



She fled a home of violence and anger and found safety, peace, and purpose at Pacific Garden Mission.

AT PGM, I EXPERIENCED GOD'S LOVE

This month, we will read the story of Hope, a young woman who came to PGM after sleeping in her car for a month due to domestic violence. Hope says she had never experienced the love of Jesus Christ shared through other people as strongly as she has since being at Pacific Garden Mission.

Her story of dealing with fear and trauma, along with having to escape a toxic environment is unfortunate, but it eventually led her here where she can shine, grow, and heal. We praise God for Hope and her healing journey and thank you, the reader, for helping

to make her story possible through your faithful support of our ministry.

HOPE

“My name is Hope. Originally, I grew up in a Christian family but to me it was all just religion, and I didn’t have a relationship with Jesus Christ. In my household there was a lot of fighting. As a kid, I was happy but as I got older, I realized something was off and that is when it got bad. My parents’ fighting got really physical when I was 16. I remember waking up on my 16th birthday and hearing my dad choke my mom and just a whole lot of bad



things started happening during that period. I became so depressed.

“I struggled with self-harm ever since I was in sixth grade. I got addicted to weed and during this time, my life just kept dropping lower and lower. It was awful, the worst time of my life. I remember when all this stuff was accumulating, I was working. I had had a work permit since I was 15 and I was working myself to death, asking God to get me out of the situation at home. It was a time when I just couldn’t take it all: the work, high school AP classes, it all came down. I came home from work one day and my body was shaking. I couldn’t breathe and I was crying and it hurt just even to be alive.

“I just felt a lot of fear. There was even a time when I would have these recurring nightmares where I would be attacked in my sleep by demonic forces. I was going through so much spiritual warfare. That was one of the

things that got me to quit smoking weed because of all the things I was willingly letting in through that open door. I didn’t understand the spiritual aspect of it until I went through it and one day, the Lord just set me free. I threw everything out and He has been helping me, and I haven’t looked back.

“I was doing self-harm because that was the only way I knew how to relieve this pain that I was feeling, which was too much for me to process. But I did something that I had never done before. I had a Bible on my shelf and before I was going to self-harm, I grabbed the Bible. I opened it up



Hope and a fellow Bible program student connecting after a small group devotional.

Hope volunteers her time working with the children who are staying at PGM .

randomly, and everything I read was like God speaking to me face to face, just like someone snapping their fingers or turning on a light switch. My eyes were opened and that is the moment that I believed Jesus Christ was real. That was the moment when I truly got saved and ever since that moment, He has been moving in my life and my relationship with Him.

“The fighting between my parents got worse and worse. It became more physical, with blood all over the walls, guns, and there was a knife and me cleaning blood off my mom’s face. I would wake up hearing her screaming, and this was ongoing. It was bad but Jesus was my light. He was my



“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:” —Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV

foundation. Jesus was the one who was there with me the whole time and what the enemy meant for evil God meant for good. Whenever I cried to Him, He would show up and do miracles.

“It wasn’t until I turned 18 that He finally made a way for me, and I ran away from home. I snuck out of the window and left everything behind. I had my car that I used to get to Chicago. I grew up surrounded by cornfields, so coming to the city was new. So, I lost my car in the city of Chicago. I was trying to find my

car but couldn’t, so I started to go to sleep in a park. When I woke up, I was so cold. It was freezing. I didn’t know where to go, so I went to a motel. One Sunday, I was walking and found a church and the Holy Spirit told me to go there. They really helped me a lot.

“One lady there helped me find my car. Since the motel was too expensive, I started living in my car for about a month and that is when the people from the church connected me with Pacific Garden Mission. I came here and was an overnight

guest for about five months, which was very hard. As I go through the fire, it seems the Lord is just strengthening me and helping me more and more.

“PGM has helped me out a lot. I didn’t know peace at all, until I came to PGM. They provided me not just with physical provisions but also with love. Especially coming up to the Bible program, they know what love is and they just shine the love of Jesus. It fills me with tears because I haven’t experienced that before. It is a blessing. I am going to Grace Bible Church and it is an awesome church.

“My plan from here is to continue following God. As I follow Him, He reveals more and more of His plans for my life. I praise Him through music and writing a comic about the Bible and Psalms. He is ministering to me, and it fulfills me to use the talents He gave me for His glory. Whether it is drawing

or writing music for Him, worshipping or singing, whatever that may be, my life is for His glory and praise. He is the one who truly fulfills me. My eyes are focused on Jesus and Jesus alone.”

Hope has found a place of peace and relief at PGM and is finding God’s purpose for her life. Her story wouldn’t have been possible without your help, and we want to take the time to thank you for helping make our ministry possible. Many people who come to Pacific Garden Mission find themselves at pivotal moments that can completely change their lives for the good if they have the love and resources they need. We can provide those things with your help so that people like Hope can find a new light in life.



Hope participates in a New Life Bible class in the PGM library and computer lab.



Please 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!*

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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

PGM'S LONG-LASTING EFFECT

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

—1 Corinthians 15:58

Sometimes, we measure success by immediate results. How many saved? How many do we feed? How many articles of clothes did we distribute? But I am so encouraged by the long-lasting effects of this ministry. People we never got to know or numbers that will never show up in a stat line. I hear from people all the time who stayed here for a short time but were eternally affected. They walked in, never joined a program, never made any connections, but listened and left. Here is one such letter, *"I know the Gospel of Jesus Christ works. I was an overnight guest of PGM for four*

months. I listened because I wanted to change my life. I was a long-time drug addict. I made up my mind while sitting in the Old Lighthouse on State St. Twenty years later, I founded an outreach called Children of the Lord, pastored a church in Milwaukee, and am now pastoring a church in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. I watch your programs and am still inspired by your messages. Keep doing what you are doing, it works." Wow!! Praise God.

I want to say thank you to all who love and support this ministry. Keep doing what you are doing. It works.

The Gospel is preached in the PGM auditorium to our transient guests.



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 May your support made a true difference:

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

31,752 plates of food were served (est.)

1,355 clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

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

8 mothers with their **11** children were sheltered at PGM

108 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.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST: THE MINISTRY OF PHILEMON HAYIBOR



At the heart of PGM's ministry is Philemon Hayibor, a devoted servant of the Lord who has dedicated his life to bringing the hope of the Gospel to those in need. As the Director of Ministries, Philemon oversees three key programs: New Life, which helps individuals learn to follow Jesus; New Day, which supports those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction; and New Beginnings, which serves women and children in crisis.

Having served at the Mission for a decade, Philemon has been instrumental in shaping the programs he now leads, including

rewriting the curriculum for the New Life Program to ensure it remains deeply rooted in Scripture.

One of the greatest blessings of Philemon's role is witnessing the transforming work of the Gospel firsthand. He finds joy in discipling those who have placed their trust in Jesus, helping them break free from the chains of their past.

However, the challenges are real. Those who come to PGM have lived lives under the enemy's influence, and the spiritual battle for their souls is intense. Amidst the stress, Philemon often finds strength in Philippians 4:6-7:

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philemon is deeply grateful for the faithfulness of PGM's prayer partners and donors like you, whose generosity enables the ministry to continue its life-changing work.

Pictured above: Philemon teaches a group of New Life Bible students.

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