



*God restored his life
after a season of
unimaginable pain.*

MARKED BY DEEP LOSS HE FOUND NEW PURPOSE AT PGM

As we enter the month of March, we are reminded that God brings renewal even in the most painful seasons of life. At Pacific Garden Mission, men and women arrive carrying heavy burdens, yet the Lord faithfully meets them where they are. Shawn Cummings came to PGM after years of loss, heartache, and searching for peace. What he discovered here was not only a safe place to rest but a renewed walk with Jesus Christ and a deeper understanding of God's unfailing mercy. His story is a testimony to how the Lord rebuilds broken hearts and restores purpose through His transforming grace. Stories like Shawn's would not be possible without your support.

SHAWN CUMMINGS

"My name is Shawn Cummings. I am from Chicago, Illinois, and I am 61 years old. Praise the Lord. I love being here at Pacific Garden Mission. It feels like a reset for my life. Before I came here, I was struggling and grieving deeply over the loss of my father and the brutal murder of my son. The pain of losing him still hurts at times. He was 39 years old, and during my marriage, my wife and I also lost another child who was stillborn.

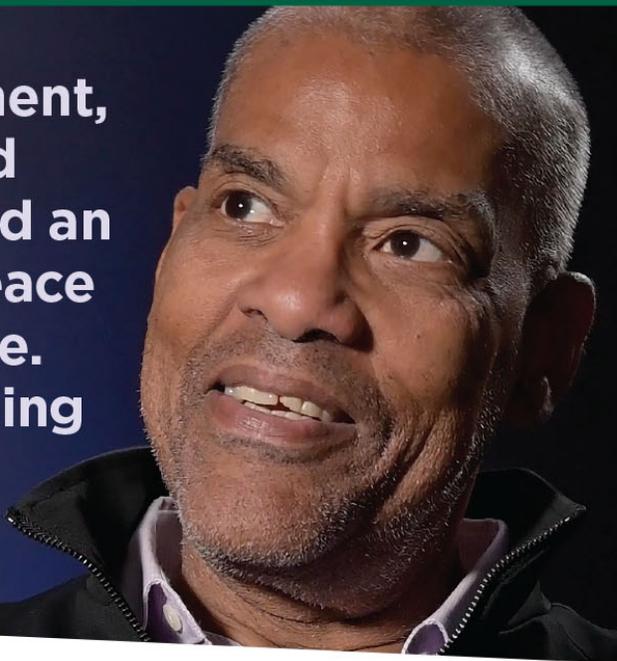
So I have lost two sons. But I thank God that my son knew Jesus. He used to attend Bible studies with me and would often take over the meetings, sharing what he had learned. He knew the Lord. His death did not shake my

faith, but it caused a lot of pain and sorrow in my life.

Worn Down by Grief

"After my father and mother both passed away, it began to take a toll on my heart. I had stopped using drugs about twenty years ago, but after all that loss, I started drinking. That did not help. I continued to struggle until one day, while listening to Moody Radio, I heard Pastor Phil talk about a Bible program that caught my attention. At that time, I knew nothing about Pacific Garden Mission, but God put it in my heart to come here. I was still drinking, still lost, and staying in a motel, but I could not get the thought out of my mind. Eventually, I came to Pacific Garden Mission. I met Chris at the door, and from that moment on, I knew God had led me here.

“In that moment, I felt the Lord touch me, and an incredible peace came over me. It was like being set free.”



Finding God’s Peace

“When I first arrived, I stayed in the day room for a while before moving upstairs to the third floor. Once I got settled and began attending classes, I realized how much I needed this place. The classes felt structured, almost like school, but they were focused on spiritual growth. During my first cohort class, I was given a chance to speak, and I opened up about everything I had been holding inside for years. For the first time in my life, I removed the mask I had been wearing on the streets. In that moment, I felt the Lord touch me, and an incredible peace came over me. It was like being set free. I realized that I no longer needed to isolate myself or hide

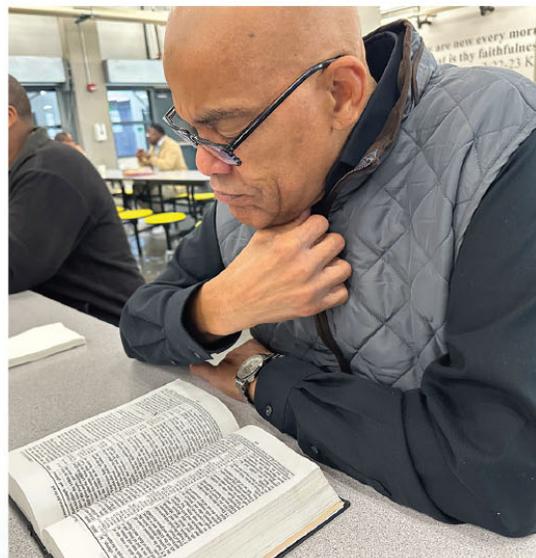
from people. God was calling me to fellowship with others and to grow in community with believers.

“Being part of these classes has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. They have helped me go deeper into the Word of God, to study and pray more, and to truly understand the Scriptures. At Pacific Garden Mission, I hear the Gospel preached every day of the week. We worship together, attend church on Sundays, and study the Bible in depth. I now know more than ever that I cannot exist on my own. I need the Lord every hour of every day.

“Through this program, I have learned that God is a forgiving and merciful God. My past addiction caused pain to my family and my marriage, but I am no longer ashamed because Christ has forgiven me. My goal after completing this program is to

go into ministry, possibly prison ministry and continue serving the Lord by serving others.”

Shawn’s testimony is a moving reminder that even in seasons of deep loss and uncertainty, God remains faithful to heal and restore. Through the ministry of Pacific Garden Mission, Shawn found renewed purpose, renewed fellowship, and renewed strength in Christ. His life today stands as a witness to the power of God’s forgiveness and the hope found only in Jesus. Stories like Shawn’s are made possible because of your prayers and generosity. Thank you for helping us continue to share the Gospel with those who are hurting and in need of a new beginning.



THE FULL STORY



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

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8 KJV



Serving in the Men’s Dayroom allows Shawn to assist our transient guests with their daily needs.

Above: Shawn reads his Bible before breakfast in the PGM cafeteria.

LIFE INSIDE THE NEW DAY AND NEW LIFE PROGRAMS

At Pacific Garden Mission, our New Day and New Life programs provide men and women with the structure, support, and spiritual foundation they need to rebuild their lives. The New Day program is a 90-day residential addiction recovery program that blends proven treatment methods with the wisdom of God's Word.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
Pacific Garden Mission
will once again be hosting an
OPEN HOUSE
April 16, 2026! More details to come

Residents receive daily classes, individual counseling, and all the physical necessities they need, including dormitory housing, meals, clothing, and essential supplies.

For those ready to grow even deeper, the New Life program then offers a 16-month residential discipleship journey designed to make fully functioning followers of Christ through several stages of spiritual development and a comprehensive career development track. Both programs also provide resources for residents who



cannot read or write, or who have not completed high school, equipping them with literacy support and GED preparation. Through these programs, lives are restored, hope is renewed, and men and women discover the purpose God created them for.

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: ELEVATED CARE: PRIVATE BED PARTITIONS INSTALLED

Peter Leavitt
Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

PGM is celebrating an exciting improvement that brings greater comfort, dignity, and rest to the guests in two of our programs. We have replaced our old bunk beds with a brand-new bed system that provides privacy partitions for each bed.

For years, bunk beds were a necessary solution to house as many people as possible. But they also came with challenges. Climbing to the top bunk was difficult for many guests, and sleeping in the open offered little sense of privacy. These new beds solve both problems. Each bed is on the floor and features a sturdy side partition, giving

participants their own personal space in a shared room. The result is a sleeping environment that feels safer, more comfortable, and more respectful.

So far, 25 new beds have been installed for participants in our New Life Program and another 25 for participants in our New Day Program. Both groups are already expressing gratitude for the improvement. "It feels more like I have my own space

now," one participant shared. "I can finally rest with fewer distractions." Good rest is essential for healing, recovery, and spiritual growth. With added privacy and security these new beds help guests focus on their journeys toward a new life.

We thank God for our donors who provided the resources to make this possible. Together, we are creating not only a place to sleep, but a place to heal, grow, and begin again in Jesus.



Before partitions



After partitions

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

“RESPITE” MINISTRY BRINGS HOPE

“When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” —Matthew 25:38-40

I wanted to share with you a new ministry we have been offering to people experiencing homelessness, which is called **Respite**.

Working with our medical partners at Lawndale Medical Clinic, we offer the homeless a bed while they recover from a medical condition. Many don't have hospital insurance and are also turned away from shelters. Imagine being

homeless out in the cold and sick, with nowhere to go and no one to look after you. We are the only shelter in Chicago that offers a place to stay and medical care. It is an opportunity to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus with some of the most desperate, hurting people. Here is a brief report from Dr. Porte, our on-site physician from Lawndale:

“We are meeting the medical needs of a patient after a major joint replacement surgery. I've known this patient for several years as his primary care provider at the shelter and have treated his severe hip arthritis with the usual pain medications with the usual results—suboptimal control of pain. Like many of my other patients at PGM over the past 5 years, he's been

denied by multiple orthopedic offices for a joint replacement due to a lack of an appropriate post-operative care plan. Recovery in a nursing home is not possible due to inadequate insurance coverage. Recovery at home under supervision is not possible when you don't have a place to call home. It's a gap in care that results in patients dealing with the consequences of pain for months, years, or even a lifetime. But not for our guest in the PGM Respite program. Last week, I asked him how his hip pain was doing. He responded, 'Better.' Then, he shook my hand, with tears in his eyes, and said, 'Thank you.' What an incredible witness of the compassionate care of Christ for the most vulnerable in our City”.

Pray for all the medical teams and residents of PGM. And, thank you for your love, care, and support.

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 **January** your support made a true difference:



16,683 total nights of sleep were provided to our homeless guests



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



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



11 mothers with **20** children were sheltered at PGM



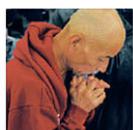
15,575 clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



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



41,260 plates of food were served (est.)



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

GLIMPSES INSIDE PGM

A New Morning, A Fresh Start!

Each morning, hundreds of men gather in the Pacific Garden Mission cafeteria for a warm breakfast and a moment of peace before beginning their day. For many, this meal is more than food—it's a reminder that someone cares and that hope is always within reach.



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