



Auston's moving story of struggle and transformation

BECAUSE OF YOU HE COULD FIND SALVATION

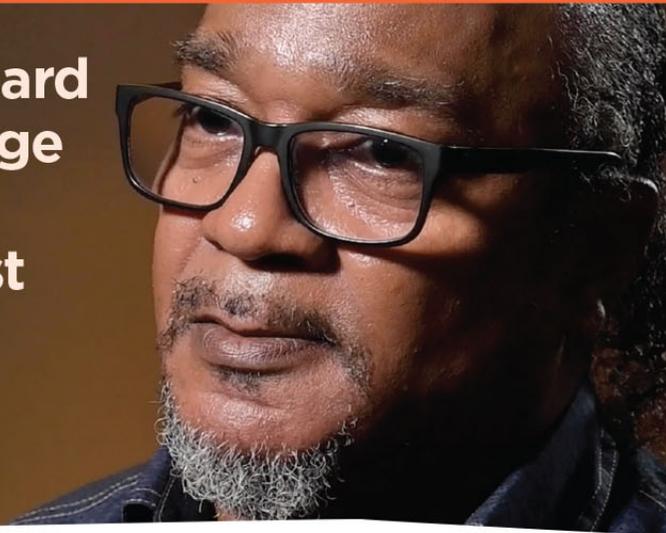
This month as we reflect on Auston's inspiring journey, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors. Your generous support has made it possible for individuals like Auston to find hope and healing at our Mission. It's through your kindness that we can provide the essential resources, compassionate care, and spiritual guidance that help transform lives. Auston's story is a powerful testament to the impact of community support, a relationship with God, and the belief in second chances. He shares his experience when he was introduced to a relationship with God after a friend recommended he come to PGM.

AUSTON

"My mother passed away when I was eleven years old, so that shook the family up. The family was torn apart, and my sister and I were separated. I was angry at the time because I didn't understand why my mother left. When I was 22 or 23, a childhood friend introduced me to heroin. I thought I had it under control, but it took control over me. It was a really dark part of my life and took me to places I didn't want to go, including prison and in and out of jail.

"In 2017, I came home from the penitentiary and as time went on, things got worse and worse. In 2019 I lost my job and shortly after lost my apartment. I

“One night, I heard a Gospel message that said if you believe and trust in God, He can make all things possible.”



wound up staying at this friend's house or that friend's house. Being homeless is no fun because you don't know where your next meal is coming from or your next bath. When you are living on the streets, anything can happen. You can lose your life at any time.

“At the end of October 2019, a friend told me I should come to PGM, so I came to the Mission as an overnight guest. I had had a drug problem for over 30 years, and nothing

was helping me. I don't even have the words for that type of addiction. So I came to PGM to develop a relationship with God. I had known about Him but had no relationship with Him.

“I was detoxing in the dayroom. That was the roughest month, and my pride was too strong to ask for help and admit I was detoxing from heroin. That is something no one should experience. Sweating, hot and cold flashes. It was rough, and I experienced that for a month before I decided to get some help. I knew I had some problems I needed to address. One night, I heard a Gospel message that said if you believe and trust in God, He can make all things possible.

“I was in the dayroom for a little over two months trying to decide what I was going to do with my life. One morning, Theo, the manager of the New Day program, came in and talked about the 90-day addiction recovery program and I signed up. It was a fight. The 90 days was rough. They would continuously teach about



Auston now works in the dayroom watching over and serving our daily men guests.

the importance of staying sober. Still, it was the spiritual part that I think is what I needed and so when I completed the addictions program, I joined the New Life Bible program. I wanted to learn more about it. During that transition, I built a relationship with God.

“I graduated in 2021. I was reunited with my family. During that time, I was working in the guest services department at PGM doing my ministry work and then they hired me after I graduated. I have been working there ever since. I was reunited with my family, and I got married in 2023. It’s all a very happy experience.

“I know I still have some things I need to deal with when it comes to me and my character. With the tools I learned in New Day and New Life, I think I can make it. I stumble but I know how to get up now. I am in a better place now than I was when I first walked through the doors. When I first walked through the doors I was broken. I had given up on everything and it took God to bring me back. I believe if I hadn’t put my faith in God, I wouldn’t be here, so God gets all the praise and all of the glory.

“If you do decide to change your life, and build a relationship with God, PGM is the place for you. If you just want to get your life back in order, PGM is that place.



I would recommend it to anyone out there that is homeless. God is good. He loves me more than my mother, father, or any of my siblings and that is a love I can’t even speak of.”

Auston faced unimaginable challenges, including the loss of his mother, struggles with addiction, and the harrowing experience of homelessness. But thanks to your contributions, he was able to walk through the doors of our Mission and begin his path to recovery. With the tools and guidance he received, he not only rebuilt his life but also reconnected with his family and found purpose in serving others. Your commitment to helping those in need has made a significant difference in Auston’s life, and for that, we are truly grateful. Together, we are creating a place where hope flourishes, and lives are transformed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, ‘With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.’” —Matthew 19:26 KJV

Photo above: Auston was recently married and is living a happy and fulfilled life in Christ.

Pacific Garden Mission has 20 or more mothers and children staying with us at any given time. PGM will be their home base for everything they do during their stay with us. For many families facing domestic violence, homelessness, or financial instability, places like PGM offer a sanctuary where they can find shelter, resources, and a sense of community. The immediate assistance provided—such as food, medical care, and counseling—ensures that mothers can focus on the well-being of their children during a tumultuous period. By addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, we help stabilize families, allowing them to rebuild their lives and regain their independence. By fostering an environment of growth and resilience we can change the trajectory of individual families and help mothers and their children not just survive but thrive in the face of adversity while sharing with them the love of Jesus Christ.

THE CHILDREN WHO CALL PGM HOME



PGM has been sheltering and assisting mothers and their children for many decades.



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. *Thank you!*



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

PUTTING LIVES BACK TOGETHER

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

—Romans 12:15 KJV

The Pacific Garden Mission can be a place of immense joy as well as heartbreaking pain. One of the great joys is to see men and women overcome lifelong addictions and to see some reunite with estranged families.

One resident who was separated from her mother because of her addiction was recently reunited. Imagine the pain of the parent waking up every day wondering if this will be the day you receive the call that your child has overdosed or, worse, has died. The empty chair at every holiday meal, the awkward answers to questions about your child’s well-being, the self-reflective questions about what you could have done differently. All those concerns are erased the moment

you are reunited and embraced. The resident’s mother is now a regular at our Saturday evening service and just to see the two of them seated side by side is a joy that can’t be overstated.

On the other hand, one of our residents shared how her only son was murdered. She carries this grief every day, and the constant pain never leaves. Every year, on her son’s passing anniversary, she releases balloons in his memory. God has done a lot of healing in her heart, but the scar remains.

Pray for our staff and counselors entrusted with the responsibility of helping, guiding, and attempting by the grace of God to put shattered lives back together. The Pacific Garden Mission is much more than a shelter; I liken it to a spiritual hospital where the sick and hurting can be made whole by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **On behalf of all who reside here, I want to thank you for your love and support.**

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 December your support made a true difference:

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

37,948 plates of food were served (est.)

17,500 clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

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

17 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

260 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

Introducing the Chadesh Room: A New Start for Our Homeless Guests

Peter Leavitt,
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

At PGM, we believe in creating spaces that serve as tangible expressions of the hope and renewal found in Jesus Christ. In November, we were thrilled to unveil our latest transformation: the Chadesh Room. Its name, derived from the Hebrew word meaning “new start,” perfectly reflects our mission.

**“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”
—Isaiah 43:18-19**

A Room with a Purpose

The Chadesh Room is more than just a space—it’s a tool for change. This newly renovated area will serve multiple vital purposes:

- **Computer Access:** A secure and welcoming environment where our guests can build resumes, search for jobs, and explore housing opportunities.
- **Staff Support:** A meeting space for staff gatherings, training

sessions, and professional development.

- **Community Alliance:** A hub where outside agencies can meet with guests to provide essential social services.

A Safe and Secure Haven

For many of our guests, access to technology is a lifeline. The Chadesh Room eliminates the need to travel to libraries or coffee shops for computer access, providing a safe and secure environment within our walls. Here, guests can focus on their next steps with dignity and confidence.

A Testament to Generosity and God’s Provision

The construction of the Chadesh Room was made possible by the generosity of one of our donors and the faithfulness of God.

We thank God for His provision and look forward to witnessing the many ways the Chadesh Room will be a blessing to all who enter.



The newly constructed Chadesh room

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