



Daniel's life was transformed  
from addiction and despair  
to Biblical restoration.

## “PGM WAS MY SANCTUARY FOR HEALING.”

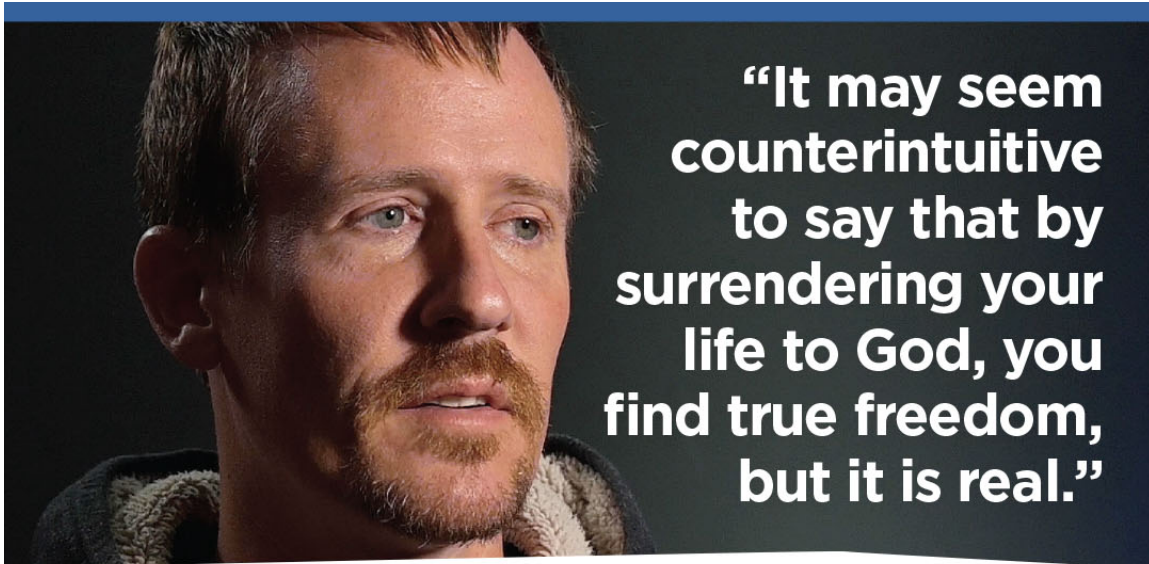
We strive for long-term success at PGM, and with your help, we continue to see sustained change and transformation in the lives of those who come to us for assistance. The Bible programs and other services we offer are meant to help people find lasting change by introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Biblical wisdom that can set their hearts and minds down the path to living wholesome, God-honoring lives.

In this month's issue, we look at the story of someone who went through the Bible program at Pacific Garden Mission over ten years ago after battling depression

and drug addiction. After trying many other avenues to help him overcome these strongholds, he was ultimately able to find freedom in Christ. Today, he continues to serve in the PGM ministry. His story is a good reminder that sustained life change is possible and that it is never too late to become a new creature in Christ.

### DANIEL

“I grew up in a middle-class family where money and the daily aspects of life were sufficiently provided for. It is hard to say what began my path of self-destruction.



Was it my parent’s divorce as a child? Was it my inherent nature, prone to worry and often focusing on the negatives more often than the positives of life? Regardless of the source, the emptiness and despair I felt grew as I got older. When I found the numbness and escape in drugs during high school, it became a daily part of my life, and what began as a recreational choice soon became an addiction.

“At some point in my early teens, I also became convinced psychological medications were part of the answer for filling the emptiness and feelings of constant depression I felt, but those too left me as empty and numb as the other drugs did. From the ages of 15-30, I was prescribed countless different medications to numb the pain.

“It was an unending chase for something I was unable to reach, and the more I tried and failed to fill the void within, the more hopeless I felt. It all eventually led to a life of chaos and darkness, including

homelessness, dishonesty, depression, despair, and even attempts to take my own life. It came to a point where I had to choose between life and death.

“On my last attempt of many to get sober, I went to an inpatient 30-day drug treatment program to help me get off of opiates, but as I grew close to completing it, I knew it wouldn’t be enough to keep me on the right track for long. That is when I decided to come to PGM for help and joined their yearlong Bible program.

“At PGM, I found a sanctuary where I could focus exclusively on my spiritual growth and physical healing from all the years of abuse I had put my body and



**Daniel recording the PGM TV wraps with Pastor Phil in front of the building.**



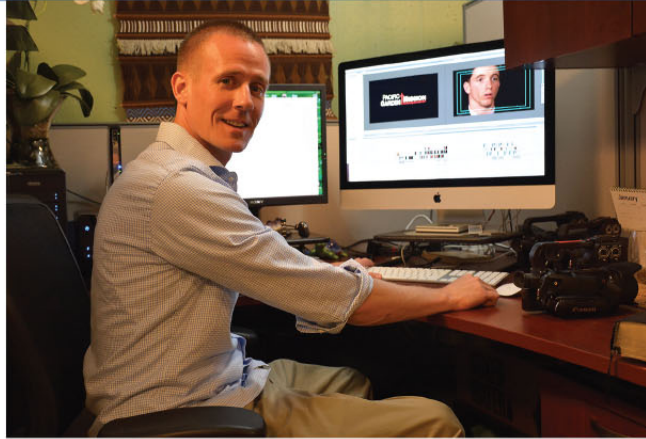
**Daniel has been doing the editing for PGM TV for the last ten years.**

mind through. The Bible classes helped and I think the quiet time I had to pray, self-reflect, and learn the Word of God also greatly helped the change in my heart take root and allowed me the chance to start life anew. The extended format provided my body, mind, and spirit the much-needed time to heal and find a healthy baseline again.

"I completed the Bible program and then began to work in the PGM TV ministry, where I have been able to record the stories of other people who went through struggles similar to mine. Ten years later, I am still editing the PGM TV program, writing the monthly newsletter, and creating social media content. Being able to take part in these things helps me daily by reminding me of where I came from and what God has done in my life.

"Today, I have been clean for more than ten years from drugs, both illegal and prescribed. Jesus was able to do something that countless doctors and medications could not. The mess I created in the past is still there, but the trust and relationships improve over time, and each day gets a bit easier. Faith is a powerful thing.

"If you find yourself struggling and haven't been able to overcome your issues or emptiness, I recommend giving God a chance. Most of what He has done for me is too difficult



to accurately convey using words, but He has given me peace, contentment, freedom from addiction and depression, and, overall, has given me a new life in Christ. It may seem counterintuitive to say that by surrendering your life to God, you find true freedom, but it is real."

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**What Daniel was unable to do on his own and through conventional medicine, he was able to do through God. A content life free of both illegal and legal drugs for over ten years, he serves as an excellent example of what a relationship with Jesus Christ can do. The Biblical foundations and new life habits he began to build at PGM gave him the time and resources necessary to succeed. His story reflects the life-changing power of Christ, and reminds others who may be struggling with similar problems that there is a way out of the darkness. Thank you for helping us share the life-transforming power of the Gospel with people like Daniel.**

**"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise."  
—Jeremiah 17:14 KJV**



# 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PGM TV

Ten years ago, we began producing the PGM TV program because we felt led to share the life-transforming power of the Gospel message along with the individual stories of those whose lives were changed by it here at PGM. Over the years, we have recorded over 600 testimonies and almost 400 Gospel messages taught by Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski. Whether it is the unique mission-style preaching or the raw and unscripted stories of people who came to PGM for help, the program has held true to sharing the life-altering power of God and His Word.

Watching and hearing the stories of those who came to PGM for help also helps reveal the different aspects of life in which people struggle and can serve as living proverbs as to what to do and what not to do. Whether it is the stories being taught from the Bible or the stories of individuals who came here, the viewers of the program will learn valuable life lessons and spiritual insight. We thank those of you who have viewed and shared our PGM TV program, and we look forward to another ten years of sharing the true power of God and His son, Jesus Christ.



2014 photo showing the original team that helped start the PGM TV program.



PGM staff filming Pastor Phil giving an inspired message for a recent recording of the television program.



Unscripted testimonies are a hallmark of the success of PGM TV.



Scan this QR code to watch a short video about the history of the PGM TV program.



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.

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

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

## THEIR HEARTS WERE OPENED

Last month, I reported that we had a special event for our ladies. This month, we did it for our men. We ordered pizza, had ice cream, played Bible trivia, and had our Chaplain, who was saved here at PGM, speak to the men. The words of thanks and appreciation I heard were truly special. I want to share with you some of the comments they wrote down.

*"Pretty good, nicely prepared, no complaints. Laughed and kicked it with the guys. It was nice, we had lots of fun."*

*"Had a great time! Great fellowship."*

*"I used to look at the dayroom as a bad place, but what happened last night has changed my perspective of the dayroom."*

*"I experienced a very good day. It started with the service from Pastor Green, and I think it was the first I ever really listened to what was said. I really*

*heard his story. The Bible trivia by Evan. Phil was humorous and fun. The staff was very nice and caring to all of their guests and showed love to everyone. It was a great experience. I would love to see PGM host another event for us. Thank you."*

*"I enjoyed the pizza. I love seeing everyone help serve and set up the event, including seeing members of the board help out. They took the time to talk to us about the Bible."*

This was just a sample of some of their comments. The one that resonated with me the most said this was the first time that he had really listened. These events open hurting hearts. I like what Theodore Roosevelt said: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." **Thank you for your love, prayer, and support to make events like this possible.**

## 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 July your support made a true difference:

**551** average number of homeless people who received aid and Gospel services each day

**28,908** plates of food were served (est.)

**21,465** clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

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

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

**29** 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.**

# GODLY STEWARDSHIP

## The 1-Cent Gift: A Testament to Generosity

Peter Leavitt,  
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

Amidst the whirlwind of daily life in the city of Chicago, there exists a story of faith, sacrifice, and compassion—a story that resonates deeply with those who serve at Pacific Garden Mission. It's the story of the Widow's Mite.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus observes a widow who, despite her own poverty, offers two small copper coins as a donation to the temple treasury. In a world where wealth and status often dictated one's significance, this act of generosity by a seemingly insignificant widow caught Jesus' attention.

Similarly, PGM recently received a donation of 1 cent—a gift that may seem absurdly inconsequential to some but holds immense value to us. This humble contribution echoes the spirit of the Widow's Mite, reminding us that the true measure of generosity lies not in the amount given but in the sincerity of the heart.

At PGM, we strive to embody the spirit of the Widow's Mite in our work every day. We believe that every individual, regardless of their circumstances, deserves a helping hand in their time of need.

Your donation, no matter how small, enables us to fulfill our mission of providing shelter, support, and hope to those experiencing homelessness. Most importantly, it allows us to share the promise of salvation through the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Thank you for embodying the spirit of the Widow's Mite and for your unwavering prayer and financial support of the Lord's work at PGM.**

**"For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."  
—Deut. 15:11 KJV**



**Because of your kindness a grateful family receives a needed meal in the PGM cafeteria.**

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