



A car. I remember my father giving me a car to get to college and back again. This old car then took me there and back again through my internship after college. Then, this same old car took me to my first interview and back again to my parent's home, where I lived while waiting for that phone call from an employer who did, in time, call and offer me a job. That was a time of celebration, brought about by the help of my parents. I do wonder—what if I had not been given such help by my parents? I realize how blessed I was.

And now, living and working here at PGM, I see so many who were not so blessed as I was. The fact is, few here at PGM had such a blessed upbringing. I daily see those whose childhoods were not blessed but rather saw poverty, streets filled with drug dealers, streets unsafe and not shielded from even the innocence

of childhood. Truth is, the daily misery that passes through our doors is at times overwhelming. Yet, it is in these times that I can only look upwards and pray, "Lord Jesus, give me the strength, the means, to help those who are now before me, for they are Your children and are in so much need, a need that neither I nor PGM, the Old Lighthouse, can adequately meet. Help me, Jesus, today, to make a difference in just *one* lost, hurting soul whose mind is reeling in agony."

It is difficult to share what being homeless really is like. Most view being homeless as just that, one who no longer has a home to go to after work. I know what being homeless really means—it means looking at the weather and asking, is it cold today, is it stormy thunderstorms, is it sweltering heat today? When the temperature is 17 degrees, the homeless person looks out from a shelter through a window and sees that just a few feet away beyond that window is certain death. It is that real, that tangible.

**Article continues
on page 2**

**PACIFIC
GARDEN MISSION**

PGMNews

**TRANSFORMING LIVES
SINCE 1877**

April 2015



**WHO OFFERS THE KEY TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS
OF HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION?**

If not for PGM, where would so many be? Article by DEAN LAKE

PGM's "New Day" Addiction Program. Article continued from page 1

The mind reels in every direction at this realization, yet somehow he/she must hold together and remain calm. Oh, they say, homeless people suffer from mental illness. Anyone looking out through such a window into a vacant, icy street will suffer mental, extreme anguish. I look out through that window, too. I am then adamant in my belief in Jesus Christ: I believe in redemption, I believe in Jesus' words—"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 9-10). I believe in all my heart His words, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). In short, I believe in Jesus, that trust in Him can overcome any obstacle, even the constraints of homelessness. I sometimes think there really are trains of glory that flow behind those who really have rested their hearts in our Savior Jesus Christ one day to actually be seen in Heaven. But we, you and I, we await that greater glory and the imminent return of Him Whom we have rested all of our being to. I share with you three individuals who, like me, have a wondrous story to tell of Jesus' wondrous redemptive work. They share also the question, If not for PGM, if not for being told about Jesus, where would I be?



Caroline Estes is motivated to use her new-found freedom from addiction to launch into a career in counseling.

Women's Bible Program resident Caroline Estes had grown weary of the life she was living. "I had done some time in jail and knew I needed to move in a new direction in my life. I had heard about PGM by word of mouth and just got on a bus and came here." I asked Caroline where she would be if not for PGM, and she said, "I would probably be six feet under because I was into serious drug addiction—crack cocaine and heroin. I was addicted for twenty years. My addiction took me in and out of jails and prisons. During this time, I was so lonely. Before drugs took control of my life, I had been enrolled at Illinois Medical and then Northwestern University. Since joining the Women's Bible Program, my life has turned completely: I am singing in the choir, studying His Word, and helping others as I am able. Now, I want to return to college and study to become a substance abuse counselor. The Lord has been so good to me."

Steve Delano joined our New Day program to overcome his addictions and draw close to the Lord. "I had been clean for some time, yet when my anxiety and panic attacks returned, I began taking prescription medications, as well as drinking again. Four years ago, I was mugged. A group hit me several times in the back of my head with a baseball bat. It was shortly after this incident that I began having panic attacks. The two months leading up to my coming here [PGM] nearly killed me—I was taking a lot of psychoactive drugs and drinking. I was raised in a very Christian home and knew that what I really needed was Jesus in my life. I strayed from Him when I was eighteen. I knew about PGM because I used to listen to "Unshackled!"

growing up. Now, here at PGM,





“Fear not, little flock; for it is your to give you the kingdom” (Luke

I am learning how to walk with the Lord again. I am trusting in Him to help with my anxiety.” When asked about his hopes for the future, Steve said, “Besides getting my life and my mind together and continuing to grow in my Christian life, I want to go back to school to study psychology so I can help others. I studied at Purdue University when I was young. I am forty now. Strange, but since those days, days when I had a great outlook, I’ve gone through fifteen years of off and on drug use and was in a few rehabs, yet now I am trusting in Him. I am learning to trust again, to trust in Him.”

Hope Appleton had been literally living on the streets of Chicago for thirteen years prior to coming to PGM and joining the Women’s Bible Program. “I was living in abandoned buildings and eating out of garbage cans. I would wait outside restaurants when they closed and wait for them to throw out the day’s food. I felt like I didn’t matter from childhood on up. My addictions—the drinking, the drugs, and everything—controlled my life. I ended up in the hospital a year and a half ago, and I was then taken here [PGM]. After five months as an overnigher, I joined the Bible program. I just was not ready to join the program till then. The church services broke me down: I felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit. I finally gave my life and heart to the Lord. I prayed to the Lord, ‘Lord, please do for me what I cannot do for myself.’ Now, I am surrounded by positive people, and I stay in the Word every chance I get. And Pastor Bower’s morning class has really helped me learn about God through the Bible: I learned about sin yet that I’m

now free through Jesus Christ.” When asked about her future, Hope said, “When I look to the future, I want to help others and lead others to Christ. I pray these days and trust the Lord. I know that if God can change me—me—He can change anyone. God is so merciful, so beautiful.”

Of course, you cannot be a parent to a homeless person and understandably cannot take a homeless person into your home. Still, we, you and I, can give, give maybe an old car or give just what we are financially able as our Lord Jesus enables us. Giving in any means is an offering unto our Lord and makes such a difference, really it does. Yes, I do pray, I do pray that gifts are given to help those who are in great need, even as I needed help in my time of need, both when I needed my parents’ help and later when I needed PGM to offer help in my, perhaps, greatest time of need.

Oh, what a difference we, you and I, can make in the lives of so many for the eternal glory of our risen Savior Jesus Christ. Heaven awaits us believers. The masses these days, they draw into long lines to order that latte, ordered to perfection. We, though, are not of this world and shall rejoice then in that Day, and what tears of joy we shall shed that glorious Day as we stand before Him, Jesus, our glorious Savior. Maybe we will close our eyes and only hear His words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21).



Through PGM Hope Appleton now knows she has eternal value. Jesus’ love radiates from her peaceful

Steve Delano is excited to get back out and pursue a career of service to others.

Father's good pleasure 12:32).

MELISSA LAMMONS prepared for her GED in 2012 through PGM's GED classes which are offered to men and women on the Bible programs. She passed and earned her GED and with that in hand was accepted into Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Chicago. Melissa has recently earned her Certificate in Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts and is now sharing her gift as a chef here in Chicago. She says, "Without my GED, I would not have gotten into college. My life is so wonderful now as I am employed and sharing Jesus with everyone I meet. I am so happy and sometimes just shout out, Thank you, Jesus!"



PGM BIBLE PROGRAM JANUARY GRADUATES — A VERY PROMISING CLASS!

Front right-left: Hope Appleton, Debora Bibar, Mary Byrd.

Back right to left: Anthony Joshnson, Alexander Spencer, James Taylor, James Foster, William Waldron, Darrell Ferguson, Bruce Coleman, Telly Hudson, Marc Gonzalez



Darrell Ferguson

"Sin wanted to express itself through me, but thanks to Jesus Christ and the help I received here at PGM, I have overcome my addictions."



James Taylor

"Over a year ago, I came to PGM and got saved. I praise God for getting me this far. I spent half my life in prison. At my lowest point, I turned to God, and He took me and stopped the hurting."



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

PGM's "NEW DAY" Addiction Program

ONE BY ONE they walk through our doors, the numbers, though, so great that some would consider PGM a small town. Many are struggling with some form of addiction. We have just opened a New Day addiction program to meet these needs, and the results are amazing. Many are open to join-

ing because they want to address the addictions in their lives. Seeing men and women who came here with an addiction sitting in our Gospel service listening to the proclamation of the Word is an answer to some family members' prayers somewhere. The Bible is clear that a person can change and be given hope. Romans 6 uses three key words to remember for living a victorious life—*know*, *reckon*, and *yield*.

KNOW is found in Romans 6:3,6,9. Before we are told what to do, we are told what to believe. Knowing that one can be free is an important first step in being free. Many of our residents have been told in secular rehabs that "once an addict, always an addict." This worldly philosophy contradicts Scripture: 2 Cor 5:17 states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." If I believe that I will always be an addict, why

try? God wants us to know that we can be free. Consider John 8:36: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." The word **RECKON** in Romans 6:11 means *consider this to be true*. Faith plays a part in it, for I have to not only know what God's Word says, but also believe it. The final word **YIELD** is found in Romans 6:13. This thought is mirrored in Eph. 4:22-24, as we read that not only must we put off the old man, but also put on the new man. We should be active, busy Christians for God, not idle and sitting still with no purpose. There is so much God has called us to do. People need to know that there is hope.

This past Saturday evening, as I was sitting on the stage during our Gospel service, I was amazed at the number of men in our addiction program. I was thinking, where would these individuals be if not for PGM? Some would be in secular treatment while others would have remained overnight guests never addressing their issue, but here they are dealing with their issues in a Biblical way. I want you to hear from them. I spoke with two individuals who have joined our New Day program. Perry said to me, "I was lost with nowhere to go and had twenty-five years of drug addic-

continued on page 6



Photo by
Seth Anderson

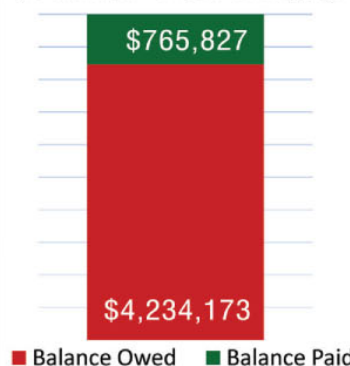
tion. So I joined the New Day program, and it's helping me to get my life on track." Dana said to me, "Before joining the New Day program, my life was a mess. I was addicted to alcohol for twenty-five years. I had no hope and no chance for a better life. The program has given me a second chance at life."

I am so excited about this program and do covet your prayers and your continued support. Pacific Garden Mission is just that, a mission, a missionary outreach reaching the lost in Chicago and any who would travel here to find shelter and hope through our risen Savior Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the support of the Edward A. & Evelyn M. Dik Family Foundation. PGM's ability to continue providing comprehensive support services for homeless men, women, and families—including shelter, meals, clothing, medical care, educational/GED opportunities, and assistance in obtaining employment and permanent housing—was financially assisted by the Edward A. and Evelyn M. Dik Family Foundation. *The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Edward A. and Evelyn M. Dik Family Foundation.*

IN THE NOTICE ABOVE, PGM has acknowledged financial support from a socially conscious foundation. As many of you know, PGM does not pursue government funding because it often comes with "strings" that can hinder our right to share the Gospel. However, many wonderful foundations are simply looking for organizations that are truly making a difference and require nothing more than a verification that the moneys were used for the requested purposes. If your company has a foundation, or you know of one, you might look into their policies and see if Pacific Garden Mission is a fit for their strategies. If so, please let us know.

\$5 Million—PGM Mortgage



Please help PGM erase its financial debt.

FEBRUARY 2015 NUMBERS

- 995** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 117** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 41,740** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 55,274** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 241** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 149** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,902** Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish)

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION does not 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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