

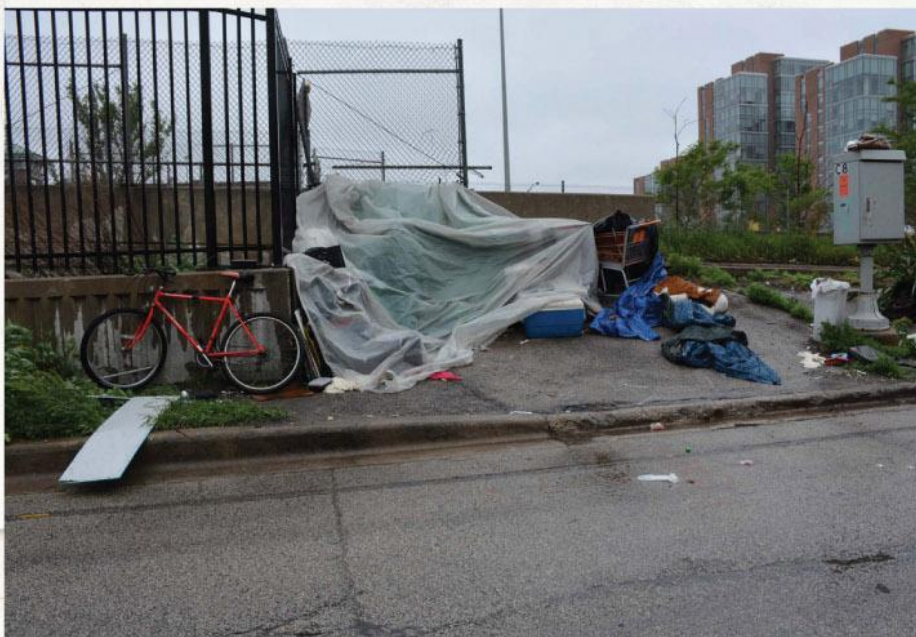
## WALK IN THEIR SHOES

Article by DEAN LAKE ■ Photography by STEPHEN WELCH

### THE WORD *VICARIOUS*:

to imagine placing one's self into the life of another. As Christians, we place ourselves in our minds into the life of Jesus, particularly His final hours—the unimaginable beating He underwent with a cat of nine tails that left Him physically unrecognizable, the nearly unbearable cross He bore on His shoulder as He traversed streets towards Golgotha (the place of a skull), and Roman soldiers who stretched out His body upon a wooden cross and constrained His arms and legs as large, crude nails struck through tissue and bone through both His hands and both His feet.

We empathize and find occasion to weep as we consider the Passion of our Savior. Jesus desires us to find like compassion, even as He did in His life, towards others: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). During His life on earth, He reached out mostly to the poor and needy. Here, at the Old Lighthouse, we also daily minister to the poor and needy who pass through our doors. But who are these who come to Pacific Garden Mission in their darkest hour of need? Jesus was abandoned in *His* darkest hour. He does, thus, call us to draw near to those who are experiencing *their* darkest hour of need. I want to take you on a tour, as I place myself into the worn shoes of a homeless person passing through our doors...and yes, at one point in my life, I was in these very shoes. Vicariously, walk with me, and, as Jesus enables you, please also empathize.



Homeless off the highway near PGM

**WHO AM I?** Where do I come from? Most likely I have a plastic bag or backpack slung across and bearing down on my shoulder as I traverse the streets. I have no job, no bank account, no family or friends at this point, and certainly no place to lay my head. I am not just afraid—I am trembling and shaking. I have walked over a bridge and looked down from a great height into the river that flows through Chicago and given occasion to consider...but no, not yet, not that. Turning away from such thoughts, I walk, and turning again, I see a well-lit sign that reads, “Jesus Saves.” I walk towards that well-lit sign and a slight hope rises on my brow through the sweat falling. Before me is the door of Pacific Garden Mission. I pass through the door and wipe the perspiration from my forehead, though still afraid and shaking.

Article continues on page 2



# “...Go out into the highways and hedges,



*Homeless man being met at the metal detector*

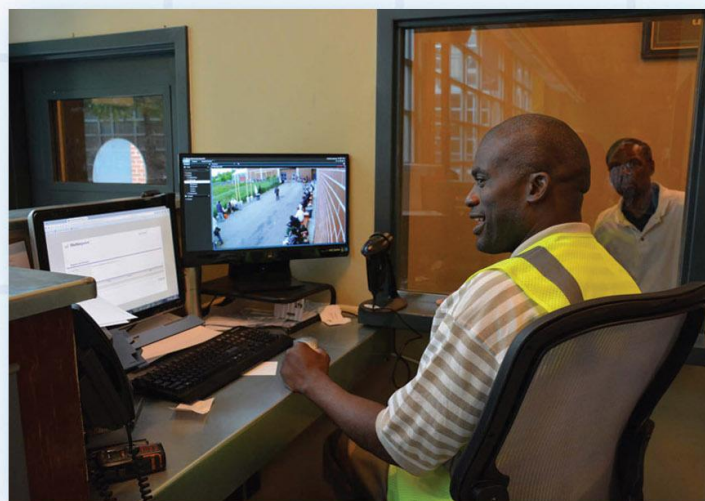
## **WALK IN THEIR SHOES—continued from page 1**

I walk through a metal detector because PGM is a safe harbor from the cruelty on the streets of Chicago. PGM worker Ricky Mason assures safety for all who pass through our open door. Ricky smiles at me, shakes my hand, and walks me to a chair where I will soon meet one who will sit with me, take my information, get to know me, sympathize with me, and share the Gospel message.

Chris Tuttle, an intake worker, greets me, and I enter into his office, where he begins to assess my needs. He gathers information and enters me into PGM's computer database, and then he shares with me the options available here at PGM: I can remain as an overnight guest or join the New Day program for those suffering from drug and/or alcohol addiction or join the New Life Bible program. He pauses again as I consider my options, but then he turns to me

and asks, “If you died today, would you go to Heaven?” I pause, stumble a bit, and answer, “I really don’t know. Maybe. No, I don’t think so.” Chris pauses again, looks into my eyes, and says, “There is a way you can know.” Then he shares his own testimony, and I realize we have so much in common.

I could join the New Life Bible program, but I know my life of drug/alcohol addiction, so I choose to become part of the New Day program. Chris walks me to meet a councilor of the New Day program. I meet Dr. Robert Tippie, a trained Christian psychologist in behavioral disorders, who smiles, shakes my hand, and offers me a seat. He begins to really get to know me, my needs, my problems. His questions are very direct. I tell him about my



*Ricky Mason meeting a guest at check-in*

addictions, about medications I am taking, about mental disorders I have, what brought me here, what medical facilities I have been to.... Yet after a lengthy session, he looks directly into my eyes and asks, “Do you really want to join this program, and are you really ready for this?” I pause for a moment and then say, Yes, I am ready.” I have been in secular therapy facilities which cost in upwards of \$30,000 per month. But here, this program is absolutely free.

My clothes are worn, and I know I stink. But Dr. Tippie simply introduces me to Cory Pinkley, himself a resident in the New Day program, who shakes my hand and takes me to the basement where we enter the Clothing Department. Together, Cory and I spend time together picking out donated clothes for me, beautiful clothing, clean and won-



*Security working with local official in order to assist homeless*



*and compel them to come in, that my hous*



**Dr. Robert Tippie, Director of the New Day Program**

derful. Also, I am given blankets and sheets and a pillow for my new bed upstairs. An elevator ride upwards, Cory walks me to my new bed, where I place my bedding and decorate my new bunk bed with the few familiar objects I have. He leaves me to my new surroundings, but before going, he turns to me and says, “Relax now. Dinner is at 4:30; I will see you there, ok? Are you ok?” I lift my head and softly say, “Yeah, see you there. Thank you. Thank you so much.” With the hygiene pack given to me, I go and shower and feel renewed looking into the mirror at myself. I pause to look upwards, upwards into Heaven and say, “Thank you, Jesus, thank you.” And looking downward and into the mirror again before me, I see something strange: I have hope rising upon my brow.”

**TO REACH OUT** to another human being who is homeless and absolutely living in complete fear and trembling...how can words describe



**Cory Pinkley in the clothing room**

what a little love, a little giving, can do in the life of one who is so overwrought and trembling with fear? Words simply fail. Our doors are open every hour of every day to ease such immense suffering. Even a small gift, from you, our supporters, eases the mental and physical anguish of each homeless man, woman, and, yes, child who passes through our doors. Children, most often accompanied by their single parent, do reside here and are given all the love we here can muster. And always—always—each and every one who passes through our doors is presented with the salvation message of Jesus, Who is more than able to, not only save one’s soul, but also offer a life more abundantly.

Maybe our work is simply this: “And the



**Chris Tuttle working to assess the needs of a guest**

lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23). Pacific Garden Mission, from its inception, has been gathering wayward souls from the highways and hedges and sitting down with them and sharing the Gospel message over a meal. Yet it is you, our donors, our supporters, that enable us here at the Old Lighthouse to sit at a table with one in such need and eat together and share the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ, our Savior, with one afraid and trembling. Thank you, thank you for enabling us here at the Old Lighthouse to sit and share a meal with a homeless man, woman, or child and share the Gospel message and ease their trembling soul. Jesus promises us an eternity before us. O, what awaits us: “But as it is written, Eye



## se may be filled" —Luke 14:23



Cory Pinkley in dorm next to bed

hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

### John Brewster Goes to Be With the Lord

*Our good friend and former accountant John Brewster, who retired December 2014, passed away in early June. John had 20 years of faithful service at Pacific Garden Mission. He will be missed here on earth, but we have the joy of looking forward to seeing him again in heaven.*

### PGM BIBLE PROGRAM RECENT GRADUATES— PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE!

Left to right:

Victor Mathew, Steven Moore, Ricky Mason, Ronnel Williams, Glen Ships, Isaiah Vasquez, Kerry Kyle, George Brown, Daniel Woolman, Tony Patrick, David Kirk



**Steven Moore**—"I am just so glad that God brought me here to Pacific Garden Mission, where I have been able to turn my life around. I have a renewed mind and a renewed heart"



**Daniel Woolman**—"When I got here to PGM, I was a heroin addict and heavily medicated. The world's answer was therapy, doctors, more medication. But here I submitted myself to Jesus Christ, and my life has changed"



**George Brown**—"Since I found Jesus, I don't have to struggle anymore. I am thankful, and I am grateful"





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

# Rescuing the Lost

**Mt 9:36 “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”**

**L**AST NIGHT, we saw twenty-five first-time residents enter through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission. People who have been set adrift on the sea of life have washed ashore at our doorstep. We stand ready to rescue all who come with the answer to the reason for shipwreck, and that answer is Jesus Christ.

Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved at their sight when He saw them scattered abroad; the Greek word for scattered abroad is *rhipto*, which means the idea of sudden motion, to fling with a quick toss.

Many that our society has cast aside or set adrift are flung to the doorstep of Pacific Garden Mission. Today, I walked to the intake offices and was moved with compassion by what I saw. One man was sitting there with a black eye and obvious wounds on his nose and a lost look on his face. I asked him what happened, and he said he was beat up and his things were taken; then he said, “I need a change.” Wow, what an opportunity; I introduced him to an intake counselor who shared the Gospel message with him and told him about our New Life program.

Seated next to him was a twenty-three year old young man who was here for the first time but looked troubled. He

washed ashore at Pacific Garden Mission because of an addiction. When I talked to him, he stated he needed to deal with his addiction. At twenty-three, with no high school diploma and dealing with substance abuse and without God, the future does not look good; but with Jesus all things are possible. He was introduced to a counselor in our New Day substance abuse program and joined.

Another man was sitting there and spoke little English; he managed to communicate that he needed housing for one night and was introduced to a counselor who knew his language. Every first-time resident gets a one-on-one sit down with a counselor so he/she does not get lost in the sea of faces. This man who was looking for shelter for one night was told about an eternal dwelling place that he could go to forever.

Those three people are a snapshot of the many who walk through our doors for the first time every day. I walked away moved with compassion because so many are scattered abroad. Jesus went on to say, “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Mt 9:37). People are sent as missionaries looking for people, but here they come washed ashore right to our door. The harvest is truly plenteous; continue to pray for the labourers.

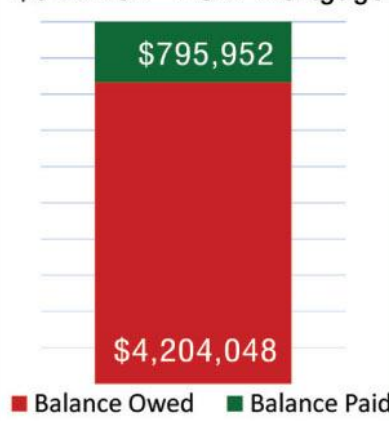


**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** In this month's main article you had an opportunity to vicariously meet some of the staff who help those who have been "flung" to the doors of Pacific Garden Mission. Having staff, a building, and the resources needed to care for those staying at PGM costs just over \$500,000 per month. May's donations were less than \$350,000. In spite of this shortfall, the mission was able to cover its cost through an estate gift. Though it is sad to know that this means a friend has passed away, it is such a blessing to be remembered in this way. When you are making your estate plans, please prayerfully consider including Pacific Garden Mission in your plan.

Please join us in praying for God's wisdom and guidance as the leaders here at the mission make decisions regarding finances.

Thank you for funding the transforming work happening here everyday.

#### \$5 Million – PGM Mortgage



Any designated contribution to help PGM erase it's mortgage debt would substantially help our ministry.

## WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS {April Numbers}



### *Nights of Safe Lodging*

**897** • Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.

### *Bible Study Program*

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



### *Meals for the Hungry*

**52,565** • Approximate number of plates of food served.

### *Clothing Distributed*

**76,637** • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



### *Medical/Dental Aid*

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

### *Professions of Faith*

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



### *Unshackled! Radio*

**3,069** • Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish).

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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, PGM Choir, and "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](http://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.