters.

Pacific Garden Mission has never closed its doors in 136 years of ministry—a testimony to God's faithfulness. If we continue to do what God originally called us to do, He will provide as He always has. We are so thankful for you, our supporters, who see and understand our great need, a physical need, yes, but also a need that is ultimately spiritually measured—namely, in souls saved. So continue to pray with us during these difficult days that God would continue to provide our needs to a hurting world.

Henry, C. F. H. (1942). *The Pacific Garden Mission: A doorway to heaven*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.



## Farewell to our co-worker and friend

**DOROTHY KUSECK** went to be with the Lord this past February. She was ninety-six year old. Dorothy worked at Pacific Garden Mission for nearly thirty years, serving primarily in our accounting department but also in "Unshackled!" where she assisted in keeping time during recordings until she was ninety-three. A strong, independent woman, she'll be remembered for her feisty and fun spirit. Known as "the dessert master," she loved dark chocolate and teasing her friends. She was such a blessing to so many and will be sorely missed.



**John Brewster,**  
PGM CFO

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**—Thank you to the many who gave so generously in December making the addition of the beds to the women's area possible. Also, thank you to those who have been giving to the clinic dental effort. PGM will be purchasing a few key dental items soon and hopes to have them installed by May. The next big infrastructural project will be to add triple bunking in one of the men's dorms. Currently, more than 100 men are sleeping on the floor every night; consequently, an investment of \$40,000 is being considered for the addition of a third row of bunks to one of the men's dorms and nearly 80 beds. Please continue to pray for PGM; pray that we would have God's wisdom as the ministry struggles to serve increasing numbers of homeless.

## FEBRUARY 2014 NUMBERS

- 1051** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 121** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 69,124** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 54,281** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 214** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 82** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 3,029** Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish)

**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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