

PGMNews

VOLUNTEERS

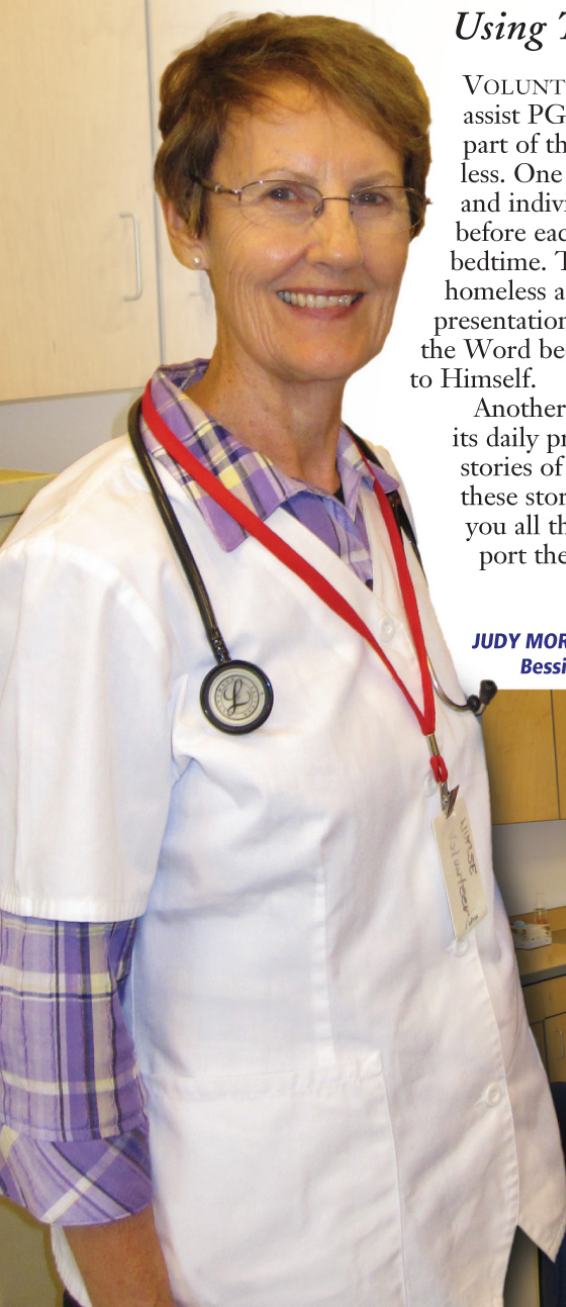
Using Their Gifts to Serve Others

VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE COMMITMENTS to regularly assist PGM in its ministries have been an important part of the many things that PGM does for the homeless. One area that has involved many different groups and individuals is the daily Bible services which are held before each of the three daily meals and another before bedtime. This provides a wonderful opportunity for the homeless at PGM to hear from God's word in a variety of presentation styles, thereby decreasing the potential that the Word becomes redundant to those whom God is calling to Himself.

Another group of volunteers regularly assists PGM in its daily processes. This month's *PGMNews* share the stories of a few of these volunteers. But before sharing these stories, I remind all of Acts 20:35: "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord

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JUDY MORRISON—PGM Volunteer. Judy working with Staff Nurse Bessie Lyles to update the patient records.



Jesus, how he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Many of you have no doubt experienced this blessing first hand. If not, I challenge you to look for opportunities to "support the weak." These volunteers all have experienced the reality of this verse in their own lives.

Judy Morrison

WAKING TO THE SOUND of the 4 a.m. alarm, Judy Morrison climbs out of bed; she arrives at the train station by 5:15, downtown by 7:15, grabs a quick bite for breakfast, and hikes two miles to finally arrive at the clinic. It is a long commute, one most wouldn't want to make for any job, but certainly not for a volunteer job. But it does not bother Judy; it is what is needed in order to allow her do something she loves—nursing and sharing the gospel. Judy's been volunteering at PGM's clinic twice a month for over five years.

Roughly nine years ago, Judy began listening to “Unshackled!”; these stories of the redemptive work of Christ were very encouraging and caused her to have a respect for PGM. But she hadn’t realized that PGM was in Chicago until Don Ziebell, a friend from church and former VP of Operations for PGM, invited the Morrison family to help serve dinner for Thanksgiving and New Years. Then, in November of 2007, the Morrison’s attended



Bessie and Judy carefully review patient records in the clinic.



the open-house for PGM's new facility and Judy met Doctor Dy, who, after learning that she was a retired nurse, encouraged her to volunteer in the clinic. After prayer and careful consideration, she began volunteering in July 2008.

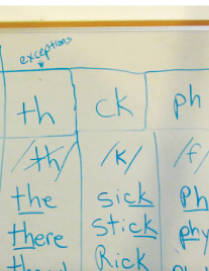
Judy finds tremendous fellowship with the clinic staff and especially enjoys the devotions and prayer at the beginning of the days. Judy offers to pray for each patient; they almost always welcome the offer. Once in a while a patient blesses her by offering to do the same for her. Judy says volunteering has increased her faith while allowing her to continue using her nursing skills.

Judy strongly encourages nurses wanting to share their skills to volunteer at PGM, and she adds that it can be a great way for retired nurses to stay current.

The Starrs *(written by Chris Starr)*

IN 2007, OUR 20-YEAR-OLD SON Christian was serving with the Coast Guard in Hawaii. He was active in a local church and had started collecting sleeping bags to distribute to the homeless in Hilo. When Christian unexpectedly passed away early that year, stories came back to us of the heart he had towards the homeless and the elderly.

Eventually, Christian's heart led us to connect with the homeless at PGM. About four years ago, my wife Karen



Chris and Karen Starr have a gift for teaching and a heart for helping others reach their full potential. They enjoy helping those with severe reading and writing challenges to become proficient in these areas thus paving the way for attaining their GED diploma—a strong focus at PGM.



and I took our first Saturday tour of the Mission and stayed for the evening gospel service. We enjoyed the strong Scriptural message and lively singing. Our daughter, Jennifer, was the first in our family to begin volunteering. Our son, Devin, also began to play the piano at Saturday night services from time to time when he was home from college. Karen and I, too, wanted to do something concrete to benefit those in need. This summer Karen and I volunteered in the greenhouse since we love gardening ourselves. Once the Mission realized we were in education, they asked if we would tutor those struggling with the GED course because of their poor reading skills. We now tutor Program men and women who desire to increase their read-

ing fluency and comprehension. We have seen eagerness in them to learn and to better themselves. PGM takes a very holistic approach to the welfare of the men and women who enter its doors. We know and appreciate others who serve here and would encourage other believers to share their time and abilities.

Wells Thompson

Professional soccer player.

As a little boy, my parents used to take me down to the local soup kitchen to serve. I loved helping out and connecting with folks with whom I wouldn't normally hang out. It was such an enriching time where I was able to learn that it truly is better to give than to receive. As a Christian, I understand Christ's call to love and to serve others. Because I have been blessed with so much I strive to live out Luke 12:48, "for unto whom soever much is given, of him shall much required." It is an honor and a privilege to serve the King! As soccer has taken me from team to team and city to city, I have always made it a priority to get involved with the local rescue missions. Serving with Pacific Garden Mission has truly been a blessing for my wife and me. It has not only been a tool that God has used to mold us into His Image, but it has also made us feel at home in this big ole city!

In closing, we at PGM pray that you are experiencing the joy of giving. If you live in the Chicagoland area, PGM needs volunteers who are willing to regularly volunteer. If you want to know more about volunteering at PGM, please contact Gerald Casey; he'll be thrilled to speak with you.



Wells is pictured here with his wife Daphne and their lovable Irish setter. Originally from Winston Salem, NC, he is a mid-fielder for the Chicago Fire soccer team. PGM is very thankful that when he sought out a ministry in which to focus his volunteer service he chose us. Wells adds a lively spark with his enthusiasm and desire to serve others.





INSTALLATION OF PGM'S NINTH PRESIDENT

ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2013, Pacific Garden Mission held an installation service for the Pastor Philip G. Kwiatkowski. Pastor Kwiatkowski is the ninth president to lead PGM since its beginning in September of 1877. Several board members participated in the installation services which was held in the auditorium before a large audience.

Special guest President Dr. Paul Nyquist (who coincidentally is also a ninth president of another long standing Chicago institution, Moody Bible Institute) provided greetings and thoughts.

Reverend Robert Sheridan, a PGM board member, provided the charge to the incoming president. This held special meaning for Philip because it was Reverend Sheridan

who was his first pastor when he was a new believer at age 20. In fact, Reverend Sheridan baptized Philip and later presided over his and Ann's wedding.

President Kwiatkowski accepted the charge, thanking everyone for their support, briefly shared his testimony, and then requested continued prayer and support. Chairman Dr. Elwood Chipchase concluded the service with a time of prayer and dedication.

Photos: (Top) President Kwiatkowski addresses the assembly. (Bottom left) Key dignitaries included, Roy Patterson, Moody Radio Station Manager, Dr. Paul Nyquist, President of Moody Bible Institute, and Chairman Dr. Elwood Chipchase. (Bottom right) Prayer of Dedication, with board members, and notable guests for President Kwiatkowski and his wife, Ann.

A Word from Dave McCarrell

President Emeritus, Pacific Garden Mission



Eternal Salvation

IT SEEMS that in Romans 8 we see that the Lord's wondrous stream of blessing, for those of us who know Christ, enlarges with each verse of chapter 8. Verses 26 and 27 tell of God's work for believers through the realm of prayer, while verses 28, 29, and 30 assure God's eternal blessings, because of Christians' being in God's purpose.

Verse 28 reads: "And we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose." The word we "assures" that the blessings of this verse and all of chapter 8 are for those who are in Christ because of having received Him as Savior. The clause "we know" is used many times in the New Testament epistles concerning the truth and knowledge God desires us to possess about His blessings for us. God desires that Christians "know so" rather than "think so," "hope so," or "guess so." God desires that we know that all things in our earthly life work together for good. The word all includes every detail that may comprise our lives—the dark and the bright, the bad and the good, the sad and the joyful, the temporary and the eternal, the insignificant and the great. What is not said in this verse is that each experience is good in itself; it does, though, assure by God's grace that these experiences work together for good.

Verse 28 is often quoted; however, those quoting, as well those hearing, should remember that to experience its truth one must fulfill certain conditions: "All things work together for good to them that love God." We love Him because we know and believe the love God has towards us (I John 4:16). We love Him because we know He gave His only begotten Son to die in our place (John 3:16). We love Him because He first loved us (I John 4:19). Only those who know Christ as Savior can truly love God.

Also, to experience this verses' blessing, we not only need to love God, but be

called according to His purpose, which means being in harmony with God's purpose. We do this by submitting to

God's purpose and plan for our life. My dad used to say this verse is a "soft pillow for a tired heart." Its comfort and help is experienced in the measure that one claims its promises by faith. What a comfort for God's children in this day of doubt, darkness, defeat, destruction, and death.

Romans 8:29, 30 reads:

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be in the first-born among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified." Many people have difficulty understanding these verses because of the word predestinate which in the Revised Version is rendered foreordained. My personal belief is Scriptural words and verses should be studied in their context. The words and verses that come before and after any Scriptural statement are vital to understanding the passage. Here the word predestinate follows foreknowledge. Foreknowledge is a part of God's omniscience. God would not be God if He didn't know the end from the beginning. However, foreknowledge does not mean foreinfluence. For example, if you have foreknowledge of a meeting, it doesn't mean you forced it to be held. Predestinate means to preplan. Thus, these verses do not say that God forces anyone to go to a saved eternity in heaven or a lost eternity in hell. I know of no verse in the Bible that says God forces one into a saved eternity or lost eternity. This would contradict other verses, such as "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16) and

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

God has created man and so offered salvation as to involve man's free will. Romans 8:29, 30 state that God has predestined (pre-planned) indescribable blessing for those who He knows will receive Christ as Savior. God has predestined that everyone who of his/her own free will accepts Jesus Christ as Savior, not only has forgiveness of sins and new life in Christ, but also that he/she will see Christ and be conformed unto Him, which means made like Him. For all so saved, God has

planned a life of God-honoring, spiritual testimony, growth, and service (Ephesians 2:10). Also, when we accept Christ as Savior, Christ comes into us. Stated another way, as we identify with Christ, Christ identifies with us. This is God's first step in conforming believers to the likeness of Christ. This enables them to be placed in God's family. We became brethren with Christ (Hebrews 2:11). He is the firstborn among many brethren. Through grace we experience God's family blessings, not only by Jesus, but also in Jesus and with Jesus. Amen.



John Brewster

CASH FLOW is an important indicator of the financial health of an organization. Thus, PGM has decided to periodically provide this information in the *PGMNews* so that those who are interested can be better informed. The fiscal year 2014 began July 1st. The first two months had a negative cash flow of a combined \$527,133. Summers are typically a slower time for donations yet July was especially challenging due a combination of low donations and a few large obligations that became due. We trust God will provide.

Thank you to those of you who have taken advantage of the tax-code allowing for tax free donations to qualified charities like PGM from the mandatory IRA distribution. If you are 70 ½ or older, this may apply to you. Please contact John Brewster if you're interested (312) 429-6760. He is happy to provide details.

AUGUST 2013 NUMBERS

- 899** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 112** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 61,483** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 59,354** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 284** 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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Pacific Garden Mission
1458 South Canal Street,
Chicago, IL 60607-5201

Phone: 312. 492. 9410, Fax: 312. 492. 9415

E-mail: pgmnews@pgm.org

PGM Websites: www.pgm.org/www.unshackled.org

President, PHILIP KWIATKOWSKI
Articles Director, DAVID FULLER
Design/Art Direction, PAUL HIGDON



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