

A portrait of Martin Robinson, a middle-aged Black man with short grey hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting.

Martin demonstrates that lasting change is possible.



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
Transforming lives since 1877

“I HAVE SUSTAINED LIFE CHANGE BECAUSE OF YOU.”

At Pacific Garden Mission, our main concern is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who come through our doors. After that our focus is to see a sustained change in people's lives that reflects a fully functioning follower of Jesus Christ. The story in this month's issue is an excellent example of what lasting change through the power of God looks like. Your support of our ministry makes stories like Martin's possible. We hope you are encouraged by your daily impact on people's lives.

MARTIN ROBINSON

“I was born into sin in June 1957, and for 40 years before salvation, the sins of gang affiliation, drug sales, drug use, bad decisions, and the multiple death attempts on my life led me to seek God. I had a praying grandmother who always talked about Jesus, and my oldest brother, Franz, who is saved, told me that “if you really want to change, pursue Christ, and He'll make Himself known unto you.”

“Well, I was born again in April 1997, and I began serving the Lord at the Apostolic Church of God under

“I thank God that the doors of PGM were opened to me when I needed to rededicate my life to the Lord.”



then-pastor Bishop Arthur M. Brazier. It was there that I began to understand God's Grace and Mercy and that He was the true living God. . . Father, Son, and Spirit. For years I wanted to serve the Lord as staff at the church, but that door was never opened to me. So, I served the Lord through the other ministries of the church, the nursing home, the feeding the homeless for Christ, the banquet hall, and the men's choir, where I

began to understand serving, interceding, and how to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

“After years of serving Christ, the zeal for the church began to fade, and I took a job delivering nuclear medicine to hospitals, driving from state to state. That stopped me from serving in the ministries, going to Bible studies, and attending Sunday services. I was making good money with these deliveries, and I found myself serving the blessings of

God and pushing further away from Jesus. I ended up getting four speeding tickets in three months, in January and February 2009, and that was the start of my journey to homelessness. My driver's license was suspended as a result of the four tickets, then I lost the job.

“I remember crying to the Lord about how I needed these things to live. I was using my savings to pay my bills and depleted the account. Then I got evicted



Martin leads Saturday evening praise and testimony services at PGM each week.

from my apartment. As I continued to cry out to Jesus about losing this stuff, I was convinced that I needed these things to live. I heard the Spirit say often, 'What you need is to be restored in Jesus to live.' I believe that because I had made these things gods in my life, God had allowed them to be taken away so that I could return to Him.

"I began to live in my car for about six months, and one night I decided to spend the night at my brother's apartment on 79th St., and that's when my car was repossessed. Even though I lost my possessions, I really didn't feel homeless until I lost the car; it was my everything at the time. I lived with my brother for a while and looked for a job at age 52, and was rejected often. The Spirit continued to encourage me to have faith in and trust God. I decided to contact 311 for emergency services, and they gave me a referral to a mission, but my spirit wasn't satisfied with their choice, so I researched online and was led to Pacific Garden Mission's website. As I viewed the website, I felt it was talking to me as I read about the three services a day, joining a Bible Study program, and



Martin prays over the daily donations mailed in with the other staff of Donor Development.

possibly becoming staff after graduation. My faith came alive again as I desired to serve Christ there.

It was October 2010 when I first came to PGM and sat in the day room with the other hundreds of men. During this time, the Holy Spirit would often remind me of 2 Corinthians 5:17, ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*** This Scripture became one of many life verses for me.

It was December 8, 2010, when I joined the 12-month Bible program, and during these months, we had daily prayer, Bible study classes, and a work assignment. God used me, and I joined the Men's choir, where we went on deputations to various churches to sing songs of praise and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I visited churches and met people that I never would have if I wasn't a part of PGM's choir. I was an



Martin standing behind historic recording equipment of PGM's radio ministry *UNSHACKLED!*

intake counselor and was given the opportunity to share the Gospel with the men daily.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

— Hebrews 11:1 KJV

After graduation, I worked in the library as the librarian and eventually switched jobs with another graduate who was working in *UNSHACKLED!* For the next 10 years, I would work as staff in the *UNSHACKLED!* radio ministry, earning the right to perform sound effects for the Saturday live recordings and have my name added to the credits on the scripts. For the past 5 years and currently, I am the MC and song leader for the Saturday Praise & Testimony service. For the past year and currently, I'm the media assistant for PGMTV, and on October

14, 2022, I was promoted to manager of Donor Development. By faith, I will continue to serve with the compassion of Christ at this Gospel rescue mission.

I thank God that the doors of PGM were opened to me at the time when I needed to rededicate my life to the Lord. And I thank God for the donors who continue to provide, financially and otherwise, to the ministry of Pacific Garden Mission as we reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Martin has been a faithful and humble servant at Pacific Garden Mission for the last 13 years. He went from being homeless to renting his apartment, having his car, and being trusted and relied upon by others. Martin's story gives us hope that lasting change through Christ is possible. Daily, he witnesses to others in situations he once experienced and shares how actual lasting change is possible through God. Thank you for being a part of our ministry and allowing a place like PGM to share the Gospel openly with all who come to us for help.

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 March your support made a true difference:

On average, **494** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **24,240** plates of food were served

49,300 items of clothing were distributed

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

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

23 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

107 people professed faith in Christ

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



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

PGM'S NEW DAY PROGRAM

Seeing the dire need to address the ever-increasing drug problem in 2015, we started the New Day drug program. Believing there is a spiritual component to addiction that secular treatment fails to acknowledge, we began to open our doors to those seeking to be free from the bondage of addiction.

The results have been encouraging. We see men and women return and visit the Mission upon graduation, with their families rejoicing in their deliverance from bondage. **"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."** —John 10:10 KJV

A lady in our program says, "I am grateful that God is here for me; I am glad that I am here. I felt myself falling short of my life because my two sons got killed. My first son got killed in 2013 . . . that hurt me to my bone, so I started getting higher. My mother passed in 2021, I got into my addiction more, and then my oldest son got killed in 2022, and I felt my son fading away."

Praise God she came here where we were able to address her addiction

and help her heal emotionally.

A man writes, "My sin (drug use) led me down a dark road. Through God's grace, the New Day Program has proven to be the safe harbor and sanctuary needed to reconnect with my Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank God for New Day."

We have a graduation coming up, and these times are so moving to see parents and spouses, children and friends all come to support the graduates. Many of those in attendance saw the ravages of addiction destroy their loved one's life. Now they can rejoice in the remarkable transformation as well as the restoration of their loved ones.

Thank the Lord Jesus and you who have supported this transformational ministry.

A SPECIAL INVITATION:

If you'd like to see your gifts and prayers in action, we welcome you to visit the Mission's Saturday experience. This is a free event, but reservations are requested. Simply provide your phone number on the enclosed card and you will be contacted with more information on how you can be part of this uplifting event.

Mothers of the Mission

**“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,
To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself
unspotted from the world.” —James 1:27**

When Sarah Dunn Clark and her husband started Pacific Garden Mission in 1877, she could not know the legacy she was leaving behind. The extent of the impact the Mission has had on people's lives has been profound. As Mother's Day approaches, we thank our donors for ensuring this vulnerable group of mothers and children has a safe and supportive place to go for refuge.

Jesus calls on us to help the vulnerable, and at PGM we strive to do that daily. The mothers and children you see in these recent photos reflect just a few of the many we serve each year. The help you provide gives mothers a chance to take their focus from simply surviving to building a new life of sustained stability. Your support can change the direction of their lives in ways only God knows, but it is vitally essential and life altering.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

Learn more about our Mission, where for 145 years lost souls have found hope, compassion, and purpose.