

PGM News

PACIFIC GARDEN
MISSION
TRANSFORMING
LIVES SINCE 1877

AUGUST 2015



Perry Booker's experienced the life-changing power of Jesus Christ at PGM's New Day Program

Article by DEAN LAKE • Photography by STEPHEN WELCH

TODAY, TODAY AN ALL-DAY RAIN settled in early this morning throughout Chicago, a strong, incessant rain that settled so much so that water gathered along the streets and over-poured onto and over

the adjacent sidewalks. Thunder occasionally broke through the spattering sounds outside. As usual, I found myself teaching my 12:00 pm GED class to a

Article continues on page 2

PGM'S NEW DAY PROGRAM *A Shelter From the Storm*



"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).



Left: Dean Lake tutor David Cintron in a PGM classroom



Right: Photo by Stephen Welch of PGM's Cross during the rain storm which inspired this article.

Shelter From the Rain—continued from page 1

few fragile men and women of all age groups here at the mission. Yet, while teaching, today mathematical proportions, I kept pacing, as I spoke, towards the windows of which the entire west side of the classroom is covered. The rain pounded down outside. I found it difficult to teach this day because I found myself wanting to just stop and say, "Hey, we could all be out there in that rain, walking with no place to go and no place to find shelter." Yet, I continued my teaching, difficult as it was this day. Strange, though, was that I sensed that they, too, my students, also looked out the window and wondered just as I was wondering. Thankfully, we were sheltered from the rain and found comfort as we together tackled through ratios drawn into mathematical proportions. We together settled our hearts and souls into God's mystery of numbers and quiescent formulas, and somehow, under the roof of Pacific Garden Mission, we found a sense of peace and smiled at each other and thanked each other at the end of the hour. And we all gave thanks to Jesus, our Savior.

The class ended, I spent the next five hours privately tutoring a differ-

ent student every half hour, after which I taught a second class at 5:30 pm (after a student has gone through my general GED prep class, he/she then meets with me individually to prepare for the actual GED test). The rain, though, this day, just kept pounding down and drawing my eyes through the window because...because I knew that throughout this city there were a myriad of individuals, real men and women—and even children—placing newspapers under their shirts to keep warm and covering their heads with what plastic they could find. And so, this day, I just could not draw my eyes away from my window. This day was, well, significant in my life.

This past February, we here at PGM chose to ask ourselves a serious, a significant, question: How do we, as Christians, really address the core distress of homelessness? The answer was simple: we chose to deal with the core of the problem facing so many who become homeless. Thus, we created a program adjacent to our Bible program, a program to meet the need of addiction. That new program is called,

Looking out a classroom window onto the courtyard.



Kyra Martin posing with friends and family in the PGM cafeteria

understandably, New Day, for those who enter do, indeed, witness a new day opening in their lives. It was indeed never PGM's intention from its inception to simply warehouse people and enable them to continue in their folly.

I want you to meet three individuals who have witnessed their lives transformed through our New Day Program. You will see similarities yet also a certain core in their stories, a core shared among each—namely, the life-changing power of a life affected by our risen Savior Jesus Christ, for He is at the core of our New Day program, a Bible-based program unlike any secular program in the world. And while the secular world offers monthly programs that cost in upwards of \$30,000 per month, PGM's program is free, even as was our Savior's fee while He ministered to the poor and needy during His lifetime.

Fifty-two year old Perry Booker (see photo on page one) was very candid with me: "I have a family, yet my life of drugs led to my wife and me breaking up. Drugs always came first for so long. I used to go to church, and back then life was good. But then one day I left God and things changed. I know I left Him but that He never left me. The point came when I worked just to get high; at that point of realization, I broke down and just cried. I went to a police station, and they brought me here to PGM. Since being here on the New Day Program, my wife and I are talking again, and I am reuniting with my four children. You know, it is simple—put God first and stay in His Word. Just doing this daily is keeping my life in place."

Kyra Martin for the past several years had been struggling with drug addiction, which, combined with bad relationship choices, led her down a difficult path. "I tried so hard to straighten my life out, and at one point I was even able to enroll in college. Last year, though, I found myself entering a rehab program, but even there, I just wasn't able to get down to the issues in my life. From there, my problem worsened, yet instead of choosing death, I sought help, at which point a pastor and his wife brought me here to PGM. I am so grateful I am here on the new program: they are testing me, and I am find-



Above: Michael Dunn of PGM Security encouraged Richard at a critical moment.



ing out what is wrong with me, why I have anger and anxiety problems that drove me to drug and alcohol use. I am learning coping skills, yet being a Christian-based program, I am leaning on God and know I cannot make it without Him. I am reading the Bible and feeling good about myself now."

Fifty-three year old Richard White told me his story. "Over the last seven years, I have been homeless. There has been a lot of confusion in my life—I have been in and out of prisons and struggling with drug addiction and unemployment. I ended up as an overnight guest here at the mission and was introduced to the new drug program here. Mr. Dunn [a long-time security staff member of PGM] said to me, 'Don't you think it's time to look at some other avenues?' So, I decided to try this new program here. The New Day program's daily classes have helped me identify and deal with character traits that are involved in my addiction. I also know now how much I need God in my life and what His Son did for me, that without Jesus I am lost. I have hope now, hope to stay connected with God, find a job—you know, face life on life's terms. I am talking with my family and am part of my two boys' lives again."

It is late at night now as I reflect back on this day, yet I am looking up even now at another series of windows before me at the far end of the dorm here at PGM where I now so seek sleep. It is yet raining hard, the raindrops under the orange light outside settling on the windows and quickly dripping down. I know sleep will come slowly tonight because my



Richard White—drug free with the hope of a clean life committed to serving Jesus.

thoughts are still wandering, wandering and knowing that there are so very many who are even now out there in the streets with no place to lay their heads. I am nearly

crippled with such thoughts. O, Jesus, there is hope: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). There is, I truly believe in my heart, yet so much hope. Please come alongside us here at this simple rescue mission that simply believes in hope through Jesus Christ. The world’s hope is too often a false hope, for there is only one true Savior in Whom we all rest all of our hope, and His name is Jesus. Remember us in your giving this month as we reach out to those whose hope is fading. And thank you for your steadfast love, which, as you have read, has given a new day to those here in our New Day pro-

gram. And do share this newsletter with others, as Jesus enables you, that we all might fulfill the Great Commission and that we might all know the wondrous love of Jesus—“and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:20). A final thought enters my mind. Today, as I shared, I taught my students about mathematical proportions, and this night I realize this: an inverse proportion is occurring in the world—namely, as darkness of evil covers the earth, the light of Jesus is able to shine and be seen and witnessed to so much more brightly. There is so much hope, always, always there is so much hope through Jesus.



Dayspring Bible College & Seminary Retreat

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of staff member Pastor Percy Edmonds, a number of our New Life Program members were privileged to enjoy a week’s retreat at Dayspring Bible College & Seminary, where they studied God’s Word while also enjoying many outdoor activities amidst the beautiful, woodsy campus. We were so fortunate to have access to this campus so that many of our residents could experience an atmosphere quite

apart from the troubles inherent in inner city life. We are thankful to you, you who support us, for providing the means for us to send so many on the retreat. We hope that perhaps one day we may find a patch of land outside the city to allow us to provide such a wonderful experience to all who are in our New Day and New Life programs. Those returning from the retreat feel refreshed and renewed.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

From Broken to Whole

THE STORY IN LUKE 17:11-19 about the ten lepers reminds me of what our, PGM's, vision is—namely, to create fully-functioning followers of Jesus Christ. In these Scriptures, we learn about ten men that suffered from an incurable disease who went to Jesus for help in their despair. When they fell before Him, He told them what to do, and along the way each was healed. Nonetheless, only one turned back to give Jesus thanks, to which He replied, "And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where

are the nine?" (Luke 17:17). Ten received what they came for, but nine went their way and only one came back, to which Jesus said, "And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole" (Luke 17:19). Think about that—ten were cleansed but only one was made whole. It is our hope to see people made whole here at Pacific Garden Mission, even as did our Savior during His ministry some two thousand years ago.

As I sat with a woman from our New Day program recently, she told me that she has completed her 90 day recovery program and was so excited at the progress. She came here with an addiction and was, in her words, a complete mess. I saw one of her sons visiting her, and she mentioned how excited she was to be reconciled with her family; in short, I saw the joy in her face. I asked her what the next step was for her, and she said that she was going to join our women's New Life discipleship program. She was so happy to be here. I left thinking—that is what it is all about, not just seeing individuals cleansed, but made whole. Our New Day Program has given us a new opportunity to reach out to a new and struggling group of people—namely, those suffering from addiction. Seeing the real changes in those whom I speak with daily in our New Day Program, I am more than ever

convinced of the power of the God we serve and that the Bible has the answer: God has the power to overthrow the darkness in the souls of any who turn to Him. Thanks to you, who are also true believers of Jesus and His Word, now we have this opportunity to see many people made whole. Our New Day Program, which we began this past February through much prayer and your continued support, is reaping a wondrous harvest: we are witnesses to people walking through our doors broken, alone, and downcast because of what has become of their lives and then seeing them walk out whole, reconciled, and rejoicing in their faith. Please do continue to pray for us as we desire and continue to see people, not just cleansed, but also made whole through the life-changing power of our risen Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom all our hope is rested and assured in.

PACIFIC **GARDEN** **MISSION** Transforming lives since 1877

PURPOSE

To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

We serve with the compassion of Christ
and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel.

VISION

We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life,
so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ.

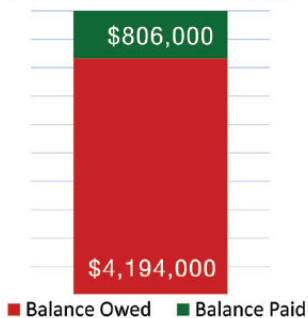
CORE VALUES

Faith • The Word • Truth • Love

*Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
— Psalm 119:140*

FINANCIAL UPDATE: June 30th was the end of the mission's fiscal year. It was an exciting year with some program additions which are making significant differences in the lives of the men and women. However, it has also been a year of increasing expenses, many outside of the mission's control. For example, the city of Chicago no longer supplies water free to nonprofit organizations. So during this last fiscal year PGM began to receive monthly invoices averaging approximately \$20,000 per month for water. Another change is a new minimum wage law increasing the minimum hourly wage to \$10, up from \$8.25. These examples drive us to our knees producing thankfulness to God for continuing, decade upon decade, to sustain the mission financially. Additionally, PGM thanks *you* for being the means through which God is meeting the ministry's needs. Please pray for us as we strive to be good stewards of all God provides PGM for the work of transforming lives.

\$5 Million—PGM Mortgage



Any designated contribution to help PGM erase its mortgage debt would substantially help our ministry.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS {June Numbers}



Nights of safe Lodging

820 • Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.

Bible Study Program

99 • Number of men and women enrolled in our Bible Study Program and provided room and board.



Meals for the Hungry

53,997 • Approximate number of plates of food served.

Clothing Distributed

59,592 • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



Medical/Dental Aid

250 • Number of patients professionally treated in our free Medical/Dental Clinic

Professions of Faith

305 • Number of persons who heard the Gospel at PGM and committed their lives to Christ



Unshackled! Radio

3,078 • Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish).

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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, PGM Choir, and "New Day" Addiction Program.

PGM, producer of "Unshackled!", is a member of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB).

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THANK YOU!

Please make a special note to visit us online at www.pgm.org. Please help us share the Mission. Tell your family and friends to contact PGM to receive this monthly newsletter and join with you in the support of this ministry.