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getteth knowledge; and the
ear of the wise seeketh
knowledge"—Proverbs 18:15.*

PGM*News*

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

GED

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

THE OLD LIGHTHOUSE FEEDS, clothes, and shelters many hundreds each day of the year, always open every day of the year to those in need. Still, life is more than this: "The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment" (Luke 12:23). Pacific Garden Mission is so much more than providing for the basics of life: the Old Lighthouse shines the light as a means out of the grip of poverty to those who pass through our doors. As you, our donors, our supporters, know, the Gospel

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Dean Lake manages the Pacific Garden Mission's GED training—shown here teaching in our dedicated classroom facility.

message is at the forefront, the vanguard, of our longstanding ministry. Yet, even as II Timothy 2:15 sets forth, we must push forward into our studies. Without a basic education, how are we to push forward in our study of the Word, not to mention push forward in society at large career-wise? Two years ago, a supporter gifted PGM with the means to construct a GED program open to men and women on the Bible program who lack a high school diploma. Now, two years later, so many have been blessed by our Lord to have received their GED and witnessed, not only an avenue out of poverty, but also the beauty of attaining an elegant mind.

We hope you are moved by the following five individuals who share their testimonies, testimonies that so illustrate the beautiful work of Jesus in the lives here at the Old Lighthouse. As you read the following stories, please consider becoming a supporter of the work being done here at the Old Lighthouse, a work that

is enabling so many the means out of the confines of poverty.

Eighteen year old **CHRISTIAN MEJIA** spoke of his life prior to coming to PGM. "I had dropped out of school at the eleventh grade. Because of the many problems I was having in life, I did not want

to finish school. I reached a point where I just packed my backpack and got on a train. I first ended up in Washington; from there, I decided to go to Chicago, where I was homeless for seven days. I was told of PGM and found my way here. Since coming here and joining the Men's Bible Program, I was able to distance myself and find a more calm environment which gave me the opportunity to really discover the intellect I knew I had. In fact, I joined the Bible program just so I could enroll in the GED program. I did not realize then that

soon I would devote my life to Jesus." When Christian recalls what went through his mind when he learned he had passed the GED, he said, "I was ecstatic. I am currently taking college classes at Truman College and after finishing fifteen hours will be joining the Navy. Earning my GED has opened a huge doorway for me. The Lord is so good to me. My future goal is to become a mechanical engineer."

Eighteen year old **MARQUIS LINDSEY** earned his GED here at PGM. His saga is as follows. "I tried to get my GED while at Will County [jail] but failed. But I am here, and thanks to Dean Lake I earned my GED. The classes were phenomenal; he sat with me outside the classroom and tutored me. When I learned I passed the GED test, I said to myself, 'Nothing

but God.' I cannot even tell you how I felt that day. I had prayed that day before I took the test." Marquis was accepted to Malcolm X College and began his college career this past August 25. He is taking classes to initially earn an A.A.S. in nursing. Marquis will graduate the Men's Bible Program this September. Marquis added, "You know, a month after I joined the Bible program, I gave my life to Jesus; great things have been happening since."

Forty-six year old **ANTHONY HILL** shared his story. "I dropped out of high school my senior year. I just didn't think a high school diploma was important. Back in the day, anyone could go from job to job to job. But as the years went by, it became difficult to get a job without a high school diploma. When I joined the Men's Bible Program here, they told me it was mandatory for those without a high school diploma to take the GED classes. My teacher pushed me, saw in me things I didn't see in myself. I found that everyone in the class worked as a team, helping each other. At my first try-



Marquis Lindsey



Christian Mejia

out, I got my GED. My mom was so proud. I know now I can't be held back; I know if I want something, struggle, work hard, and pray, I can obtain anything if God wants me to have it. I currently work security here at the mission. I know also that I can go out now, even if I leave here, and put that [GED] on my application."

Thirty-seven year old **JAMIE MARTINEZ** left school his sophomore year. Speaking of his class work in PGM's GED program, he said, "It was a challenge for me because I never thought I would get my GED. I had tried a few times to get my GED in the past, so when I came here, along with my problems, I decided to just leave them behind and focus on my studies." Jamie took the GED test two times. The second time, he retook the two tests he needed to pass. He said, "When I learned I passed the GED tests, I thought, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Funny now is that since getting my GED, I have been accepted into Kennedy King College, where I passed entrance tests, while also being hired by an apartment complex to oversee renters. I never imagined myself being accepted into a college." Jamie also shared a glimpse into his spiritual life: "I was an overnight guest here at the mission when an individual in intake Office B shared the Gospel with me.



Jamie Martinez

I accepted Jesus into my heart and joined the Men's Bible Program. Strange is that now I work in Office B here at the mission, sharing the Gospel with those who, like me before, walk through our doors. Now, each morning, when I open my eyes, I begin my day with prayers and thankfulness to God." Jamie started his job as desk clerk this past July.

Thirty-six year old **MELISSA LAMMONS** was one of the first to earn her GED through PGM's GED program which began in February 2012. Melissa left school her sophomore year. She says, "I tried to go back a couple of times but just wasn't able to follow through." Melissa recounts her experience in PGM's GED program: "It was challenging, especially the math. Everything else, from the science to the reading to the social studies, was not so difficult for me. When I took the GED test for the first time, I passed everything but the math. I became a little depressed, but you [Dean Lake] and the girls upstairs [Women's Bible Program residents] kept motivating and pushing me. I kept saying to myself,



Melissa Lammons



'I will not be defeated.' When I took the math test over, I'm not going to lie to you, I prayed on the way to take the test, I prayed before I took the test, and I prayed after I took the test. When I found out I passed, I started screaming with excitement." In August 2013, Melissa began classes at Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts and will graduate this November 2014. Melissa added, "Hey, just knowing you have trust and faith in God, He will take you far."

PGM is so much more than food, raiment, and shelter: it is about helping souls into

Dean Lake teaching
GED students
basic algebra

Heaven eternal above and out of poverty here below. The aforementioned individuals would not have found such transformed lives were it not for you, our faithful donors. Before you fold and lay this newsletter down, please consider helping us as we continually seek to fulfill the Lord's edict to the church—namely, "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted souls; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday" (Isaiah 58:10).



PGM Premieres on Television!



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION is excited to announce that it will be airing its own show on Total Living Network (TLN Comcast Digital Basic Cable Channel 138). The show, *Pacific Garden Mission*, premieres on Saturday, September 6th, at 7:30pmCT. It will continue to air every Saturday night at 7:30 on TLN (Comcast 138) in the Chicagoland and Northern Illinois area down through the Springfield, IL, area. The program will re-air Tuesdays at 1:00amCT. The showing will consist of preaching from PGM's

weekly Saturday evening Praise & Testimony service, as well as uplifting testimonies from many here at the Old Lighthouse whose lives have been transformed through Jesus Christ. TLN is a Christian organization providing faith-based programming through various forms of media. TLN programming is seen exclusively through XFINITY from Comcast cable channel 138 in the Chicago and Midwest region. TLN programming is also syndicated in various markets and can be seen via their live stream at www.tln.com.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

PGM—Offering Hope

1 Chronicles 12:32 And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

EVERY AGE HAS CERTAIN CHALLENGES that are unique, and those that understand the times set the tone. Pacific Garden Mission has always been at the forefront of meeting current needs, along with sharing the

timeless message of eternal life. In Carl F. H. Henry's book *The Pacific Garden Mission: A Doorway to Heaven*, we read, "During the years 1880 to 1912 when Monroe proclaimed Christ's redemptive love at Pacific Garden Mission as convert, song leader, assistant superintendent and then superintendent, the historic refuge became a growing cradle of American evangelism. Folks who slept in cheap flophouses—railroadmen, harvesters, lumbermen, boatmen, longshoremen—were among the best candidates for the ministry that Monroe could find. They came in great numbers to hear his story, and they saw many of their own number go out to preach the Gospel.

"Six years before Colonel Clarke died, the mission doors swung open in 1886 to make way for Billy Sunday, but the Colonel did not live to see the trail of heavenly fire with which the ex-baseball star ran the bases from one key city to the next. Sunday's peak came from 1910 to 1920, although he had many campaigns before and after those years. Likewise, when Mel Trotter was converted in 1897, Colonel Clarke had been dead five years, and nobody dreamed that the mission convert's influence would plant rescue centers in more than one hundred cities. But Billy Sunday and Mel Trotter were not the only miracles of grace in Pacific Garden Mission annals. True enough, they shook the cradle of American evangelism like few men before or since, but apart from them the steady stream of converts that has gone from the Mission into Christian service has left a tremendous mark upon the nation"

(1942, p. 51, Zondervan, Grand Rapids).

Feeding people during the Great Depression, opening up a servicemen's center during WWII, starting "Unshackled!" when radio was at its apex, opening a clinic when men and women from the streets suffered cuts and bruises and had no medical care—all these Pacific Garden Mission has done. Leaders of PGM have always known the times and what we ought to do. Currently, our Career Development program and GED programs are all designed to meet the needs of our time. Continue to pray with us. Sadly, this past July 4th weekend, there were 82 shootings and 14 killed in Chicago. Drugs and violence fill our streets; God has placed Pacific Garden in the middle of it all. We have the message they need to hear—namely, that "Jesus Saves!" Pray that as we encounter these struggles, we will know what we ought to do. And please, seek the Lord's will for your giving. If He stirs your heart to come alongside us to support His active work here in Chicago, we can only praise Him for the generosity shown by His believers to meet the needs of our suffering neighbors.

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Please help PGM erase it's financial debt.

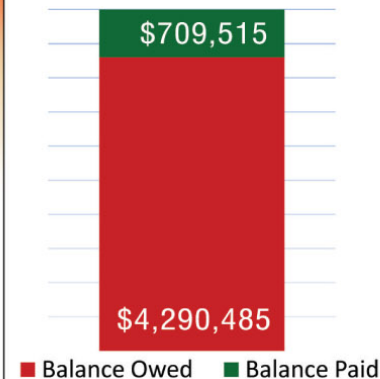
FINANCIAL UPDATE- In July, 88 beds were added to the men's dorms, increasing the number of beds available for male overnight guests (ONG) from 536 to 624. These additional beds have enabled each male ONG coming to PGM this summer to have a bed (approximately 550 nightly) and prepared us for winter when there will be between 600 and 700 nightly. These beds were added by putting a third level on existing bunk bed systems, a major and costly (\$56,000) modification. However, it is far less expensive than building an

addition. In April, a similar project was completed for the ONG women's dorm from 134 to 202 beds. Thank you for supporting PGM and helping us add 156 beds. It is difficult making these necessary financial expenditures in the summer when donations are slower and below expenditures even without investments like the beds, but it is encouraging to see that donations are stronger than previous summers. We praise God for his goodness and praise Him for your financial support of the work at Pacific Garden Mission.



John Brewster,
PGM CFO

\$5 Million – PGM Mortgage



Please make a special note to visit us online at www.pgm.org. Go to our newly designed web site and click on NEWS. Please help us share the Mission. Tell your friends to contact PGM to get on our mailing list, and receive monthly updates and news.

JULY 2014 NUMBERS

- 918** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 105** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 43,452** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 76,317** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 377** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 121** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 3,060** 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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