

Theodore's powerful testimony helps him bring hope to others.



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
Transforming lives since 1877

“YOU WERE THERE FOR ME, SO NOW I CAN MINISTER HOPE TO OTHERS.”

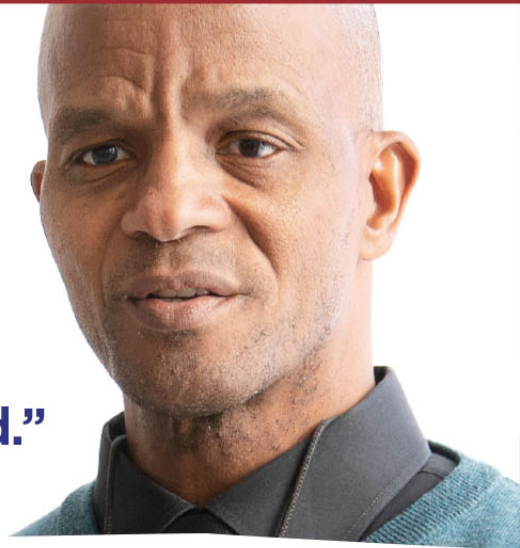
As we begin a new year, we share the uplifting story of Theodore Jones. Today he is the manager of the New Day Addiction Recovery Program here at PGM. Not so long ago, he was in a state of hopelessness and had absolutely nothing. Let his story of transformation and healing reveal the power of God—through your help—to change people’s lives. Theo is now a fully functioning follower of Christ and is happy and blessed for what God has done in his life.

THEODORE

“I vividly remember the day I first walked through the doors of PGM, and the first person I saw was Pastor Phil. When I saw him, he greeted me with such love that it gave me hope. My name is Theodore Jones, and I am the manager of the New Day substance abuse program at Pacific Garden Mission.

“In 2013, I had been strung out on drugs and alcohol for over 20 years. My life was out of control. I lost everything and became homeless. I was suicidal. Everything I earned, all my resources, went to my addiction,

“I wanted to kill myself, I was suicidal. When I look in retrospect, and I look at today, it makes me understand with no doubt that there is a God.”



and I had come to the point of brokenness and hopelessness.

“When I came through the Bible program, I had no direction. I didn’t know for sure what I would do with my life. The program helped me to reconstruct my life, and God started working in my heart and renewing my thinking process. My desires changed. He took away the cigarettes, the drugs, and the alcohol. I came to the point of the career development phase in the Bible program, and I decided to return to school to get my master’s degree in addiction study.

“I had a passion for helping people work on overcoming addiction because I understood the bondage of addiction. I felt God had put that on my heart. I became a substance abuse counselor and eventually became the New Day substance abuse program manager. I could not believe what God had done in my life. The very thing that had almost killed me, drugs and alcohol, God turned around, and now I am helping people overcome addiction.

“Most people see PGM as a homeless shelter and think ‘soup kitchen,’ but it is much more. We provide counseling sessions throughout the day. We work with people to deal with the core issues that cause them to continue this repetitive, addictive behavior. We deal with anger, low self-esteem, and



Theodore’s primary resource for the lessons he teaches is consistently God’s Word.

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” —2 Corinthians 4:7 KJV

abuse; we try to work with them to see the motivating factor that keeps them in that repetitious bondage.

“When you come through our doors, you’re broken, you’re hurt, and in a state of hopelessness. What we want to do, first and foremost, is give them the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. Second, we want to let them know that despite all they have been through, there is still hope in God, and we encourage and show them how God has helped others. It is not us, but the power of Jesus Christ that is touching the lives of men and women to help them overcome addiction.

“As an employee for almost 10 years, I think about that day when I first walked through the door hopeless. I wanted to kill myself, I was suicidal. When I look in retrospect, and I look at today, it makes me understand with no doubt that there is a God. I came here homeless with nothing, no place to stay, no clothing, with nothing. Today I have my own condo, and my own transportation. I am married and have a family, and when I look back where God has brought me, my

heart just goes out to others because I know God can do exceedingly and abundantly above all that you can ask for or even think, and my heart gets overwhelmed because it didn’t have to go this way, but by the grace of God, I have been set free.”

Theodore plays an important role today in many people’s recovery from drug addiction. He serves as a teacher, a counselor, and as a living witness and testament that God can indeed save someone from lifelong drug addiction. The situations that may seem hopeless today can be overcome through the power of God and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for helping to provide a sanctuary like PGM, a place that allows people like Theodore to share his uplifting story with those he encounters. Lives are being changed, and freedom is found.



Theodore prays with a New Day student to close a counseling session.



Pray for our Graduates

At the end of this month, Pacific Garden Mission will be holding its first of three yearly New Life Bible Program graduations. The photo shown is of our three graduates from September 2022. They are, left to right: Jamie Martin, Homer Hoskins, and Robert Navarro. Completing the Bible program is not easy and requires a lot of dedication, hard work, and biblical studies.

In anticipation of the upcoming and past graduations, we ask for your continued prayers that these men and women stay on the path God intended. Once they leave the protective shelter of PGM, the real test and journey begin. Thank you for your financial support that makes it possible for our graduates to have a second chance at new life.

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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 November your support made a true difference:

On average, **435** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **22,050** plates of food were served
26,000 items of clothing were distributed

3,147 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

18 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

44 people professed faith in Christ



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

PLACED HERE, BY GOD'S DESIGN

Founded in 1877, Pacific Garden Mission has stood as a lighthouse to Chicago's poor and displaced for many years. We tend to think that with rising crime, easy-to-obtain drugs, and the ever-present sight of homeless camps everywhere, what we are seeing is unprecedented. In reality, there is nothing new under the sun, and God has been caring for broken people through hearts like yours for generations.

January 2023 marks our 100-year ago move to State Street. Consider this article from the Chicago Evening Post written in 1923: "The mission is going to move. It is going to move nearer to those for whom it has prayed and labored. At 650 South State Street, a three-story brick building has been secured, where another chapter in the long story of winning men back to self-respect, decency and usefulness will begin tomorrow night. The Pacific Garden Mission is a vital, throbbing part of the history of Chicago. It was founded by Col. and Mrs. George R. Clarke 45 years ago. It was christened by Dwight L. Moody. South State Street is now the main artery of that lodging house district which abounds in the flotsam and jetsam of life. Within a few blocks of its new quarters, it is estimated that 5,000 men sleep every night, men adrift on a stream of swift and precarious currents, homeless and friendless men, derelicts, 'without God and without hope in the world.' To

breast that stream and rescue from it 'whosoever will' is the mission's aim."

Another description of the area is found in Carl Henry's book "A Doorway of Hope": "The street outside seemed like a suburb of hell. It was the main artery of the lodging house district, where 5,000 men slept nightly. Flophouses and taverns were everywhere. Burlesque shows of the vilest kind played to crowds nightly. The labyrinth of lady barbers, pawn brokers, gambling dens, indicated man's extremity and God's opportunity."

As we begin the new year, Pacific Garden Mission is right where it should be in 2023, doing what it has always done, ministering to the needs of Chicago's poor and hurting community. Thank you for everything your support and prayers make possible here at the Mission. Yes, there is a criminal element in our city, and yes, alcohol and drugs are still destroying many lives, but we stand ready to bring the message of hope and redemption through Jesus Christ to all who wash up on our shore; we always have and still do.



A MESSAGE FROM **UNSHACKLED!**

Timothy Gregory,
Program Director

Why does *Unshackled!* create audio dramas to share the Gospel? As the Program Director of *Unshackled!*, one of the questions I get asked is, "Why create an audio drama of someone's testimony?"

First, the form of audio drama itself is a beautiful compromise between film and the written word. I look at it as two ends of the spectrum: Film at one end, with its clear and unmistakable view of the story's world, and books at the other, where the reader's imagination draws the pictures and allows fancy to roam free. *Unshackled!* audio dramas occupy a fantastic space between those two poles.

The action takes place entirely in the audience's mind, theater-of-the-mind, if you will. You are guided only by the voices and sounds that you hear. In this way, the experience is like a book in that it allows us to take part in the imaginative process of creating the story's world. But the story is also told with the power of human voices and all the additional support of sound effects and music to create an intensely emotional and



Actors and director producing a live episode.

spiritual experience.

I love books and films, but they demand my sole attention. Nothing enlivens a long drive or a day's work around the house quite like listening to an *Unshackled!* episode. The chore at hand may demand my body and my eyes, but my ears and mind are free to explore the heavens, the depths of a person's soul, or even the beckoning of the Holy Spirit on my own heart.

Your encouragement and support ensures that millions hear the Gospel message in this engaging format every year. You help bring the Gospel both within the four walls of Pacific Garden Mission and across the country and world through *Unshackled!*

Thank you for your tremendous role in sharing these stories of God's mercy.

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