

LIVES **TRANSFORMED**

**THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF
PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**



*Before and after
picture of Men's Bible
Program resident Jimmy McIntosh.*

PGM *News*

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION. A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877

January 2015

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. A new year begins, and most hope for a better year, a year to fulfill hopes and dreams in life. Many hope to lose a little weight, eat properly, go the gym and get serious about health. These are most excellent endeavors.

And others, while also yearning to become more physically healthy, also seek a closer walk with the Lord, Jesus Christ. January is a month of cold, unforgiving weather. January is the time to reflect, the holidays over, the new year beginning in icy, snowy weather.

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TRANSFOR

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If you are like me, a sense of cabin fever sets in. I, too, hope to lose a little weight, eat more nutritiously, and attune my life more in line with the teachings of my Savior, Jesus Christ—yet my eyes open each day as I myself walk through the doors of PGM and see the vast harvest before me, those whose lives are not thinking about such noble resolutions. These before me are on the brink of life in extremity—they need a warm meal, clothing that does not smell anymore, and a sense of hope for their lives. And it is with great resolve that we meet another year's needs on our knees. Pray with us, give through us, that we might together bless those who are needful in both their bodies and their souls (James 2:16). In short, join us in the Great Commission. The following testimonies have filled our hearts with joy here at the Old Lighthouse, and we hope they fill you also with joy, you knowing that without your support, the following testimonies would not have resulted in lives liv-

ing for Jesus and a future eternity in Heaven; in fact, perhaps these lives would not even be alive at all to tell such wondrous stories.

FIFTY YEAR OLD Theodore Jones said that he had a “thirteen year drug addiction to cocaine. I reached a point where I was using drugs every day. I lost my job due to my addiction. After I came to PGM and joined the Bible program, God redeemed me, He cleaned me up. In fact, I have been clean and sober for over two years now. I graduated the program in 2014 and have just recently been hired here at PGM. I am also enrolled at Capella University, where I am working on my master's degree in social services. My job here at PGM is to help the overnight guests transition back into society; I help them with employment, housing, clothing, resumes, and, of course, with understanding the message of Jesus Christ. My hope is to finish my master's degree and continue to use my skills here at the mission. You know, it is so important to help our overnight guests know there is hope, that they can get help here at the mission, that they can also get right with God.”

THIRTY SEVEN YEAR OLD Phil Masi had been homeless for five years prior to coming to PGM. “I had a heroine problem for over ten years; prior to that, it was crack. I was raised in a good home, but from the time I was thirteen to the age of thirty-five, I was doing drugs. I just never stopped. I overdosed four times. I reached a point where I was living in abandoned buildings. I came to PGM and broke down. I accepted Jesus into my heart and threw out the drugs I had in my pockets. While on the Men's Bible Program, I worked in the ‘Unshackled!’ radio broadcast department, where I actually became the assistant engineer, both involved in the taping and editing of ‘Unshackled!’ episodes. Now, though, I have been recently hired here at the mission to do the directing, filming, producing, and editing of the mission's television show. 2014 was amazing. I am now involved in my daughter's



MED!

life, and I have been drug free for two years. I have discovered where I am in Christ here at PGM.” PGM’s television show can be seen on Comcast 138 TLN in Northern Illinois (Saturdays, 7:30pmCT, and Tuesdays, 1:00amCT), at TLN.com online, or globally online at the official “Pacific Garden Mission” YouTube channel.

THIRTY YEAR OLD Robert Barrett never had a drug or alcohol problem. He was, however, troubled by events he suffered as a child. “I had a job and was living with my parents, but I was stuck in the past. These issues began to affect my work. After a serious altercation with my father, I left New York and came to Chicago. I talked with a police officer who helped direct me here to PGM. I joined the Bible program and have had such a great 2014. The Lord has healed my emotional issues—even as early back as junior high, I had become suicidal. *Now*, I know what my relationship with God should be. I sleep well these days, and my anxiety is gone. I am reconciled with my family. I am especially thankful because I am gainfully employed with BluePay Credit Card Processing, where I am a marketing associate. I was connected with this company while at a job fair that I attended through PGM’s Bible program’s Career Development. Also, I am attending National Louis University here in Chicago, where I am working to finish my bachelor’s degree. The Lord is so good all the time.”

These testimonies are truly wonderful reminders of all the great work you, our donors, our supporters, have made possible here at Pacific Garden Mission during 2014. Dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies, and families donated 48,355 hours (entailing 8,525 volunteers) of their time to make life better for homeless men, women, and children. The following is a quick breakdown of the wonderful work for the Lord you have enabled us to do during 2014:

- **Emergency Food & Shelter.** More than 360,000 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women, and children



ROBERT BARRETT working in the Intake Office B

instead of being out on the cold, dangerous streets. Nearly 700,000 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.

- **Center for Women & Children.** 99,945 nights of safe lodging for homeless women and 6,620 for children; all were given the physical, emotional, and spiritual support they needed to begin living healthy, self-sufficient lives. 13 women graduated from our Bible program, equipped with the confidence and the tools for long-term success and independence.

- **Shelter for Men.** 260,055 nights of safe lodging for homeless men; each was cared for at our Shelter for Men, receiving services such as shelter, meals, and medical care, as well as chapel services and classes.

- **Servant Leadership Training Program.** 10 men and 2 women completed our year-long discipleship program that allows program graduates to continue their spiritual growth, strengthen their recovery, and minister to others just beginning our addiction recovery programs.

- **Chapel.** Over 1,300 hours of Gospel services were conducted for our overnight guests, and 780 hours of Bible classes were held for our Bible program men and women. Dozens of local churches and staff shared God’s love.

In all of 2014, we saw eternal changes that only Jesus Christ can bring. Our needs are so great, and we do truly struggle financially. We do not accept government funding; if we did, we would no longer



be able to minister the true Gospel message of Jesus Christ crucified, resurrected, and now seated at the right hand of our Father, and we would no longer be able to broadcast the "Unshackled!" broadcast worldwide. Please continue to come alongside us with your giving and help us ensure that the true Gospel message continues to reach out to those who are most hungry, both physically and spiritually. The needs of the poor now in January and this coming June are as real as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Remember us: the needs of the less fortunate, those who suddenly find themselves in peril, really never have an off-season. Before you put this simple newsletter down, please consider joining us in our, as the Apostle Paul puts it, good race for our Lord Jesus Christ (II Timothy 4:7). And please also share this newsletter with another, a friend, a colleague, an acquaintance—the Gospel message is always present in everything we do



PHIL MASI filming a testimony at PGM

here at the Old Lighthouse and is more than sufficient to save souls for eternity.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again"
— Proverbs 19:17.



THANKSGIVING AT PGM

Thanks to your faithful giving, so many received a wonderful Thanksgiving experience at PGM. Over one hundred volunteers came to help serve over a thousand plates of food.

Pastor Ervin McNeill offering Thanksgiving prayer with **Gerald Casey**





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD!

“Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant liveth it”—PSALM 119:140.

2014 was an exciting year. With the extreme cold this past winter, we housed in upwards of 1,200 people at night. These large numbers of people put a stress on the staff, building, and budget. We remodeled the women’s and men’s sleeping areas adding triple bunks and see

no end in sight. In the midst of the multitude, I want to take note of one individual who was transformed in 2014. This man is now on our discipleship program and said that before he came here four months ago, he lost everything—his wife, money, and home were all gone because of an alcohol addiction. While walking down the street, he saw PGM’s cross and came inside. He met some staff members who asked him about his eternal destiny, and he said that he needed to be saved. He prayed to receive Christ and has been growing in the Lord ever since. This is an investment that brings eternal dividends.

In 2015, we are seeking to apply the mission’s vision of making all of our guests fully functioning followers of Christ. We do not just want to warehouse people but rather see them changed. We desire to be more effective to every person who walks through our door.

As we enter this exciting year, please continue to stand with us to provide all the help we can, in all the ways we can, to all the people we can. Please, use the enclosed form to mail your gift, or give online at [www. PGM.org](http://www.PGM.org)

Thank you for your generous support.



“Sleep in a Box Campaign”

Under the guidance of Pastor David Fretz, Wisconsin’s Richland Baptist Temple church conducted its tenth annual “Sleep in a Box Campaign” where their youth group literally sleeps outside in cardboard boxes to raise money for the homeless of PGM.



RETIREES IRA TAX BREAK BACK? Congress may re-enact the IRA Charitable Rollover in January of 2015. If you are over 59 ½ years old and will be taking a distribution from any qualified retirement plan, you may want to take advantage of this option for making a donation to PGM!

JOHN BREWSTER SAYS GOOD-BYE

IN 1994, JOHN BREWSTER retired from Bank One. A friend at John's church told him of an opening in the finance department at PGM. After a few months went by, John came here to PGM and was interviewed by then President Harry Saulnier. John was first hired as an accounting clerk, yet after a year he was moved into the lead accounting position. "Back then, they were using old manual machines, so I quickly updated the whole system to computer and instituted various software packages. I credit the Holy Spirit for helping me make it through that first year, as things were a bit of a mess when I took over."

John has recently retired after serving PGM as its accountant for twenty years. He has been such a

blessing. He has struggled with cancer twice before and knows God's healing wonders: "God healed me from two types of cancer that were both potentially fatal, one in 2002 and one in 2010." A few spots of cancer have returned since his surgery, and John is finishing chemotherapy. "Because of my cancer situation and my age—I will be 78 my next birthday—I have chosen to retire. I feel I am going out on a high, as such great works are being done under the new direction of [President] Phil

Kwiatkowski. I will miss the wonderful staff here; they are each my friend. God has been so good to me."

John will not entirely be leaving us as he will work with us as a consultant as he helps transition a newly hired individual who will replace him.



President Kwiatkowski bids John farewell

NOVEMBER 2014 NUMBERS

- 1,038** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 101** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 62,200** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 69,363** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 292** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 111** 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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