

DECEMBER 2015

a christmas prayer

*Seeing Burdens
Lifted and Lost Souls
Transformed into
Fully Functioning
Followers of Jesus Christ*

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

CHRISTMAS IS UPON US. And if you are like me, you feel a certain need to connect with others, to spread a little Christmas cheer, even as you walk down a street and just smile at a stranger. Yes, my favorite Christmas carol is "Silent Night," for it contains such wondrous words—*silent, holy, calm, tender, mild, sleep, heavenly, peace*. These are qualities of life that seem to diminish more and more in this alleged wondrous technological age. Yet, these are qualities I so yearn for yet do find so elusive, at times, in this ever spinning, nearly out-of-control world. But Jesus offers these qualities even two thousand years after His life, teachings, death, and, yes, most wondrous resurrection.

Here at PGM, we so share the love of Jesus and these qualities expressed in this simple Christmas carol. Truth is, though, those coming through our doors enter with only a backpack containing all they possess, yet spiritually they carry on their backs a huge number of burdens, spiritual burdens.

As we have been sharing, PGM is adapting to the growing needs of today's society. When one comes through our doors, he/she has thirty days to live here. After thirty days, he/she must again see an intake worker. To stay beyond thirty days, he/she must join either our New Day program (to work out drug and/or alcohol issues) or our New Life program (primarily a Bible-based program)

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PGM News

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
TRANSFORMING LIVES SINCE 1877

*We make Christmas at PGM a special time
of the year for those who have so little.*



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the governm

Continued from page 1

or be making progress on personal housing or employment goals. The point is, PGM is here, always, accepting those in need; each who passes through our doors must deal with the reason he/she became homeless. Through discipleship, each, over time, gains the means to reintegrate back into society as fully functioning followers of Christ. When you donate to PGM, you enable men and women (and, yes, their children) to find the means out of homelessness.

After ninety days on the New Day program where Bible-based coping skills are instilled, one may enter the New Life program where one receives an in-depth understanding of the Book of John and the Book of Romans, as well as much sound theology and an overview of the entire Bible. The final three months of the New Life program are reserved for our Life Skills program, where one is enrolled in a computer class, resume/interview workshops, and trips to job fairs. We also provide a GED course for those without a high school diploma, a course that has led so many, not just into a job, but rather a career to carry them financially through life. Finally, the New Graduate program allows men and women to be employed here or elsewhere. We are currently tracking a 49% success rate in employment.

Our vision is simple: prepare men and woman to become fully functioning followers of Jesus Christ. It truly is a miracle

to see a disheveled person walk through our doors and several months later see that same person smiling with a beautiful glow of love and thankfulness, as well as looking, feeling, and being ready for a new life in the world as a follower of Jesus.

I share with you four individuals with whom I had the pleasure to talk. They shared how their lives have been changed, transformed. And, yes, truly, if not for you, our supporters, their lives would right now be quite different.



Glenda, who at the time of this writing was about to graduate our New Day program, spoke with me about her life just prior to coming to PGM. "I was in a really bad relationship and had been drinking heavily for six years. In 2011, I lost my dad to cancer; this had a huge effect on me.

A year later my mom was diagnosed with cancer, and I took care of her for eighteen months which broke me down, not to mention the person I was with was a heroin addict. My work was only seasonal as a tax preparer. It all blew up one night when my boyfriend beat me badly. I just looked to God that night and prayed, 'Lord, get me out of here.' The next day, a friend gave me the number to PGM. I called and talked to someone there

CHRISTMAS AT PGM

Bringing the joy of this special season to those who would otherwise go without.



ent shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful,

who encouraged me to come here, and I did come here [PGM] and joined the New Day program. I spent the next two weeks shaking, throwing up, and just struggling. But each day, I said to myself, 'You are here; you are going to do this.' It has been ninety-seven days now!" Glenda told me that prior to coming to PGM she had never even once opened a Bible. Now she says, "I know God is the only One who can help me. I am memorizing Scriptures, and everyone is so patient here. This is an awesome place to be. I am following a chart to read the Bible through in a year. I am just grateful."



Greg Teamer came out of the New Day program and has now been enrolled in the New Life program for six months.

Greg said, "I think my marijuana use was a large part of why I ended up homeless and here at PGM. I have mental issues and have been diagnosed with schizophrenia. I am using my newfound faith these days to deal with these issues." Greg had a very good job—an over-the-road truck driver—but says, "It was the lack of awareness, the inability to interpret reality, as well as difficulties going on in my life that led to a mental breakdown. Here [PGM], I have learned how to cope and to see

the value of faith and sobriety. I have learned Scriptures that have helped me with addiction in the New Day program and have furthered my studies of the Word in the New Life program. Mostly, though, I have a sense of peace in my life now as a Christian and focus on my walk with the Lord. I plan to attend a Bible college and continue to study His Word."



Chris Tuttle, who is in his eighth month on the New Life program and is now enrolled in our Life Skills program for those nearing graduation, shared, "I was depressed, had no job, and no direction in my life. I came to Chicago from North Carolina; a friend offered me help here. That, well, did not work out, and basically I found myself wandering around Chicago homeless before finding out about PGM. I walked through the door and that day was enrolled in the New Life program. I ended up homeless because the factory I worked for in North Carolina shut down. I just could not find another job in time to keep from becoming homeless. I have never had drug or alcohol addictions, yet I knew I was empty inside." When asked about what he is learning on the Life Skills program, Chris said, "Through the Life Skills program, I have furthered my computer skills through

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift—II Corinthians 9:15. We are all so thankful for His unspeakable gift, and this Christmas we are also so thankful to you, our donors. The expressions on these faces would be quite different if not for your continued generosity. God bless.



Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9:6

the class offered, learned job interview skills, gone to job fairs in Chicago, and put a resume together. Also, I went through the GED class here and am now being tutored for the final two tests. I took two of the tests and passed both; I will be taking the other two tests November 20. It is a struggle in that of the eighteen or so resumes I have put out there, over three fourths require a GED. I am so thankful for what the Lord is doing in my life, and I am determined to get my GED here at PGM.”



Finally, I want to introduce you to **Jason**, who graduated our New Day program and has since left PGM and established himself as a fully functioning follower of Christ.

“I was homeless because of my drug addiction, unemployed, and had three felonies—this is how I arrived here at PGM. Yet the New Day program taught me how to have a routine, a schedule. I also learned to be with the Lord by having daily devo-

tions. But, the time I was in the Life Skills part of the program gave me an opportunity to gain my confidence again, to become employable again. It gave me connections during job fairs. I am thankful because God has given me wisdom. I prayed to the Lord, ‘Make me a trophy for Your kingdom.’ I was heavy in debt, yet now I am so blessed. I just purchased my own home. I work for a Fortune 500 company in credit processing, I am part of a great church and am myself now an ordained minister.”

As the Lord touches your heart this Christmas season, please know that the funds you give go to a plan, not to warehouse human beings. We are all about life transformation through our New Day, New Life, and Life Skills programs—all three focused on the Bible and change through our living Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued support, for being here beside us in both a physical and spiritual sense. Yes, Merry Christmas and may God bless you!



PGM's Ambrose Wallace preaching in the men's day room with tracts in hand ready to hand out to guests

Successful Tract Program Continues This Christmas!

Our faithful supporters who wanted the guests we serve to know how much they care and how much more Jesus Christ cares for them hand wrote hundreds of invitations to receive Jesus Christ. These heartfelt, colorful invitations to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord will again be handed out at overflow services Christmas Eve at Pacific Garden Mission.



Pastor Percy preaching at evening Gospel services.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

The Great Harvest

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

The question I often get asked is, How can we pray for PGM? My response is along the lines of what Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." I was hearing a story about a missionary to Russia who was saying how little response he was seeing to the Gospel; then I thought about PGM. Missionaries go over land and sea looking for people and hoping they are open to the Gospel; here at PGM lost souls are walking right up to our doors. People we can reach for Christ.

In August, we had 172 professions of faith which is staggering. By the time someone walks through our door, there is a brokenness and an openness to find out what went wrong. We offer the answer—namely, Jesus Christ. We need more personal workers to deal with the numbers of people expressing an interest in the Gospel. A volunteer recently told me that he could only spend two days a week shar-

ing the Gospel with our men, but after doing it, he said he wants to spend more time here because the need is so great. We don't want to put people on a waiting list for our New Day program, but we need more personal workers to deal with the level of interest we have seen. When I was in Bible college, I thought about going into missionary work; but when I came to PGM, I saw the need was so great and stayed. People are coming to us and asking for help to change their lives. Where else would you see that? In missions, you go and find them, in a church you invite them, but here they walk through the doors asking for help! Pray for compassionate, personal workers to be sent into this harvest, for it is great. Remember, when you give, you are not giving to the mission but rather through the mission to reach lost people with the Gospel. Thank you for being a part of the great harvest.

PGM's New Day graduates at job fairs find new employment at quality companies.

Everyday in the PGM auditorium the Gospel is preached to the homeless.





David Fuller: VP OPERATIONS

FINANCIAL UPDATE: James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

As another calendar year is nearing its close, we can look back on the many blessings of God's sustaining grace in 2015. Donations have continued to increase and attained a new milestone in October by reaching, for the first time this year, the goal of covering monthly obligations, separate from legacy gifts. We are trusting God for a strong finish to 2015 as He moves upon the hearts of our donors to remember the homeless among us and gratefully give. Remember that "every good gift...is from above." Praise God for the wondrous gift of our Savior! Merry Christmas.

If you have year-end gift questions please feel free to call my direct line 312.429.6711

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

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS {September Numbers}



Nights of Safe Lodging

790 • Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.

Bible Study Program

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



Meals for the Hungry

49,712 • Approximate number of plates of food served.

Clothing Distributed

64,269 • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



Medical/Dental Aid

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

Professions of Faith

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



Unshackled! Radio

3,112 • Stations broadcasting in 15 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, & 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, PGM Choir, and our "New Life" Program and our "New Day" Addiction Program.

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

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
Transforming lives since 1877

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.