

October 2014

*"The one who blesses
others is abundantly
blessed; those who help
others are helped"*

(Proverbs 11:25)



PGM News

Offering Hope for Mothers and their Children.

A REFUGE FROM LIVING ON THE STREET.

WITHIN THE SANCTUARY of PGM, within the overnight guest quarters for men and women, within the Bible programs for men and women, we have an inner sanctuary for mothers with children. Nonetheless, of late, this special place of safety, of protection at times, has become filled, filled to the point of even facing turning some away. Again, though, we find occasion to rejoice, for though on the brink of turning some away, we

have not had to do so as of yet. As you read the stories of the following mothers with children, we encourage you to act: come alongside us here to

continued on page 2

**PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION.
A GOSPEL LIGHTHOUSE
SINCE 1877**

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a the LORD, she shall be praised—PROVERBS 31:30

Cynthia with daughter Hosannah

PGM's Ministry to Mothers & Children
continued from page 1

meet the needs of the children who, by no means of their own, are here. Help us care for these, these children and their mothers who teeter on the brink of despair, who, truthfully, cry in their desperate situations. In short, we need your prayers and your financial support to meet the increasing needs we are facing; we also need the Lord's wisdom to meet our increasing needs.

The following three mothers were gracious enough to share their stories. It has been said that a country can be (will be?) judged by how it treats its poor. Drawn further, how shall a country be judged by how it treats its innocent ones, its children? Yet we are not unbelievers: we are Christians. As the Lord directs you, please support the work being done here at PGM by giving with a cheerful heart and with much thanksgiving. We pray that our Lord Jesus touches your heart as you become acquainted with the plight of the following stories.

CYNTHIA came to PGM with her eight year old daughter Hossannah. "We have had our ups and downs. Our dorm here is separate from the others; mothers with children have their own dorm here [PGM]. It is peaceful, so we can deal with our children." Recently, mothers with children were taken to the Brookfield Zoo. Cynthia said of this outing, "It



was real nice. The children so loved it; they were so happy." Cynthia also shared that the overnight mothers with children's dorm is full, that it is "packed, it is full. When I first came here, it was not that many, but now it is an overflow. Not everyone can fit into the dorm." Cynthia recounts that she was going through many issues prior to coming to PGM, but that "I knew PGM was a place I could go to, a place that would meet me and my daughter's needs. Here, they help me, they teach my child with the Word of God." Looking into the future, Cynthia says, "I look into the Word. Pastor Green, he gives me the Word. PGM will give you the Word. I have been running, but God brought me here to give me the Word and be in a close relationship with Him."

DEBORAH came to PGM with her two children, six year old Kalay and thirteen year old Destiny. "Things have been going okay for us here. It is hard for my older daughter Destiny because there is not always a lot for her to do because she is older. I look forward to being in my own apartment again." Deborah came here as the result of family problems. She adds, "It is good to have a place here [PGM] until I can get back up on my feet. There are some really good staff here who really care, and the clothing we have received has helped so much for

woman that feareth

The gifts pictured on these pages were given through Pastor Sheridan (trustee at PGM and Senior Pastor of PBC) with Palos Bible Church and were crafted by their members, mainly children, to bless their less fortunate friends at PGM.



Deborah with daughter Kalay

Makya receives gift with doll.

my kids. The dorm for us is so clean and nice." Deborah looks forward "to getting back to work in home health care. I love

working with older people. And my kids, I hope God lets me see them grow up, that they are able to take care of themselves, that they are always in church." Deborah misses her own church, but says PGM's Saturday evening Praise and Testimony service helps fills this void.

LATRICE came to PGM with her two children, two year old Latrice and four year old Deandre. "I just love my kids. Life here has been good for my kids: they have a nice playroom. I can be downstairs in Bible studies and know my kids are doing fine and being looked after. The dorm [for mothers with children] is usually a quiet place, and my kids are able to go straight to sleep. I am thankful for PGM because when I first came here, I found a real church life. I especially enjoy the Saturday evening service because I like to sing Gospel hymns." Latrice added, "We got a lot of clothes and others things we needed. I look forward to getting back in my



apartment, getting a good job in housecleaning. You know, Jesus has changed my life around. I go to church every Sunday; I love church."

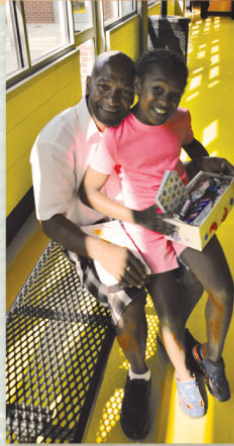
Misery comes in many forms, and most often misery is what passes through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission. When we either have never known Jesus or, perhaps, have run from Him as far as we can go, it is so good to know that He, in His mercy, waits for us, His tender loving kindness and infinite mercy and forgiveness await us when we tire and grow weary. Thus it is that sadness surrounds most who pass through the doors of PGM, but especially sad are the women with children who come here seeking shelter from situations that, at times, are beyond their control, beyond their means to cope. Fear grips all who become homeless, yet imagine being a mother with a child and finding yourself homeless, without shelter. Here, in such a situation, Pacific Garden Mission becomes the personification of Jesus' open Arms to those, perhaps, most in need. Children are so precious to Jesus, a blessing and so full of potential. Our plea over the past months has been simple: please come alongside us and enable us to meet the increasing needs of those who pass through our doors. Our women's



Latrice, with her daughter Latrice and son Deandra

Front cover
photo: Kay Nance
with Makya and
Rodney

facilities minister to as many as three hundred women guests per day. We need more staff to care and minister to those under our roof. Currently, we are simply financially unable to hire new staff. A sadness is that the ratio of those who receive our newsletter and those who support us is poor. It is our prayer that before you lay this newsletter down, you will help us financially to meet the needs of so many who cry in their suffering, especially, as is the focus of this newsletter, the mothers with children. "The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped" (Proverbs 11:25).



Left: Oris Allen
with his daughter.



Young children excitedly opening gifts in the Mothers and Childrens section in the PGM facilities.

Televised Ministry

Pacific Garden Mission
Saturdays at 7:30pm

TLN
comcast 138

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION has begun a television ministry showcasing the Gospel of Jesus Christ transforming lives. We need your prayer support as we strive to show the reality of a life transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ here at PGM. The broadcast is

possibly the only true reality show available—to us eternity is reality. Watch us on Comcast 138 TLN in Northern Illinois (Saturdays, 7:30pmCT, and Tuesdays, 1:00amCT), at TLN.com online, or globally online at the official "Pacific Garden Mission" YouTube site.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

PGM—Offering Hope

FOR MANY OF US, there is nothing more emotional than our families. Proverbs 10:1 says, “A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.” The word for heaviness comes from the words *depression*, *grief*, or *sorrow*. Sometimes we like to isolate people by identifying them with a label, such as *homeless*.

We forget that the men and women who walk through our doors are someone’s mother or father, son or daughter.

Recently, I was reminded of this truth. We held a retirement celebration for one of our chefs, Nate Barnes, who has served here for nineteen years. He gave his testimony and stated that he was homeless and sleeping on a park bench that he was sharing with rats when he decided to seek shelter. He remembered Pacific Garden Mission as a child and came to our doors. After spending the night, he attended a Gospel service and was convicted of his sin and confessed Christ as his Savior. He joined our program and after graduation was placed on staff. After he gave his testimony, he sat down. The next person that spoke identified himself as Nate’s son. I spoke with him personally; he told me he remembers watching his father strung out by drugs staring at a blank T.V. screen. He stated that his father left the family, divorced his mother, and just disappeared. He also said, however, that after his father went to Pacific Garden Mission, he (his father) reappeared in his life as a changed person, moved back home, remarried his mother, and was involved in his life. As I listened to Chef Nate’s and his son’s testimonies, I realized that this could have ended so differently for both of them had it not been for Jesus Christ. Here before me was a man surrounded by

a loving child, wife, and grandchildren; here before me was a man retiring from a ministry with honor. It all started with his decision to get off that park bench.

Another man I spoke with recently told me that his son came here four or five years ago as a last resort. His son was having problems, and a pastor told him of Pacific Garden Mission. Like any father, he loved his son but was broken-hearted by his son’s lifestyle, so he sent him to PGM. After joining our program and rededicating his life to Christ, his life changed. After this young man left the mission, he got married, had children, and now lives and works in another country. His father is so thrilled at the change that God worked in the life of his son.

What could have been heartache or sorrow, God has turned to rejoicing. Pray for those who come here; they are not faceless people but someone’s son or daughter. We are seeing more children and young people, and I am thankful our doors are open and the Gospel is preached.



For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. PSALM 100:5 KJV

Special Thanks to Chicago Community Trust

WE ARE THANKFUL for the continuing support from the Chicago Community Trust, which for ninety-eight years has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. Its most recent grant allows PGM to continue providing comprehensive support services for homeless men, women, and families, including shelter, meals, clothing, medical care, educa-

tional opportunities, and assistance in obtaining employment and permanent housing.

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. If you know of such, please tell them of PGM.

FINANCIAL UPDATE- Thank you for responding to our needs. We are praising God that he has prompted so many of you to increase your assistance to the work of PGM. The summer donations were significantly ahead of previous summers. Though still far behind monthly expenses, this improvement is very helpful and necessary. Again, thank you.

In order for PGM to meet its financial obligations during the months when donations are slow, like the summer months, legacy gifts are often the source of the savings used to pay the bills. Legacy gifts are generally designated in as part of an individual's will or trust. We at PGM are so thankful that God has, over the years, prompted many to include PGM in their legacy-giving plan. Without these legacy gifts, PGM would not have been able to pay its bills. Please consider PGM in your estate planning. For more information, please contact John Brewster at 312-492-9410 ext 1510.

AUGUST 2014 NUMBERS

- 939** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 97** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 55,086** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 71,149** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 307** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 115** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,910** 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.