

A close-up portrait of Duwayne Buice, a Black man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is blurred.

Once Duwayne saw the illuminated PGM cross, his life would change forever.

## “WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER”

**When the Gospel and Word of Christ are shared with someone at Pacific Garden Mission, we know the seed has been planted, even if the change is not immediate. We also know not everyone gets it right the first time. It is not uncommon to see people come back several times for help before they decide to live for Christ.**

**In this month's issue, Duwayne shares how he first learned about PGM, what recently brought him back for help, and how the Word of God changed his life. With your support, Duwayne and many others are given a second chance and do not have to do it alone. Thanks to your faithful support many are given hope for new life.**

### DUWAYNE BUICE

“In 1995, I was on the bus heading to work and I saw the cross of Pacific Garden Mission outside the building. I saw men in line and was surprised they were out there feeding the homeless people, but then I went on to work with no more thought of it.

“Five years later, I was in a relationship, and the lady told me to move out. I got a little scared because I was 35 years old and about to be homeless. The cross at PGM came to mind and I walked to that cross. I went in the door, and standing there was a pastor who asked if he could help me. I said that my girlfriend put me out, and my job

**“I found myself  
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had let me go. They took me into a room and interviewed me, gave me a bed and some clothes and some structure, but it wasn't enough. I didn't want Jesus; I just wanted the benefits and for God to help me. But He did more than help me. He loved me, but I couldn't receive it at the time.

“Fast-forward twenty years. I found myself coming back, but before that, I committed a foolish crime where drugs and alcohol played a role. Romans 6:23 stuck

with me. The wages of sin get heavy on you. Afterward, I found myself on my knees. The Lord came into my heart and He showed me how much He loved me. He showed me my foolish ways. I fell to my knees and cried out.

**“For the wages of sin is  
death; but the gift of God  
is eternal life through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

**—Romans 6:23 KJV**



“Here I am today. He gave me favor where I was, and I found myself reading the Bible. I had to give away everything. I had to be stripped of everything, and then I heard His voice. God was telling me to give my heart to Him and follow Him. I can still fall short, so I want to make sure I give Jesus

Duwayne and a fellow program student review Scripture in the PGM courtyard.



all the glory.

"I enjoy the classes I attend and tell my teachers I love them because I can't do this alone. I need help all the time. We need brothers and sisters who are strong in the Word to continue mentoring us because we can't do this alone.

This is what God is doing in my life. He is giving me an understanding of the Gospel. He is giving me what I need through an understanding of the Scriptures, and I love Him for that. It is amazing that I can share my testimony here, and I just want to give Jesus all the glory."

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**Duwayne recently graduated from the New Life Bible program and will soon take the next steps in his new life. Pray that he maintains his**



**Currently in career development, Duwayne is taught how to use the computer by faithful volunteers.**

**walk with God and remembers the faithful teachings he received at Pacific Garden Mission. In our effort to share the Gospel with others, we may never honestly know our impact until we reach God's kingdom, but we can be assured that the Great Commission is being fulfilled here with your help. Thank you for allowing our legacy for Christ to continue reaching those in need.**

## What Does It Mean to Be at PGM During Thanksgiving?

We asked some of our staff what it means to them to be at PGM at Thanksgiving. Here is what they shared:



*"It is really fun to see the kids, mothers, and everyone eating together, praising God for the food and the many blessings He has given us." —Lee*

*"Having been homeless myself, I know holidays can be very empty when you are homeless. The love*



*that we show here, not just on Thanksgiving but throughout the year, and knowing you'll receive a full course traditional Thanksgiving meal and knowing that it will be served with love, that is great. That is what we do here."* —Otis M



*"It is very encouraging when you see the men and women when they are sitting at the table, eating that great big meal that has been specially prepared for them, and you see the smiles on their faces and the volunteers that come in. It's very encouraging to many of us to see what God is doing here."* —Denise



*"It means a lot of love. More people than usual come in. A lot of people are in need of love, and we are here to provide that for them."* —Sonja



*"It seems when there are holidays here at the Mission we all seem to come together, and we are joyful, grateful to be together."* —Gracie

*"My thoughts growing up with Thanksgiving are thoughts of family, and when I look at some of the men, women, and children walking through these doors, this is their holiday. Their Thanksgiving is in a shelter, and though we try to make it as pleasant as possible, they are still celebrating at a homeless shelter. For the children, we want to make those memories as pleasant as possible, so it means a lot to me to be here and give back to those who may not have what others have. —Pastor Phil*



**GIVE NOW [pgm.org/donate](http://pgm.org/donate)**

Visit our website at [pgm.org](http://pgm.org) to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.





A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski  
President, Pacific Garden Mission

## A HOPE AND A FUTURE

A question often asked is what happens to our graduates once they leave? We have a committed Career Development department that is intent on obtaining housing and employment for our program graduates. The apostle John says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" —3 John 1:4 KJV. One of my greatest joys is seeing graduates who are serving the Lord and gainfully employed.

Recently a man named Emmet stopped by for a visit. He'd come to the Mission years ago out of prison looking for direction. He sat in my office telling me about his job with the CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) while testifying of the grace of God. His wife, who was in our Drug Program a few years ago, also

received a new job and was thrilled. During that same week, I saw a woman named Tracy who had struggled with alcohol for many years but found freedom through Christ in our program. Now that she has graduated, she has found employment at the University of Chicago Hospital and has been spending time with her family. This was especially touching as I spoke to her in her medical outfit, remembering her condition two years ago.

Another graduate by the name of David Lewis, who was told by his wife to get out and not come back, found Jesus at PGM. After he graduated from our program he was hired on security, and his wife noticed a difference. One day, she called and said the words he was

longing to hear: come home. Now, he has been hired by the Capitol Police in D.C.

I praise the Lord for these stories and so many more. Real change comes not from behavior modification but from spiritual transformation, and that is what PGM is all about. **Thank you for your prayers and support.**



Our display board highlights testimonies of recent graduates who are now fully employed.

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# WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." — 1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV**

During this time of Thanksgiving, we want to share our gratitude with all the people who support us financially, through prayer, and by volunteering. Our numbers continue to rise, and we have peace of mind knowing that we are serving the Lord as a family of believers, reaching the lost with the love of Jesus Christ. We couldn't do this alone.



## 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 September your support made a true difference:

On average, **525** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **26,270** plates of food were served

**25,000** items of clothing were distributed

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

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

**24** mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

**64** people professed faith in Christ and became new believers

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