

*God guided him to PGM's doors.
Your compassion helped lead him to Christ.*

RESCUED FROM THE COLD RESTORED BY JESUS CHRIST

As the bitter winds of February sweep through Chicago, countless men and women are left searching for warmth, safety, and hope. For Yohance, the cold became a crossroads. Shivering on the streets and sleeping on train cars, he finally reached the doors of Pacific Garden Mission tired, broken, and ready for change. What began as a desperate search for shelter on a freezing night became the start of something far greater. Inside our doors, Yohance found more than a warm bed and a meal; he found a new life and a restored relationship with Jesus Christ.

YOHANCE'S STORY

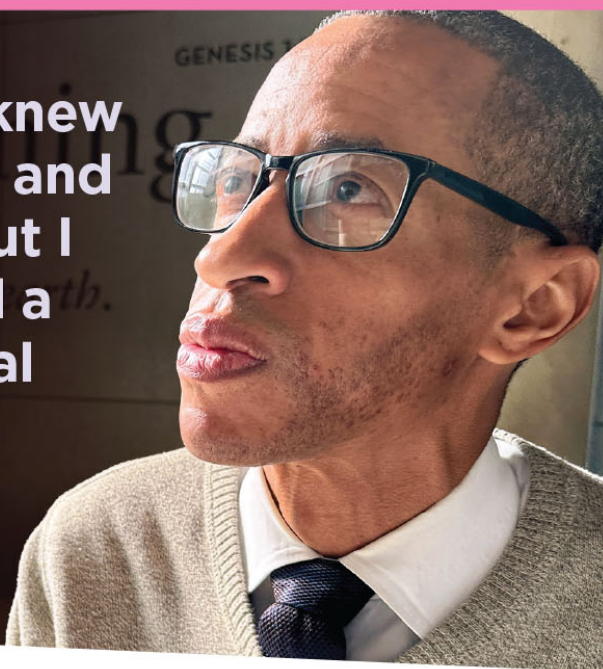
"My name is Yohance Crigler. I was born in Detroit, Michigan. Growing up, I came from a middle-class family and thought I had a basically good life. However, there was a lot of influence from drugs and the inner city in my neighborhood in Detroit, and I fell victim to that. I began drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana at the age of 19. I thought my life was okay during that time. Later, I moved to Chicago where I ended up using other drugs and getting involved in crime. I was just trying to find a program that worked for me while going in and out of jail, homeless shelters, and treatment centers.

Hitting Rock Bottom

"My whole life was based purely on willpower, drinking every day, trying to maintain work and function, but really just stuck in place. I was lost, going to work, coming home, and drinking again, not eating. One day, I just gave up. I walked away from my family and everything I had. I spent several nights sleeping on the Chicago trains, both homeless and cold. They were sleepless, hungry nights, surrounded by people using drugs and drinking all night long. I realized I had become a slave to everything outside of me, including alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs. I was exhausted.

"One day, I finally made it to Pacific Garden Mission. It was February 17th. I'll never forget that date. I entered the New Day program, graduated in May, and

“I always knew about God and the Bible, but I never had a personal relationship with Him.”



since then, I've had a new lease on life. I was lost all that time and never realized it until I gave my life to Jesus Christ.

A New Life in Christ

“Since being here, I've had new experiences. This program has been a great blessing, and I am grateful to God for it. I plan to complete the Bible program and am currently about a quarter of the way through. This program saved my life. I didn't realize how far I was from God until now.

“My job assignment here is in Ministry Services, where I assist other men in joining the program.

I'm also the barber here, giving haircuts to the new men coming in. Redefining their appearance and helping them see the change in themselves has been rewarding. I've seen men come into the program after 20 or 30 years of addiction and watching their transformation has been powerful.

Learning to Trust God

“One thing I've learned is that I can't trust my own thinking. My thoughts aren't always accurate if they're not aligned with God's principles. I've learned to take suggestions from people who have gone through this process.

If it's not driven by God, it leads in the wrong direction. I always knew about God and the Bible, but I never had a personal relationship with Him.

“I carried a lot of shame and guilt from using drugs, drinking, and leaving my family.



“For ye are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” —1 Peter 1:23 KJV

But now I'm learning that I don't need to keep beating myself up. If I continue to focus on Christ and the good things He's equipped me with, I'll be okay. I can't go back to the old person I was. I don't want that old life back. This is a whole new life and a whole new me.”

This February, while the city remains gripped by cold and danger, Pacific Garden Mission continues to offer warmth and transformation to those who have nowhere else to turn. Yohance's story reminds us that behind every guest who walks through our doors is a heart searching for hope, and that hope begins here. Through the compassion of faithful supporters like you, people are not only given refuge from the freezing streets but are introduced to the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

THE FULL STORY



To watch Yohance's full video testimony on YouTube please scan this QR code with your phone's camera.



Above: Serving in Ministry Services Yohance assists the other men enrolled in the Bible program.

Yohance also volunteers in the barbershop cutting residents' hair.



PGM: THE WARMTH WITHIN

Outside, the streets of Chicago may be cold, gray, and desolate, but inside Pacific Garden Mission, warmth fills every corner. In these winter months, while snow and ice cover the city, the love of Christ burns brightly within our walls—seen in the smiles of volunteers serving hot meals, in the fellowship shared among men and women finding new life, and in the quiet moments of prayer and gratitude. What begins as a refuge from the freezing wind becomes a place of restoration and renewal, where hearts are changed and hope is reborn each day through the transforming love and power of Jesus Christ.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate



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!*



GODLY STEWARDSHIP: LEAVING A LEGACY OF HOPE

Peter Leavitt
Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

When we think about supporting PGM, we often picture writing a check, giving online, or donating supplies. Yet a vital part of God's provision comes through legacy gifts—donations made by friends who name the Mission in their wills or estate plans.

This past fiscal year, one quarter of all gifts received came through these thoughtful commitments. That means one in every four dollars used to provide food, shelter, counseling, and the message of Christ was made possible by donors who planned

ahead to make a lasting impact.

Estate gifts are more than financial planning; they are acts of faith. They reflect a heart that says, "Even after I'm gone, I want to care for those in need and see lives transformed by the Gospel." Such gifts proclaim God's compassion to future generations and ensure the Mission continues long after the donor has entered their eternal home.

Psalm 145:4 reminds us, **"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."** Legacy giving is one way to live out that truth—passing on God's provision so the shelter remains a beacon of hope for years to come.

We are deeply grateful for those who have chosen to bless and support Pacific Garden Mission in this way. Together, we can leave a legacy of hope.

For more information about Legacy giving at PGM, please contact **James Johnson, Manager of Donor Development:** info@pgm.org and 312-429-6709. Or, scan this QR Code and you'll be directed to our website which will provide more information. **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

"WHERE WOULD YOU BE?"

The winters in Chicago can be some of the most difficult times for those on the street. I asked a number of our overnight guests what it means to have a safe, warm place to stay during the winter. Also, I asked where they would be if PGM were not here?

One man says, *"It means a lot that while I'm dealing with my medical stuff to not have the worries or fears of a safe place to sleep or a warm meal. I had nowhere to go with my current situation being in a wheelchair, let's just say I have immense gratitude for being let in here."* **Another says,** *"I would be in jail if it were not for PGM."* **Someone else writes,** *"To be able to be physically inside and not getting hypothermia. I would be dead."*

One writes, *"It means that a person won't have to brave the elements of winter. Toes and fingers are at risk of frostbite and amputation."* **Yet another man says,** *"Staying under a bridge."*

Winter is not just a bitter inconvenience but a matter of life and death for them. God has kept these doors open since 1877 as a lighthouse to those in desperate need and once inside and safe, they can hear the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Think about what we were told. Without PGM: death, jail, or living under a bridge. I thank our Lord for His kindness and you for your love, prayer, and support. This winter, let's remember those who have so much less but are so thankful just to walk through these doors.

THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER: Your gifts at work

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:



16,064 total nights of sleep were provided to our homeless guests



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



7,000 clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



39,276 plates of food were served (est.)



45 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided room and board



13 mothers with **25** children were sheltered at PGM



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

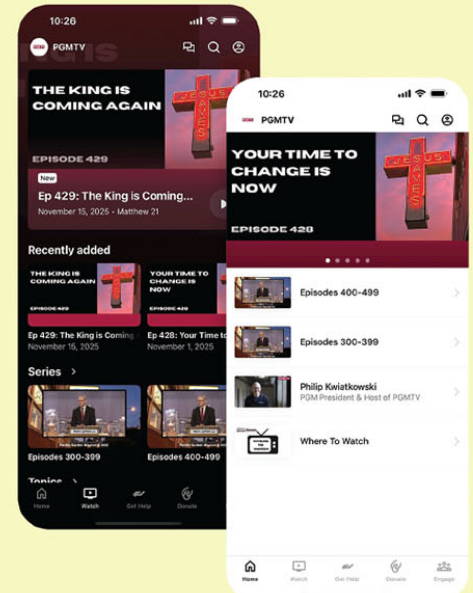


205 people professed saving faith in Christ and became new believers at PGM

PGM TV APP

Did you know we have a mobile app? Explore all of PGM TV's shows in one place! Find us on the Apple Store or Google Store to start watching today for real-life unscripted stories and Mission-style Gospel messages. Just type in "PGMTV" in your App Store.

Pacific Garden Mission



UNSHACKLED! EVENT SCHEDULE

Check your local radio station or experience the award-winning radio drama live every Saturday at Pacific Garden Mission.

- Experience an **UNSHACKLED!** live production at 3:00 PM in our Auditorium
- Tour the PGM facility at 3:30 PM

You are welcome to stay for:

- Complimentary meals served at 4:30 PM
- Auditorium worship service at 5:00 PM

For reservations, call us at (312) 492-9410

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With your encouragement and support, we minister hope to the homeless, addicted, and brokenhearted.