



CAREER DEVELOPMENT HELPS LAUNCH LIFE OPPORTUNITIES — THANKS TO YOU

As students return to school this fall, they begin a new year full of possibilities. With learning and support, many of them will continue to strive towards their future goals and dreams. The potential that many students have, drawn out by teachers who inspire and help them, is a driving factor that unfortunately is not always nurtured for many later on in life. Through a series of wayward decisions, some find themselves here at PGM having lost the belief in themselves that they can rise above their current circumstances

and become something greater.

Addressing the immediate physical needs opens the doors for us to address the spiritual needs by sharing the soul-saving Gospel Message of Jesus Christ. Once this is accomplished, with the help of your dedicated support, we delve deeper. The hope and confidence required to help men and women reach their potential to be successful in society—and fully functioning followers of Christ—have often times been smothered and neglected. With your help, the support and love necessary to



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inspire lost men and women. Career development courses, counselors who provide guidance, and a safe place to stay as our residents begin to build a new life in Christ are just a few of the ways PGM does this.

We often encourage our program graduates to continue their education wherever they have left off. Sometimes this can include obtaining a G.E.D., going to college, or even just learning to read.

Ladarius, a young man who strayed

**Career Development
courses help to build
new lives in Christ.**

away early on in life but recently graduated our New Life Bible Program, is now attending school and working. We would like to

share his testimony to show how your donations have helped.

LADARIUS:

“I got into the streets, ‘gangs’, at the age of 14 years old. That is when I first started selling drugs. I first started selling drugs because I had gotten this young lady pregnant and I needed money for an abortion. This shows you how lost I was then. I understood that I was too young to raise a kid and that seemed like the only answer. I ended up getting with a friend and he introduced me to the streets. At first, I was selling a little weed, ‘marijuana,’ and it quickly led to the harder drugs, like cocaine and heroin, which sold faster and made more money. Once I had enough for the abortion I didn’t stop selling

drugs. I just continued on and on selling and using. I was arrested several times. I first was arrested for riding in a stolen vehicle. During my last year of high school, I was arrested two more times. Trying to pay for schooling fees to get my G.E.D., I started selling drugs again and was caught with 14 bags of cocaine. The last time I got arrested I ended up doing eight months incarcerated and eight months under house arrest.

I got out of jail a day before my high school graduation, but I didn't graduate. I had to go to summer school which I did finish and got my high school diploma, but it seems like after that I didn't have any plans to go to college. My grade point average was down too much because

all I did was ditch school.

In 2016, my older brother was killed and it really affected me. I got depressed by it, and all of a sudden, I felt a spiritual change in my life and I didn't understand it. People believed I was making things up. When I told them about the spiritual battle going on within me I didn't get any help. I roamed around seeking help. I went from church to church and even saw a therapist. I finally met a Christian who told me I should come here, and in my heart it felt like God was pulling me to Pacific Garden Mission.

It seemed once I got here to PGM I just felt this peace. I got here and everything just started making sense to me. I wrestled with the decision to stay because I didn't know why God chose to put me here for a full year. I guess God just wanted to see how committed I was towards Him and if I was willing to give Him time out of my life. I'll confess, at times I was tempted to leave the Mission. But God was keeping me here, and revealing a lot of things to me about myself and about this world. A lot of things that I thought were good



“I am actually going to obey Him and do what He says and follow Him.”

things really weren't good and they had molded me into this person that I thought I was, that I thought was really me but really wasn't.

I believed in Jesus Christ but never had the heart to make a commitment and say I am actually going to obey Him and do what He says and follow behind Him. That is when the change starts to happen, when you become willing to have the mindset to decide to follow Christ."

Ladarius is now working and going to school to be a barber. He says that being at PGM has helped him get out of the world and have the opportunity to give God his full undivided attention. He has been able to leave the problems with his addictions and family and focus on God. He is learning how to be a better father, son and brother, and learning how to listen and give to others. It is only through our Christ-based resources funded by your faithful support that this is possible.



Because of your faithful support, not only do we have men and women attending college here who went through our Bible programs, but also overnight guests, and mothers and children who stay within our facility and attend school.

At the time of this writing we have 13 mothers with 20 children, all of whom are preparing to send their kids to school. Your generous contributions are providing a safe Christian environment with the love and support these mothers and children need to live as stable of a life as possible.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS & PROVIDES

When you support us financially, you're not only giving *to* the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people that need your help the most. Your support is making a difference today:

On average, **356** homeless people receive aid and Gospel services each day

105 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

33 mothers with their children sheltered

About **41,786** plates of food served

245 patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic

257 people professed faith in Christ

3,093 media outlets around the world broadcasting *Unshackled!*

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

GOING AFTER THE ROOT CAUSE

In Luke 17:19 we read the story about ten lepers that cried out to Jesus and asked for mercy. Jesus commands them to go to the priests, and as they are going, they are healed. Out of the ten that were healed only one turned back and thanked Jesus, and Jesus asks, where are the other nine? Then Jesus tells the healed leper who returned that his faith has made him whole. "And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." in Luke 17:19 we read ten were cleansed, but only one was made whole. I liken that story to how we see many in society deal with the issue of homelessness and poverty. We try to deal with the symptom but not the root. I believe we are called to exercise wise compassion. Giving money to a beggar or a night in a hotel to a homeless person will meet an immediate need, but they are still not whole. How can I as a Christian, best help the poor? I believe this is accomplished by supporting ministries like Pacific Garden Mission that exist to make men and women whole. From the moment a man or woman enters our doors we have the resources to not only meet the immediate need but to help them with long lasting life change through

our various Bible-based programs. Drugs, alcohol, and promiscuity are just the fruit, we want to deal with the root and not just give temporary relief but life change, so when men and women walk out our doors they are made whole. This past Saturday during our evening service I surveyed the audience and saw a number of

**"Your faithfulness
helps make the
needy whole."**

former residents that came to visit who are working, are self-sufficient and are fully functioning followers of Christ. I saw Emmet who came here out of prison seated next to his wife, now employed by the Chicago Transit Authority. I noticed Mohammed, who came here as a homeless young man, now sitting in service loving Jesus as a Job Corps counselor. I recognized Oris, seated next to his adoring daughter, who came here as a chronic estranged criminal who could not read, now employed in our security and freely giving his testimony to all who will listen. I could go on and on, but your support has made it possible for these people not just to be healed but to be made whole.



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

We still have a long way to go, but your faithful giving has helped us to reduce our debt and be better stewards of God's resources.

- **Water Bill**

\$305,000 September 2017

\$218,000 September 2018

- **Mortgage**

\$3,642,000 September 2017

\$3,511,000 September 2018

Principal payments have reduced mortgage interest by \$10,000 since January 1, thanks to you.

In our June 1, 2018 PGM Newsletter we shared with you our need to close our year-end fiscal budget gap and asked you to prayerfully consider what you can do to help us raise \$800,000 by June 30.

The 2018 fiscal year ended June 30, with a budget gap of \$350,000. Thank you for praying for us and for your generous response to our need to fund this ministry and balance our budget.

Through it all we continue to reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ. Last year over 5,000 souls walked through our doors—the vast majority with overwhelming physical and emotional needs. We celebrate God's Mercy and Grace as 3,977 men, women and children professed faith in Jesus Christ. Many joined our New Day program for substance abuse or our New Life discipleship program to discover God's will for their lives.

Thank you for partnering with God to allow us to serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel.

**BECAUSE YOU
ARE FAITHFUL,
THE LOST
FIND HOPE**

"And let us not be weary
in well doing"
—Galatians 6:9

GIVE NOW at pgm.org

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