

Wilbert Adams Jr.

“YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES”

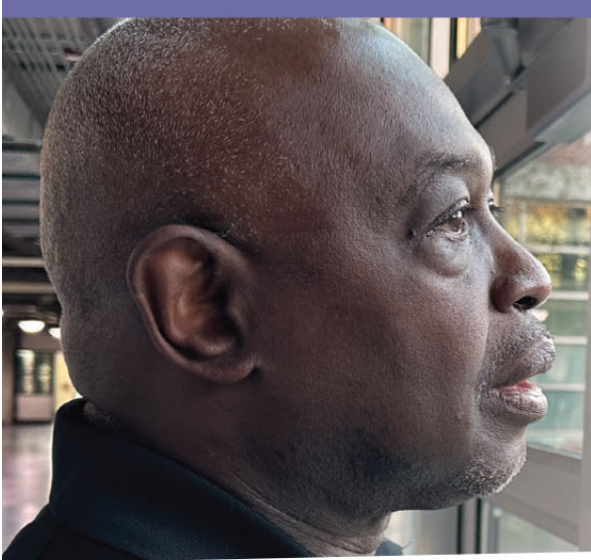
In the tapestry of individual stories woven within the walls of Pacific Garden Mission, Wilbert Adams Jr.'s narrative stands as a testament to the transformative power of faith and the strength found only in Jesus Christ. March of 1995 marked the pivotal moment when Wilbert, battling the clutches of addiction and despair, found solace in the sanctuary of Pacific Garden Mission. His journey from addiction to a life devoted to serving the Lord is a powerful testament to this Mission's impact on countless lives. We thank our supporters who have made such life-changing stories possible by helping us share the Gospel of Jesus

Christ, guiding individuals through redemption and renewal.

WILBERT

“My name is Wilbert Adams Jr. and I came here in March of 1995. When I first came to Pacific Garden Mission, I was addicted to crack cocaine. When I arrived, I was down to 130 pounds from using drugs constantly. I had used \$1,800 worth of drugs the day before I came to PGM, and when I did that, I felt so lost and depressed that I wanted to end it all, but I knew better. So, I called on the Lord and said, ‘Jesus, can you please take this away from me?’

“My youngest sister came to me



“Jesus is what the world needs today, and is what the world has always needed.”

and said she knew a place I needed to go called Pacific Garden Mission, and that she was going to take me there the next morning. So I came down to PGM. At the old site, they had a place called the bench. So I went and sat on the bench, and as I sat there, I said, ‘Lord, if you deliver me from this, I am going to serve you the rest of my life.’ At that moment, I

felt all cravings for crack cocaine were gone just like that. I could have gotten up and gone home, but I was committed to serving the Lord since He took it away.

“I got involved in the programs and started learning the Bible. I was in the Word day and night. I started working in the kitchen at PGM, and I was down there serving, and in my private time, I was studying. When I was down there, I met my future brother-in-law, Sampson Green, and we became good friends. He was serving in the military dorm and had arranged for me to be moved from the kitchen to where he was serving. That is what started my growth in Christ.

“Pacific Garden Mission was like a spiritual boot camp when I arrived. Some pastors who lived in other states would even send their sons to get on the Bible program here to teach them humility. The program was geared to growing in grace and the spirit of God. Today, the people in the programs have multiple counselors, but I think the best counselor is the Word of God



Wilbert and Sampson Green became brothers-in-law and now serve the Lord together at PGM.

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
— Matthew 6:33 KJV**

because that makes the change in people’s lives and hearts. That is what did it for me.

“Through taking courses and getting involved in the different ministries, I was in a class where Pastor Phil came to preach, and he said that if you wanted to get involved, you needed to start doing something for the Lord. He said we could see him if we wanted to do something for the Lord. At that time, Pastor Phil would go down into the subway to preach and pass out Gospel tracts. I got in touch with him and started going down there, and soul witnessing was what I started doing all the time.

“Soul winning and telling people about Jesus is what we loved to do. I also served in the jail ministry for 22 years and 20 years in the juvenile detention centers representing PGM. I was fulfilling my vow to serve the Lord the rest of my life for delivering me from my drug addiction.

“The Word of God says to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything else will be added.

So everything else was added unto me as I was serving the Lord. If you walk out on faith, God will do all the rest.

“I graduated the Bible program in 1996 and started teaching class here, which I taught for 20 years. After graduating, I got a job as an engineer, but never stopped serving the Lord. I am proud to say that at PGM, God turned my life around and set me in the right direction, making a plain path for my feet. In 2007, I got married, and we have a home in a nice, peaceful neighborhood on the south side of Chicago.

Wilbert Adams Jr.’s life story encapsulates the Mission’s purpose—to be a conduit for change and a beacon of hope. With profound gratitude, we extend our thanks to the supporters who have enabled this Mission to flourish and uplift those like Wilbert. Pacific Garden Mission’s legacy continues to point people toward Jesus. Through faith, dedication, and the guiding light of Christ, Pacific Garden Mission remains a testament to the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ and the enduring change it brings. Thank you.



Wilbert serves at PGM doing various ministry work including teaching classes.

NEW WEEKLY EPISODES TO *LISTEN, WATCH, AND SHARE*

Through the years, PGM has witnessed to people throughout the country and world through our media ministries.

UNSHACKLED!



UNSHACKLED! is a long-running radio drama that originated in 1950 and is produced by Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. **UNSHACKLED!** shares inspirational stories of transformation through the Christian faith, featuring testimonies of individuals who have experienced radical life changes after encountering the Gospel.

The program reaches a broad audience with narratives of redemption, hope, and the transformative power of God's love. It uses dramatizations to engage listeners in the real-life stories of people who have overcome adversity through their faith in Jesus Christ.



Go to your phone's app store and download the **UNSHACKLED!** app today.

PGMTV



The PGMTV program, which began in 2014, shares unscripted testimonies of individuals who came through the doors of PGM and physically received help here in our building. Through their various stages of healing and spiritual growth, we see how Jesus Christ changed their life for the better. The program's second half is a sermon from PGM president Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski, who teaches life-applicable lessons using the Bible. Each week, a new hour-long program is aired.

To find airtimes or to listen to and view our programs, please use the web addresses below.

For **UNSHACKLED!** radio:
<https://unshackled.org>

For PGMTV:
<https://pgm.org/pgm-tv/>



Scan the QR code (right) with your phone to watch PGMTV now and access all our past episodes.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE

This March, we celebrate the greatest historical fact in history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our faith does not rest on cute stories but on a historical fact.

Dr. Simon Greenleaf decided to put Jesus' resurrection on trial by examining the evidence. Greenleaf helped Harvard Law School gain widespread credibility. He also wrote the three-volume legal masterpiece *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, which has been called the "greatest single authority in the entire literature of legal procedure." The U.S. judicial system today still relies on rules of evidence established by Greenleaf.

Greenleaf wondered if Jesus' resurrection would hold up in a court of law and began applying his rules of evidence to Jesus' resurrection. The more Greenleaf investigated the record of history, the more evidence he discovered supporting the claim that Jesus had indeed risen from the tomb.

He documents his case for Jesus' resurrection in his book *Testimony of the Evangelists*. So, what was that evidence? Greenleaf observed several dramatic changes that took place shortly after Jesus died, the most baffling being the behavior of the disciples. He argues, "it

would have been impossible for the disciples to persist with their conviction that Jesus had risen if they hadn't actually seen the risen Christ." Applying his own rules of evidence to the facts, he accepted the resurrection as the best explanation for the events that took place immediately following Jesus' crucifixion. Additionally, many other legal scholars agree with Greenleaf that his conclusions are solidly irrefutable.

Other Dr. Greenleaf quotes:

"A person who rejects Christ may choose to say that I do not accept it, he may not choose to say there is not enough evidence."

"According to the laws of legal evidence used in courts of law, there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history."

This proof of the resurrection gives us hope. Jesus's victory over the grave offers assurance to many of our residents that they can overcome any addiction or past guilt because we are in Him.

I want to thank you all this Resurrection season for your love, prayer, and generous support.

PGMNews MARCH 2024 • Vol.89, No. 3
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission
Philip Kwiatkowski, President
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

Learn more about our Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.

GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Clean, Warm, and Impactful: The Benefits of Clothing Donations

Peter Leavitt,
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

Those experiencing homelessness often have an urgent need for suitable clothing, especially during cold Chicago weather. Thousands of used clothing items are donated to Pacific Garden Mission annually to meet these needs.

Our hearts swell with gratitude as we reflect on the many ways clothing donations make a difference in the lives of our guests.

Restoring Dignity

For those experiencing homelessness, access to clean and appropriate clothing is often a challenge. Clothing, contributed by so many faithful donors, restores a sense of dignity, allowing our guests to present themselves with greater confidence.

Weathering the Elements

Clothing serves as a barrier against the elements, protecting our guests from

harsh weather conditions. The warm coats, sturdy shoes, and weather-resistant gear generously provided by donors are lifelines, ensuring our guests stay safe and healthy.

Expanded Opportunities

With appropriate attire, guests enrolled in PGM New Life and other programs can access employment opportunities and participate in training sessions, taking steps towards a brighter future.

Financial Relief

For those struggling financially, the cost of clothing can be prohibitive. Clothing donations alleviate this economic burden, freeing up resources for other essential needs like housing, food, and transportation.

As we continue our mission to provide shelter, nourishment, and the life-changing Gospel message to our guests, we extend our deepest appreciation to the generous donors who make this possible.

Your contributions are a tangible expression of the love of Jesus Christ to those who so desperately need him.

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 January your support made a true difference:

On average, **563** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **34,782** plates of food were served

23,000 items of clothing were distributed

3,137 media outlets around the world broadcasted *UNSHACKLED!*

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

11 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

84 people professed saving faith in Christ and became new believers at PGM

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