



Andre's heartwarming story of transformation into a new life!

A PLACE WHERE HOPE BEGINS

No one arrives at Pacific Garden Mission without a story of brokenness.

Men like Andre come at a point where life has unraveled and the path forward is unclear. Yet, because of your faithful support, those moments of crisis are met with hope. At Pacific Garden Mission, Andre encountered not only help for his immediate needs, but the life-changing truth of the Gospel and a real opportunity for a new beginning.

ANDRE

“My name is Andre Jones. I’m from Chicago. How I got to PGM is crazy. I was broken. My mom accused me of trying to strangle her, and I spent three days in jail. While I was in jail, I had time to think, and I knew I

needed help. After I got out of jail, my family said they didn’t want anything to do with me if I kept going down that path. My life was spiraling out of control.

Searching for Help

“I stayed at my sister’s house for a couple of weeks, and I told her I needed help because I couldn’t even think clearly. We started looking into places like the Salvation Army, but then we came across Pacific Garden Mission. When I watched Pastor Phil on YouTube, something told me this was the place where I could get my life back on track.

A Turning Point at the Mission

“Since coming here, I’ve been getting the help I need. When I first arrived at PGM I stayed as a transient guest and it seemed

like the Lord was talking to me when I sat in that dayroom. I felt God was telling me to get some help. Since being here my life has gotten ten times better. I am getting help to find housing and I will get help to find a job when I am in the Career Development phase.

“I’ve received therapy and counseling, and even my reading has improved. At one point, my reading was so bad that I had to start with simple books with pictures, but people here encouraged me and helped me grow.

Trials Along the Way

“When I was first here, I went through a difficult situation with my family. My mother had a breakdown and went missing along with my brother for a couple of weeks. It took a lot out of me. I wanted to

“When I watched Pastor Phil, something told me this was the place where I could get my life back on track.”



leave the Mission to go look for them, but the staff encouraged me to stay and trust that they would be found. Several weeks later, they were located, but the situation broke me down even more.

“The staff encouraged me to join the program. I put it off at first, but it turned out to be the best decision I ever made. In just a couple of weeks, people started seeing a change in me. I didn’t see it at first, but

they told me something was different.

A Changed Heart

“God put me here for a reason. I was an angry man with a very short temper, but God has been teaching me humility. I work with people every day, and where I used to react in anger, now I ask God for wisdom. My temper has calmed down so much that I don’t even recognize the old me anymore.

Walking Forward in Faith

“I’ve left behind my old lifestyle of partying and drinking. That path was no longer for me. Now I’m focused on following God. This place has been wonderful for me. It teaches you everything.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” —Romans 12:2 KJV

You have Bible study, church, and people who truly care. God is everything to me now. I’m going to continue following Him, even after I leave this program. I’m not going back to my old life. I’m moving forward on the path God has for me.”

How Andre’s life has been transformed is not an isolated story. It is part of the daily work God is doing here through PGM’s ministry.

Because of you, men who feel lost are finding direction, those who are broken are being restored, and lives are being changed for eternity. Your impact makes this happen. Thank you for standing with us and helping make this work possible.

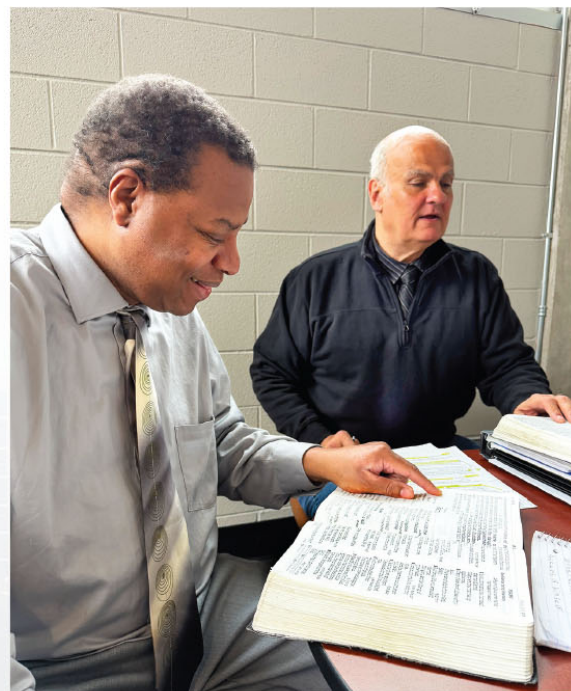
THE FULL STORY



Scan this QR code with your phone’s camera, and it will direct you to a live YouTube video as Andre reveals his experiences at PGM in more depth.



Andre volunteers on the transient men’s sleeping area by helping to hand out linens and assist the transient guests.



Andre studies his Bible with a fellow classmate.

A Day Inside Pacific Garden Mission



FROM the early morning hours to late in the evening, life inside Pacific Garden Mission follows a steady rhythm. The day begins with breakfast being served and guests preparing for what's ahead. Each morning starts with a Gospel service, where God's Word is shared and hearts are encouraged for the day. Some are taking their first steps toward stability through intake, while others gather in the dayroom, reading, talking, or simply finding a moment of quiet. Throughout the day, staff and volunteers are present, offering guidance,

encouragement, and care in ways both seen and unseen.

As the day continues, meals are shared, conversations deepen, and the message of the Gospel remains at the center of it all. Before the night ends, guests come together once more for an evening service, hearing again the truth of God's Word before settling in to rest. Because of your faithful support, this daily rhythm continues, providing not just structure, but a place where hope can begin again for each person who walks through our doors.

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: *A Place of Peace—Made Possible by You!*

Peter Leavitt

Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

At Pacific Garden Mission, moments of quiet refuge can be hard to come by for families experiencing homelessness. Many of our mothers return each day from the city weary, having faced hardship and, at times, unkindness. Their children often encounter language and situations no child should have to witness. Even within the Mission, living in a shared dorm environment—

especially with an average of 20 children onsite each month—can be challenging.

For years, our second-floor patio has been a treasured place of relief. Though the space was well-loved, it had grown outdated and no longer met the needs of the families we serve.

Over the past year, the Lord has enabled us to begin renewing this important space. We cleared the patio entirely and installed durable safety mats to create a more secure play area. Two new awnings now provide much-needed shade, making the space usable even on hot summer days. These improvements—costing just over \$36,000—reflect direct requests from past families and are already making a difference.

We are completing the project with new furniture, playground equipment, and toys. This patio serves many purposes: a place for children to play, for mothers to rest and reflect, and for families to connect and grow. In every detail, this renovation is a tangible expression of Christ's love—reminding each family that they are seen, valued, and deeply cared for. **We are deeply grateful for the faithful generosity of PGM's donors, whose support makes projects like this possible.**

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!*



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

A “SMILING” TESTIMONY

The Mission provides many services for our guests; one of them is dental care. I walked through our dayroom, and a 68-year-old Palestinian man by the name of Najah could not get the smile off his face as he showed me his new teeth.

Najah Aslim is a guest at Pacific Garden Mission. He reports that in the midst of uncertainty, a simple act of care made a meaningful difference. After receiving dental services, Najah shared how much he appreciates the way his new dentures look and feel—restoring not just his smile, but a sense of dignity and confidence.

He said what stood out to him was the kindness he experienced. He spoke warmly about the

dental provider, noting how their gentle and respectful approach made him feel seen and valued. For Najah, this moment was more than a service—it was a reminder that compassion still meets people where they are, offering hope in the smallest, yet most powerful ways.

Sometimes a small act of kindness goes a long way in opening up a heart to the Gospel. Many times before Jesus preached to the multitude, He met their physical needs: “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14).

Thank you for your love, prayer, and support of this amazing ministry.

PGM: HOPE HAS A SEAT



Please scan this QR code with your phone's camera, and it will direct you to a YouTube video of PGM's ministry to the homeless, mothers and children, and much more!

GLIMPSES INSIDE PGM



SMILES LIKE THESE

Smiles like these tell a deeper story. In moments like this, women are not only finding encouragement and friendship but also growing in God's Word together. What begins as a shared Bible study often becomes a place of healing, support, and lasting transformation. Because of you, these relationships and moments of joy are happening every day at Pacific Garden Mission.



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



17,670 total nights of sleep and shelter provided to our needy homeless guests



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



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



14 mothers with their **25** children were sheltered at PGM



9,800 clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



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



34,082 plates of nourishing food were served (est.)



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

PGMNews JULY 2026 • Vol. 91, No. 7
Published monthly by Pacific Garden Mission

1458 South Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60607-5201
P: (312) 492-9410 F: (312) 492-9414
Email: info@pgm.org
Websites: www.pgm.org www.unshackled.org

Philip Kwiatkowski, President
Daniel Woolman, Editor
Paul Higdon, Design

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