

Faced with homelessness, Ireen sought out the safety of PGM and found so much more.

“BECAUSE OF YOU, I KNOW FREEDOM IN CHRIST.”

Facing instability, uncertainty, and fear daily are just a few of the exhausting and all-consuming feelings people facing homelessness can experience. The good news is there is hope, and you are a vital part of providing that hope. Stories like Ireen’s, which you will read next, would not be possible without you. We are grateful to you and our Lord Jesus Christ for changing lives.

IREEN

“I am originally from Zambia, central Africa, and I came to the

USA in 2000. In 2012 my work permit expired, and I couldn’t work anymore. I knew the Lord wanted me to go forward and not return home, so I stayed on my own and started spending my savings. After six months of not working, I ran out of money and had to stay with my sister.

“Because I was not working, I got frustrated having nothing to do. I always had the desire to help the homeless but never thought that one day I would find myself homeless, so I thought to myself I would rather go to the Mission. That is how I ended up coming to PGM.



“Knowing God is the best thing that can ever happen to anybody. I can never imagine my life without God. God is everything to me.”

“When I came into the Mission, I decided to join the program because I love the Lord and love to serve. Before you know it, three months, six months passed, and I was still here. I enjoyed the classes, and I have learned so much and found myself reading through the whole Bible for the first time, even though I have been a Christian for most of my life.

“When I came to PGM, I was at my lowest point; I never thought God was going to use PGM to give me help. I thank the LORD for giving me the privilege to serve Him here full time, now helping people who struggle with addictions. I thank the Mission for sending me to school and paying for my tuition. I am now a certified alcohol and drug counselor, and last month I became certified as a national anger management specialist.

“I have always had a heart for broken people.

Working at PGM, I deal with the ladies fighting addictions. Depending on their situation, whether they don't know Him because they have never heard of Him, or they don't know Him because they choose not to, I would say give Him a try.

“The Lord made a way for me. I ended up getting married and now I have my own place, and I am very happy. Jesus is the answer. Without God, there is nothing anyone else can do. Knowing God is the best thing that can ever happen to anybody. I can



Prayer is an important aspect in the decisions that lead Ireen's steps.

Each day Ireen has opportunities to share the love and healing wisdom of Christ. Pictured below, Ireen counsels with a program participant sharing God's Word.

never imagine my life without God. God is everything to me. As children of God, it doesn't mean that you never have problems, but the difference is when you have God, you never have to walk through life by yourself. God will always be there, and if you have God, there is always hope. God made a way for me when there was no way out."

***"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
—1 Corinthians 15:57***

"I truly thank every donor that faithfully gives to PGM because, without the donors, PGM would not be operating. Therefore, anyone struggling with addictions, homelessness, or abusive relationships can come to PGM and get help. We believe that Jesus is the answer to all our struggles in life. One of my favorite Scriptures is John 8:36, which says, 'If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.' There's true freedom in Christ!"



Ireen was helped at PGM and is now mentoring others daily. The sharing and spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are happening here only with your help. Thank you for being a part of this vital ministry and ensuring our stability and presence in the city of Chicago. We stand as a light in a dark place, and the love and support changing lives like Ireen's is only possible with you and God.



Ireen is now an integral part of our New Day addiction recovery program staff.

Thank you for keeping our food pantry stocked!



Fall is here, and we have become very busy with people seeking emergency shelter. As the number of people in search of help and refuge from the cold climbs, we are thankful for your continued support.

The pantry is getting stocked for the busy fall season—but there's still a

ways to go! Thank you to everyone who has sent a gift to help fill the pantry. Keeping our pantry stocked so we can continue to serve nutritious meals to the hungry is one of our top priorities, and we couldn't do it without you. Most importantly, you reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ before each meal. *Thank You!*



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

Visit our website at pgm.org to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

YOU SHOWED THEM THE TRUTH

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” —3 John 1:4

One of my greatest joys is when men and women who were once homeless or addicted to drugs stop by years after graduation. What makes Pacific Garden Mission unique is that we do not make meeting the physical needs of a person our sole priority. We believe in the bold proclamation of the Gospel as our number-one goal. There is no better evidence than changed lives.

Recently a PGM graduate by the name of Biaya stopped by. In 2016 he was homeless and addicted to drugs. His life got to the point where he was riding the trains looking for shelter, and it was on the train he had an encounter that would change his life.

He met a man on the train who told him to go to the Pacific Garden Mission if he wanted help. He took the stranger up on his suggestion and made his way to the Mission.

Upon arrival, his physical needs were met, but he had to attend the Gospel service. He did so reluctantly. While in service, he would put his hoodie over his head to tune out the preaching, and while his needs were met, nothing

changed in his life.

It was not until, by his admission, he took down his hoodie and began to listen, things changed. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Biaya soon surrendered his heart to Jesus Christ and joined our discipleship program. After graduation, he was placed with a company downtown, where he still works today. When he stopped by, he mentioned he was building a home in Texas and was doing great.

What if we would have just given him a meal and a shower once he arrived and no preaching of the Gospel? He would still be riding the trains today or perhaps be dead from an overdose.

Last Saturday, a woman by the name of Rose stopped by; she spent 30 years as a crack cocaine addict. Friends of hers encouraged her to come to the Mission, which she did reluctantly. Once she heard the Gospel and joined our program, she was a new woman. After graduation, she moved into a new apartment and regularly volunteered at the Mission.

Thank you for your love, prayer, and support making these stories possible.

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



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

Pacific Garden Mission does many things for the homeless and helpless. However, without God's help, nothing would change.

There is a solution, and His name is Jesus Christ. I know this because 10 years ago, I was in the men's one-year-long discipleship program. After sitting in the men's dayroom for seven weeks, and hearing the Gospel in 252 services, God began to break up my stony heart for a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).

For the next year, I was plunged into intensive Bible study to discover God's will for my life. The men and I had devotions before breakfast every morning. We attended an 8:00 a.m. Bible study to learn how to study the Bible, how to find God's will for our lives, and how to develop and demonstrate Christian character. I was in a Christ-centered environment, with classes in the morning and afternoon,

and I was assigned to workplace ministry serving around the Mission, which is precisely what I needed.

Homelessness is a complicated problem, but Jesus Christ is the solution in my story, like the untold thousands who walk through our doors of hope. Today, many of the habits I learned at the Mission I continue diligently, like church attendance, daily devotions, Bible study, discipleship, and prayer.

I can't imagine my life without God, which was sealed at Pacific Garden Mission in 2012. God rescued me at PGM and set me in the ministry here to work side by side with Godly men and women with one purpose: To reach the lost with the Gospel of Christ.

Because of your fruitful partnership, lives are being changed for all eternity. On behalf of the men and women in our dayrooms, those studying God's Word in our programs, and our dedicated staff, we are grateful for your faithful support. We are co-laborers with you.

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, **348** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **19,406** plates of food were served

53,900 items of clothing were distributed

3,156 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

17 mothers with their children stayed at PGM
6 mothers 11 children

102 people professed faith in Christ