



PGM FEEDING THE HUNGRY

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me" (Matthew 25:34-36)

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION. A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE SINCE 1877



THE LEAVES have all but left us, the remnants of fall quite gone. The cold weather strikes, in all its strength. But as the poet T.S. Elliot wrote, "Winter kept us warm." Winter does, it draws us all closer indoors, where maybe a hearth glows red and yellow and family gather. The season of cold warmth is upon us, and we rejoice that the Old Lighthouse in this cold season is able to give warmth to those who find themselves so alone, so cold. As you give grace this Thanksgiving, remember us in your prayers and help us provide for those most in need. As followers and supporters of PGM, you know that during this cherished holiday not all sit in a family room smelling the baking turkey, the stuffing, the gravy in delicate porcelain dishes, that not all are with loved ones, family members. At PGM, we do sit, though, we sit with those who have no warmth, no place to call home, and too often, so sadly, no reason to continue. But, this is where Jesus enters the room, a cafeteria filled to capacity, here at PGM; this is where the Gospel message reaches out most and a Thanksgiving meal is served and does have all the aromas of love on this most wondrous of holidays. As you read the following stories—three overnight guests whom I had the pleasure to just sit and talk with—please come alongside us in your giv-

ing, as the Lord Jesus lays it upon your heart. "Redeem the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). Help us here at PGM, as we literally daily try to redeem the time.

Overnight guest **JOHNNY SIMS**

spoke to me. "I was here last Thanksgiving [2013]; I was so happy to have this place because if I didn't,

I would have been riding the L [Chicago bus line, where many homeless go to escape the cold]. The dinner and lunch were so nice. I really had nowhere to call home. I don't want to be out in the madness. Last December 6, I was left to die in the cold snow after I was beaten.



Johnny Sims

I really should not be alive, but God had another plan for me. I am sixty-one years old now, and some days I am so tired." Talking about his relationship with Jesus, Johnny said, "I get to hear the Word here, and this makes me a stronger person. I am now able to make better decisions, better choices in life. I am happy for what God has given me."

LUIS ZAYAS says he has been here at PGM for two months. He grew up here in Chicago but had been living and working in Puerto Rico for some years. "When





Luis Zayas

I returned here to Chicago, I thought I had a job, but then the job fell through; I quickly became homeless at that point. In Puerto Rico, I listened to a radio station and remembered the "Unshackled!" episodes, and I remembered Pacific Garden Mission. So this is where I came. It is good to be here. I have been drug free for five years now, and I love hearing the Word each day here. I have been applying for work everywhere, and I trust God will help me find a good job. In the meantime, I appreciate getting three good meals here, especially during the holidays. Life is a little rough now, but I am thankful.

Lewis Eggleston

"I've been born again," says **LEWIS EGGLESTON**. "I started believing in God a long time ago, but I never knew I had to accept Jesus into my heart. I learned that here at PGM, so after one of the services, I went into the prayer room where two helpers showed me



how I could truly become saved. I have my ups and downs; I get stressed. I am hoping to be working before the snow begins to fall. The holidays can be hard, but it is nice that people from the outside come here and provide food." When asked how his walk with the Lord is, Lewis said, "I believe I am ready to give my all to Jesus. I want to be a



Following the theme of thanks, PGM wishes to express its appreciation to the Chicago community for their support during the Thanksgiving season by providing special meals for the hungry. These groups include Levy Restaurants, Food for Friends, and The Chicago Bulls.

good steward."

As our Lord Jesus warms your hearts this holiday season, please come alongside us and donate as the Lord lays upon your heart. We fill empty, hungry stomachs, as well as fill souls each day with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Our doors are always open day and night to be a blessing to those less fortunate. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness" (Psalms 41:1-3). Your support of Pacific Garden Mission provides so much for so many hurting souls.



Recognizing the Summer Graduation Class!

THE SEPTEMBER COMMENCEMENT SERMON was given by Dr. Leon Gombis, a retired dentist. Over the years, he has been involved in counseling and teaching here at Pacific Garden Mission. Two graduates also addressed the audience with words of appreciation for all the Lord has done for them at PGM.

Marquis Lindsey: *"I am thankful for PGM. I came here when I was seventeen years old; I came here right out of prison boot camp. My walk with Christ here has been phenomenal; I earned my GED while on the Bible program and am now taking classes for nursing at Malcom X Community College."*

Gvantsa Gogoladze: *"I came here when I was twenty-two years old from the country Georgia, and God has done so many amazing things for me here. Before coming here and joining the Bible program, I was lost, miserable, and suicidal. Now, though, I know I am a new creature in Christ. I have so much to be thankful for now."*



PGM PROGRAM GRADUATES: (Women, L-R) Samantha Goff, Irene Shangeombe, Gvantsa Gogoladze, Julie Ballard, Kadange Memory. (Men, L-R) Robert Barrett, Robert Jacks, John Officer, Demetrius Brown, Javier Pecunia, Roberto Hernandez, Marquis Lindsey, William Heric. Not pictured: Beverly Matthews





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

In Everything?

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT VERSES TO APPLY IN OUR LIVES IS 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18. I find it easy to give thanks when things are going well, but, of course, the verse adds the words "In every thing." With Thanksgiving Day upon us, it is a good time to examine our own hearts and see if we are truly thankful for only the good things that God has given or thankful just for who God is. I find Job's words amazing after the loss of family and goods that

he could still say, "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). Wow, to have the faith to praise God after what he endured was an act of real faith. I am reminded of this when I look around Pacific Garden Mission. For the most part, rescue missions are places of pain. Some feel emotional pain, some are estranged from loved ones, while others feel rejected by society. And some feel spiritual pain because they do not know our Savior and are plagued by addictions all the while trying to fill an emptiness that nothing but Jesus can satisfy. It is so sad to see those with physical pain, some, in fact, having been passed from agency to agency because no one wants to accommodate a handicapped homeless man with no resources. Even in the midst of blight and despair, I hear words of thanksgiving. I walked up to a man that was seated in a wheelchair (he had only one leg) and

asked him what he was thankful for, and he stated, "I am thankful to be alive; if I did not get my leg cut off, I would be dead." He had no bitterness and was truly thankful. Sitting in a wheelchair with no leg, no home, no family member to comfort him, faced with the cold, hard reality that the only place that would open its doors was a Gospel rescue mission, he was thankful. I saw a blind man sitting in our hallway, and I asked the same question. He said that he was thankful to be saved and that he had somewhere to lay his head. I was humbled. Imagine not only being homeless, but also blind. This makes me examine my own heart. Am I really thankful on this Thanksgiving Day? Can I say with the apostle Paul, "In every thing give thanks"? God has given me a loving family, a place to sleep, and good health; but at times I still complain. I need to remember the suffering of others and their thankfulness. This Thanksgiving, while many will sit in warm homes and enjoy family and food, a blind man will be sitting in a homeless shelter surrounded by other homeless men thanking God for what he has.

President Kwiatkowski surveys the Thanksgiving Meal at PGM.



Please help PGM erase it's financial debt.

WILLS AND TRUSTS—A recent survey discovered that only a third of us have a will, and that less than half of us have any kind of estate planning documents whatsoever. There are three reasons people give for not making an estate plan: 1. I cannot face it 2. I am too busy 3. It doesn't include me, so I'm not going to make plans for it.

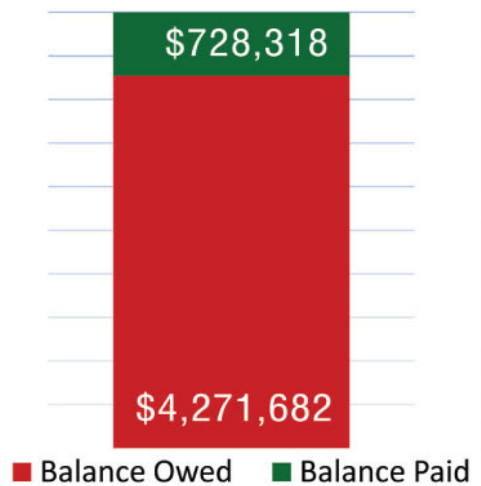
If there are no documents guiding the distribution of your assets, then strangers will make arrangements for your final days and beyond rather than someone you have designated. Dying without a will is called intestate; this leaves state law to define how your estate is divvied up.

As believers, we don't need to be afraid of facing death, and shouldn't be too busy or selfish to plan for our home-going and its effect on those who remain. Don't let these things happen to you. Contact an estate planning specialist and make a plan for the distribution of your assets. This can also be a wonderful way to insure that a Christian organization such as PGM is included in your estate plan. PGM is thankful for the many donors down through the years who have included PGM in their estate planning. It is their thoughtfulness which has sustained us through some difficult years. *Praise God* for those who care for the work of the Lord, even in their passing from this world into God's glory. What a legacy for good!



John Brewster,
PGM CFO

\$5 Million – PGM Mortgage



SEPTEMBER 2014 NUMBERS

- 951** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 97** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 54,057** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 74,622** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 307** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 165** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,919** 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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