



Putting off the Old Man Taking on the New Man

PGMN News

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION. A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877 July 2014

AN AWESOME, MYSTERIOUS, FRIGHTENING, and even providential occurrence happens every day of the year here at the Old Lighthouse—namely, an individual walks through our doors for the first time. He/She has become homeless, is not just scared, but is experiencing that oddity spoken of in the Old Testament: vexation of spirit, a point of complete emotional trauma. The mind reels with horror—I have no place to go, no job to go to, no family or friend to call out to for help. Heaven only knows what this individual, this forlorn soul, might turn to if, if our Lord Jesus Christ had not provided for such a one, one whom He most reaches out to in times of such great need. Pacific Garden Mission, a wondrous ministry, a wondrous garden, has been planted in the heart of Chicago to meet the needs of the poor and needy. We see such ones every day and

continued on page 2

“If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another” (Ephesians 4:21-25).

witness the awesome, mysterious wonderment of Jesus as He enables us to ease the racing thoughts of countless souls.

We are overwhelmed with the goodness of Jesus, how He transforms lives here at PGM. We share with you the following individuals whose lives have been truly transformed in ways that are so unique. Their testimonies are possible only through the life-changing work of Jesus Christ and His calling to you, our supporters, who provide the financial means to keep the light bright here at the Old Lighthouse. These individuals have looked at mountains in their pursuit to regain their lives, yet each has seen Christ's Word fulfilled: “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:23).

Thirty-seven year old graduate of the Men's Bible Program Phil Masi shared his testimony: “I was shackled to drugs and shackled in prison; now I am helping unshackle others through our ‘Unshackled!’ radio broadcast. I got out of prison about



Jerome Marshall serving in the laundry department

four years ago. I was in a cycle of in and out of rehab. The month before I got here [PGM], I overdosed four times. I had reached a point where I was at my lowest—doing crack and heroine and drinking. I had nobody, not one friend.” When Phil came to PGM, he was immediately given counsel in our intake office. There he was presented with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Phil accepted Jesus in that office and even asked for a garbage can, into which he threw his drugs. Phil exemplifies the change that so surely transforms the old nature to the new. He shares that “While on the Men's Bible Program, I had the opportunity to find out who I am in Christ. You can't be a man of God without knowing the Word of God. I am now working in ‘Unshackled!’ and taking an online Bible course through Tindale and plan to continue with courses offered.”

Fifty-one year old Jerome Marshall works in our laundry department and said, “I was laundering money for some very dangerous people; now I launder clothing for homeless people.” Since coming to the mission and giving his heart to Jesus, Jerome says, “God has helped me leave behind my past and move into the future and gain some self-respect. I want to become more knowledgeable and a man of God so I can pass on what I've learned. For the rest of my life, I will be spreading the Gospel.”

Men's Bible Program resident Daniel Woolman spoke of his life before and after coming to PGM: “I started doing heroine, and to support this habit I grew and sold marijuana; now I work in the kitchen and volunteer in the greenhouse where I plant seeds to grow vegetables and herbs to be used to



Phil Masi working with “Unshackled!”

help feed the homeless.” Daniel commented on his time now on the Men’s Bible Program: “My days give me time to focus, to focus on the Bible, to meditate on the Word of God.” When asked about his future, where he would like his life to be in three years, Daniel hesitated for a moment, and then said candidly, “I want to be sober. I want to be still walking with God, trying to live the best I can for Him.”

Men’s Bible Program resident Oris Allan talked about his life before coming to the mission: “I had a heroine addiction that kept me from doing many things. My addiction caused me to end up in and out of prison for eighteen years.” Talking about his time since joining the Men’s Bible Program, Oris said, “Growing up I was called stupid by my father because I was illiterate. When I came here [PGM], I gave my life to Christ, and He has shown me I am not stupid—I am smart. Now I go to classes and am reading! It’s amazing because now I work in the Security Department, the overnight shift, and I help protect the men, women, and children in this building. I never



Daniel Woolman volunteers in the PGM greenhouse.

Otis McClam collecting the details on delivery.

had this kind of responsibility in my whole life. It’s awesome what God did for me!”

Otis McClam, a graduate of the Men’s Bible Program some several years ago, spoke of his life prior to coming to the Old Lighthouse: “Well, I had a car. I would often get calls from various people asking me to go and pick up some drugs; sometimes they wanted me to go get them so they could fence [sell] stolen

goods. Doing these things is what I called Connect the Dots. Now, being here at PGM, from day one, I have worked in our Transportation Department. You know, I still get calls to Connect the Dots, but by the grace of God, I am now picking up food, picking up volunteers, and picking up people from the train station to bring them here to the mission. I am still picking up and Connecting the Dots, but now it's for Jesus. I even drive for my church, picking up and getting people to church."

Seeing lives truly changed within our doors through the transformative work of our Savior Jesus Christ brings great joy. We are making such wondrous strides, meeting the spiritual, physical, and even educational needs of all who come through our doors. No one who enters through our doors walks through our exit doors without having heard the clear message of salvation through Jesus Christ, having been offered food and shelter,

and having been offered a Biblical means through our Bible programs out of poverty. In fact, it is difficult not to hear individuals singing a hymn of praise to Jesus throughout our corridors. However, over the past several months, we have alluded to our financial difficulties. Perhaps we have been subtle, perhaps not open enough. Truth is, we have been struggling to meet our basic needs—to provide those things needful to those in need (James 2:16). Progress has been made, but much more is needed. We trust Jesus to touch the hearts of those who have been blessed to help us fulfill the Scriptures: "The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all" (Proverbs 22:2). The world these days seeks to be politically correct; the Old Lighthouse has always sought to be Biblically correct. With your help, we will continue to be a Lighthouse, a beacon of truth, in a wayward world in need of the love of Christ. Become a friend of the Old Lighthouse that together we may say in the end, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Congratulations to the Spring Graduation Class

PASTOR SAMPSON GREEN, Director of PGM's Men's Bible Program, was the special graduation speaker. His message came from the Book of Colossians, through which he encouraged the graduates to stay the course, not to take their eyes off Jesus, and to know that Jesus as Lord of all is completely adequate in and for all of life's situations.

Front, Left to Right:
Patricia Wright,
Donna Reese, Teresa
James, Sandra Dun-
bar, Kathy Vukits.
Back, Left to Right:
Kenneth Moore,
Lanier Sandlin, Nara-
da Smith, Antoine
Wiley, Hilton Tippie,
Theodore Jones, Juan
Snell, Oris Allen,
Kevin Moore, Am-
brose Wallace, Jamie
Martinez,
Chase Epps.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

Divine Encounters

Acts 8:26, 27 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Acts 8:30, 31 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

THERE ARE TIMES in our life that God brings us into the presence of someone for a specific reason, and then they are gone. Last Thursday, as I was walking down the hall, I noticed a young man sitting on the bench. I felt compelled to sit down and talk with him. He stated that he was eighteen years of age and had to leave town because of the gangs. I asked him about his family, and he said they did not want him because of his problems. My heart was stirred, as I was looking at a young, scared, and lonely teenager facing

life with nowhere to go. I asked him about his spiritual state, about where he would go if he died; he said he did not know as he reached into his duffle bag and pulled out a Bible he had tucked away. After showing him that all of us are sinners, and that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, he acknowledged that he wanted to accept the gift. Right there on the spot he confessed Jesus Christ as his Savior and believed He died for his sin—this young man trusted Christ for salvation. He was happy and relieved that he had found forgiveness in Christ. He then joined the Bible program so he could grow in his new faith and receive direction in life. During the Saturday evening service, I saw him respond to the invitation to put the past behind: he came forward for prayer. I was thrilled to see such a young man responding to what God was doing. Now Tuesday, not even a week later, Pastor Green, our Men's Program Director, told me that in the morning the young man came to him and wanted to get his past right. He said he was running because of a murder and wanted to get it right and turn himself in. The police were called, and he was taken away. I believe that that young man was directed to Pacific Garden Mission at a time in his life when he needed to hear the most important message, that Christ died for his sin.

Yesterday, I received a letter and read the following: "I am somewhat familiar with Pacific Garden Mission. When I was nineteen and a new recruit at the great lakes naval base, we went to Chicago. We were greeted at the train station by one of your people inviting

us to stay at the mission's service men center. At that point we saw it as a free place to spend the night. What I did not know was that someone on the staff there would share the gospel with me that night. It was then that I accepted Christ and began my journey as a Christian." After this, the man went to Bible school and spent his career as a nursing home administrator. This happened to this man in the seventies, and he is writing today to thank us.

I will try to follow up on the young man,

but maybe one day someone will receive a letter from a man sharing how he came to Pacific Garden Mission as a young eighteen year old, found Christ, turned himself in, and his life found new meaning through the Word of God.

These encounters may be brief; but like the Eunuch and Philip, the young man and myself, or a young sailor staying at a place in the city and meeting a PGM staffer, they can be life-changing and eternal.



John Brewster,
PGM CFO

FINANCIAL UPDATE—Praise God for blessing of the seasons. Winter here in Chicago can be long and cold as it was this year. But winter is followed by the warmth and greenery of spring which is then followed by the warmth of summer. With the end of spring comes the end of the PGM fiscal year, and along with the warmth of July, PGM sends a warm thank you to all who helped PGM make headway in its financial goals last year. We feel the warm comfort of knowing God's provision which leads to hope for the coming year. Much remains to be done financially in the year ahead for which God is more than sufficient through you, our supporters, to meet.

Please make a special note to visit us online at www.pgm.org. Just go to our newly designed web site and click on NEWS. Please help us share the Mission. Exciting changes are coming by the middle of summer 2014!

MAY 2014 NUMBERS

- 939** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 110** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 61,502** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 80,610** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 247** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 204** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 3,057** Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish)

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION makes no 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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