

Thanks to your support, David was set free by the power of God's Word!



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
Transforming lives since 1877

“MY ADDICTION WAS DEFEATED THROUGH THIS MINISTRY!”

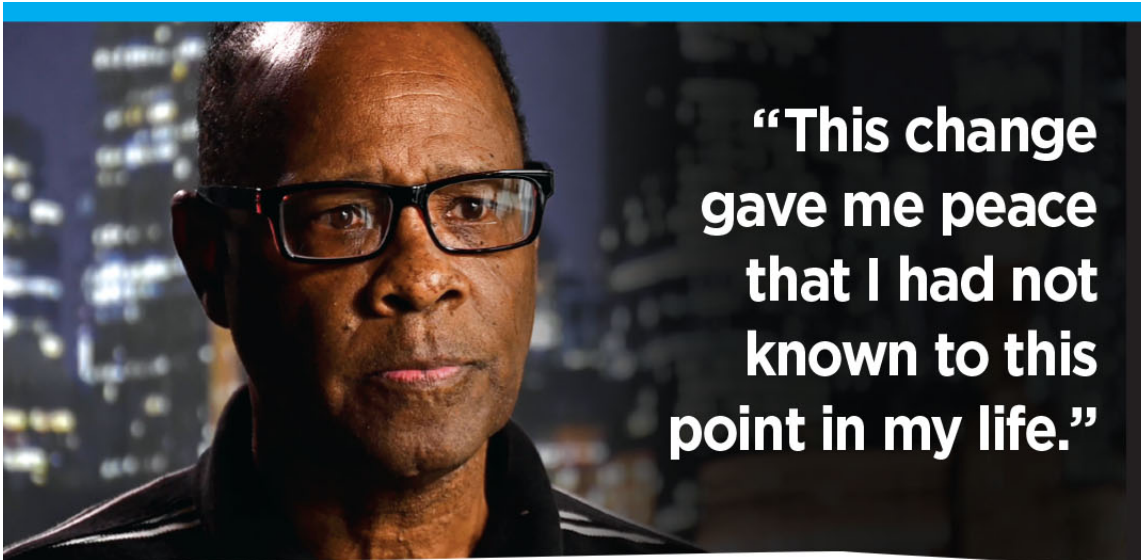
Seeing the power of God work in men's and women's lives at PGM is an encouragement to all, and it motivates those who serve in the ministries here daily. It takes a lot of cooperation and the support of many to keep this ministry running, and we couldn't do it without your help. We hope you are inspired by reading David's story and how his newfound friendship with God is changing his life.

DAVID PARKER

“I had an early history with drugs, primarily in my early

twenties—with heroin. I became addicted quickly after my first use, which went on into the later part of the '70s and all the '80s. I went into a conventional addiction treatment setting and completed 30 days. I stayed under the umbrella of AA and NA meetings, and subsequently, I went back to school and became a certified alcohol and drug counselor.

“I was sober, absent of any drugs, for 28 years. Then in 2017, I became addicted to Vicodin. I had some sports injuries that finally caught up to me, and I began to take Vicodin for pain, knowing it was something I shouldn't have



**“This change
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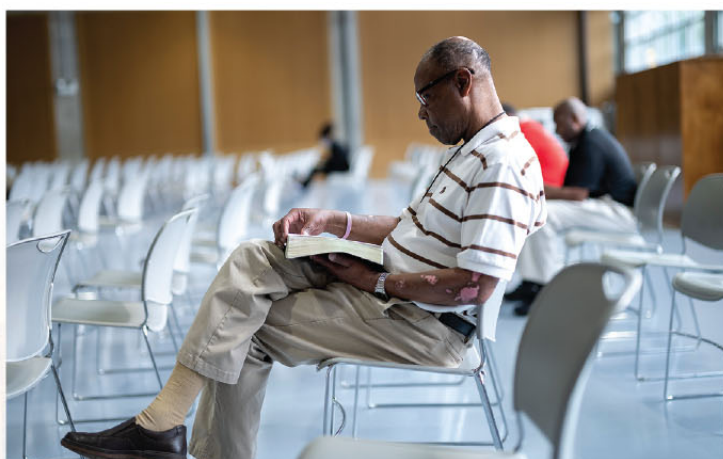
embarked on, but I did, and I got addicted. I could still maintain my job, flying under the radar. Then I had a bright idea that I would quit Vicodin by drinking alcohol.

“It was a downhill spiral with the alcohol. I became dependent on alcohol. Yes, I didn’t use Vicodin, but I swapped it out. I could hide the Vicodin on my job relatively easy, but the alcohol I couldn’t do that. I began to drink first thing in the morning, during my lunch hour, and at night. Working in that population, it was easy for them to see the signs and the symptoms. I did not want to stop drinking.

“I have been in and out of treatment centers over the last four or five years, unable to maintain abstinence as I had done for the 28 years I was sober. There was a lot of stress and strain on my family. My

grandkids never knew me to be anything but a sober and responsible person, for the most part, so all that went away after I relapsed. After four treatment centers and relapsing after each, my wife finally said she had had enough. This is how I wound up here.

“I came to Pacific Garden Mission for shelter and had no other alternative. It was then I found out about the program and joined. I went through the substance abuse program for 90 days, and within those 90 days, something was quite different. I have never had any experience with a



Immersed in Scripture, David sits in a morning class at PGM where the Bible is taught.

David serves on the men's third floor dorm crew helping to manage and maintain the dorm areas.

Bible-based program. Something happened where I began to 'buy into' what was being presented to me from a biblical perspective. I completed the 90 days and was offered the opportunity to enter the New Life discipleship program. I know something is quite different now. I feel and believe that I am a born-again Christian.

"I was introduced to loving God and putting Him first; to do that, I had to come through His Son Jesus Christ. I can't explain it. I just know that something different has taken place. I can look at the concept of loving God first and foremost. This change gave me peace that I had not known to this point in my life. I can honestly say I love God and He comes first. It has changed my life, and I constantly pray, and being here at the Mission is where I have been introduced to these concepts. I am

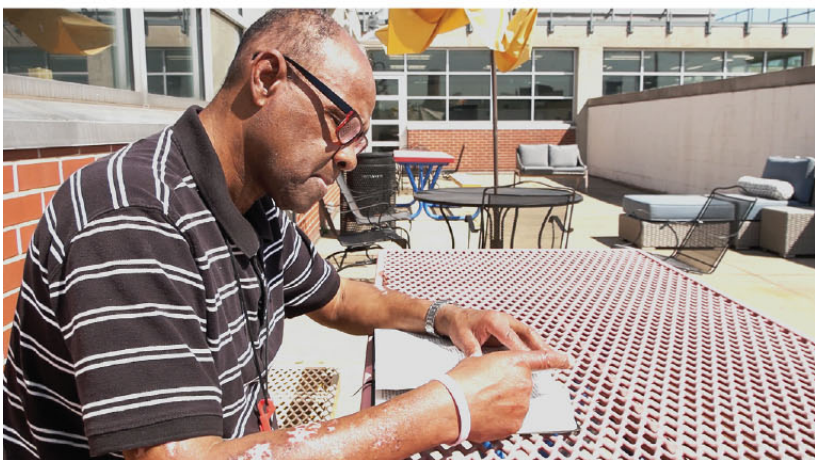


66 years old, and I don't have any insecurities about my age. I just take it one day at a time. I feel like everything will be okay in my life from now on."

**"And ye shall know
the truth, and the truth
shall make you free."
—John 8:32 KJV**

A person who has overcome addiction and maintained sobriety for years or decades and then relapses can devastate their family and themselves. A story like this is more frequent than

some may think, and at PGM, we are here to help the individual get back on their feet and show them it is not too late. We are thankful you are part of our ministry and part of the support people like David have at PGM.



David focuses on personal Bible study and prayer free from distractions.



Rescued, fed, and alive because of you!

This is the time of year when our transient population is the highest. Even the most diehard people who are homeless are forced to seek shelter at PGM when the temperatures drop so low. This can be the optimal time to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them and remind them there is still hope and help for each person we see.



Your support fuels this ministry, which first helps people with essentials like shelter, food, and clothing and then ministers with spiritual aid using God's Word. Pray for the safety of those on the streets, those seeking refuge within our walls, and our staff and students. We couldn't do what we do without you. *Thank You!*

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

TO SERVE IS OUR CALLING

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.” —2 Corinthians 4:1 KJV

There is a huge difference between a calling and a career. As Martin Lloyd-Jones wrote, who used to say to young men—“If you can do anything else do it. If you can stay out of the ministry, stay out of the ministry.” I heartily affirm that the only man who is called to preach is the man who cannot do anything else, in the sense that he is not satisfied with anything else. This call to preach is so put upon him, and such pressure comes to bear upon him that he says, “I can do nothing else, I must preach.”

In a career, your concern is about pay, hours, benefits, and how you are treated. In a calling, while some of these things matter, your main concern is fulfilling your purpose. I just saw a staff member walking down the hallway with a screaming child in her arms; numerous staff have had to deal with some clients

that died because of fentanyl overdoses. They have had to go to funerals and hospitals and have sat with grieving family members. We see residents at their lowest. Some are here while estranged from family, trying to pick up the broken pieces of a shattered life. Many hear stories of heartbreaking tragedy followed by months, even years, of recovery and trying to heal the pain of a dysfunctional past. Because of the emotional toll it takes on our staff, some wonder why they keep doing it, but we remember we have a calling; our purpose is to meet people where they are and, through the Gospel, see people come to saving faith and become fully functioning followers of Jesus Christ.

Further, all followers of Christ have a calling to participate in spreading the Gospel—and you are doing this through your support for this ministry. **Thank you for your love and support and for living out your calling to share Christ!**

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 December your support made a true difference:

On average, **446** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **25,647** plates of food were served

36,000 items of clothing were distributed

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

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

16 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

43 people professed faith in Christ

With your encouragement and support, we minister hope to the homeless, addicted, and brokenhearted.



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

The Fruit of Our Labor

“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” —Luke 10:2 KJV

When you give to Pacific Garden Mission (PGM), you are not giving to the Mission, but you are giving through the Mission to the people who need it most. Who are those people, and what is their greatest need? We love the people God sends through our doors. They are from every walk of life, every color, age, and season of life. They are seeking any kind of help that can relieve their pain and suffering. Men and women we feed, clothe, and shelter are sitting under the Word of God hearing the Gospel of Christ many times a day (Romans 1:16). They learn about the sinful nature of man, repentance, justification, sanctification, and glorification. The Gospel is only the Good News when we understand the bad news and the sinful nature of man and the miracle of redemption.

So, what is the fruit of your partnership with PGM? Men, women, and children are being born again (John 3:3) and saved by Jesus Christ. They

are being called to follow Jesus Christ and, through discipleship, to build His Church. We are sharing the Gospel locally at the Mission and nationally and globally through PGM TV and *Unshackled!* God is calling people into His kingdom.

The seed you have sown into PGM produces fruit that glorifies God, pleases Him, and advances the will of God to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Your support builds God's ministry. Over 60% of our staff came through these doors. Many of us over 10 years ago. The entire staff in Donor Development came through these doors seeking help.

Daniel Woolman, who writes the PGM News, edits PGM TV, and creates our social media posts came through these doors of hope. Martin Robinson worked in *Unshackled!* for over 10 years and is now the manager of Donor Development. Martin is also on the PGM TV recording crew, does *Unshackled!* sound effects, and is the MC at the Saturday Praise and Testimony Service where Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski (PGM President) preaches a Gospel message. Yes, we also know how to stretch a dollar as wise stewards!

Thanks to your faithful and prayerful support, we all have a purpose, and God is using us with His gifts, talents, skills, and abilities to spread the Gospel near and wide until Jesus Christ comes for His Church.

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