



JUNE 2013

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION  
A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877

*The Ronald Childers Story*

# PGM News

**L**AST MONTH we began the story of Ronald Fitzgerald Childers. Ronald had been pursuing life on his own terms, leaving behind the godly training of his youth and pursuing the wealth and enjoyment he felt was deserved him. In college Ronald had become involved in the selling and using of drugs. This resulted in a chaotic lifestyle with many legal and personal conflicts, one of which caused him to lose his right eye after a foolish bar fight. After this and other trials Ronald finally was ready to seriously explore the faith he had been exposed to as a child. At the suggestion of the grandmother who raised him, Ronald came to Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, Illinois. Now his story continues with Ronald on the Bible program....

**"IT TOOK ME FORTY YEARS** to finally come to the realization that there was nothing within me. I couldn't change the desperate situation in which I found myself. In hindsight, I call this period of my life 'my own personal wilderness.'

*continued  
on page 2*

# *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the*

*continued from page 1—The RONALD CHILDERS STORY*

“I needed God to bring me into my promised land. It was at this point in my brokenness, through His divine sovereignty and providence, God revealed to me who He truly is.

*Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

For the first time in my life, I realized that the ‘faith’ I had was not a living faith—it was faith in what I knew about God and His son Jesus; not faith in a personal living God.

Pacific Garden Mission not only provided me with a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food in my stomach, and other things essential to life, but most importantly it provided me with the one thing that is most essential to life—a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I now understood that the suffering, loneliness, insecurity, heartbreak, and heartache had been allowed and was now being used by my Savior Jesus Christ to draw me into a real relationship with Him. It was no longer just knowing about Him; it was now learning who He is through the Bible, living in accordance to what His Word teaches, trusting in Him in any situation I may find myself, no longer putting confidence in my own selfish way of viewing life but rather

letting Him guide me and lead me into the life He had planned for me before He formed the world.

*Ps 23:1-3 The LORD is my shepherd: I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.*

**M**y Lord led me to the Pacific Garden Mission on that fateful day of October 13th, 2011. Through His grace, mercy, love, and long-suffering, I now have a personal relationship with His son Jesus Christ my Lord. My life has completely changed.

17 months after arriving at PGM, I no longer have a desire for the things that previously controlled my life: drugs, alcohol, or even cigarettes. Through my time at PGM, I developed a living relationship with a personal God, learned much from His Word, developed a love of His ways, and have had opportunity to practice living them out. I have now graduated from the Men’s Bible Institute and have had the joy of being a guest teacher for some classes. It is exciting to be given the opportunity to help men change just as I have, by directing them to a personal and living God who’ll grant them victory over evil.

While in the career development phase of the Bible program, I was blessed with a full-time job with Jewel-Osco, a grocery store chain. I have recently completed the Manager

Trainee program and now am an assistant manager. I also volunteer as an Administrative Assistant in PGM’s Accounting Department.

Although I completely enjoy every aspect of the ministry that God has ‘counted me faithful’ (I Tim 1:12) to be a part of, the biggest fulfillment I get comes from preaching the Gospel to



**Ronald Childers, Assistant Manager, teams up in the Jewel/Osco store with Bob Handstat, Store Manager.**

*whole world, and lose his own soul?" —MARK 8:36*



**Childers shown here after teaching a Bible class in the courtyard.**

**Three of Ronald's children (Jarron 15, Jarromy 13, Joseph 7) were able to attend his graduation from the Bible program. They also enjoyed a day at Navy Pier.**



the hundreds of men and women coming to PGM daily.

Just as the prodigal son was received back by his father after squandering all that he had (Luke 15:11-32), my Father has received me openly as if I had never left. And because He has also clothed me in righteousness and has counted me faithful, I know I can be faithful and serve Him for the rest of my life. I now know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ my Lord!

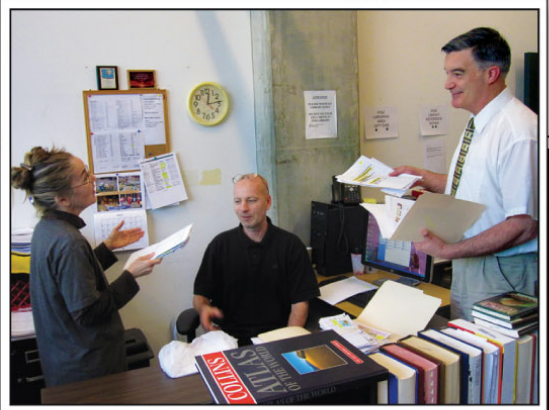
If he would do it for a sinner like me, He will do it for you too."

## PGM'S PRAYER BAND

Did you know that more than 3450 people receive PGM's monthly prayer band and have committed to praying for needs around the world? How would you like to have that many people praying for you? PGM receives prayer requests daily, mostly from "Unshackled!" listeners around the country and even the world.

These are then com-

plied and sent out to those volunteering to pray. PGM has a team of three people, led by Dean Lake with assistance from Steve Welch and Alison Blue who together diligently prepare the prayer band for mailing each month.



**(l. to r.) Alison Blue, Dean Lake and Steve Welch working on the next PGM Prayer Band Letter**

Please feel free to share your prayer requests online at:  
<http://www.pgm.org/pages.aspx?PageName=Prayer>

or by writing to: Pacific Garden Mission Prayer Band,  
1458 S Canal St., Chicago, IL 60607

If you'd like to join our pray warriors, please use either of the means listed above.  
Include your name and address.

# A VIBRANT PGM VOLUNTEER

**B**RIAN NG IS A RECENT volunteer at PGM. The Lord led him to help with Career Development by using his business background to help fellow brothers and sisters with topics such as career counseling, resume writing, and interview skills. Brian is a native Chicagoan, who grew up in the Bridgeport neighborhood close by PGM. Recently, he was led back to Chicago after being in Hong Kong for five years. He has returned in order to attend seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

He believes that the Lord is taking him through seminary to strengthen his theological foundation in order to later engage in marketplace ministry or even head to the mission field with a socio-economic development focus. Brian's last role in Hong Kong in an investment office was running a social enterprise focused on employing marginalized garment workers and providing opportunities to at-risk youth.

We are very grateful for his help in our



ministry at PGM and ask that our prayer family remembers Brian as he seeks a life which honors God by using his gifts in an unique and fruitful way.

## A PRAYER UPDATE:

We are asking all our supporters to please continue to join us in praying for our President, Dr. David McCarrell, who continues to recover from health difficulties. These began when he experienced complications after knee replacement surgery done in June of last year. His rehabilitation is slow, but he is encouraged by your prayers. Thank you.



**John Brewster**

## JOHN'S ESTATE PLANNING THOUGHTS:

LIFE INSURANCE can be an effective tool for giving to your favorite charities as seen in this example:

- John and Mary take out a life insurance policy
- They make a charity the owner and the premium payer of the policy
- The charity pays the premium each year
- John and Mary send a tax deductible contribution to the charity each year for the premium

This results in a buildup of cash value which belongs to the charity. Also, the death benefit goes to the charity without any tax consequences to John and Mary's estate or the charity!

If YOU ARE INTERESTED in this approach to helping Pacific Garden Mission, please contact me at (312) 429-6760 or [brewsterjd@pgm.org](mailto:brewsterjd@pgm.org).

## *A Word from Dave McCarrell*

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

# THE LORD'S HAND IS NEVER SHORT

**I**N MY DEVOTIONAL THIS MORNING, I came across that verse where God asks Moses, "Has the Lord's hand waxed short?" (Numbers 11:23). Or as another version states: "Has the Lord's arm been shortened?" A resounding answer rings back: No, never too short to draw me to His breast when I am hurting. Never too short to reach down and pick me up when I am discouraged and broken with life's problems. Never too short not to offer His children a three-fold salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

*He offers a Past Salvation:* This is salvation from sin's penalty. The penalty of sin is eternal, conscious separation from God under a curse. Jesus saves the believer from this penalty through His shed blood and death on Calvary's cross. We can be assured that the penalty for our sin has been fully paid. 1 John 1:7 tells us that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

*He offers a Present Salvation:* This is moment by moment, hour by hour, and day by day deliverance through Jesus

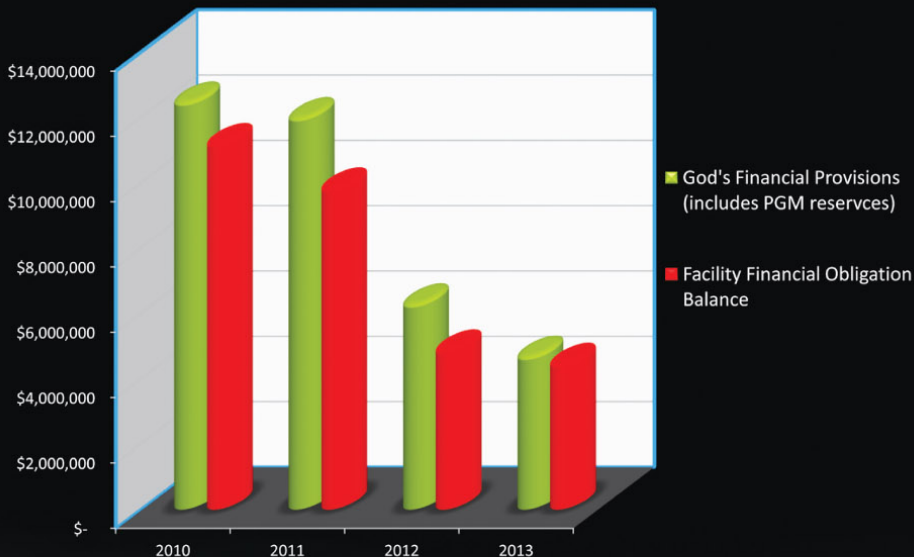
Christ over the power of sin in our lives. Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

*There is also a Future Salvation* for every saved one. It includes deliverance from the presence of any sin. And, the continuous joy of experiencing God's presence and sharing His glory. It will be realized by us (saved ones) at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Each day brings us nearer to Christ's Second Coming and coming before His glorified bodily presence. In 1 John 3:2 we are told, "Beloved, now we are sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

Are God's arms too short? The answer shouts back, "Praise His holy name, NEVER!"



*Dr. David McCarrell*



**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Donations have run behind expenses all year resulting in the continued decline of our reserves bringing them to their lowest in more than a decade. To meet the needs and share the Good News each night with close to 1000 homeless, an average of \$550,000 monthly is necessary. As June 30 and the end of our fiscal year rapidly approach, we at PGM look forward to what God will do. Of course the reasonable fiscal belt tightening is being done and will continue, but we at PGM are full of hope because God is so faithful. He has sustained the mission for over 135 years through the gifts and remembrances of donors like you. Praise God!

## JUNE 2013 NUMBERS

- 917** Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services.
- 719** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 105** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 58,483** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 50,733** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 407** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 128** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 3,001** Radio stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting *"Unshackled!"* in English and thirteen other languages.

**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.

## PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION NEWS JUNE 2013 • Vol. 78, No. 6

Published monthly by

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PGM, producer of *"Unshackled!"* is a member of National Religious Broadcasters.