



Robert came out from the cold and into the warmth of God's love at PGM.

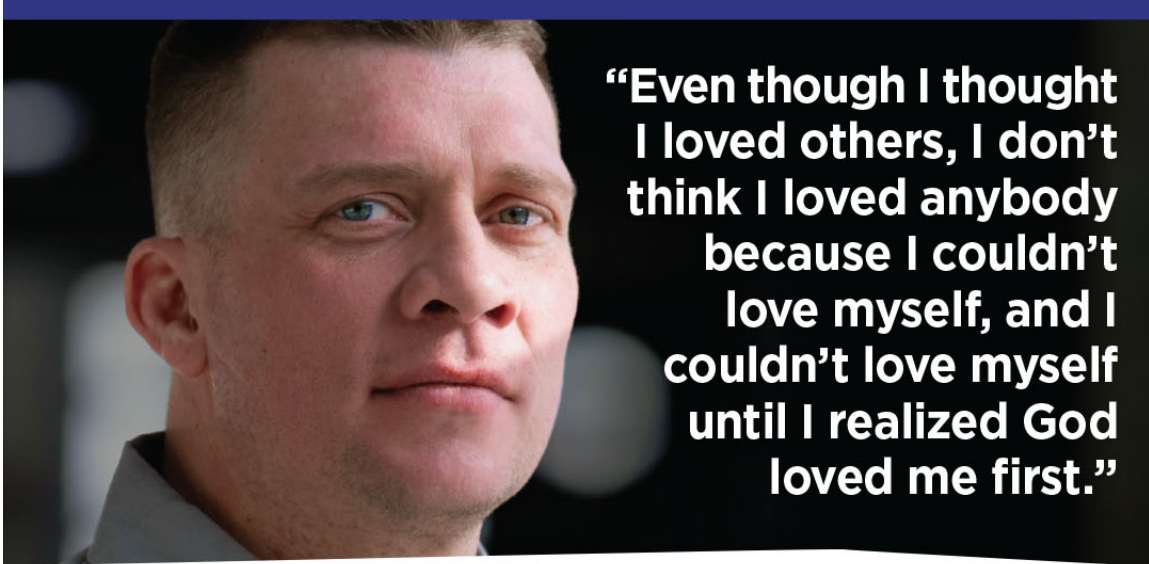
## “I AM ALIVE TODAY BECAUSE YOU CARED”

In the chilling grip of December, Robert Zimmerman found himself on the precipice of life and death, battling the elements, while wrestling with the demons of addiction and despair. Living in abandoned houses, his life became a daily struggle against the cold and the weight of his troubled past. His journey from despair to the warmth of recovery began when he reached out for help and found solace in embracing God's love at Pacific Garden Mission. As you read his story, remember stories like his are only possible through your faithful support.

### ROBERT ZIMMERMAN

“I was living out in the elements. It was December, and I was out there using drugs and being up for days on end. I could have died in the extremities of the cold. I had been living in abandoned houses. I had a little electric heater that I would bundle up in with a blanket, but it got to the point where it wasn't keeping me warm enough. That's when I called 911 and said I was living in a place with no heat and I needed to go to the hospital because I was afraid I could freeze out there.

“Not only was I depressed and worried about not being able to stay



warm, but I couldn’t sleep with no heat. I hated everything I ever did and ever was. I was a wicked man. I have done a lot of horrible things. I was having thoughts of suicide. It was from the drugs and the devil. I was being oppressed spiritually, and I realized I needed help. I realized I needed Christ.

“I needed God. I also needed to be around ordinary people. I had been up for days using crack and crystal meth in the freezing December cold. That was my moment in the gutter and is what made me want to turn to God and ask for help. That is when I called Pastor McNeil.

“I have had some periods of sobriety in my life, and I was doing well for myself. Through people I met, we started going to church together. That’s where I met Pastor McNeil. I just thought

he was a church elder at first. I didn’t know he had been a junkie until I started being honest and said I had a drug problem. I told them I had been addicted to drugs for the past 25 years, and McNeil said he had been addicted to heroin for 40 years. That’s when he told me about Pacific Garden Mission. He gave me an old Bible tract with his *UNSHACKLED!* story in it, wrote his phone number, and said when I was ready to go to the Mission to let him know.

“I had that tract, and I didn’t even read it, but I would pick it up now and again, considering calling him for help,



**Robert helps make the beds and clean where the transient guests sleep and shower each night.**



## “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” —1 John 4:10 KJV

and eventually, I did. I said I was ready to go to the Mission and asked if he would come and get me. That's when I realized I could love myself and start loving others. I knew this was a life-and-death situation, and my life was worth fighting for.

“My first day at the Mission was great because I could rest, relax, and not worry about the burdens of this world, like where I would get my next meal. I just needed that rest, that sanctuary, in God. I went through their New Day substance abuse program before I went to the New Life Bible program. Even though I thought I loved others, I don't think I loved anybody because I couldn't love myself, and I couldn't love myself until I realized God loved me first.

“I got into New Life because I realized I had never given God a chance. I asked myself if I had ever seriously read my Bible before. Had I ever seriously given God my full and undivided attention? I asked myself all these questions, and my answer was no. I realized you can't knock it until you try it. I decided to give my life to God wholeheartedly and that my life was worth fighting for.”

**Today, as Robert reflects on his remarkable transformation, he is a testament to the healing power of faith and the compassion of those who supported him. Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Robert discovered a path to redemption, breaking free from the chains of addiction and self-loathing. His story is a powerful reminder that, even in the darkest moments, the light of compassion and the transformative love of God can bring about profound healing. His journey at Pacific Garden Mission saved him from despair and paved the way for a renewed life filled with love, purpose, and a newfound appreciation for life. Thank you for making stories like his possible.**



Robert talks with a bunkmate on the Bible program dormitory.



## THE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN YOU HELP

At Pacific Garden Mission we don't like turning away anyone. This is especially true with the most vulnerable, like mothers and children. That is why we are currently updating and expanding our facilities to help more mothers.

We share just some of the faces of those you have been helping recently and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. With the help you provide, they are changed and shown the love of Christ. *Thank You!*



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



To donate using your phone, just scan this QR code with your phone's camera, and it will direct you to the PGM Donate page.

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





## A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

### HELPING THE POOR AND DESPERATE

**Man's hardships become God's opportunity as we are "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" —Ephesians 5:16**

Now that the weather begins to warm, I look back and thank Jesus for His provision this past winter. The cold weather has allowed us to meet the needs and minister to individuals who would not usually come in. Here are a few stories:

*John has been to the Mission before. He fell on hard times again this winter and needed a safe, warm place to go. He knew he would find shelter from the cold and all his basic needs would be met, but God had something bigger planned for John. Since coming to PGM, the Lord has softened John's heart. John now knows who Christ is and is being convicted daily to get rid of his old habits and become a new creation. John came looking for a warm place but received so much more.*

*"Hi, my name is Derek. I am a guest at PGM. I came here because I'd been sleeping outside, and the weather started getting really bad and cold. It's a blessing to have a safe place to sleep where I don't have to worry*

*about someone stealing my stuff or jumping me because they think I might have something. I will stay here over the winter and go back outside when the weather breaks. I like the fact that PGM is a Christian program that helps me understand who Jesus is. Thank you, PGM."*

*Robert has been at PGM for around three weeks. PGM provided him with all his basic needs in this short time, and was able to help him off the streets and out of the cold this winter. PGM has provided the Word of God to Robert, and he is growing in his faith in Jesus Christ. He is also very grateful for the staff and all their hard work, because he knows how difficult it can be to serve Christ in a place where there are so many broken people.*

I want to thank our Lord for having a place in the heart of the city where the hurting, cold, and broken can find a safe place to stay and hear God's word. I also want to thank all those who have prayed for and supported us.

**"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again" —Proverbs 19:17**

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

## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

### In Gratitude, We Gather: A Special Daily Moment

Peter Leavitt,  
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

**We aim to reach the lost at the Mission with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** To do this, we serve those experiencing homelessness in a labor of love fueled by the generosity of our donors. A touching event occurs here daily that beautifully encapsulates the spirit of gratitude and joy that defines our work.

This special moment occurs in our donation processing unit, a team of six led by Martin Robinson, Director of Donor Development. This team receives

incoming gifts in the form of checks, sorts them, records them in our accounting system, and deposits them at the bank. Dozens of checks arrive daily in a large bag or box from the post office. On some days, there are hundreds of checks!

When the checks arrive, they are placed on a central table. In this extraordinary moment, the clicking of keyboards, whirring of check scanners, and hum of conversations all cease. This busy team quietly leave their workstations and come together, forming a circle around the checks. With humble hearts, they close their eyes and pray. Gratitude is expressed for the donors, and wisdom is sought for the application of the funds as they are used to deliver the transforming message of the Gospel to those who so desperately need it. It's incredibly touching to witness.

**To those who pray, donate, and volunteer to support the Mission, we extend our deepest appreciation for your generosity. Together, we serve the Lord, and together, we give thanks.**



Volunteers working in PGM's food pantry.

## 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, **595** homeless people received aid and Gospel services each day

About **36,290** plates of food were served

**22,000** items of clothing were distributed

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

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

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

**35** 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.