



I FOUND A HOME IN JESUS CHRIST AT PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION

Your support for Pacific Garden Mission's ministries reaches far and wide. Many of those who come through our doors for help, from all across the country, have been referred by others whose lives have been impacted by our ministry. It may be a friend or family member that went through our Bible discipleship program or someone who was saved after listening to an *Unshackled!* broadcast. These encounters with Jesus Christ and PGM impact people's lives so much that they know where to send those who need answers and restoration.

John, for instance, was homeless on the streets in Texas when a stranger bought him a bus ticket to come to PGM. Your support of our Gospel-based ministries has a generational and eternal impact that reaches far beyond the walls of our Mission, and we thank you for making transformations like John's possible. We hope you enjoy and find inspiration in his testimony.

JOHN

"I had a business. I had a family. But once I picked up drinking, everything



John before and after —A transformed life in Christ

just seemed to get taken away. I got back into drugs and began losing my family, losing my business, getting into trouble with the law, getting drunk, and just hanging around people I shouldn't have been around. From there, stuff just started spiraling down. I felt really sad, and I felt like I had let God and my family down more than anything. God helped me so many times, but I would go back out and keep doing the same things all over again. I wanted to get back into a relationship with Him.

"I was homeless, and everywhere I went just didn't feel right. I knew it was the Lord humbling me. I felt like I was as close to hell as I was ever going to get. After I was hit by two 18-wheeler trucks, fell out of the back of a truck, and overdosed, God finally got my attention.

John prays with Freddy, who was featured in the March PGM News. They both will be graduating this month.

"Homeless for four years, I was lying on a sidewalk in Texas. I was praying and crying out, 'Lord help me!' and, 'Save me!' A woman came by shortly after that, and we started talking about the Lord. She came back a couple of times to speak with me, and she said the Lord heard my prayer! There was a place called Pacific Garden Mission that she felt the Lord was calling me to go to. She bought me a bus ticket to Chicago, and that's how I ended up here.

"Being at Pacific Garden Mission, I



“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

—Matthew 7:7 (KJV)

had to learn how to be comfortable around people again. It was scary out there, and it was scary in here—but I started listening to the preaching and sermons, and I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ daily. I was also advised to join the Bible program. I went to talk to one of the counselors and decided to join the program.

“It’s one year later and I feel a lot better now. I know God has healed me . . . it’s amazing what God has done! He brought me from lying on the sidewalks—feeling like I was going to die and that I was on my way to hell—to being delivered, continuing to be in His Word, and staying focused on Him. Now, I share with anybody and everybody what He has done in my life. God cared enough for me to bring me back to Him, and I love Him and thank Him.

“I really like Romans 10:13: ‘For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ It doesn’t matter where you are or what you have done. God is able to save us. He is able—I know He is able—and that’s why it is my favorite verse. I know that He saved me, and I love Him and thank Him for it. And that’s all He wants to do for all of us.

“I am going to graduate the program at the end of September. I have been clean for over a year now and am walking with God daily. I still have struggles and am learning how to live. It is tough, but I have family here to help me and guide me. I thank God so much for what He has done.”



John helps record the Saturday evening praise and testimony services for PGM TV.

John is in bright spirits now and will soon graduate into our second-year program where he will find employment and learn how to manage a life as a fully functioning follower of Christ. Many of those who complete our Bible programs have to learn basic life skills, in addition to learning how to cope with emotions and tribulations, while maintaining a close relationship with Jesus Christ. While starting life over from scratch can be a daunting task, your support of Pacific Garden Mission provides the counseling and guidance women and men like John need to be successful. John is now one more saved soul that

will go out into the world where he will share the light of Christ. If you know someone or encounter someone in need of help, always remember that

the ministry of PGM you support today will be there for them, just as it has for over 143 years.

PGM EXPECTS A RECORD NUMBER OF HOMELESS

As fall and winter approach, it is time to prepare for the growing numbers of homeless that come through our doors. Both the worsening weather conditions and the ever-growing economic troubles facing the country will only lead to more men and women struggling in homelessness. And while many come to us for physical aid, they will also hear the eternal truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember that every penny you give, whether it covers the cost of a warm meal or helps provide heat, will help support the men, women, and families in the Mission while also providing them with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Pray for us as we prepare to handle record numbers of homeless this fall and winter.



GIVE NOW at [pgm.org/donate](https://www.pgm.org/donate)

PGMNews SEPTEMBER 2020 • Vol.85, No.9
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission

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A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

SELFLESS GIVING DURING CRISIS

In Luke 10:29-37, Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan. It all starts with a question: “But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”

Jesus tells the story and then answers the question: “And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

I believe that the Church has an amazing opportunity in light of all the unrest happening in our country. So many are confused, depressed, and frightened by recent events. Instead of retreating, the Church can be a neighbor to so many in need of mercy.

During the recent pandemic, I witnessed incredible acts of mercy. COVID-19 hit the homeless population extremely hard. We had numerous individuals that were positive with the coronavirus on quarantine in our dorms at PGM. How would they eat? Who would serve them? Would the ones serving also be infected?

We had many dedicated staff stay and minister to the sick at the expense of their own health. Two individuals left their family and stayed around the clock to bring meals and clean clothes as they ministered to the sick. This is being a good Samaritan.

Karen, one of our ladies who was COVID-positive, writes, “I am writing to you to let you know how grateful I am for how Pacific Garden Mission took care of me through the COVID-19 crisis. These ladies cleaned the overnight guest bathroom, swept and mopped the dorm, and they made sure we got breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I don’t know what we would have done without them.”

Ayanda writes, “The staff could have stayed away. The food, water, medication, free testing, and a place to sleep—I am grateful for all that has been provided for me in this time of hardship for everyone.”

Lori writes, “I have been impressed with the staff and program ladies who were not sick yet chose to work diligently to get everything us sick people needed. But above all, for the prayers and everyone’s concern and caring, thank you . . . and thank you for keeping a roof over my head.”

I want to thank you, our supporters, who prayed and sacrificially gave to care for one of the most vulnerable groups in society during a difficult time. Imagine being homeless during a worldwide pandemic. But thanks to you, they had somewhere to go.

**That is being a neighbor—
thank you for your great deeds of
mercy and love!**

Learn more by visiting Pacific Garden Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

We share the Gospel of Christ many times a day at Pacific Garden Mission. And as we care for the hearts of our guests, we also feed, clothe, and shelter those who come through our doors.

Here, our mission field often becomes our family. One way we serve this family with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel is through the food we serve and share. We are grateful to our donors who make the meals possible. Below is a partial list of the items we will use this fall to feed the multitudes:

The three-month kitchen needs to prepare for Fall 2020

- Ground beef — 3,000 lbs.
- Poultry — 7,000 lbs.
- Pork — 1,000 lbs.
- Potatoes — 3,000 lbs.
- Cheese — 4,000 lbs.
- Vegetables — 15,000 lbs.

- Eggs — 1,500 doz.
(1.5 lbs. per dozen = 2,250 lbs)
- Milk — 2,000 gal.
(8.6 lbs per gallon = 17,200 lbs)
- Dry Beans — 1,200 lbs
- Long grain rice — 2,000 lbs

Some other breakfast/lunch staples include:

- Breakfast sausage — 3,000 lbs
- Oatmeal — 1,800 lbs
- Pancake mix — 1,100 lbs
- Sandwich bread — 63,400 slices
(4,000 lbs)
- Luncheon meat — 3,000 lbs

The total weight above is 67,550 lbs!

We are grateful for the volunteers, donors, and prayer partners that help us create a healthy environment at PGM where Jesus saves.



THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

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 support us financially, you're not only giving *to* the Mission, but *through* the Mission to people who need your help the most. In July, your support made a true difference:

On average, **183** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

51 men and women were enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board

About **19,592** plates of food were served

842 items of clothing were distributed

190 Gospel services and Bible classes presented to our homeless guests

7 people professed faith in Christ

3,172 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*