



Read Lisa's remarkable story of restoration and spiritual transformation at PGM.

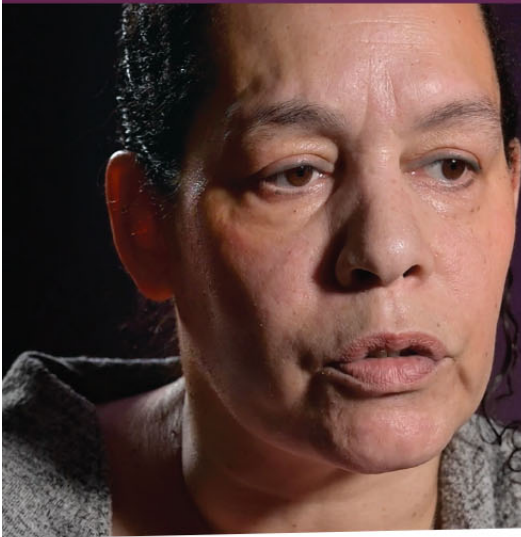
## “BECAUSE OF YOU, I NOW HAVE CHRIST IN MY LIFE.”

**At PGM, we have found that through sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping people form an individual relationship with God, actual lifelong change can be made. We praise God for your support and the lives being transformed. We hope Lisa's story of healing and growing after overcoming tragic events is a good reminder of the work God is continually doing here.**

### LISA

“My name is Lisa, and I was born in Chicago. I grew up in foster care. I

was placed in foster care when I was 11 years old and was moved to the south side of Chicago because of my skin color, which was confusing to me because I had grown up in an Irish household my whole life. My mother is first-generation Irish, so I didn't see why I was placed on the south side, but I can relate to it today and understand why. It was hard growing up in a community that I wasn't familiar with or had no connection to. My mother was an alcoholic but has 30 years of sobriety today. She was drinking at the time, so growing up in that household was a bit challenging, but I did the best that I could.



**“I was thankful for the spiritual foundation that PGM offers because my spirit felt very empty, and I will be forever grateful.”**

“I later went to a private high school and started an organization called the Chicago Youth and Care Network. I received an award in DC for the National Youth Leader for the year. I was on Nightline with Ted Koppel. So, some powerfully interesting things were happening as I was growing up, but life was a bit challenging. I later worked in an alternative high school for about ten years.

“My son and I were barbecuing and playing outside when a former student rode by on his bike. I offered to share our meal with him, but I shouldn’t have done that because he later broke into my house and beat and raped me. I was in a coma for a month and almost lost my life. I am grateful that I have cognitive ability, that my mind is ok, and I am alive and able to wake up. After the attack I didn’t want to return to or live in that home. After the attack, my drinking escalated and, over time, prevented me from finding a stable housing.

“I had two years of sobriety. Then I got an email saying the person who attempted to kill me was being released from jail after 13 years, and I returned to drinking. I escaped reality, and I relapsed. It was a shock to know that he was being released from prison.

“I had been at another shelter but was eventually brought to PGM. After adapting to their system I was grateful to go into the New Day program upstairs, and I have over 12 months of sobriety today.

“I am grateful to be a part of Pacific



Lisa, with her mother, joyfully shares her New Day graduation certificate of completion.



**“For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds...”**

**—Jeremiah 30:17 KJV**

Garden Mission and for my recovery because of the spiritual component, which is very important to me. I was thankful for the spiritual foundation PGM offers because my spirit felt very empty, and I will be forever grateful. One moment at a time is how I view my recovery process.

“I graduated from the New Day program in the spring of this year. The ceremony was very special because my mother and my son were here, so it was complete for my heart, my mind, and my spirit. I am a holistic woman, so it touches me completely. I then joined and am currently in the New Life program.

“I am grateful and blessed every day that I wake up to be a part of Pacific Garden Mission’s community because the component of having Christ in my life every day is very important to me. I call Christ my best friend, so I am thankful to have that influence in my daily life. I feel completely holistically balanced here. The Word of God helps keep my spiritual cup full. I have established one year of sobriety, and I am so very grateful for my counselor, Miss Anne.

“The New Life program is where we learn the Bible and how to develop a relationship with Christ. Every morning we start with beautiful spiritual focus

and meditation. It is very positive and powerful to me. Being surrounded by people who love the Lord is a beautiful thing. I pray God will use me to help others. You can live life without drugs or alcohol. God is always with us. Jesus died for our sins, and we are forgiven.”

**Lisa continues to grow and heal at PGM. Being introduced to the love of Jesus Christ and a relationship with God adds an element to her life that enriches her spirit and health. The stories that lead people to homelessness are many, and though they are often laced with pain and negativity, they are frequently the catalyst that opens their hearts and minds to the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ and His love. We thank you again for your support and for helping provide an atmosphere where people can be nurtured by God and learn to form a personal relationship with Him. We couldn’t do it without you.**



Lisa graciously volunteers her time in the kitchen preparing food for the PGM guests.



# “YOUR MESSAGES ARE TOUCHING LIVES.”

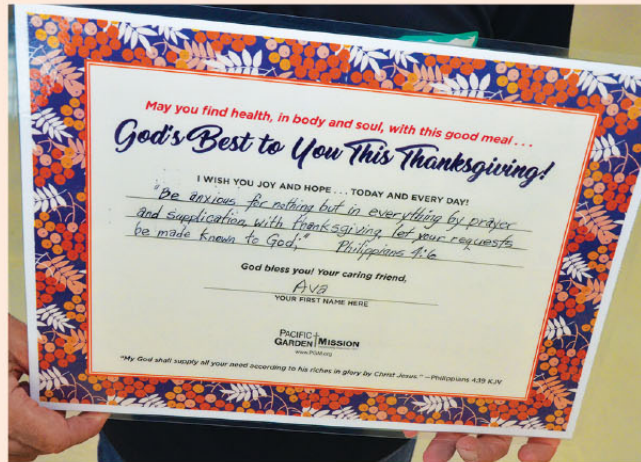


meals and services during the holidays.

Another part of our holidays is that we hand out messages and placemats colored and filled out by our donors. These placemats and personal messages are a small but meaningful token of love and kindness shown to our guests. We thank you and invite you to color or

Being in a rescue mission during the holidays can be especially difficult. This time of year brings up memories, good and bad, and often a sense of loneliness, depression, and even despair. We try to make these times pleasant, warm, and welcoming. One way we do this is by having special

write a message on these and send them to us so that we can place them on the table during the Thanksgiving meal. The Thanksgiving meal is also only possible with your support, like everything we do here, and it positively impacts the lives of people who are in the midst of struggle and pain.



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](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

### GOD IS USING OUR NEW DAY PROGRAM

**“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” —John 10:10 KJV**

Drugs continue to plague the country and destroy so many once-promising lives. I am so thankful for the New Day program here at PGM, where men and women are being set free from this horrific bondage of addiction. Here are a few testimonies from our residents.

Patrick says, “The New Day program changed me in a profound manner by reaching my inner core. I couldn’t stop drinking on my own—no matter how many other programs I went through. New Day was the first comprehensive opportunity that allowed me to experience Christ as an option to quell my addiction. The classes were taught by folks who instructed from a position of love, care, compassion, and expertise. The program only completely succeeded with me because I was man enough to surrender my will and be obedient to the Trinity—allowing the wonderful people He put in here to help shape me into the Christian I am today.”

Harold says, “My life was falling apart again, and I do mean again. I tried all

kinds of treatments at this place and that place, this state and that state, but nothing could satisfy my flesh or my way of thinking.

“But God, out of His wonderful love, mercy, kindness, and grace, brought me back to Chicago, a place I said I never wanted to see again. But the Bible tells me that God’s grace is sufficient for me, and thus, I ended up back in Chicago. I remembered the old lighthouse—Pacific Garden Mission—and how God dwells there. God led me straight to the doors of PGM. I sat for a whole month, and I watched the coming and going, and I saw the madness again. But I was tired and older, and the devil had worn me out. I needed peace and needed comfort.

“I am grateful for PGM because my mind is being transformed. New Day was the beginning of this transformation of not only my mind but my life. New Day was my first step toward God and the peace I so longed for. In two months, it will have been a year.”

**For these individuals and many more, God has used the New Day program to set them free. I thank the Lord for your love, prayer, and support of this ministry. Together, by God’s grace, we are making a difference.**

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

## GODLY STEWARDSHIP

### A Season of Thanksgiving: Celebrating 8,205 Acts of Generosity

Peter Leavitt,  
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

As we gather to reflect on the past year's blessings, we are filled with overwhelming gratitude for the incredible outpouring of support we received last Thanksgiving season. Thanks to the compassion and generosity of individuals like you, we are thrilled to announce that we received 8,205 monetary donations!

At PGM, our primary mission extends beyond meeting physical needs. We are dedicated to sharing the transformative message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—a message of love, compassion, and redemption that offers hope to the hopeless and light to those in darkness.

With each donation, big or small, our supporters demonstrated their unwavering dedication to our cause and the mission of sharing the Gospel. They reminded us that the spirit of giving knows no bounds and that together, we can create positive change in our community and beyond.

The impact of these 8,205 donations reverberates far beyond their initial act. They provided over 60,000 meals for the hungry last November, along with warmth for the cold and shelter for people experiencing homelessness. They have offered hope to those in need and reassurance that they are loved and not forgotten.

As we express our deepest gratitude for the incredible donor support we received last Thanksgiving, we also extend our heartfelt thanks to each one who routinely prays for this ministry. Your work is essential; nothing of eternal value can be accomplished without it.

## 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:

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

**30,302** plates of food were served (est.)

**11,400** clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

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

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

**54** 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.