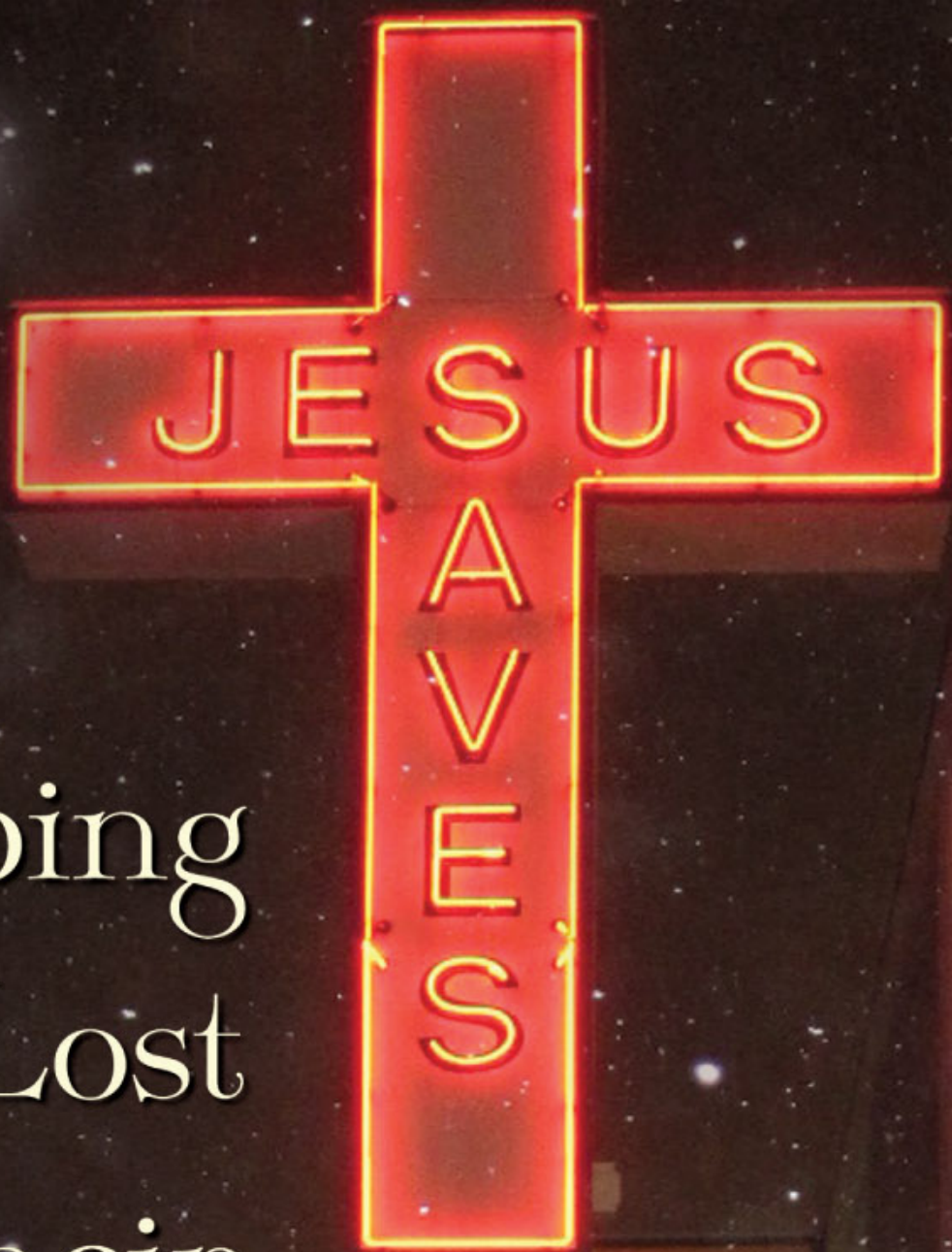


PGMNews

December 2014

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

Helping the Lost Find Their Way Home



CHRIST
DIED
FOR
OUR SINS



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

CHRISTMAS IS HERE. As Christians, our purpose in life is to both live and share the most glorious life-changing Gospel message. And you, our donors, our supporters, our prayer warriors, have so blessed the work being done here at the Old Lighthouse, which has, as you know, been spreading the joy of Jesus to untold hundreds of thousands, even millions through its outreach radio broadcast “Unshackled!” since its inception in 1877. We celebrate now the birth of the One who gave His all, His very life, for the salvation of the world. So, yes, we rejoice this Christmas season and especially wish to thank you for your continued support, without which those most in need would simply be forlorn. Presents are strewn about under well-lit evergreen trees all over America. Here at PGM, though, we hope to give warm socks, warm coats, warm meals, and the warmth of the Gospel message, which is more than sufficient to transform lives for eternity. The following individuals, whose lives have been transformed here at the Old Lighthouse, are a true testimony to the life-changing wonders of a life devoted to Jesus Christ.



BRUCE COLEMAN in PGM kitchen making soup for the lunch meal.

Fifty-eight year old Bible program resident **Bruce Coleman** shared his story. “I grew up in a Christian home under my mother; I didn’t have a father. I got married at eighteen, but I got caught up in drinking and drugs; in fact, by the time I reached the age of twenty-three, I was doing cocaine and heroin. For thirty years I have wrestled with



APRIL SMITH April Smith working the information desk in the Women’s Division

chemical dependency. You know, I had been to churches off and on all my life, but until I came here [PGM], I had never really heard the real Gospel, that Jesus died for my sins and was resurrected, that I needed to be born again and receive Him into my heart. When I came here, I was asked, ‘Are you saved?’ And I said, ‘Hey, I’m a good guy; I try to do good things.’ The man broke down the whole Gospel message, and I received Jesus into my heart and knew then I was going to heaven. I feel so blessed, and I have been drug and alcohol free for over a year now. I will graduate the Bible program this January. I’m a chef and am working part-time at a manor home while also cooking here at the mission.” Bruce shared his favorite Bible verse—Galatians 2:20.

I spoke with **April Smith**, a graduate of the Women's Bible Program. She said to me, "I had a perfectly wonderful yet boring life prior to coming to PGM. I was a suburban housewife. I had belonged to works-churches, where I always felt I needed to do more, always be more, to earn my way into heaven. But Jesus' last words on the cross were, 'It is finished.' God turned my life upside down so that by His grace I ended up here [PGM]." April shared why she came to PGM: "I trusted someone I should not have trusted; the situation became volatile, and I left everything—my job, my house—to protect myself and my family. I had to escape a very dangerous situation. Pacific Garden Mission became a sanctuary for me, a safe haven, a place where I have received the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the teachings I have received here, it was like a veil was taken away, and I saw that I was not going to heaven. Now I know what salvation really is. I am so blessed." April plans to return to college and focus on Biblical studies. She enjoys teaching Bible classes here for the ladies. A special Scripture verse of hers is Jeremiah 29:11.

Twenty-nine year old **David Mead** shared with me his life, his testimony. "I was saved at the age of six. My parents were both missionaries. When I was eight, though, my parents divorced: I went to live with my father, my younger sister with my mother. My father, well, he was verbally and physically abusive. At the age of eighteen, I was tired of the abuse, even though I tried to be obedient to God, going to church four times a week. I left home and was tired of God. I started doing drugs—ultimately, cocaine and then crystal meth. I married and went to church, sometimes high on drugs. Eventually, I was selling drugs, even though I now had a child, a daughter. Six

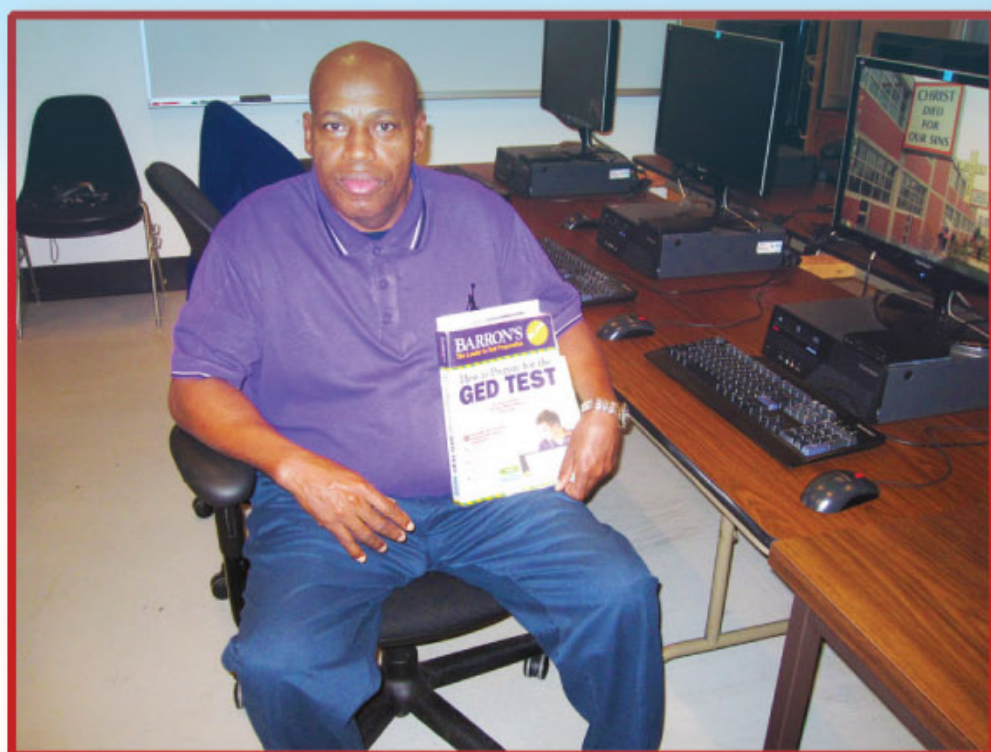
months ago, my wife left me. At that point, I no longer cared; I became self destructive. On a Friday afternoon at work, I just lifted my head up to God and asked Him to help me. I called my aunt that day. She talked to my grandparents, who had been praying for me through all my rebellion, and then told me about Pacific Garden Mission. From Utah, I came to PGM. I left everything, my home, my job, everything because I knew I needed help. I took a plane to Chicago, walked through the doors of PGM, and joined the Men's Bible program. Now, sometimes I feel I am in a dream, because I am so at peace; I feel so blessed. I am growing in the Lord, I am in the Lord, and I am in the prayer team we just started. It is an awesome peace to be in the will of God." David's favorite Bible verse, at this point in his life, is Philippians 4:13.

Fifty-four year old **Anthony Johnson** spoke with me. "My life was bound by drugs and alcohol. I took my first drink when I was ten years old. At thirteen in 1973, I smoked my first marijuana. From that day forward I continued. At nineteen years old, I was doing cocaine. In 1982, going on twenty-two [age], heroin was what my mind and body took hold to. I was on the streets by the age of fifteen. I was told it [drug use] was just about my thinking, but then I came to Pacific Garden Mission and was told it was deeper. PGM helped me to understand exactly what has been going on in my life. I realized I needed a relationship with Jesus, that He could really help me. Now, here, on the Bible program, I have worked to get my GED. I took the test and passed three out of the four tests; I missed passing the one by only one point. I will retake that test and get my GED." Anthony says that a special Bible verse that has been on his mind is Proverbs 22:10.

We so thank you, our donors, for you



DAVID MEAD at his desk in "Unshackled!" department



ANTHONY JOHNSON in computer lab/library at PGM

are not just hearers of the Word, but rather doers also (James 1:22). We need you to continue to come alongside us and share in our effort to share the Gospel message with those who are at a place in their lives where their hearts are so open to the Words of our living Savior Jesus Christ. Our intake Office B, which addresses the needs of all who come through our doors for the first time, addresses on average nearly 6,000 persons each year. So sad, yes.

Nonetheless, every one of these 6,000 is not only given a warm welcome, but is also given the Gospel message. We serve any who walk through our doors, giving food, shelter, clothing, and the peace of heart and mind which only Jesus can give. Here at PGM, we do not have cushioned seats—but we do have a large congregation of those who come through our doors and hear the true Gospel message which is sufficient to save souls. This is our mission, a mission of the Old Lighthouse since its beginning in 1877. Please also, as you finish reading this newsletter, consider, as the Lord leads you, passing it on to another—a friend, a coworker, an acquaintance.

“Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests”

(Matthew 22:8-10).



Christmas season at PGM is quite an active and exciting time. Everyone seems tuned-in to a sense of cheer and an attitude of giving: children opening presents from donors like you, to staff passing out gifts, to those we serve sharing a Christmas meal.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

Staying True to Our Calling

MANY CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS, and ministries lose their way when they forget what their main purpose is. There always seems to be a delicate balancing act between the spiritual calling and the social needs at hand. Many organizations in Chicago that at one time did a great work for God are no longer in existence because they forgot the true purpose of their existence. Jesus Himself did a lot of social good—He fed the hungry and healed the sick—but his main purpose is found in Matthew 18:11, “For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.” Recently,

the leaders and board of Pacific Garden Mission reaffirmed our purpose which reads as follows: “To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.”

This is the reason why we exist. The following illustration is a perfect story of what happens when organizations forget. “On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a little life-saving station. The building was primitive, and there was just one boat, but the members of the life-saving station were committed and kept a constant watch over the sea. When a ship went down, they unselfishly went out day or night to save the lost. Because so many lives were saved by that station, it became famous. Consequently, many people wanted to be associated with the station to give their time, talent, and money to support its important work. New boats were bought, new crews were recruited, a formal training session was offered. As the membership in the life-saving station grew, some of the members became unhappy that the building was so primitive and that the equipment was so outdated. They wanted a better place to welcome the survivors pulled from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots

with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged and newly decorated building.

“Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members. They met regularly, and when they did, it was apparent how they loved one another. They greeted each other, hugged each other, and shared with one another the events that had been going on in their lives. But fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions; so they hired lifeboat crews to do this for them. About this time, a large ship was wrecked off of the coast, and the hired crews brought into the life-saving station boatloads of cold, wet, dirty, sick, and half-drowned people. Some of them had black skin, and some had yellow skin. Some could speak English well, and some could hardly speak it at all. Some were first-class cabin passengers of the ship, and some were the deck hands. The beautiful meeting place became a place of chaos. The plush carpets got dirty. Some of the exquisite furniture got scratched. So the property committee immediately had a shower built outside the house where the victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

“At the next meeting there was rift in the membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club’s life-saving activities, for they



were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal fellowship of the members. Other members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all those various kinds of people who would be shipwrecked, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. And do you know what? That is what they did.

“As the years passed, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a place to meet regularly for fellowship, for committee meetings, and for special training sessions about their

mission, but few went out to the drowning people. The drowning people were no longer welcomed in that new life-saving station. So another life-saving station was founded further down the coast. History continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of adequate meeting places with ample parking and plush carpeting. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.”

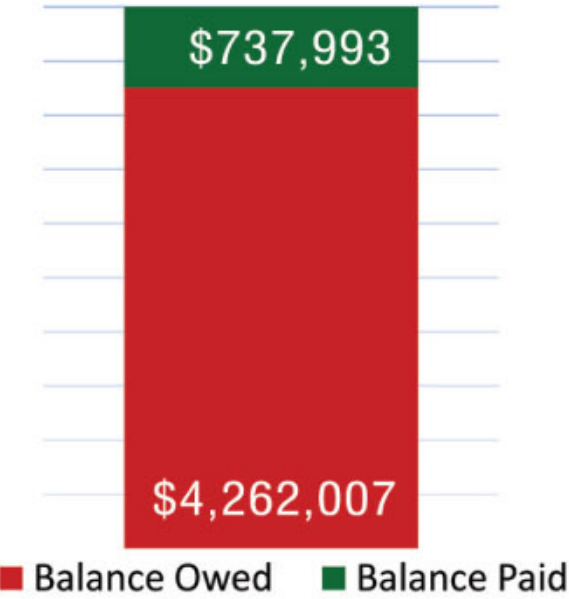
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PGM’S PURPOSE, MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

- PURPOSE:** To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ
MISSION STATEMENT: To serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel.
VISION: To 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 liveth it ~ Psalm 119:140

Please help PGM erase it’s financial debt.

\$5 Million – PGM Mortgage



OCTOBER 2014 NUMBERS

- 933** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 93** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 57,852** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 68,670** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 282** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 114** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,932** 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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