

# PGM News

SEPTEMBER 2015

## Women's New Day Program

Article by DEAN LAKE • Photography by STEPHEN WELCH

**Imagine**, imagine the alarm clock sounding off at 7:00 am, that horrid sounding thing meant to be horrid to assure you awaken for the day. You quickly sit up, turn, and find the snooze button—ten more minutes of sweet slumber as you lie back down on a soft pillow on a soft bed. Yet, you know you will arise before those ten minutes are up because that horrid alarm is too much to hear a second time this early in the morning. So, after five minutes, you sit up again

and turn the awful sounding thing off. Rising, the ritual begins. You brush your teeth and look into the mirror as you do so, pausing to look at yourself and wonder—do I look good, am I aging? Yet your thoughts begin to turn towards the day ahead of you. Showered, you select your clothing, eat breakfast, and after praying with your family with held hands, head out to meet the day, to find a sense of well-being and well-doing in your chosen profession.

*Article continues on page 2*

Women of the NEW DAY program (90 day program dealing with substance abuse) with Dawn Simmons teaching a class in the women's library conference room.





# The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit—Psalm 34:18

*continued from page 1*

The work day ended, you return to your home and are greeted by loved ones and dinner among family. And as the day draws into evening, you find sleep falling peacefully upon you, and yawning, you retire to your soft bed and sleep a most fitful, peaceful sleep under the love and knowledge of your hope in Jesus.

**I**magine, imagine now no alarm clock, for even if there was one, you would not hear it incessantly sounding off for minutes on end. Your eyes open and look about. You not only do not know what time it is but you also do not even know what day of the week it is. Yet, there is a horrid sounding off going on about you, within you—it is a sickly feeling in your body and mind. Your first thought is not about brushing your teeth or showering; it is about hushing the incessant sickly feeling that is consuming your mind and body. You rise, not to find fulfillment in work and family and God; no, it is to quell that sickness that is now so all-consuming. Your ritual begins.

Your road to addiction began so innocently—a beer or two after work or a recreational hit of marijuana. Yet, as months turned to years, the two beers drew into a six pack, then a twelve pack, and then one beer was too many and a hundred was not enough. And that recreational thing, well, it grew into a morning ritual, again repeated in the afternoon and again in the evening; but

why not just try something a bit stronger, say heroin or cocaine or who knows what. In time, clocks no longer measured time: they measured when it was time to indulge in drugs and alcohol. In time, your sickness was so immeasurable that the only relief was to ease that demon now in complete control of your life. You have entered now a circle, a cycle, now repeating itself over and over again every waking hour of each day of your life. The point one day reaches its climax—you realize you are trapped in an oceanic whirlpool that is sucking you down into its swirling, horrifying depths of absolute despair and certain death.

O, who can break such demonic forces that have settled within your being? In your darkening hours, you do hear a voice in your mind, saying, “There is no hope other than your very death.” The demon or demons you have let into your life—“O, it is just such fun, and you work hard and deserve it; it is just a recreational thing”—now crowd and fight amongst themselves to get a say-so in your mind. Where is hope now, where is the fun now? These voices are adamant: the only hope, the only release from your agony is to end your life. Personified, addiction is the handcuffs Satan wants all humanity bound by. Jesus said, “And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting” (Mark 9:29). I certainly am not saying nor suggesting that those struggling with addiction are possessed, certainly not; however, certainly there is an oppression on their lives set there by the adversary.

An addict has no relief day or night. Thank you for placing yourselves vicariously into the life of an addict and maybe understanding a bit more. You and I, we do have rea-



*Dawn Simmons prepares for her work with the women who come to Pacific Garden Mission seeking help by joining the NEW DAY program. Many have found freedom, joy, and a new purpose.*



son to rejoice, for there is hope for those wrestling with addiction—so many can and do find their way out of addiction and are able to break those chains that bind them, for we Christians, we also have not shied away from sharing our voices, voices that say aloud the very Word of God in a lost world, that can and does find its way into the minds of so very many on the verge of death. Addiction is a strong ally of Satan, and this world, being in league, really has not the ability nor the answers nor the power to overcome this evil in this world. Our hope, though, has a name, and that wondrous name is, as you know, Jesus. Jesus.

As you know, our women's division has also adopted a New Day program to help women struggling with addiction. I want to share with you three individuals involved in this program, one who is a staff counselor and two who are on the program.

**Dawn Simmons**, herself a graduate of our New Life Bible program (2009), is a resident staff member and serves as a counselor for the women on our New Day program. She, along with all our New Day staff, is finishing up a six month training course and will soon be a licensed addiction counselor. She shared with me that "the women arrive here with various addictions, from alcohol to heroin. I think that for these ladies it is so important for them to learn coping skills. We, as Christians, turn to God when facing a problem, but those with addictions first turn to substance abuse. It is so important to find your foundation in Christ.

This is what makes our program

*Sara now has a bright future having been set free from addiction.*



*Nova now experiences true peace in Christ.*

unique—its foundation is Jesus. Everyone attends a Bible class in the morning and also attends various classes and personal counseling with a focus on cognitive behavioral therapy."

Women's New Day resident **Sara** spoke with me about her life. "I became homeless after using heroin and crack for a few months. I have had my share of abuse throughout my life starting with foster care when I was three years old. I really did not even want to live anymore and knew I needed something. But I decided to use my last efforts to save my life. The night before I came here [PGM], I found myself sleeping in a condo that was under construction. Thirst drove me to a hospital where I learned about PGM. When I arrived here, I admitted I had a problem with drugs and alcohol. The person I was talking to looked at me and said, 'Well, we have a program for that.' So I joined the program. Being on the program has given me a safe place to work through my problems. I have struggled with my faith, but now I feel God's presence in my life." Sara's hopes for the future? "I look forward to returning to work; I am a cosmetologist and really enjoy being with and helping people."

**Nova** joined our women's New Day program recently. She said, "I started drinking when I was thirteen; it escalated to heroin and cocaine over the years." I asked Nova what finally brought her to PGM, and she answered very simply, "I almost died of an overdose. At that point I realized I was just so tired doing drugs so much. Here, on the program, I am able to talk things out and really let my true feelings out. I have classes nearly every day. I have a better understanding of God but struggle sometimes



understanding the Bible, but I am learning so much. I read my Bible every day. I want to be better, to move forward. I like helping people and hope one day I can help others who suffer as I have suffered.”

O, praise to Jesus, truly we are seeing what maybe is a real miracle: we are witnesses to addictions actually being broken, lives transformed through the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, and captives in chains being set free indeed. You, our supporters, our donors, truly our strength in the adversity set before us, have followed this significant change here at PGM since last February, a change that has transformed our way of dealing with the homeless. Again we point out that it was never PGM’s mission to warehouse the homeless; rather, it has always been the Old Lighthouse’s mission to see lives—be they chronic homeless or just unfortunate souls wandering for a time in their lives—brought to the eternal, life-saving and life-changing



**Donita found new hope through PGM’s New Day program.**

knowledge of Jesus. You know, as the old hymn goes, “Jesus, Jesus, there is something about that name.” Please continue to be beside us in your prayers, your giving, your support, as chains of addiction are being broken and cast away here at PGM. Praise to Jesus, for though we be in a great battle, the victory is certain—the victory is assuredly Yours, Jesus!

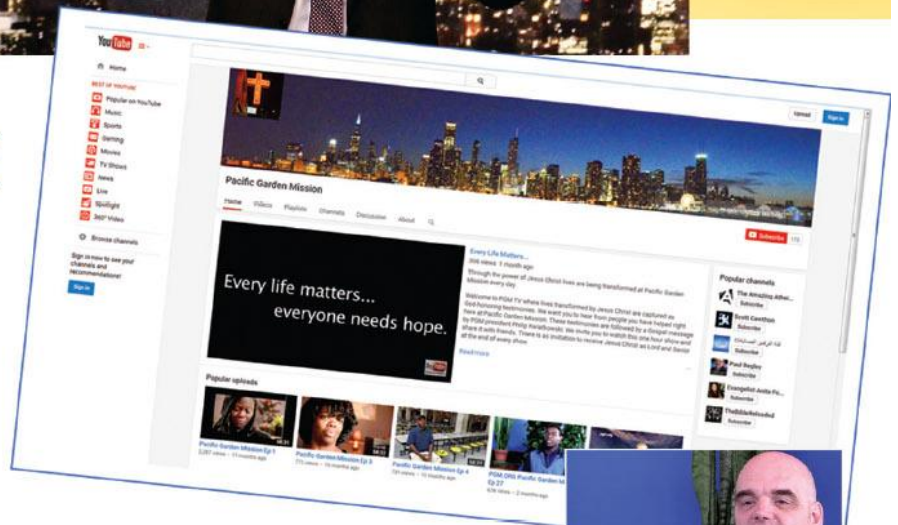
## PGM TELEVISION



pgm.org



**ON SEPTEMBER 15** we will celebrate our one year anniversary of the Pacific Garden Mission television show! This broadcast ministry started with prayer August 2013, and in May of 2014, the Total Living Network offered PGM free air time. The one hour show is truly reaching the lost, and we need your support. Please send your email, and we will send you a link to view almost forty episodes where you will witness hundreds of real life testimonies of transformations followed by half hour Gospel messages preached by Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski. You may want to share these shows with those in need of our Savior Jesus. There is a clear invitation at the end of every show. You will be blessed by this show!







## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### *The “Beacon of Hope”*

**Romans 1:16** —For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

THE GOSPEL ITSELF CONTAINS THE POWER OF GOD to change people. Some churches and organizations continue to look for more up-to-date, modern ways to see people changed, but we rely on what has always worked, and that is the preaching of the Gospel. It is a joy to see men and

women in our New Day program excited that they are free from the chains that bound them. The story today is no different than a story from 1887. A baseball player by the name of Billy Sunday tells his own story.

“Twenty-seven years ago I walked down a street in Chicago in company with some ball players who were famous in this world—some of them are dead now—and we went into a saloon. It was Sunday afternoon and we got tanked up and then went and sat down on a corner. I never go by that street without thanking God for saving me. It was a vacant lot at that time. We sat down on a curbing. Across the street a company of men and women were playing on instruments—horns, flutes and slide trombones—and the others were singing the gospel hymns that I used to hear my mother sing back in the log cabin in Iowa and back in the old church where I used to go to Sunday school.

“And God painted on the canvas of my recollection and memory a vivid picture of the scenes of other days and other faces.

“Many have long since turned to dust. I sobbed and sobbed and a young man stepped out and said, ‘We are going down to the Pacific Garden Mission. Won’t you come down to the mission? I am sure you will enjoy

it. You can hear drunkards tell how they have been saved and girls tell how they have been saved from the red-light district.’

“I arose and said to the boys, ‘I’m through. I am going to Jesus Christ. We’ve come to the parting of the ways,’ and I turned my back on them. Some of them laughed and some of them mocked me; one of them gave me encouragement; others never said a word.

“Twenty-seven years ago I turned and left that little group on the corner of State and Madison Streets and walked to the little mission and fell on my knees and staggered out of sin and into the arms of the Savior” (Ellis, 1914, p. 40f).

Our location has changed, our building has changed, but the same message out of the same Book is still being proclaimed today—that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and if you trust Him, you will have everlasting life. Today you can still hear drunkards and drug addicts, prostitutes and thieves share a simi-

lar story, that they have been set free by the Gospel.

In the middle of this great spiritual battle, there is still a beacon of hope shining in downtown Chicago. Continue to pray for this ministry and thank you for your support.

Ellis, W. T. (1914). *“Billy” Sunday: The man and his message*. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston



*The world-renowned and irrepressible Billy Sunday at the White House. Image from the United States Library of Congress. Courtesy of Wiki-Commons.*





David Fuller: VP OPERATIONS

Current Mortgage Balance:  
\$4,174,237

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** You can make a big difference! Recently the Lord prompted a PGM donor to give a special gift designated for the reduction of mortgage principal. This type of gift immediately reduces the mission's outstanding loan amount and accelerates the rate by which our loan is paid off. For example, this gift of \$10,000 reduced our remaining loan balance by that amount and decreased the amount of monthly interest paid by approximately \$500. Since the loan payment is constant, that \$500 now reduces principal. Thus, over the next year the loan principal will decrease by an additional \$6,000. Keep in mind that while we are anxious to pay off our mortgage, we still rely upon ongoing donations to cover monthly expenses for which PGM continues to operate at a deficit, without consideration for one time gifts (legacies, estates, etc).

PGM continually praises God for His ongoing financial provision of the ministry. Thank you for enabling us to meet our obligations and provide for life-transforming ministries like the women's programs you read about in this month's issue.

Any designated contribution to help PGM erase it's mortgage debt would substantially help our ministry.

## WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS {July Numbers}



### Nights of Safe Lodging

**835** • Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.

### Bible Study Program

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



### Meals for the Hungry

**49,286** • Approximate number of plates of food served.

### Clothing Distributed

**60,595** • Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions.



### Medical/Dental Aid

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

### Professions of Faith

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



### Unshackled! Radio

**3,100** • Stations broadcasting in 14 languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish).

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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, 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](http://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.