



Antwione radiates the joy of being transformed by Christ.



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
Transforming lives since 1877

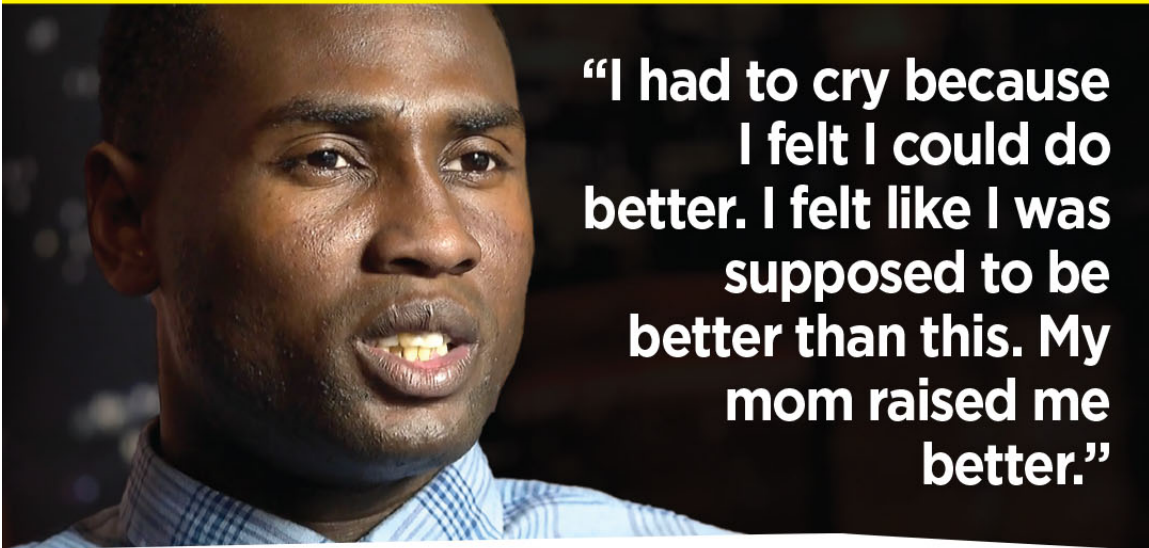
“MY LIFE IS BEING RENEWED WITH YOUR HELP.”

Spring is here, and is a welcome reminder of the annual renewal of life around us. At Pacific Garden Mission, we see lives restored, and while each person is in their own stage of healing and rebuilding, they all have the power of Jesus Christ behind them at each step. Antwione shares his story in this month's issue, representing only the beginning of this young man's new life. Thank you for making stories like his possible and allowing people like Antwione McShane a second chance.

ANTWIONE

“I was addicted to crack cocaine, smoking weed, and lusting over women. I had a job at first, and I was doing well. I had just come out of recovery, but I relapsed when my cousin died. Just seeing the family grieve, I started to grieve. I began to isolate myself and just didn't want to feel like that. My natural reaction was to go drinking. That cheers me up; that makes me numb to the pain and to the things going on around me.

“I grew up smoking weed and drinking. One thing led to another,



and finally to hard drugs. My grandma would always say, 'Do you know weed is a gateway drug?' I never listened. One night I felt my breathing getting heavy. I was drunk and getting high in the car, smoking crack. I felt myself losing consciousness. Thank God I didn't die. But I ended up passing out. I woke up, and just started crying.

"I started thinking about the day I got locked up. And I thought about my mother, how disappointed and worried she was when I saw the look on her face. That night, I dropped down and cried. I had to cry because I felt I could do better. I felt like I was supposed to be better than this. My mom raised me better. So that night, I checked myself into Holy Cross Hospital. I spent a week in the hospital, and then I was referred to PGM.

"When I first arrived here, I walked over that bridge and saw the 'Jesus Saves' sign. Once I got to PGM, I stayed in the Dayroom for four days. I was stressed out. I was really depressed. They told me about the program, and I thought I might want to join. Then I heard Theo, the addiction recovery program manager, speak, and during the following days I listened to a couple more guys speak on stage, sharing



Antwione and a fellow New Life program student discuss a key Scripture verse.

the Gospel, and I felt motivated to get into the program to see what it was about. They told me it was a Bible program, and I thought this was what I needed to do.

“When I got into the program, I felt like God adopted me that day; Jesus adopted me. I wasn’t really into the Bible before, but once I got here, I learned a lot. I was motivated and felt this was for me; this was what I needed to do, needed to learn. I felt moved inside. I started learning about the Gospel, God, man, Christ, and seeing my story play out. I realized that conviction of God is what got me here. He chose me, and it just feels wonderful being here today. I’m blessed. Jesus is doing a lot for me. He’s changed me tremendously. My life has been changed because of Jesus Christ.”

At Pacific Garden Mission, we aim to get to the source of a person’s homelessness and dig deep to resolve the root of their issues. It is only then their lives can be renewed and sustain a daily walk



Working on his computer, Antwione studies in the peaceful atmosphere of the PGM library.

with God. Antwione’s story is a good reflection of how your support and our programs are able to help people build a new life on a Christ-centered foundation. We are thankful you are part of this ministry, and we hope you are encouraged by Antwione’s story.



**“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
—Romans 12:2 KJV**

Above: Antwione takes a lunch break between classes.

Resurrection Sunday & Our Newfound Life in Christ



Soon we will hold our Resurrection Sunday dinner for all of our transient guests and program students. It will be a time to reflect on Christ's love and the new life He has given us. As our guests enjoy their warm, hearty meal and the fellowship of others, they can also reflect on all the blessings which you help us to provide.

At PGM, we see lives changed and brought from near death and the chains of guilt, bitterness, depression, and drug addiction into a life of healing, freedom,

and peace in Jesus Christ. Lives are made new through a relationship with God, and your support helps us provide a unique place based upon the love of Christ and God's Word. We are thankful for your help in continuing the legacy of this 145-year-old lighthouse of hope in the City of Chicago. With your support, vital needs are met and souls are transformed, every day here at Pacific Garden Mission.

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

THE VALUE OF A MESSY HOUSE

“Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.” —Proverbs 14:4

Sometimes when I think about our ministry here at Pacific Garden Mission, this verse comes to mind. If you want a clean stall, do not have oxen. As I walk around the Mission, I see a building full of activity, pain, problems, and hope. Some of our residents come with no coats. Some have no shoes, and some are frustrated by the events that led them to walk through these doors.

I spoke with a man who walked to our country from Venezuela. While in Venezuela, he used to listen to “Unshackled,” and he was so excited to be in the place that is home to this broadcast. I was amazed that a man who left his country, had no earthly possessions, was uncertain about his future, and exhausted from the trip could be so happy and content living in a shelter.

In our women’s division, a mother is about to give birth. We are busy trying to accommodate her and see she is taken care of. On what should be one of the happiest

days of her life, she will not return to an excited family willing to wait on her hand and foot, but through the doors of a shelter carrying this new child, hoping her bed was saved. (It was.)

Another woman in our women’s division has a Master’s degree and once ran her own business. She sat there crying uncontrollably, wondering how her life came to this.

In our men’s Dayroom sits a one-time college professor desperately trying to piece back together a shattered life. He volunteers, offers advice, and tries to use his former profession any way he can. Some suffer with mental illness, others addiction; some just have nowhere to go and want to get out of Chicago’s brutal weather. It can be a mess, but that is why we are here. To proclaim the Gospel to all, and to meet their needs during their time of crisis.

Thank you for your prayers and support in making Pacific Garden Mission a true haven of rest to all in need. It does get messy, but I would have it no other way.



GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Stephen Welch,
Director of Development

You Are Now Entering the Mission Field

If you are receiving this newsletter, it is because you expressed support through prayers, gifts, and acts of love. Your faithful support allows our Purpose (Reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ) and our Mission (We serve with the compassion of Christ and minister with the transforming message of the Gospel) to flourish.

**“The lips of the righteous feed many:
but fools die for want of wisdom.”
—Proverbs 10:21**

Now more than ever in history, this verse is true. God has entrusted you and me with the Gospel that gives access to the Bread of Life. Our lips can potentially feed millions.

At Pacific Garden Mission, we feed the multitudes locally as Jesus did. Each warm, nutritious meal is preceded by

a Gospel service three times a day, with an invitation and counselors. The physical meal helps us build a bridge of love to introduce the Bread of Life.

The Bread of Life is shared locally at PGM and globally through the radio ministry *Unshackled!* and the Pacific Garden Mission television ministry, which is known as PGM TV (www.PGMTV.org).

We have people who listened to *Unshackled!* Radio in foreign countries as well as nationally, that are in our building today, born again and in ministry as fully functioning followers of Christ. All have been through the discipleship programs and are now ministry employees. We also have PGM TV viewers who come from across America, from coast to coast and border to border, who travel to join our biblical discipleship programs.

If you have a love for God, a love for the lost, and a love for discipleship under the Word of God, you are in the right mission field. **Thank you for your faithful support where we serve together, and 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 February your support made a true difference:

On average, **508** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **28,489** plates of food were served

40,138 items of clothing were distributed

3,154 media outlets around the world broadcasted *Unshackled!*

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

14 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

146 people professed faith in Christ

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