



Lori's new life is a direct result of her experience at PGM.



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION
Transforming lives since 1877

“YOUR LOVE SUSTAINED ME. NOW I AM GIVING BACK.”

After someone hears the Gospel and accepts Christ into their heart, the next thing we strive for most here at Pacific Garden Mission is lasting, sustained change within their life. Whether our graduates move on from here or stay at the Mission and become employees, we desire to see them become fully functioning followers of Christ wherever God leads them.

In this month's issue, we are sharing an update on Lori. She was featured in a 2019 issue of PGM News and today continues to serve at PGM employed in our Donor Development Department. Lori went from being homeless and

staying in our dayroom to graduating from the Bible program and getting hired by PGM. We hope her story of lasting life change and healing encourages you as much as it does us.

LORI

“I am grateful to Pacific Garden Mission for getting me back on my feet, for helping get my head and thoughts back through years of prayer and a rough road traveled. I will always show gratitude to Pacific Garden Mission for taking me in when I was down and out, when I had nowhere to go. I have worked in the Donor Development



“The first night I was in the PGM chapel, I heard a sermon in the nightly service . . . that is when I decided to turn my life over to Jesus Christ.”

Department for the last three years. I sort the incoming financial donations and prepare them for bank deposits.

“I came to Pacific Garden Mission because my life was very unstable. The ups and downs were too much for me to handle alone. When I was only four years old, my mother died of a brain tumor, and for a time, my family was broken apart until my father remarried. These events stayed with me and weighed me down as I grew. Later in life, I was at a breaking point, losing my job, father, and stepmother within the same year. On top of that, my marriage of 18 years was failing. I needed a change. That is what brought me through the doors of PGM. I needed something to hold onto, some strength, and that’s what I found at Pacific Garden Mission.

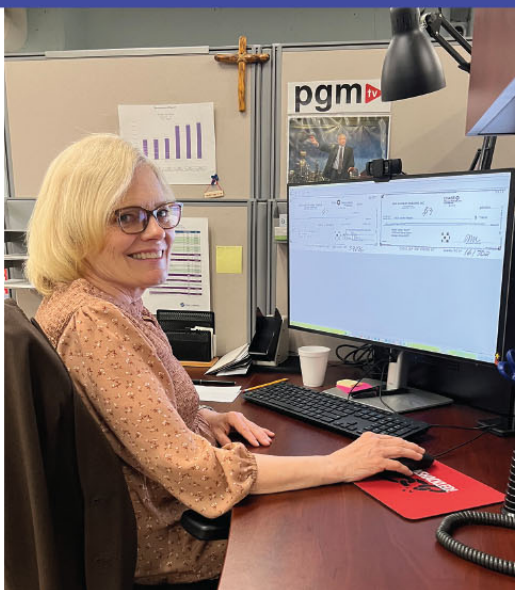
“Initially, I required somewhere to sleep, and I was sent to Pacific Garden Mission by another shelter that had

run out of beds. When I got here, the only possessions I owned were a backpack with a pair of jeans in it. The staff at PGM made sure I got all the necessities I needed, including clothing, toiletries, a shower, a bed to sleep in, and three meals a day. The first night I was in the PGM chapel, I heard a sermon in the nightly service given by Pastor Percy (a graduate of the New Life Program), and that is when I decided to turn my life over to Jesus Christ.

“The New Life Program was wonderful and has many counselors you can go to for advice and mentoring. Learning more about the Bible and getting closer to God has been very



Lori reads and studies the Bible with staff evangelist Phil Lacy.



Lori works in Donor Development scanning donations.

“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” —Romans 12:18

helpful, especially with what I have gone through, including the early death of my mother.

“Today, I also work with the legacies, which are the donors who add Pacific Garden Mission to their wills. When they become deceased, PGM receives a portion of their will. I maintain legacy files and the legacy spreadsheet. I speak with the donors and find out how they connected initially with Pacific Garden Mission, thanking them for their support. I enjoy connecting with the donors and finding out what their stories are. They all have many interesting tales. Many of them tell me that PGM is doing a GREAT job!

“I recently moved out to my own place, which has given me back my sense of independence. I worked hard, saved money, and I prayed on it daily. God showed me when the time was

right to move, and I did it. After being separated for many years, I have been blessed to get to know my sons again. We are getting to know each other all over again, and it has been a joy! A lot of forgiveness has gone along with it on both ends.

“Right now, I am proving to myself that I can do it on my own. But I do know I need God, and I do know I need my family and lots of other people in my life!”

Through the Bible program and her relationship with God, Lori has begun rebuilding her life and her relationships. With her own apartment and independence, she is becoming a fully functioning follower of Christ. We want to thank you for supporting this ministry and providing the resources people need to rebuild their lives upon a Christ-centered foundation. Thank you.



Lori has been joyfully reunited with her two sons.

“You are invited!”

Visit us for our Saturday Destination Experience

Did you ever wonder what it is like inside of Pacific Garden Mission and how we operate? You are invited to join us on any Saturday to experience God’s work through this ministry. The afternoon begins with a live recording of *Unshackled!* that you will be able to watch, followed by a tour of our building, dinner in our cafeteria, and closed by a PGM-style Gospel service held in our auditorium.

Connect with us and form lifelong memories. Meet the people whose lives you help rebuild. It is both an encouraging and impactful experience. If you have any questions, feel free to call, email, or visit our website to ask or to sign up. Visiting the Mission is also a great learning experience for youth and other friends and families, and a great opportunity to see an often unseen side of life. Be inspired by the light you are helping to spread within this frontline ministry.

SIGN UP TODAY AT
pgm.org/tour

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



See a live recording of the famed *Unshackled!* program.



Tour guides highlight the PGM facilities.



Enjoy a quality complimentary meal in our cafeteria.



Meet & greet with Pastor Phil.



Join the celebrated Praise and Testimony Service.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

PGM—AN OASIS AND A REFUGE

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.” —Psalms 27:10 KJV

Recently, one of our residents shared his moving story with me. “As I looked back to when I was a baby two weeks old, I was given up for adoption. I was given to a family, to a man who did not want me, but because of the compassion and promise of a Godly wife, he was left with no choice. As a child, I was bullied by my brothers, and as a teenager, I was beaten by my sister’s husband. I would wonder why my life turned out this way. The whole family decided to move to the US, and I was left behind. By that time, I felt so unloved, alone, and confused over why my life was this way, and I questioned God. When I became an adult, I was ambitious and skilled as a barber, but I still felt alone and unloved. But now, O Lord, I know why.

This whole time, I had a Father in heaven who loved me and was equipping me to be one of His disciples. Now my heart is full, and I know I’m not alone.”

This was written by one of our residents who has found peace with Jesus Christ. It is easy to lose individual stories in the mass of humanity we minister to every day, but when I hear their stories, it reminds me of why we are here and what we do. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support in making Pacific Garden Mission not just a shelter but a home for those needing help. The city has a million stories, but God has directed some of them here so they can find purpose and meaning. Your support has made that possible.

Your love, encouragement, and prayers touch the lives of the hurting and needy among us in countless ways. We are forever grateful.

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 May your support made a true difference:

On average, **507** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **25,870** plates of food were served
25,000 items of clothing were distributed

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

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

21 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

45 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

We start our new fiscal year on July 1, 2023. Fiscal Year 2022/23 was difficult. We faced many challenges, but God is faithful, and through it He used your cheerful giving to meet our growing needs.

As I write this article, we are beginning to see COVID lose its strength at PGM. Two years ago, we had a 70% infection rate. Health officials were concerned, and we needed to make changes to our daily operating to reduce the infection rate. We started using six feet for social distancing, masks, and hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. These health precautions came with their problems and costs. One of which, due to the social distancing mandate, was we couldn't have the population we once had. Our population went from 800 per night to 200 per night. We now have a small clinic with a nurse practitioner, a doctor, and two nurses to treat our overnight guests and program residents. Our numbers are beginning to return to normal, and we are not social distancing so we can hold and help more people with their emergency needs. We make sure they hear the Gospel of Christ and receive a Biblical understanding of it.

We prayed faithfully that God would increase our numbers, and He did just that. We now have about 200 migrants staying with us. They also need Jesus. The language barrier has been challenging, but God placed several bilingual servants in our ministry. Pastor Angel Feliciano, a graduate of our Bible program in 2013, and pastor of a local church, manages the Hispanic population with bilingual ministry team members.

We have had to increase security to keep us safe. As the numbers grow, we see more dangerous people and mental illnesses. We are a redemptive ministry, and we know all things are possible with God and your faithful support. We see the sick healed, the addicted delivered, the lost saved, and minds transformed by the Gospel of Christ.

Through it all, we continue to preach 3-5 Gospel services a day and meet with everyone to be sure they understand Biblically the Gospel of Christ.

Thank you for your invaluable prayer support, encouraging notes, and financial support. All of which God used to get us through some difficult times last year.

Your faithful support has allowed us to meet these challenges and plan our future growth as God advances the kingdom through His Gospel ministry at Pacific Garden Mission.

PGMNews JULY 2023 • Vol.88, No. 7
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission
Philip Kwiatkowski, President
Stephen Welch, Director of Development
Daniel Woolman, Editor • Paul Higdon, Design

1458 South Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60607-5201
P: 312.492.9410 F: 312.492.9414
Email: pgmnews@pgm.org
Websites: www.pgm.org www.unshackled.org