



Out of deep gratitude for how God rescued her life, she now joyfully pours into others.

BONITA'S STORY: UPDATE ON A LIFE TRANSFORMED

Back in 2018, Pacific Garden Mission featured the testimony of a woman named Bonita Washington. At that time, she was just beginning to experience the joy of freedom from a 25-year heroin addiction, a life of despair, and the hopelessness that once led her to contemplate suicide. Today, nearly 11 years after she first walked through our doors, Bonita's story is one of lasting transformation. She has remained sober, built a stable and loving home, and now serves faithfully on staff at Pacific Garden Mission, helping others who are exactly where she once was. Hers is a powerful testimony of God's grace at

work, not only redeeming a life, but turning it into a vessel of compassion and service. It's only through the generosity of donors like you that stories like Bonita's are possible.

BONITA

Finding New Life

"My name is Bonita Washington, and I came through PGM in 2014," Bonita recalls. "I joined the Bible program, which at that time was a year long and it impacted my life like never before. To give you a little history, I was a drug user and had used heroin for 25 years by the time I came to the doors of Pacific Garden Mission. At that time, I

“It has really been a pleasure to work here because I am so happy to be able to give back what was so freely given to me.”



was contemplating suicide. I was just sick of living and I remember the day I came here I was walking down the street asking God to take this life. I was talking about death, but He took my old life and gave me a new life.”

In that moment of desperation, Bonita found more than temporary shelter. She found hope. Someone at PGM led her to Christ, and her life has never been the same.

Serving Where She Was Saved

Today, Bonita serves as a **Ministry Care Specialist** at Pacific Garden Mission. “I have been working here for eight years now. It is just so amazing how I work

with the same people that were like me and I understand them fully. I work with individuals from the substance abuse program and the discipleship program. When they come into the program, I am the person they meet. I meet them at the door, I welcome them in, I do their paperwork, and for the first two weeks they are here I walk them through the baby steps. It has really been a pleasure to work here because I am so happy to be able to give back what was so freely given to me.”

Bonita doesn't stop serving when her workday is over. On Fridays, she leads her own Bible-based recovery study group, and teaches Sunday school at her church. She has taken the love and support she once received and multiplied it in the lives of others.

A Family Restored

Part of Bonita's transformation has included the blessing of family. “I am taking care of three children. I adopted my two nieces and my nephew after my



Bonita teaches a class to students in the New Day addictions recovery program.

brother and his wife passed away. God blessed me with a home and I brought them into my home and we are just one big happy family. They have been with me for four years now and the children are doing well. They attend a Christian school and everything. So God has been truly good to my family and it started right here at Pacific Garden Mission."

A Voice of Hope

"I always tell homeless people that we have a place that will feed you and make sure you have warm clothes. I talk to people who are suffering from mental health problems, and I direct them to different organizations. One thing about Pacific Garden Mission is that we are a connection to the city. If they have mental health issues, we have other organizations we can send them to. If they have an addiction problem, we can treat them in-house. If they have spiritual issues, we can also address them in-house. I tell people being here doesn't just impact your life, but it will impact your whole family."

Bonita now leads relapse prevention groups during the week and organizes

**"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever."
— 1 Chronicles 16:34 KJV**

special outings for program participants, reminding them that God cares not only for their spiritual needs but for their emotional and relational well-being, too.

A Testimony of Lasting Change

Reflecting on her journey, Bonita says, "God allowed me to live two different lifestyles in one life, and it has allowed me to have compassion and understanding for those people I help now." Her favorite Scripture is Psalm 139, especially verse 14a: ***"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."***

When Bonita's story was first shared in 2018, she was a woman rejoicing in newfound freedom. Today, she is a living example of how lasting that freedom can be when it is rooted in Jesus Christ. Her sobriety, service, and devotion to her family and church stand as a testament to God's power to make all things new. Your

faithful prayers and support have helped make this transformation possible, and we are deeply grateful.

At Pacific Garden Mission, we rejoice in Bonita's life and in the countless others who, like her, have walked through our doors broken and left restored. Bonita says it best: "I am truly a new creature in Christ."



Bonita now serves as a Godly role model for her adopted nieces and nephew.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

CHRISTMAS AT PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION

"Merry Christmas!" These words alone evoke pleasant memories. I think of family, presents, and a warm cup of hot chocolate on a cold winter's day. For many people experiencing homelessness, these are their memories also, but they are faced with the stark reality of spending Christmas at a homeless shelter. At PGM, we recognize that and want to make the holidays as memorable as possible. I asked some of our residents how PGM makes a difference for them around the holidays.

Through the eyes of the mothers in our New Beginnings ministry:

"When you have a safe, warm, and caring place to stay during the holidays, it is a blessing. PGM definitely provides a warm, safe, and caring space."

"PGM is family when your family is not here. They make sure we are included and matter."

"Helps those away from their family feel they aren't alone."



"PGM makes a difference on the holidays because some people don't have anywhere to go or don't talk to family or have relationships with family. PGM staff and the people who live here have become family. I was introduced to God the way I should have been years ago."

"Helps being in the shelter instead of on the street."

"Holidays are sad because I lost a lot of loved ones around that time . . . last year my family got together, but it's lovely at PGM because we get together and fellowship. There is genuineness and happy people."

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Visit our website at pgm.org to learn more about PGM's multiple ministries to the needy.

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Being on the street doesn't feel like the holiday, but here I eat good and enjoy happy people."

Some of those statements are heart-wrenching, "Helps being in the shelter instead of the street." Wow! I always remember when I look at our crowd, that is somebody's mom or dad or son or daughter. I desire that they would feel the love of Jesus and be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Let's make this Christmas memorable for the many who are seeking refuge inside these doors during the Christmas season.

A Story from One of Our Men:

"As a child, Christmas was the highlight of my year. I can still picture myself walking through the snow to my grandmother's house, the windows glowing with light, the air inside filled with the smell of roasted food and fresh-baked pies. Family laughter echoed through the rooms, and around the dinner table, I felt the love and belonging every child longs for.

But as I grew older, things began to change. When my mother became a member of the Jehovah's Witness church, Christmas sadly disappeared from our lives. The joy was gone.

Years later, life's struggles led me to Pacific Garden Mission. I never imagined that the joy of Christmas—the very joy I thought was lost forever—would find its way back into my life here. Through the Mission's Christmas programming, I've experienced that same sense of wonder and belonging I felt as a child. The carols, the message of Christ's love, and the fellowship with others all remind me of sitting at my grandmother's table, surrounded by laughter and love.

Today, Christmas means even more to me. It is not only a reminder of family traditions, but also of God's greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ. At Pacific Garden Mission, I've discovered that the love of Christmas is more than a memory. It is alive, it is real, and it offers hope to every heart willing to receive it."

Thank you for your love, prayer, and support.



PGMNews DECEMBER 2025 • Vol. 90, No. 12
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission
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Learn more about our Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.

GODLY STEWARDSHIP

A Shower of Blessings in the New Life Dorm

Peter Leavitt,
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

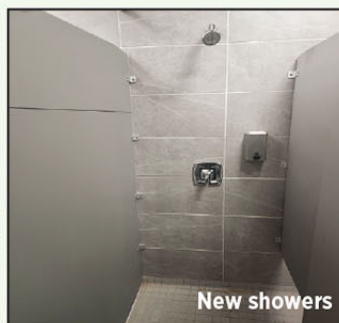
At Pacific Garden Mission, we believe that every upgrade to our facility is more than a renovation, it is a reflection of the love of Christ in action.

Thanks to the generosity of faithful donors, we are excited to share a recent improvement already making a meaningful difference in the lives of our guests: the renovation of the men's shower area in the New Life dorm.

Previously, the showers were separated by makeshift curtains hung on old PVC piping; functional but far from ideal.



Before renovations



New showers

Now, guests in the New Life program are welcomed into a clean, modern space where individual showers are divided by sleek gray partitions that offer dignity, privacy, and comfort. It's a transformation that not only improves hygiene and safety but also uplifts spirits.

Ultimately, building projects like this support PGM's central mission: to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ with all who walk through our doors. Every clean shower, every fresh start, and every warm welcome is an opportunity to point someone toward the hope found only in Him.

Thank you for partnering with us as we serve those in need; body, mind, and soul.

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:

12,624 total nights of sleep provided to our homeless guests

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

6,500 clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

34,769 plates of food were served (est.)

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

16 mothers with their **29** children were sheltered at PGM

140 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.