

Something to Live For!

Article by Dean Lake

1877.

1877

God's Faithfulness in Chicago for over 140 years

The year Pacific Garden Mission, the Old Light-house, was founded. I suppose most of us know the old story, how Sara Dunn Clarke paused as she was decorating an elaborate piece of furniture in her home in Iowa. A thought formed in her mind as she held this piece in her hands at arm's length— "Sara, what are you doing to decorate your heavenly home?" A singular thought, but one that turned her life: she focused on Heaven and the hereafter from that point on and saw only souls marching into eternity without Christ, without Jesus. Having moved to Chicago, she saw the needs of others, and together with her husband, founded a simple mission with a simple message reach the lost and abandoned in the city with the simple message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It was a simple store-front ministry that reached out to about forty individuals heated by a pot-bellied stove and a kerosene lamp that flickered outwards through the then decadent streets of Chicago. The light was low, but the Words upon which it gave light to were more than able to emblazon hearts to the glory of a life in our Savior

It is a wonderful historical note that the grounds of upon which Pacific Garden Mission arose were formally known as Pacific Beer Garden. Dwight L. Moody, having returned from evangelistic work in England, suggested the change in wording. As the story goes, he told Sara that since she is taking the beer out of men, why not take it out of the name of the location it is associated with and call it Pacific Garden Mission. The Lord works in wondrous, mysterious ways. "And

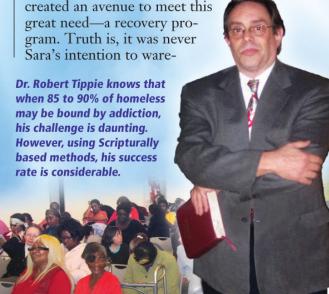
drous, mysterious ways. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Moving through time, we stop during the 1940s, a time

when PGM created a Servicemen's Center to help those in the military. And, in short time, in 1951, "Unshackled!" was birthed as radio was so popular. Stopping again in time, a Men's, and not long after Women's, Bible program was formed. Always, the Old Lighthouse has been focused—bring the Gospel message to those most in need, even as its founder, Sara Dunn, envisioned. Her vision has never, not even for one day, ceased to be the focus of this Old Lighthouse.

Now, the year is and once again, we are at a crossroads, a time of

great change. What are the needs we face? This is an age of cellphones, laptop hotspots, and lattes. It is also an age of addiction. Who are those now who pass through our doors from empty, barren streets and seek food, clothing, and shelter? What brings them here? There are a myriad of reasons, yet one does stand out—namely, addictions to drugs and alcohol. Rather than turn away from this issue, the Old Lighthouse has chosen to, as in the past, meet the need. We have



house people; rather, it was her intention, her vision, to see lives changed through the eternal power of a life transformed through the redemptive work of our risen Savior Jesus Christ. Thus, we have recently created a *New Life Program*, one for men and another for women, to help individuals overcome their substance abuse issues. This program is separate from our men's and women's Bible programs.

Overseeing this most needed venture is Dr. Robert Tippie, himself a graduate of our Men's Bible Program. He has a B.A. in Psychology and a Master's in Divinity, both from Governor State University, as well as a PhD in Psychology from Central Christian University. I had the pleasure to sit down

and speak with him.

I asked him what the difference between our new program and a secular program is. "Our program is not just a thirty-day program to dry out; we seek to push past this first phase that individuals may learn to see the negative strongholds in their lives and through a Christian-based venue overcome them. Our program is a three-month program, after which we help them transition into society as fully functioning Christians."

Having twenty-five years of clinical work, he noted that "Most secular programs for even one month cost around \$20,000, even up to \$30,000. Our program is free. The program is separated into six phases, where the sixth phase focuses on transitioning slowly back into society. Our goal is to prepare men and women who can then assist others who, like themselves before, need help. We are going to use behavioral therapy based on the Bible. The Bible does lay a clear path for life, and we are in no way going to compromise the Bible. We have a golden opportunity to show individuals who have tried to get their lives straight five or six times; we can show them the Bible. We currently have three male counselors and two women who are going through

intensive courses to better prepare themselves, but we need more. It takes more than a month or even three months to overcome serious addiction. After three months on the new recovery

program, those on the new program may enter PGM's Discipleship Program, to provide the means, the atmosphere, to truly become fully functioning Christians."

We are reaching out to meet a great need and transitioning to meet this need. We want to be good stewards. Our trend, the past few years, though, is that our numbers of overnight guests have grown dramatically; our staff, however, has not increased, mainly due to financial constraints. Our goal is not to make people comfortable, but to call people out of the darkness and become Christians focused, as was Sara Dunn's, on the hereafter rewards in Heaven. In short, as the population has greatly grown here—especially in our women's division—we are overwhelmed and understaffed. We are praying that we will receive the funding so we may meet the real needs of those who pad through our doors day and night.



Dr. Tippie in counseling. Those suffering from drug abuse and addiction experience Christ's freedom and joy at PGM.

The Old Lighthouse is not a hotel, not a place that enables individuals to continue in their folly; no, PGM is a place to enable men and women (and, yes, even the children, no fault of their own, who also find themselves with their parents here) to find the light and life-changing transformation that only trust in and an understanding of Jesus Christ can bring. Yes, indeed, we are excited, though the challenge is so, so very great. Our govern-

ment has waged a war on drugs for many years now; however, seems it is failing in our society. But we Christians, you and I, know there is an answer, and His name is "called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince





of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Do come alongside us in this most needed endeavor that we are undertaking. Please come visit us so you can experience an atmosphere of transformation at America's oldest continually operating Men and women at PGM living in maturity and fellowship, set free and enjoying vibrant, productive lives

Gospel rescue mission.

Jesus Christ continues to call men and woman out of darkness and crippling habits into His wonderful light. With your help, men and woman can be free indeed and truly have something and Someone to live for. Please reach out to us as the Lord moves you. Donations can be sent through the mail or through our secure donation webpage at pgm.org. Simply click the donation button. It is fast, easy, and secure; and your help can be used today. While you are there, visit all our television shows.

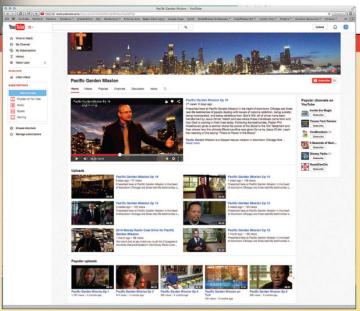
ON AIR

DURING THE SUMMER OF 2014, an unsolicited offer came to PGM to present the Gospel and share lifetransforming stories that resulted from men and women coming through our doors. A one hour television program was planned with compelling testimonies followed by a sermon preached by Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski, president of Pacific Garden Mission, at our Saturday evening Praise and Testimony service.

The Pacific Garden Mission show was born in September 2014 as it aired its first show on the Total Living Network in Chicago and KTLN in San Francisco. At the time of this writing, we have aired 15 shows. All of these are available on our website at www.pgm.org.

To watch live in Illinois or the greater San Francisco area of California, pick up the TLN or KTLN link on our media page. You may watch all previous episodes at the YouTube link on the television page of the Media drop down found at www.pgm.org. The show also airs on Comcast Digital Basic Cable Channel 138 TLN in Northern Illinois (Saturdays, 7:30pmCT, and Tuesdays, 1:00amCT).

PGM Television



Share the program with friends. The program offers hope to everyone.

Visit our website at www.pgm.org





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

"FREE INDEED!"

As our numbers continue to grow here at PGM, the question becomes how best to minister to the masses. Our vision statement says, "We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ."

Our goal, thus, is not just to house the homeless but to see them truly become fully functioning followers of Jesus Christ.

One of the contributing factors of homelessness is substance abuse. I recently asked our intake workers, What is the percentage of people who come with substance abuse as a contributing factor? Their answer was 85 to 90%. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, "Substance abuse is much more common among homeless people than in the general population." The article continues, "Substance abuse is often a cause of homelessness."

Since we desire to make our residents fully functioning followers of Christ, we need to address this pressing issue. The Bible says in 1 Chronicles 12:32, "And of the children of Issachar, which were men

RECOVERY

that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." I believe the Bible holds the answer to life's issues. Revelation 9:21 says, "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." The Greek word for sorceries is *pharmakeia*, from which we get our word *pharmacy*; further, the word *drugs* comes from the same root as *sorcery*. You see, there is a demonic undertone to drug use. The world can never solve spiritual problems while denying the source.

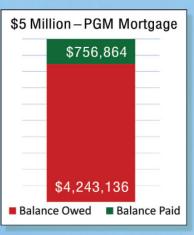
Since we have the answer found in the Word of God, we are following God's leading and opening up a Christian, Bible-based substance abuse program. We will not use modern psychology but trust the One Who can change people—namely, Jesus Christ. John 8:36 says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Now our residents will have an option: if an individual is not ready for the Bible program and has an addiction, he/she does not have to go to secular rehab but can be set free by the Son of God. A long time heroin user Darryl

Henderson was asked what set him free; he simply said, "Jesus." He was incarcerated, addicted, and on the streets before he walked through the doors of PGM. Now he is on staff, has housing outside the mission, and is living "free indeed." We do not have to reinvent what has worked since Jesus came; He can set anyone free. Pray for this new ministry as we launch this together; it is a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12), and we need all the prayer and, albeit, financial support we can get.

FINANCIAL UPDATE—Until the hiring of a director of financing replacing Mr. Brewster, who retired unexpectedly due to illness, I'll be responding to financial issues. Please feel free to contact me at (312) 429-6711 or fuller@pgm.org with your questions of a financial nature.

Helping in this area, I am struck anew by God's faithful financial blessing upon PGM, allowing it to minister decade upon decade. As PGM has developed programs to provide a God-focused response to needs, He has over and over again provided the necessary funding. Praise God for His faithfulness in prompting many to help. I thank God for those of you who will be prompted to support the New Life program and all the other ministries of PGM.





CME—A Wonderful Supporter of PGM

PGM is grateful for the support of the CME Group Community Foundation. Its most recent grant allows PGM to continue providing comprehensive support services for homeless men, women, and families, including shelter, meals, clothing, medical care, educational/GED opportunities, and assistance in obtaining employment and permanent housing.

The Foundation provides charitable grants focused on meeting the needs in global com-

munities in which they live and do business. One such community is Chicago, where the Foundation is headquartered. In addition to disaster relief, the Foundation seeks to provide support in three areas: children in need, education, and health and human services.

Since 1877, PGM has received no government funding and relies on the generosity of those in the private sector such as foundations, businesses, churches, and individuals.

JANUARY 2014 NUMBERS

- **1,011** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
 - **91** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- **49,294** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- **69,255** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
 - **325** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
 - 146 Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- **2,892** 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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PGM, producer of "Unshackled!" is a member of National Religious Broadcasters.