



From crushing loss to a reason to live, Kenneth shares his inspiring story.

A Father's Greatest Loss ... and God's Greatest Mercy

Some burdens are simply too heavy for one person to carry. The loss of a child. A broken family. The crushing weight of guilt and grief. For Kenneth, those burdens led him into years of despair, convinced he would never recover. But because faithful friends like you make Pacific Garden Mission possible, he found more than a place to heal. He found the mercy of God waiting for him when he needed it most. Every meal, every bed, every Bible study, and every conversation with a counselor becomes part of a story like Kenneth's. Thank you for making stories of redemption like his possible through your faithful support.

KENNETH LEWIS

"I grew up in Harvey, Illinois, and started drinking when I was about 12 years old. At first I just wanted to fit in with the other guys, but there were things going on at home that I didn't know how to deal with. My parents eventually divorced, and even though they loved me and took us to church every Sunday, I felt neglected. I kept all those feelings bottled up inside because I didn't know how to express them.

"As I got older, my drinking turned into smoking marijuana and eventually cocaine. I was looking for acceptance anywhere I could find it, trying to fill an emptiness inside me.

When My World Fell Apart Darkness Followed

"When I was about 20 years old, I finally got serious about recovery. I stayed sober for more than two years. I went back to church, sang in the choir, got married, and started raising my family. Those were the happiest years of my life.

"Then my father passed away, and not long after that, my four-year-old son became sick with cancer. He was my namesake. He fought so hard. For a while he got better and came home, but then the cancer came back. When he died at just four years old, my whole world fell apart.

"I never blamed God, but I couldn't understand why it had happened. I stopped going to church and withdrew from



**The scariest part
was that I couldn't
feel the presence
of God
anymore.**

**“He healeth the
broken in heart,
and bindeth up
their wounds.”
—Psalm 147:3 (KJV)**

I changed. He never left me. I left Him. I'm grateful that He gave me another opportunity, and I'm grateful that I listened.”

Him. When the trials came, I had nothing left to fight with. I started drinking again, and before long my marriage ended. Losing my son and my family sent me into a very dark place.

“For years I worked and drank, isolated from everyone. The scariest part wasn't even the alcohol. The scariest part was that I couldn't feel the presence of God anymore. That frightened me because I knew I needed Him. I started searching online for help. I wasn't looking for another treatment center as much as I was looking to reconnect with Jesus. That's when I found Pacific Garden

Mission. I had never heard of it before, but I saw the cross with the words ‘Jesus Saves,’ and immediately my spirit said, ‘Go.’

A Different Kind of Recovery

“I came to Pacific Garden Mission and did detox. The first week was one of the hardest weeks of my life. The withdrawals were terrible. But I stayed. I prayed. I talked with the counselors. For the first time I became honest about my pain, my guilt, and the things I had been carrying for years.

“Other programs had helped me learn recovery tools, but here I found something I desperately needed. They taught me about Jesus. Every day I read my Bible. Every day I have fellowship with other believers. Every day I'm growing in my relationship with the Lord.

“I've learned something that changed my life. God never changed.

Kenneth's story reminds us that the deepest wounds are often the ones no one else can see. Yet God's mercy reaches even into those places. Because of your faithful generosity, men and women carrying unbearable grief, addiction, and brokenness are finding healing through the love of Christ at Pacific Garden Mission. Thank you for giving them a place where they can encounter not only help for today, but lasting hope for eternity.

THE FULL STORY



Scan this QR code to watch Kenneth tell his full story.



Kenneth shares a lighthearted conversation with a fellow New Life student.



Kenneth serves as a dorm monitor as part of his workplace ministry.



Thanksgiving Begins Long Before Thanksgiving

Preparing for Thanksgiving is about far more than serving a wonderful meal. It is about preparing a place where people who may have nowhere else to go can find hope, encouragement, and genuine fellowship. For many of our

guests, this will be their first Thanksgiving in years where they feel welcomed, valued, and remembered. Around every table are individuals whose lives are being changed through God's love and the compassion of friends like you.

Thank you for helping us begin preparations for not only a Thanksgiving celebration, but an opportunity to share the Gospel and remind every guest that they are never forgotten and never beyond the reach of God's grace.



GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate



Please **SCAN THE QR CODE** to make your gift online!
Thank you!



FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: A Renewed Space, A Renewed Hope

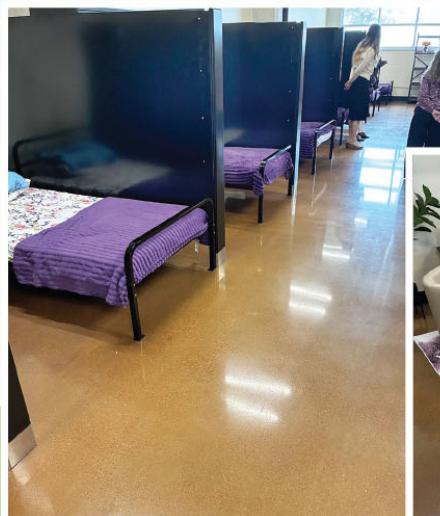
Peter Leavitt
Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

At PGM, we often witness how God uses the kindness of His people to bring hope and restoration to weary hearts. Today, we are deeply thankful for the newly remodeled dorm and bathroom in our Women's New Life Discipleship Program—a beautiful reminder that your generosity is making a meaningful difference.

For women seeking freedom from addiction, trauma, and

homelessness, healing begins with more than shelter. It begins with dignity, peace, and the assurance that they are loved. Thanks to faithful friends like you, the updated dorm now offers warm, welcoming spaces for rest, quiet reflection, and fellowship. Thoughtfully designed sleeping areas provide comfort and privacy, while the renovated

bathroom reflects care for each woman's well-being and expresses Christ's love. Thank you for helping create a place where women can encounter the transforming grace of God.



The new Women's New Life beds and sitting areas.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

A NEW VISION OF HOPE

Being homeless in a city like Chicago brings many challenges, and one of the greatest is accessing the medical care so many of us take for granted.

Imagine trying to navigate busy streets, crowded sidewalks, changing weather, and daily life when you can barely see. Men's Transient Services Coordinator James Warren recently shared the story of Steven Bickham, whose journey reminds us that even small acts of compassion can become life-changing blessings.

At 47 years old, Steven arrived at Pacific Garden Mission facing more than the challenges of homelessness. Severe cataracts had greatly impaired the vision in both of his eyes, making even the simplest daily tasks difficult and

leaving him uncertain about the future.

Since coming to Pacific Garden Mission, Steven has found more than a safe place to stay. He has found compassionate care, encouragement, and hope. Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, he was able to receive cataract surgery on his right eye, restoring much of his vision. For the first time in a long while, Steven can see the world more clearly and look to the future with renewed confidence.

His journey is not yet complete. Steven is now looking forward to surgery on his left eye, praying for the day when his vision will be fully restored and

new opportunities will open before him.

Steven's story reminds us that healing often begins with hope. **As physical needs are met, hearts are often opened to something even greater.** Please join us in praying for Steven as our counselors continue sharing the Gospel with him. We pray that just as his physical eyesight has been restored, God will also open his eyes to the saving grace found in Jesus Christ.

“One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.” —John 9:25b

Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support. Together, we are bringing hope, healing, and the love of Christ to those who need it most.

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



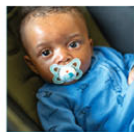
17,351 total nights of sleep and shelter provided to our needy homeless guests



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



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



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



12,000 clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



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



33,375 plates of nourishing food were served (est.)



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



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