



Tony's transformation experience saved his life and restored him to his family.

“I WAS BORN AGAIN AT PGM.”

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this month, and contemplate what it truly means for us, we wanted to highlight the transformation of the life of an individual who was born again after hearing the Gospel at Pacific Garden Mission. His story reflects that of many others who have found salvation within our walls, and we are happy to share this positive story with you that emphasizes how the life and power of Jesus Christ continue to transform lives. Thank you for being a part of what we do and helping to make this story possible.

TONY

“It was a crazy life. I struggled with drug addiction to alcohol and even was in gangs when I was younger. I was in and out of jail. It just was terrible. It got to the point where I lost everything. I lost my job, my sanity, and my freedom. I lost my relationship with my mom, dad, and family. They just didn't want to see the vicious spiral I was in. I had nothing left besides my wife and kids; they were hanging on by a thread.

“I was out hustling to make money for my addiction, and it was terrible. That led me to another stay in jail, and it led me to PGM. I came to PGM not having any real relationship



with God. I knew of God, but I didn't know God. I didn't know Jesus' love. I came here because I had nowhere else to go and came for food, shelter, and a place to lay my head, and I got so, so, so much more.

"At PGM, I learned about God's love. Paul, the story of Paul, hit me hard when I first started reading the Bible and hearing people preach at

the pulpit. I realized God really could love somebody like me. It opened my eyes when I was all alone. I feel like He stripped me of everything so I had nowhere else to turn other than to Him. This is what led me into the Bible program, and other than being saved, the best decision I ever made was to get into that Bible program.

"When I share my testimony at PGM, I always tell the other men currently in the Bible program to stick it out. The devil will try everything he can to get them out of there. It might be a phone call from someone, a job offer, whatever it is, but all that stuff will be there when you get out. I emphasize to them that the things we learn in the Bible program (and I didn't even realize it at the time) are priceless.

"One staff member told me that being in the Bible program was a good time to learn how to deal with life in a controlled environment. While in the Bible program, I was still holding onto one thing: my family. Knowing they were out there and I didn't know what was going on, I couldn't let that go. I



Since his rebirth, Tony's relationship with his family was wondrously restored.



Last year Tony and his wife Sabrina renewed their vows at their local church.

extended family. I lost my career, my sanity, my hope, and even my will to live, but God restored all those things.”

“Transformation” is how Tony sums up his story. He surrendered everything to God and, by doing so, was able to build an abundant life in Christ. Today he lives with his wife and kids in a house, and they have the stable life they desired for so long. He and his wife also come often to PGM for the Praise and Testimony service, where he sometimes shares his story with others to encourage them. We praise God for what He has done in Tony’s life, and the healing and salvation of his family.

loved them. At a certain point, I finally ‘let go and let God.’ I handed them over to Him and asked him to protect them. The funny thing is that a few days later, I got a phone call from my wife Sabrina, and God led them here, where they stayed four months until we found housing. They ended up getting saved.

“My daughter Gina now works at PGM during the summers and is graduating from Bible college this year. We give all the glory to God. I can’t take any credit for it. God has done amazing things, and it all started here at PGM. Before coming to PGM, I didn’t have a marriage or a relationship with my kids or my parents and



“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water.”—John 4:14 KJV

Tony and Sabrina reading their Bible together in the PGM courtyard

YOU BRING THEM CHRISTMAS JOY



Christmas at PGM is a busy time of year, and in the hustle and bustle of the season much effort and planning go into making it meaningful for our residents. In addition to serving special meals to our guests, we do other things that help make them feel cared for and loved. We have a Christmas store for our guests where mothers and children can choose gifts for one another, and people in our Bible programs can pick out gifts. All free of charge. We also have special Gospel services to teach our guests the true meaning of Christmas. We do our best to make it a positive time for those we serve. We thank you, our supporters, for donating gifts for the Christmas store and for giving to help us provide the special meals. It means a lot to those who receive them.



GIVE NOW 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 to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

“GOD GAVE ME BACK MY BROTHER.”

I want to share a heartwarming email sent to us. This email is from the sister of Otis McClam, a man who just retired after 15 years of service. Otis came to us with a severe drug problem that he could not overcome until he met Jesus.

“To Pacific Garden Mission, where do I start? There’s so much I can say, and so much I need to say. I don’t even know how to sum up what you mean to me, to my family, the McClam family. I am truly at a loss for words as to how I feel about PGM. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU for taking our brother (Otis McClam) in 15 years ago. I (Bonnie) prayed, and I prayed, and I prayed to God so many times regarding my brother, to heal him, to save his life, to PLEASE not let me see another sibling die.

“I prayed. I said to God, please get him out of Lauderdale. I begged God to PLEASE get him out of Lauderdale. Then I begged God to get my brother out of Florida and to not come back. I asked, begging God to take the taste of drugs (all temptations) and whatever else that wasn’t of Him. I wanted my brother back, the one who always checked in on his family. Otis

has always been the best brother, hands down, when he was clean ALWAYS. I have witnessed firsthand my brother’s struggle with drugs for many years. Thanks to the prayers from family that kept Otis covered for all of those many years he was hiding, so to speak, sometimes in plain sight.

“The prayers of our grandmother, Bessie, are the prayers that covered all the other prayers, and PGM, God chose you for Otis (for the McClam family, too). I want Pacific Garden Mission to know the McClam family is forever in your DEBT and THANK YOU for returning Otis to us. God gave me back my brother through PGM. I will LOVE U ALL FOREVER. Pacific Garden Mission is a part of my soul. May God’s grace be forever on you.” —The McClam Family



Through persistent prayer Otis McClam was restored to Christ.

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

A Word from Our Head Chef



Chef Erika Webb

The Mission serves approximately 1,200 meals daily to those who call PGM their temporary home. The meals are served with care and kindness and are essential to our guests' day. Below is a letter written by our head chef, Erika Webb. She shares her experience and what it means to manage such an integral part of what PGM does.

When I arrived at PGM nearly six years ago, one of the first things I was charged with was writing a mission statement for the Food Services department. To do this, I needed to understand the conduits by which the Mission fed its residents. Did you know that in addition to purchasing food staples—thanks to you, the faithful donors—we also receive food from corporate and retail donor-partners? This includes raw meat, fresh produce, and dairy. Combined, these donations reveal

the gracious hand of a very loving heavenly Father. Understanding such an amazing provision, our Food Services mission statement reads, *"In our stewardship, we in Food Services commit to utilize the resources God has given us to responsibly, conscientiously, and compassionately provide nourishment to all those the Lord has placed at Pacific Garden Mission's doorstep."* (Mark 8:1-9).

In my mind, what we do in Food Services begins with a sense of stewardship—committing to care for and protect something (and *someone*) deemed as valuable. We demonstrate care by understanding that the Lord, ultimately, has brought good food to us so we can rightly use it for His Kingdom purposes. We also demonstrate care by how we extend it—a meal should be nourishing and satisfying to the palate. When we do our part properly, we support the overriding mission of PGM—to "serve with the compassion of Christ." I believe our stewardship is exercised by serving to the best of our ability, understanding that our service demonstrates the Lord's loving kindness to our residents. Respect and dignity are reflected in how we present the plate.

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 October your support made a true difference:

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

29,678 plates of food were served (est.)

20,000 clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

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

27 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

42 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.