

Women's MINISTRY

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877

TWENTY-ONE YEAR OLD Destiny Neal came to Pacific Garden Mission on June 13th of this year with her three-year-old daughter Faith. In high school Destiny was an honor roll student and played on the basketball, soccer, and track teams. Two weeks before she joined the women's program, her uncle, Derrick Welch, a graduate of the PGM men's program, took her on a tour of the mission and talked to her about the women's program. Destiny says that during the tour she felt the Lord calling her to stay at Pacific Garden Mission but admits she was against the idea at first. Not long after the tour of the mission, her relationship with her boyfriend took her life down a difficult path that ended in a fight with both her and her boyfriend going to the hospital. Upon her release, Destiny packed her belongings and came to the mission. Her uncle gave her a Bible with a note inside that read, "My life changed the day I met God." Wondrously, the very day Destiny arrived at the mission, she accepted the Lord Jesus as her personal Savior. She expressed that the Bible Program for women exceeded her expectations and has helped her to develop a

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Destiny Neal
and daughter,
Faith

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good foundation with God. A verse from Scripture that has been an encouragement to her is 1 John 4:4: "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."

Pacific Garden Mission has witnessed a significant increase in the number of women and children. In particular, the women's division has for many months now been caring for over three hundred overnight guest women. This represents a fifty percent increase from the two hundred daily average number of women cared for over the past few years. Each woman who comes to Pacific Garden Mission has her own story.

Twenty-two year old Gvantse Gogoladee, better known as Gigi, is from the country of Georgia. There she graduated from the police academy at the age of eighteen and was on the police force for four years. Following her and her husband's divorce, she stopped attending church, and her walk with the Lord faltered. It was at this point that her life began to spiral downward. Gigi stated that "when I was close to Jesus, my life was great. When I backslid, things quickly became bad." Gigi came to the mission in August 2013 and believes the program will help her to be a better mom and overcome her issues and strongholds. She hopes to attend a police academy once she finishes the Bible Program. She feels she is getting closer to God daily at the mission. A verse from the Bible that has meant much to her is Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Several factors account for the large increase in the women's division. One in particular stems from the cuts in state budgets. In fact, between 2009 and 2012, states reduced funds for public mental-health spending by a total of \$4.35 billion (Pan, 2013). The result is simple: severe shortages of services, such as housing and general treatment centers, have left more and more people in homeless shelters. In fact, Illinois is among the six most affected states hurt by these cuts. In particular, Illinois has seen a 31.7% decrease in such funds (Pan). The doors of Pacific Garden Mission have remained open every day of the year and every hour of each day to provide shelter, clothing,

Inside the shelter of the mission, Gigi grows closer to God daily.



warm meals, medical treatment, and the salvation message of Jesus Christ for any in need. We are reminded of our calling to the needy in James 2:15, 16: "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

Destiny's and Gigi's narratives are but two of the slightly more than three hundred women residing at Pacific Garden Mission. A direct result and current concern due to the increase in the number of women relying on PGM for shelter is space. To accommodate the women, the current double-bunk beds need to become triple-bunk beds. This is a significant investment of funds to make these bed changes.

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, PGM is so happy to be able to assist women like these. Please join the mission in praying for God's wisdom and provision in meeting the growing number of women and children desperately needing these vital services.

*Pan, Deanna, (2013, April 29). Map: Which states have cut treatment for the mentally ill the most? Mother Jones. www.motherjones.com/mojo/2013/04/map-states-cut-treatment-for-mentally-ill.

Photos top going counter clockwise: A small sampling of the homeless women seeking shelter at PGM, Latrice Willis and children, Verna and her two little ones, Jennifer S. and her two young daughters, Nina and her two young children.





FALL GRADUATION

GRADUATES RECEIVED their charge from board member Larry Roches Thursday, September 26th. These graduates entered the Bible program in the summer of 2012. The graduation ceremony was followed by a reception with graduates and their special guests in the setup dining room. Please join Pacific Garden Mission staff in praying for these graduates as they

conduct job searches, interview, start new jobs, and develop Christian fellowships beyond PGM.

Caption for picture: (back, left to right) Peter Utley, Eric Kent, Dwayne Tripp, Ernest Ware, Kenard Howard, David Morrow. (front, left to right) Barbara Wright, Antoinette Blanton

Farewell to Hall's



Tanya and Ernest prepare for a new life.

PGM personnel said farewell to Ernest & Tanya Hall. Tanya did a wonderful job of leading the mother's with children area, and some of you may recall Ernest's story from the February issue of the *PGMNews*. It was that same month that Ernest experienced a serious stroke from which he worked diligently to recover; but after two more stroke-related events, his doctor directed him to retire. After this last event, Tanya and Ernest were led of the Lord to move to Shreveport, LA, to be with Ernest's family. PGM staff have been encouraged to observe the Godly way in which the Halls have handled this difficult life-changing challenge and pray God will give them many opportunities to share Christ.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

We are all Called to a Heart of Compassion for the Lost and Suffering

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL FALL AFTERNOON in the city of Chicago. Our facility was full with over 900 men, women, and children. As I walked down the hallway, I saw a young man sitting on the bench with a swollen jaw. I never want to lose the compassion for the individual while trying to meet the needs of so many, so I invited him into the kitchen so I could talk with him. He was only 30 years old and was recently attacked for no apparent reason and was left with a broken jaw. His mouth was wired shut, and he had not changed clothes in a week. With a mother in a nursing home and a brother in jail, he has nowhere to go to heal and contemplate his next move.

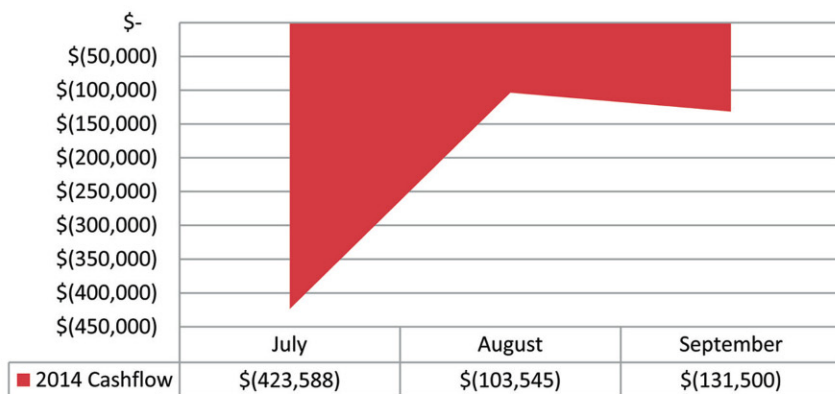
I asked him about his spiritual relationship with God, and he said that he had to be good to get to heaven. After sharing many verses to show that salvation is a gift from God not to be worked for or earned, he bowed his head and prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior. After he prayed, I asked him about his next step; he said he did not know. He has no high school degree and no family to recover with. I invited him to join our discipleship program, where he can grow in his new faith, work towards his G.E.D., and see what God's will is for his life. We are now his family. He was left with hope, as well as a straw to drink his juice with and a change of clothes and a warm shower. These stories remind me why we are here. Where would hurting individuals go if not for Pacific Garden Mission? Jesus tells us in Mark

16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." We are called to Biblical compassion in Jude 22, "And of some have compassion, making a difference."

Is there someone hurting that you know? We are called to show compassion. We are called to Biblical confrontation. Jude 23 reads, "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire." People need to hear the truth. We are called to education. Jesus says in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." Once they come to Christ, we have an obligation to disciple them. Let's never lose sight of the individual needs around us even if the problems of the world are overwhelming at times. Praise God that there is a facility in the heart of the city that still reaches out with the love of Christ to those who are down and out. Where would a homeless man with a broken jaw go if we were not here? Thank you for helping Pacific Garden Mission make that possible.



2014 Cashflow



John Brewster

CASH FLOW is normally negative during the summer months but is followed by a healthy upswing in November and December. We prayerfully anticipate that trend continues again this year. Please pray with PGM to that end as we strive to meet growing demands like the need for additional women's beds as detailed earlier in this *PGMNews*.

Please feel free to contact John Brewster at (312) 429-6760 if have any questions regarding special holiday gifts—for example, appreciated stocks. And a special thank you to all who have taken advantage of the tax free IRA contributions so far this year.

SEPTEMBER 2013 NUMBERS

- 934** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 115** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 66,586** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 58,693** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 223** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 154** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 3,009** Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish)

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.

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