



1877 TODAY  
CELEBRATING 139 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN CHICAGO

# PGMNews

SEPTEMBER 2016

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION • SINCE 1877, REACHING THE LOST  
AND TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

## The ABUNDANT LIFE in CHRIST

ARTICLE BY STEPHEN WELCH

THIS SEPTEMBER, as we come upon our 139th anniversary of ministry at Pacific Garden Mission, I wanted to share what I came across almost a year ago. Sarah Dunn Clarke is describing the passing of her husband in the Report of the Fifteenth Year of the Pacific Garden Mission ending September 15, 1892. She states Col. Geo. R. Clarke, Founder of the Pacific Garden Mission was called to his Reward June 21st, 1892. She includes a verse from Hebrews 11:4: "Being dead yet speaketh."

Sarah Dunn Clarke writes: "Today Sept. 15th, 1892, marking the 15th Anniversary of the Pacific Garden Mission. Since our last report my dear husband has been taken from us, and a great shadow has fallen upon the Mission to which he had given the best thoughts and efforts of a consecrated life. For its welfare, he had laid himself upon the altar of God, year by year, and God had accepted the gift, pouring upon it the riches of His Grace and Love, until the Master said: "Well done . . . enter thou into the joy of the Lord." A vacancy has been made, that can never be filled, and yet, with praise to God, we

record that the work has been no wise abated, but rather by the marked presence of the spirit, has gone on with ever increasing power".

We have faithfully preached and reached the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ using the same book that this ministry was founded on. Countless men and women have believed in faith on Jesus Christ and live an abundant life. Jesus performed many miracles, and I believe that the greatest is what those of us living have yet to experience. That is a victorious life.

John 11:25-26: *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

Thousands who walk through our doors of hope believe exactly "this." Isn't that what the abundant life is all about? Jesus came to share the abundant spiritual life, and His life was an example and an illustration of the abundant life we are called to live.

In this anniversary issue we want to share two testimonies of men who were saved at Pacific Garden



Col. & Mrs. George R. Clarke

Continues on page 2



*...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it*

Mission and are living victoriously. They are examples of the many who walked through these doors and received Jesus Christ, and now live an abundant life. God is using both of them in a mighty way like He did Col. Clarke. They have become fully functioning followers of Christ.

**Pastor Ervin McNeill**, MISSION CHAPLAIN

**I** WAS BORN IN 1948. I grew up on a farm with good parents who worked hard; they taught me to value a work ethic. As a small child, I began to think I need to figure things out for myself. I thought my parents were on the wrong road somehow. I rejected the Christianity they taught me. As a 9-year-old kid, I began sneaking around smoking cigarettes. I remember tasting alcohol for the very first time when I was 12 years of age. My family moved from North Carolina to Massachusetts, Boston in fact, when I was 15. So, I became a city boy and began smoking marijuana. Of course, one thing led to another. By this time I was partying and hanging out. I became unlike the wonderful parents who raised me. I began to desire more and more partying and more and more latitude, so I joined the military to get away from the structure of being around my parents.

Shortly after training, I found myself in Vietnam. In Southeast Asia, the drugs are much stronger and much more available. I got myself involved in all sorts of things that I shouldn't have. Sin always takes you further than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, and it cost you more than you want to pay. So, my sins began to increase. I came back stateside; I began to crave those strong drugs. So, I volunteered and reenlisted to go back to Vietnam. This time, I was introduced to heroin. And, I became addicted to heroin. I became very, very, very addicted. I became very unattractive to the military.

Depression began to set in. I finally accepted responsibility for my poor choices. Up until this point, I had blamed everyone



Pastor Ervin McNeill welcoming guests to an "Unshackled!" live recording, at

else. I became suicidal; I decided I was going to kill myself. A chain of events led me to the city of Chicago in the dead of winter with about 8-10 bucks in my pocket. No winter coat. So, I wandered down the street into a coffee shop. At this time, it was like 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning. I was having DT's and needed a drink. By this time in my life, I was drinking cheap wine, whatever I could get. I needed at least a pint of wine to calm me down. But, of course, there was none available. I was trying to think what's going to happen to me? I'm a thousand miles from anyone I know. I have no money. I don't know what to do, so I decided to close my eyes and fall off that stool. So, then someone called the paramedics, and they took me to the hospital.

At the hospital I was put in bed, they took my vital signs, and I finally went to sleep. But, when I woke up around 10:30 they fed me a nice meal, and there were counselors there. I had no idea who they were, but they began asking me questions. This man told me he knew a place where they could help me. And, he brought me to the Pacific Garden Mission in the early afternoon on the 25th of March 1979. It was that night at the evening service I knew that the Lord was speaking to me. On the walls of the auditorium, there are salvation verses. And one of those verses is Matthew 11:28 and it says: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." I knew the Lord was speaking to me especially about the rest. I was so tired of wandering and drinking and the emptiness and so forth. I was just tired. So, that night, I responded to the invitation when the service was over. I went forward, and an old man from Scotland took the Bible and showed me how to be saved. The very next morning I was enrolled in the mission's discipleship program and started studying the Word of God. Then I just began to grow in the Lord. I began to



*more abundantly.* —JOHN 10:10



nd leading nearly twenty men to Christ in the PGM Auditorium.

memorize Scripture. Harry Saulnier spent time discipling me. He and other staff began to notice that I was doing very well in the Bible program. They began to befriend me and show me the love of God. People began to trust me. After I had completed the discipleship program, the mission offered me an entry level job working in the mailing department. I worked in that mailing department for seven straight years.

During that time I got married. That was one of the best moves I could have made, to get married and to settle down and to begin to learn responsibility. God opened up my understanding and began to help me to develop in some very key areas. During 1986 God called me to preach. I was ordained after Bible College as a pastor July 31, 1995. My wife and I are both staff members in this amazing ministry. I serve the Lord here full time as the mission's Chaplain, and my wife is the director of "Unshackled!"

I've had so many wonderful responsibilities and experiences since I came to Pacific Garden Mission. I've had some physical and emotional challenges, yet God has been faithful and taught me more than I even imagined. I am grateful for this ministry and the spiritual journey that never ends. God has given me enough trials to keep me humble, and He's given me enough success to make me smile."

**Pastor Sampson Green,** DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

"IN 1995 I CAME TO PACIFIC GARDEN Mission homeless, no direction, running from gangs. I had been part of gangs for 25 years. Didn't know what I was going to do. The gang situation got really thick and heavy. I was going to leave town and go to Ohio and try to redefine myself, but that was just the problem. It was an effort of my own, and so in February of '95 I was at a Greyhound bus

station waiting for my bus to Ohio. It would only come at 2 a.m. every morning, and I would fall asleep, and I missed my bus three times. So I had been there three days in the bus station waiting to find my escape. During that time I had gotten on the phone, and I had an ex-girlfriend, and I called her and told her I am not running anymore, I am just going to come back, and if they hurt me or kill me, that is just what happens. But I am not running anymore.

While I was on the phone talking to her, there was a young man who said to me, 'I know where you can go.' I wasn't trying to pay him any attention, and then he said, 'Excuse me, I know where you can go.' I turned around and said to him, 'Man, get out of my business, get away from me.' I was thinking, is this guy trying to trick me into something? And the guy repeated, 'I know where you can go, you can go to Pacific Garden Mission.' I said to myself, man, I am not going to any mission—it is dirty, it is stinky, it is nasty, all the bums there, I am not going there. He said, 'No, no, I am talking about Pacific Garden Mission', and I said, 'A mission is a mission.'

My girlfriend was on the phone hearing me talk to this guy. I told him to get away from me. She said, 'No, no, wait a minute, why don't you go there for the night and then you can get some sleep, and then you can catch the bus in the morning and then you can be gone.' So the stranger said, 'I will carry your bags', and I am thinking, wait a minute, something is going on here, there has got to be something wrong. Before that, I had broken both of my hands beating a guy, and so I had casts on my hands, and the guy was saying, 'I will carry your bags'. So I am thinking maybe this guy is trying to rob me, or this whole thing is a setup. So as we get ready to leave, I am thinking when I get outside of this door something is going to happen. But when we got outside nothing happened, the only thing out there was snow, and it was cold.





We walked to State and Harrison, turned the corner and what did I see—a big bright cross saying Jesus Saves. I remember exclaiming, ‘Oh no, a Jesus place. I don’t want to go to a Jesus place!’ The stranger told me I could get some sleep and breakfast, and then tomorrow do whatever. I remember lying in the bed and thinking this is what my life has ended up as. I am in a homeless shelter, hands were broken, nowhere to go, nothing to do, is this what my life has come to? The next morning it was freezing cold outside. I went to a chapel service at 5:45 a.m. and a Bible study at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Arnet was teaching the class, and I thought to myself, Oh my goodness, is all they talk about in this place, Jesus? I hear him talk, I don’t want to hear what he says, but I hear it.

Later that day I went to a packed noon service. A preacher named Pastor Hagerman was speaking about heaven and hell and getting saved, and I was getting nervous in my seat. Later God led me into the prayer room in spite of myself. A guy came up to me and asked, ‘Can I show you in the Bible how to be saved?’ I just started crying because it was like everything that I had ever done, things that I had thought about, things were flashing through my mind. I replied, ‘Nobody can save me, you don’t know what I’ve done.’

He started telling me about this guy named Paul in the Bible. As he told me about Paul, who persecuted the Christians, I said to myself all I did was shoot at a few people. But, Paul was something fierce, and God still saved him. If God can save him, He can save me. As the guy continued to show me the Scriptures, I believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and he told me about a men’s Bible program. I received Jesus Christ as my savior.

I joined the Bible program. I joined the program to learn a little bit more about this

Jesus that would save me. Why would he want to do that? I later learned believing on Jesus was the best decision I have ever made.

After I had gotten good and grounded in the Word of God, I was led to visit my family. I knew that my family didn’t know Christ as their Savior. All of my brothers, all of my sisters, all of us were involved in gang activity or something related. My mother didn’t know Christ. We didn’t go to church or any of those things. So, I got a chance to go home. I was able to share Christ with my mom, and she believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and got saved. I was able to share with my sisters and with my four brothers. All of them made a profession of faith.

I stayed in the program 15 months. I graduated in May of ‘96. I went from security to full-time jail ministry, then to full-time counselor, then to Director of the Men’s Bible program. I’ve worked as the Director for 15 years. Now I’ve become the Director of Ministries here at Pacific Garden Mission. I never expected when I walked through the doors of Pacific Garden Mission that I would be the director of anything. Here God has me serving as Director of Ministries!

I’ve seen some Godly men produced from this place. I just thank God for being a part of it. I thank God for calling me. He says, ‘No man can come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.’ I thank God for doing a tremendous work in my life. Without Jesus Christ, there would be no me. I would probably be dead in the streets of Chicago or in prison rotting away. Yet, God found me worthy, not because I was any good, but because He was good. Christ is my all in all. Without Him I am nothing. If you need help, I am a living testimony that God can do anything. He can save anybody because He saved me.”



**Pastor Sampson Green is very active in his ministry work at PGM. He's shown here on the left preaching the Word to a packed house, and conducting an outdoor Gospel service on 14th Place.**

*r and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. —MATTHEW 11:28*





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### A FAITHFUL WITNESS

As I contemplate our 139th year anniversary, my mind drifts back to a passage in Billy Sunday's biography, and I am reminded that the faces may change, but the needs and the solution do not.

**"M**RS. CLARKE, THE SAINTLY WIFE of Colonel Clarke, the devoted founder of the Pacific Garden Rescue Mission in Chicago, is one of that host of women who, like the few who followed Jesus in his earthly ministry, have served in lowly, inconspicuous ways, doing small tasks from a great love. Night after night, with a consecration which never flagged, she labored in the gospel for a motley crowd of men and women, mostly society's flotsam and jetsam, many of whom found this hospitable building the last fort this side of destruction.

A single visit to a down-town rescue mission is romantic, picturesque and somewhat of an adventure—a sort of sanctified slumming trip. Far different is it to spend night after night, regardless of weather or personal feelings, in coming to close grips with sin-sodden men and women, many of them the devil's refuse. A sickening share of the number are merely seeking shelter or lodging or food: Sin's wages are not sufficient to live upon, and they turn to the mercy of Christianity for succor. Never to be cast down by unworthiness or ingratitude, to keep a

heart of hope in face of successive failures, and to rejoice with a shepherd's joy over the one rescued—this is the spirit of the consecrated rescue-mission worker.

Such a woman was Mrs. Clarke, the spiritual mother to a multitude of redeemed men. Of all the trophies which she has laid at the feet of her Lord, the redemption of Billy Sunday seems to human eyes the brightest. For it was this woman who persuaded him to accept Christ as his Saviour: he whose hand has led perhaps a quarter of a million persons to the foot of the Cross was himself led thither by this saintly woman." \*

I love the phrase, "many of whom found this hospitable building the last fort this side of destruction." That describes our ministry in the heart of Chicago, where shootings, drugs, and vice grab the headlines, but in the midst of it all there is still an Old Lighthouse willing to rescue any that seek shelter through its doors. Thank you to all that have kept the porch light shining these many years, because for many that have lost their way, Pacific Garden Mission truly has been a place of hope and salvation.



Billy Sunday has been considered one of the most dynamic American evangelists of the 20th century having led countless souls into a saving confession of faith in Christ. PGM's founder Sarah Clarke was faithful in her witness to Mr. Sunday and the results opened the door to generations of new believers.

\* Photo and excerpt above from *Billy Sunday, The Man and His Message*, published by The John C Winston Company



---

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE** Stephen Welch, Director of Development

*We have compiled our preliminary donations for June and are grateful that our supporters came through with 78% of our projected shortfall. Also, June 2016 donations were \$113,000 or 28% higher than the previous year, another indicator that God is working through his people!*

*Also, at the July PGM Board meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year cash operating budget which totals \$9 million. Finally, our mortgage debt now stands below \$3.86 million dollars, representing a \$330 thousand dollar reduction in principal from June 30, 2015.*

*Thank you for being part of this amazing ministry. We believe God is leading us through a very difficult financial time at the mission and a time of anarchy outside of the mission. We are in the middle of a dark city where there were 441 shooting victims in July. At times we are overwhelmed and understaffed. We accept no government support because there are no answers there. Jesus Christ is the answer, and He has been our commander-in-chief at Pacific Garden Mission for 139 years. Our faith and courage are strong. There is much work to be done and we covet your prayers, value your sacrificial gifts and love the letters of support. Please remember us as we move into our very busy fall and winter and together we will sing Victory in Jesus.*

---

## **WHAT YOUR MONEY SUPPORTS AND PROVIDES**

Pacific Garden Mission's budget is completely donor funded. We receive no government funding. We are eternally grateful for the individuals, businesses, churches and foundations that make it possible for PGM to serve thousands of homeless men, women and children each year.

When you come along side of us financially you're not giving to the mission, but through the mission to the people that need your help the most. We are serious about demonstrating our stewardship, and we invite you to learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lives have been transformed since 1877.

### **Here are just some of the ways your giving is measured (July)**

Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services....**703**

Number of men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board....**105**

Approximate number of plates of food served....**41,822**

Estimated number of items of clothing distributed or given to other missions....**28,812**

Number of patients treated in our free medical/dental clinic....**122**

Number of persons who professed faith in Christ....**90**

Stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!"....**3124**

---

### **PGM NEWS** SEPTEMBER 2016 • Vol. 81, No. 9 Published monthly by **PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION**

1458 South Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60607-5201 E-mail: [pgmnews@pgm.org](mailto:pgmnews@pgm.org) Phone: 312. 492. 9410  
Fax: 312. 492. 9414 Websites: [www.pgm.org](http://www.pgm.org) [www.unshackled.org](http://www.unshackled.org)

PHILIP KWIATKOWSKI, PRESIDENT    STEPHEN WELCH, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT    PAUL HIGDON, DESIGN