

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION  
TRANSFORMING LIVES  
SINCE 1877

**M**Y FATHER was always at my little league baseball games, seated beside my mother in the stands. As I took the plate to bat away, I was too absorbed to look back into the stands, but I knew my father was there watching me, encouraging me. We both loved watching the Cubs play, but I remember him once saying to me that he loved watching us minor leaguers play more than any professional game. And you know, when our little league game ended, some father or mother always donated tickets that we players received to purchase anything we desired at the concession stand. To this day, I think the cheap pizza

I ♥ MY  
DAD

Article by DEAN LAKE

they served was the best I ever ate. My father, my father was my hero. My father is eighty six years old now and suffers from dementia. He does not recognize who I am these days, his youngest child, but he is still my hero.

We celebrate Father's Day this month of June. The fact that we celebrate both

Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June is a testament that both are important to our children. I suspect there are groups of people who would like very much for these holidays to be stricken from the calendar. Yet, praise God, both of these holidays exist and for a very good reason—God made us male and female, father and mother. We celebrate the attributes of motherhood in May and now the attributes of fatherhood in June. As a child, it was just beautiful to watch my mother and father pray together at the breakfast table before I went off to school.

Here at PGM, there are so many fathers who so wish to be reunited with their children. And so many are doing

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David Cintron, daughter  
and granddaughters.





# And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to

## LOVING FATHER—continued from page 1

just that. As each finds a relationship with Jesus, each turns then to thoughts of his children. And through reconciliation with Jesus, many do find reconciliation with their children. And, yes, sadly, so many here at the Old Lighthouse share how they themselves never had a real dad in their lives as they grew up. There is an adversary, Satan, who “as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8). Yes, Satan seeks to destroy, and destroying the family has been of great intention to him. We all know the divorce rate statistics; nonetheless, Jesus is greater than he that is in this world: “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).

**T**HE FOLLOWING STORIES are shared by two here at PGM who graciously shared their very personal testimonies about their rekindled joy in being a father or son as they reunited with their child or father made possible through their relationship through our living Savior Jesus Christ.

Forty-seven year old New Life resident David Cintron came to PGM from San Antonio. “In Chicago, I stopped reading the Word, stopped praying; I focused on work and spiritually went downward. When temptation came, I let it in: I began

using cocaine. After a few weeks, I broke down and came to PGM. I had so damaged my relationship with my kids and grandkids, but what I did not know was that they had already forgiven me. Since focusing on my relationship with Jesus, my life has improved so much. You know, I have not had a real Father’s Day with my kids in eleven years; this Father’s Day is beautiful since I am with three of my children [the fourth is in Texas] and my grandchildren. It is strange, but I see that no matter how old my children get, they still need a father in their lives. God is restoring so much in my life, and I enjoy ministering to others here at the mission.”

Nineteen year old New Life resident Dwight Anderson shared his story. “I was having a lot of family problems, burning a lot of bridges, and being rebellious. I was into street life, including the gang life. I dropped out of school and lived on the streets for three years, living with a friend one night and in an abandoned building the next. Since coming here, I have been saved; I’ve given my life to God. I never knew how to pray; I have learned how to pray. And, I recently passed the GED test after completing the course here at PGM, so now I have a wonderful future ahead of me. Also, I have reunited with my dad and my two little brothers. They come to PGM’s Saturday evening Praise and Testimony Service

where we sit together. My dad means the world to me; he is truly my best friend. This Father’s Day is incredible since I am with my dad.” At the time of this writing, Dwight is in Kentucky on tour with PGM’s choir ministering through song and testimony.

While the focus of this issue centers on Father’s Day, you probably noticed that mothers are also mentioned. You know, there is a shallow Father’s Day



David Cintron working at his desk at PGM





the children, and the heart of the children to



*A diligent student, Dwight Anderson studies for his GED degree in the PGM library*

without mothers, and there really is one missing on Mother's Day without a father. It all has to do with a family which does consist of a loving mother and father. The inspired prophet Isaiah wrote: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). You know, an exclamation mark used in the Bible is significant. Significant and also beautiful is a mother and father caring for a child, no matter what the wayward world presses upon us. As Christians, we have no reason to succumb to the topsy-turvy ideas pushed upon us.

Our Bible, God's Word, as a compass on earth, always points us toward Heaven and a beautiful life while we await His return on earth.

There is, thus, a strange part to all this, a part that seems to have been lost in American culture, and it is this—teamwork, even as a mother and father work together as a team. Hollywood presses upon us images of singular heroes. Truth is, though, that if we humble ourselves and work together, we can accomplish the amazing. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13).

You, our supporters, do humble yourselves as you give to enable the light of Jesus to shine upon the many thousands who pad through our doors. Together, as a team, we all are making an astounding difference in the souls of so very many for the eternal glory and honor of Him Whom we serve. An eternity—yes, an eternity—awaits each of us to give praise and thankfulness, and we shall receive: "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works" (Matthew 16:27). As you come alongside us here at the Old Lighthouse and give whatever means Jesus has enabled you, you are helping so many mothers and fathers overcome the topsy-turvy world that seeks to destroy. With your love, mothers and fathers are being reunited with their children for the eternal glory of our risen Savior Jesus Christ. "Rejoice, and again I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Yes, as we reach out, we do find such occasion to rejoice.



*Dwight Anderson with father and aunts*

I ♥ MY  
MOM



their fathers...—Malachi 4:6



## Your Easter Gift

In late February, we began praying and planning to do something special at Pacific Garden Mission to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on what we all know as Easter Sunday. We tried to imagine what it is like to be without a home or without our loved ones to have or share a meal and the entire day with. We wanted to express the love of Christ to our guests and prepare a special day with a wonderful meal and something more....

We knew that many people around the country and in Chicago would love to participate, but how could we make their hearts connect with those broken and in need of so much?

A decision was made to send a mailing to our friends who support the mission to participate in a lovely and beautiful meal for \$1.46 per guest. But we didn't stop there: we sent out a beautiful graphic placemat with the meaning of Easter and comments could be written in to each guest at the meal. On the back was a line art that could be colored by the children.

Praise the Lord; the response was overwhelming. The outpouring of love touched all of our hearts, and more importantly the friends of the mission lived the Scriptures in 1 John 3:17,18. While our guests were waiting for their meal to be served, they were busy reading and sharing and admiring the coloring, notes, and messages.







## **A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski**

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

### **Beautiful Reconciliation**

**“My prodigal son has come home.”**

**I was overcome with such joy when a man here at Pacific Garden Mission shared with me that his father had said these words. A man that recently met with his father was filled with pure joy when he heard his father utter these words.**

This father's son walked through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission three years ago a broken man. You see, after a series of poor decisions and battling alcohol dependency, this man verbally assaulted his father, handed him the keys to the home, and soon thereafter was served with a restraining order. The son wanted forgiveness and was told to first walk the talk. After joining our Bible program, the son surrendered to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. At first there were a few cordial phone calls and then a few cordial meetings, but after the father saw what God had done, he uttered these words, “My prodigal son has come home.” The son was so excited that his father had opened his heart to him again, only made possible through Jesus Christ.

This reminds me of the story of Joseph, that personal forgiveness does not mean instant reconciliation. Joseph recognized his brothers when they came to Egypt: “And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them” (Ge 42:7).

I believe that Joseph had forgiven them, for in Ge 45:8 we read his words: “So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God.” So the issue was not forgiveness but

reconciliation. He had his brothers go back to their father and return later where he recreated a situation to see their response. He singled out his youngest brother and gave his brothers a chance for revenge, just like they did to him many years ago.

When he saw their change in heart, then he reconciled. Ge 45:4 reads, “And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.” Further, Ge 45:5 states, “Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.” He did not reveal himself until they proved that they were different.

We have many people here that have been estranged from their family, and it is a joy to see not only the forgiveness but the

reconciliation. I think of Malachi's words, “And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers” (Mal 4:6). Some relationships may take time to heal; let us forgive those who have wronged us or whom we have wronged. Then, let's show our repentance through the action of a changed life and pray that real reconciliation will happen, remembering all things are possible in Christ Jesus.



*“The Return of the Prodigal Son” (Leonello Spada, Louvre, Paris)*





David Fuller: VP OPERATIONS

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** As we have been reporting, PGM continues to make progress toward the goal of a balanced budget. Meeting this goal requires that we receive at least \$500,000 in donations each month. Though not near that goal of \$500,000 per month, donations each month are exceeding what was received during that same period a year prior. Thank you to all of you who have increased your contributions to PGM.

Summer is approaching which has historically also brought a reduction in donations, but we pray that this year will break that trend. Meeting our monthly expenses means that we are able to address the increasing costs of utilities and city services, other long-term goals like retiring our mortgage, an expansion of the lady's overnight guest area, and other vital opportunities for meeting the needs of the hurting individuals God is bringing through our doors. God bless all of you for your continued support and prayers!

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*

**883** • 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*

**62,346** • Approximate number of plates of food served.

### *Clothing Distributed*

**84,886** • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



### *Medical/Dental Aid*

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

### *Professions of Faith*

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



### *Unshackled! Radio*

**3,058** • Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish).

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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.