



ARTICLE BY DEAN LAKE / PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN WELCH

SUMMERTIME Street Picnic

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION / TRANSFORMING LIVES SINCE 1877

OCTOBER 2015

AS YOU KNOW, we have been sending you, on occasion, an opportunity to offer help through a Meal Ticket, a ticket that does literally offer you the opportunity to feed homeless individuals. Your response has been, well, simply put, a Godsend. Due to your wondrous response, we were able to create a special day—we initiated a Summer Picnic 2015 on August 8, a

Saturday. We coordinated your efforts with our staff, the Alderman, the Chicago police, and neighboring businesses to close down 14th Place for a PGM outdoor block party. We set up tables and chairs, set up two huge grills (on which we barbecued chicken and burgers), and set up several activities. The outcome and ministry were amazing—so

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many were fed, ministered to and prayed with, and filled with a day of joy. In fact, the Gospel message was

preached twice. Over 800 men, women, and children were ministered to. The additional funds provided through the Meal Ticket will be used to fund our programs and see lives changed through the power of Jesus Christ.

I watched as the kids gathered in lines to get a snow cone, as they ran back to and fro to their mothers and smiled with multi-colored lips. These beautiful children tried to throw a football through the ring game we brought in and laughed and laughed as they did so. Other children tossed sand bags, as others waited in a line to have their faces painted by a resident, Sarah, on our New Day program. All around me chil-

A flyer was circulated weeks ahead of time to reach the homeless.

dren, homeless children, children who knew not they are actually homeless, laughed,

smiled, and kept running back to their mothers with such smiles and grins on their beautiful, small faces. As I watched and soaked in the scene before me on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon, I nearly collapsed—homeless children were laughing and smiling and running to each small event before them. While these children of God ran to and fro, tears continued to gather in my eyes, for while they knew not of their plight, I knew—they have no home to go to, they with their mothers just enjoying what we, and only thanks to you, this day were able to offer them. I closed my eyes and looked upwards, and this thought entered my mind—you, our donors, our supporters, made this possible. I truly wish I could put into words how wondrous this day, that you made possible, was for these children. Yes, homeless men were also so blessed on this day, but truthfully, it was the children, homeless children with their mothers, who touched my heart and soul so very much this day. We were like one big family.

Maybe, thus, all I really saw this day were beautiful children whose lips were multicolored from our snow cone machine. I knew, yes, that they were homeless children, their mothers seated and looking and hoping, hoping for something better for them. Was it at that point that I turned and looked at the brick building beside me—PGM, Pacific Garden Mission, a safe place for mothers with children where a safe haven awaits inside, a place to lay their sleepy heads without interruptions by the disturbing world that awaits them?

I wish you could have seen what I saw—the children smiling and waiting in lines to get that snow cone or receive some ridiculous





Over 800 men, women, and children were fed and ministered to. Homeless guests enjoyed fresh air, laughter, and the hand of friendship.



Face-painting was a popular event for the children!

painting on their faces. Really, when one child finished getting his/her face painted, he/she turned to see the reaction of the other children and quickly ran to his/her mother. Yes, all the children laughed at the painting upon each child. I smiled too, yet there were still tears also in my eyes, for I knew the plight of the mothers whose feigned painted smiles on their faces were for their children.

As you know, Pacific Garden Mission has added a New Day program. As we have shared, our emphasis is not about warehousing the homeless: it is, and really has always been, about lives transformed through the life-changing knowledge of Jesus Christ. And this day, amid the turned burgers and charred chicken, the Gospel message was sent out. In fact, before the lines formed for lunch, our own larger-than-life minister Pastor Green (seriously he is like six feet ten tall), director of our Men's Division, shared his testimony. He shared how he, back in 1995, arrived on the doorsteps of PGM, both his hands literally broken, as well as figuratively his heart. He spoke outdoors, on the sectioned off street, with the sun shining and a Chicago wind blowing; nonetheless, you could hear a pin drop as he spoke—his testimony is that strong and that beautiful. He spoke plainly and at the end offered an opportunity to the

entire crowd before him to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. God-honoring music was played the entire day by a steel pan orchestra, and this group—One-Way Evangelical Ministries Steel Pan Orchestra—gave another invitation to receive Jesus. O, what a wondrous Lord we serve to hear such a testimony of the life-changing work of our Savior Jesus Christ twice!

And so, as you know, we not only have a Bible program called New Life, but also a program called New Day, which addresses those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. Nonetheless, we so often are met with mothers with children. And we do have a mothers' with children ministry within our doors. And this Summer Picnic perhaps ministered most to these thanks to you. I really cannot put into words the images I witnessed that Saturday—so many children with painted faces running about and laughing with broad smiles. I think seeing these forlorn children smiling and laughing was a real miracle. I am writing this newsletter article past tense, but, you know something, tears are still lingering in my eyes. I guess we all here just truly want to say thank you for what you, our donors,



Right: Homeless children were laughing and smiling and running to each small event before them.

Left: Pastor Green sharing the Gospel.



our supporters, enabled us here at the Old Lighthouse to do in the very name of Jesus Christ. Not a long article this month—I want these pictures to give the testimony to your giving. Thank you so very much for your continued support for what I believe was the greatest of all gifts given—children with painted faces on a warm, sunny Saturday afternoon laughing and smiling.... Thank you and God bless you.

SPECIAL URGENT REQUEST: Bath Towel & Winter Coat Need

Just a note to let you know of an immediate need—we are in need of bath towels and winter coats (new or used is fine). Any donation of these items would be greatly appreciated.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

NEW ENVELOPE AND POSTAL CHANGES: Due to the record numbers of people we have cared for in 2015, we are improving our receivable process and our fiscal transparency with you, our faithful friends and donors. We want you to know that when you give to Pacific Garden Mission, you are not giving *to* the mission, you are giving *through* the mission to the people who need it the most. Our vision is to create fully-functioning followers of Christ. With this in mind, we plan to share more with you in the coming year on how we can partner in prayer and giving. We are redesigning our envelope that it may be used more efficiently and effectively by God's stewards here at PGM. We have addressed several issues while creating this new envelope which you'll receive in November.

First, we have simplified the areas of our ministry that your contribution may be applied to for those of you who like making that selection that is on the back of the envelope. We simplified the accounting procedures with three options which cover all of the donations we received last year. This means that no ministry will ever be neglected financially as we continue to seek God's will as financial stewards here at PGM.

Secondly, we have addressed handling your funds quickly and efficiently by working with our post office to eliminate delays. We realized that the majority of envelopes coming in to PGM had stamps on them, even though the envelope was already postage paid. So our post office recommended we eliminate our postal permit for nonprofit paid mail because it goes through a separate process at the USPS which can cause one to several days delay in the delivering of your gifts to PGM. Your stamp also helps our ministry reduce costs.

Thank you for your faithful support of Pacific Garden Mission.

The PGM management expresses its sincere appreciation for helping us become more efficient in several stages of our gift processing.

Please apply my contribution as follows:

- ☐ General Fund – PGM Ministry Operations
- ☐ PGM Debt Retirement
- ☐ "Unshackled!"

Note our PO Box for secure processing of receivables.

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
PO BOX 7436
CHICAGO IL 60607-9835

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Listen to "UNSHACKLED!" on your local radio station
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Catalog of "UNSHACKLED!" resources also available upon request

Please make any necessary changes in name or address on the form below.
PLEASE DO NOT USE SCOTCH TAPE OR STAPLES ON ENVELOPE OR CHECK.

FROM:
For Office Use Only



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

Our Most Vulnerable

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Our Lord is interested in every individual who walks through our doors, but there is one group that stands out—children.

Luke 18:15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

This attitude was reflective of the attitude of the day: children were not valued. In ancient Rome, children were seen as disposable. One writer states, “An infant could be abandoned without penalty or social stigma for many reasons, including an anomalous appearance, being an illegitimate child or grandchild or a child of infidelity, family poverty, parental conflict (ob discordiam parentum) or being one of too many children. Sometimes they were given to friends, but more often than not they were abandoned to the elements, and death resulted from hypoglycemia and hypothermia. Sometimes the infant was devoured by the dogs that scavenged public places” (Colon, 2001, p. 91).

The Christians in the early church valued what society did not, and that was the most vulnerable amongst us, children. A historian writes, “In many instances Christians rescued exposed infants, and brought them up with the aid of community funds” (Durant, p. 598).

As I see the number of children here at PGM, my heart breaks. I just spoke to a young girl who is going into seventh grade, and she was excited about the prospects of school. She lives here at the mission. The thought of a young child living in such a difficult situation and yet feeling joy and security at being here brought joy to my heart.

Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Young hearts are open to the Gospel. As society continues to tear apart, children are often caught in the wake of the turmoil brought on by a culture that rejects God. Let Pacific Garden Mission be a place that many can wash ashore and find hope and security in the arms of a loving Savior.

• A.R. Colón, A. R. & Colón, P. A. (2001). *A history of children: A socio-cultural survey across millennia*. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

• Durant, W. (1944). *Cesar and Christ*. New York: Simon & Schuster





CHANGED LIVES BY GOD'S POWER!

Pictured are the individuals enrolled in our New Day program, a program that addresses the root causes of addiction, be it gambling, alcohol, drugs, or sex.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS {August Numbers}



Nights of Safe Lodging

836 • Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.

Bible Study Program

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



Meals for the Hungry

46,778 • Approximate number of plates of food served.

Clothing Distributed

79,100 • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



Medical/Dental Aid

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

Professions of Faith

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



Unshackled! Radio

3,110 • Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish).

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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. 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.