

## In Honor of Mothers

*May. A month that brings growth* after April's gentle covering showers. The cold, confining winter is behind us. Time now to go and plant those flowers. Time now to dig into those flower beds around the house and plant those seeds. Strange but that we go to our knees and dig into the earth to prepare the bedding for the seeds to be seen in the days to come. I see the parallel Jesus made—planting seeds to be seen later in time. And we plant those seeds while on our knees.

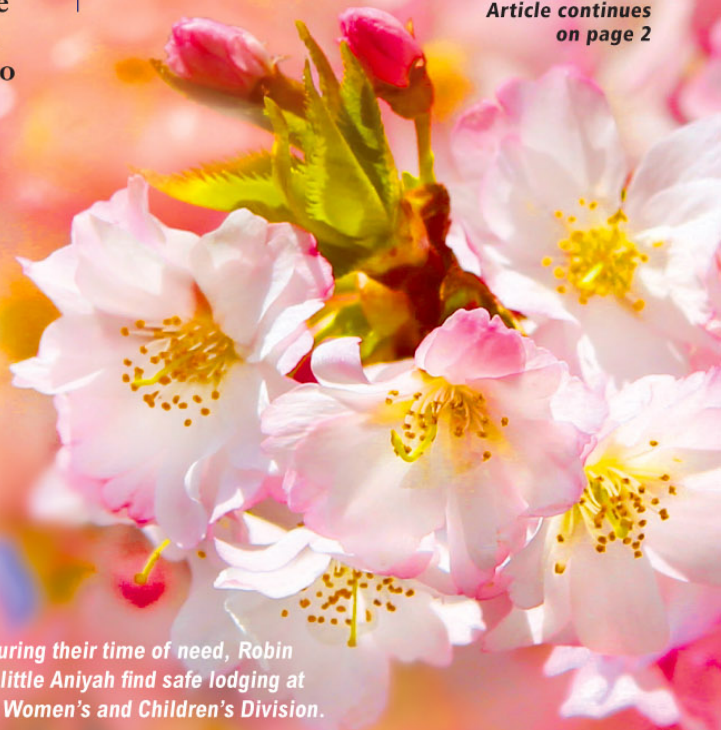
This month, as we see the results of our physical plantings in soft, moist soil, we also celebrate Mother's Day. So fitting, for our mothers gave birth through much travail and then rejoiced looking into the eyes of a newborn child. My mother passed away in January 2007 after a long battle with cancer. She was 75 years old. You know, growing up, I so recall how on so

many holidays—you know, times when family time is everything—that our house had a stranger in the midst. I was too young to understand; I just saw that a stranger was in our house and celebrating the holiday with our family. I cannot say that I was grateful for this at the time, for I really just wanted to celebrate the time with just that—family. But you see, my mother was born in 1930 and was raised during the Great Depression. I remember her telling me that when she was a freshman in high school (one room high school in Wisconsin), she wore the same white sneakers throughout her entire years in high school. Her classmates made fun of her. Looking back, I see why she invited these lonely strangers into our house during the holidays,

*Article continues  
on page 2*



*During their time of need, Robin and little Aniyah find safe lodging at PGM's Women's and Children's Division.*



# I have planted, Apollos wo

IN HONOR OF MOTHERS—continued from page 1

as well as why she was able to sacrifice so much for me as I grew up. She was always reaching out to others because, being a Christian, she so loved Jesus and knew the secret: “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:40). Truthfully, I do not think she was thinking of this verse—I think she just knew that, being a Christian, the point of life was to reach out to others with love and, when the occasion occurred, share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

These days, I don’t have the means to plant physical seeds in the ground, but I do see that I can, still, plant seeds, seeds that are not dependent on physical rain but spiritual rain from Heaven. And I do these days plant spiritual seeds on my knees. These days, however, in our society, we have been taught to gain immediate results, even as the computer age measures time in nano seconds. Yet, Jesus teaches us patience, long-suffering, endurance. These are seemingly outdated measures of time, yet time does not really change, and certainly our Savior Jesus has not changed. The world tells us to hurry up, to do more in shortening measures of time. Jesus, though, tells us to slow down and know that He is Lord of all—Psalm 46:10:

*Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

This month, May, as flowers grow and bloom in multicolors, it is fitting that mothers are cherished, taken out to lunch, given

gifts from their children, and receive cards that eloquently offer sentiments of love and enduring thankfulness. I think that of all the holidays this one is somewhat unique, for it presses upon a most sacred occurrence—children, no matter how old they may be, say, “I love you, Mom.” Within the doors of PGM, yes, we do have mothers with children; in fact—sadly—we have many. Mothers here at PGM, truthfully, are looking upon their children and too often weeping—they so want better for their children. Still, these mothers are receiving gifts from PGM and are given comfort on this cherished holiday. The tears they shed are upon the shoulders of others here at PGM. And their children, they receive love also from so many, including staff, Bible program women, and even the overnight women who feel their needs.

**T**WO MOTHERS here at the mission were gracious enough to share with us their stories, two stories that speak, not only of their hardships, but also the love of Jesus and the miraculous transformation occurring in their lives.

Robin came to PGM with her twenty month old daughter Aniyah. I asked Robin what was happening in her life that brought here to the mission. “I was helping my mother who has health issues, yet the landlord would not let me stay with my mom because I was not on the lease. I did not want to jeopardize my mother, so I left. I heard about PGM through a church group and came here. It is a blessing to be here, staying in the Women with Children Department. I’ve given my life to God and been baptized. I went through a hard time, but my daughter makes me determined. I just keep on praying and have faith in Jesus. It breaks my heart, sometimes, when I look at my daughter; I love her so much and want so much more for her. The mission is helping me in so many ways, and I am so thankful for that. I am also thankful to my own mother and hope I can be a good mother to my daughter.”

I spoke with Tawny, a women who, at the time of this writing, had one week earlier given birth to a baby girl named Lahela Marie. “I came to Chicago from Las Vegas to find a new start on life. I was staying with my brother,



Left—A volunteer holds a child during a Saturday night Gospel service in the PGM auditorium.

# attered; but God gave the ir



**Dawn Simmons**  
holds a guest's child



yet things did not work out. I found myself homeless. I called PGM and asked about their Bible program. Through the mission, I have been put into contact with a group who is helping me find permanent housing. I am also studying God's Word and finding my life settling down after a long time of despair. We have devotions—Bible study—which I enjoy. My daughter is so beautiful. I cannot believe I am a mother on Mother's Day." When asked about the future, Tawny said, "I want to return to college to study medical administration; I like computer work. I'm trusting in the Lord and know with Him all things are possible."

Seeds planted in time. It is time, time we gather together and plant seeds to be seen in time when the harvest is ripe, and it seems the time is near at hand. Here, at PGM, we daily plant seeds, as men and women walk through our doors, many of whom are not ready to accept Jesus; but they are given seeds, seeds of Jesus that do, in the course of time, grow, mature, and change lives. The ministry here at PGM is really a gentle ministry, for we know this—"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Our Lord's Word, given to the thousands who pass through our doors, does not return void. Oh if we would all know how alive the words of our Savior are, we would not shrink from sharing His wondrous Word. If we only would recognize and acknowledge that the Biblical verses are not just words but His Word, backed by a living Savior Who is

alive and  
reverberates

His very voice when we just speak His Word, for He is the Word—"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). We and you our donors, our supporters, are not shy to share His Word, not worried about our lives, and not ashamed to share His Word in a world that pushes all to be politically correct. "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33).

Our Bibles are not collecting dust on a shelf, for we are more than overcomes—"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors

**Overnight guest mother with her newborn at the Mothers with Children section of PGM's cafeteria.**



## Increase—I Corinthians 3:6

through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37). Nay, all at PGM, and you our supporters, are not ashamed of the Gospel message of our risen Savior Jesus Christ, for It is able to save souls (James 1:21). And even more, we know the truth of our work: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (I Corinthians 3:6). Yes, we plant seeds and give what measures we are able, but God gives the increase. Always. Goodness always prevails against evil, always—“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). And, thus, we are ever thankful to you,

**New mother Tawny,  
found refuge and  
hope at PGM**



our supporters, our donors, who give to reach the lost in Chicago, especially this month to reach out to mothers with children. “And let us not be wary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we not faint”—Galatians 6:9. Let us not grow wary, let us not faint, but rather let us grow strong in the hope of our living Savior Jesus Christ.

## PGM Choir performs in Indiana

**P**ACIFIC GARDEN MISSION’S CHOIR visited and sang at Hessville Bible Church in Hammond, IN. Choir director Russell Consdorf (who is a driver in our Transportation Department yet shares his gift to oversee our choir) said, “The visit was a glory to God—we attended Sunday Bible class, after which we ministered in song dur-

ing the worship service. We sang five songs and gave three testimonies, testimonies that spoke of the life-changing work being done at PGM. We were treated to a nice lunch afterwards and enjoyed a time of fellowship. It is so wonderful to share the Gospel through song.” PGM’s choir travels and ministers in churches throughout the year.



Left to right are Leon Morris, David Mead, Brian Matthey, Christian Gabriel, Joseph Glee, Anna Lucas, Jane Szymanski, Karen Piatkiewicz, Kurtina Hunt, and Samantha Gonzalez.





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*

### Someone's father, mother, son, or daughter

AT TIMES SOCIETY LIKES TO LABEL PEOPLE in an effort to take their humanity away. For instance, many people look at the people coming to Pacific Garden Mission and use the phrase "homeless person." I do not see people walking through our doors as homeless, for without Christ all people are

homeless, having no Heavenly home. I see them as someone's father, mother, son, or daughter. A young twenty year old man came through our doors three months ago and was sitting on the bench when I saw him. To society he was just another young homeless kid on the streets, but to God he was so much more. I brought him into my office and shared the Scriptures with him; he then prayed to receive Christ and joined our Bible program. That Saturday during our evening service, I saw him sitting on the front row singing the song "Victory in Jesus," and a few weeks later his family began to visit. I met his grandma, his father, his brothers and sisters; his family was so excited to see what God was doing in his life. This was not just some young homeless man but someone's son, brother, and nephew. The smiles on their faces and the joy in their hearts that their child was in a place

of hope, rejoicing in his new-found faith in Christ, was priceless.

There used to be a sign that was in the mission's auditorium that read, "Mother's prayers follow you." I believe that many who find their way to the mission were an answer to their mothers' prayers. What some view as an unfortunate situation I see as a divine appointment. Some children may not listen at first: Proverbs 1: 8 warns us, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." If your son or daughter does forsake God's teaching, continue to pray. So many mothers' prayers have been answered right here at Pacific Garden Mission—I have seen mothers in tears at the reunion with a wayward son or daughter. This Mother's Day think of the over 1,000 residents at Pacific Garden Mission as not homeless but someone's child, maybe an answer to some mother's prayer. Your fer-

vent prayers and continued support impact the eternal lives of so many literally every single day here at Pacific Garden Mission. Our doors are always open, and O how many daily pass through our doors and are met with the ever-changing living Word of our Savior Jesus Christ.

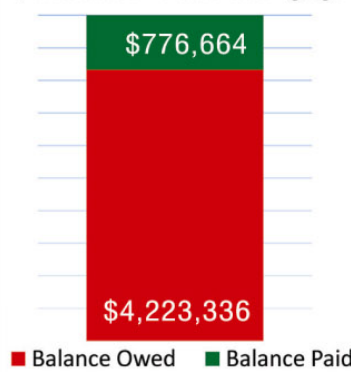


*Marybelli and children  
with Tanya Jordan-Hall*

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** All of us at PGM are praising God for a great start to 2015. New programs are providing new opportunities for the individuals who are coming here and meeting God. Your donations provide the financial means necessary for this to be accomplished. Thank you!

Though monthly expenses are still outpacing regular donations, praise God, the gap is narrowing. As spring rolls into summer, your donations will be especially appreciated because summer is the time of year when donations typically decline. Look at the items below to see how your prayer and financial support is producing amazing fruit at PGM.

#### \$5 Million – PGM Mortgage



Please help PGM erase it's financial debt.

## WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS {March Numbers}



### Nights of Safe Lodging

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

### Bible Study Program

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



### Meals for the Hungry

**55,436** • Approximate number of plates of food served.

### Clothing Distributed

**76,660** • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



### Medical/Dental Aid

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

### Professions of Faith

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



### Unshackled! Radio

**2,942** • 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.