PGMNews

NOVEMBER 2026



Terry learned the power of "staying" and his life will never be the same.

Because of Your Caring Support I Found A New Direction

Recovery is rarely a straight path. At Pacific Garden Mission, we have seen that lasting change begins when a person recognizes that he cannot overcome addiction on his own and turns to God for the strength and grace he needs. For Terry Ward, coming to PGM's New Day Recovery Program was an opportunity to step away from six years of addiction, recommit his life to Jesus Christ, and begin moving in a new direction.

Every day we are helping to plant the seeds of faith at PGM, and we couldn't do it without you. We hope you are encouraged by Terry's story.

TERRY WARD

"I grew up in Ford Heights, Illinois, in a Christian home. Addiction wasn't something I ever expected would become part of my life.

I was driving for Uber when everything changed. After dropping off a passenger, I found a small bag in the back of my vehicle that a passenger left behind. Out of curiosity, I tried it. It turned out to be crack cocaine, and I got hooked.

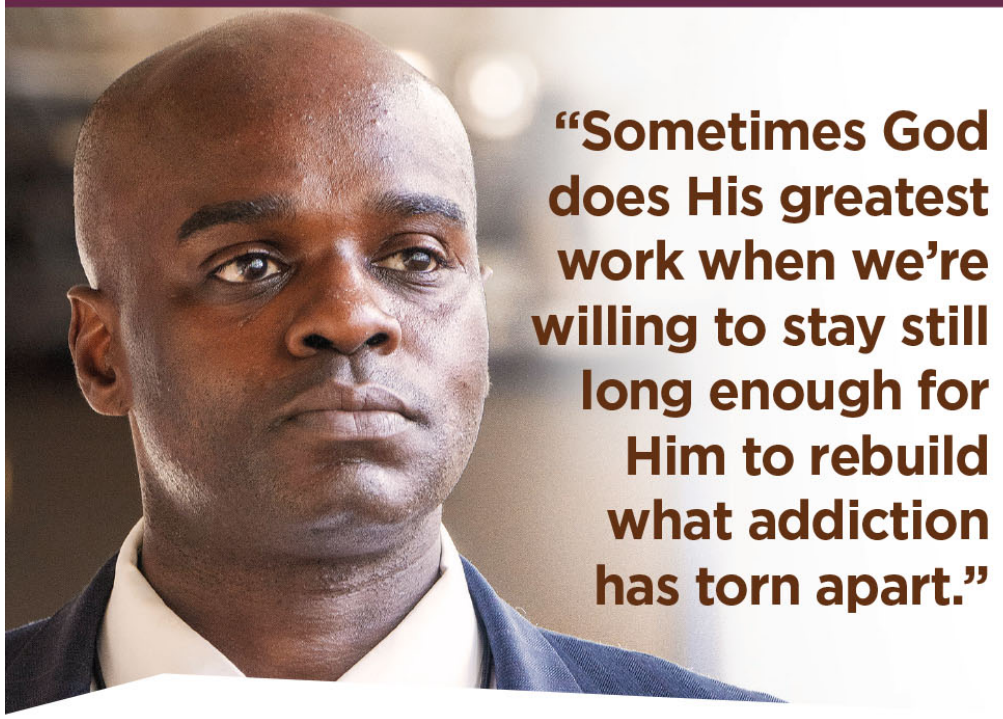
For the next six years, I lost family and friends, lied about what I was doing and about my habits, and isolated myself a lot. I got out of line with my mom, my sisters, and the people who cared about me. What started as experimenting became something I kept chasing. I was chasing that feeling, even though it was taking me farther away from my family and the life I wanted.

Finally, I said, 'You know what? Let me go get help.' I didn't tell anybody. I just came."

Taking the First Step

"I searched online for a Christian recovery program, and Pacific Garden Mission came up. I knew it was Christian-based, and because I grew up in the Christian faith, I thought, 'Okay, I'm going there.' I called, and they told me to come.

The first two weeks were the hardest. I was going



"Sometimes God does His greatest work when we're willing to stay still long enough for Him to rebuild what addiction has torn apart."

through withdrawals, and I desperately wanted to get back outside. But after the third or fourth week, I began to feel grounded. I started getting into God's Word every morning. I began to understand that recovery works best when I stay still and give God time to rebuild the things that have been broken.

The New Day Program has taught me more than how to stay sober. I've committed my life to Jesus Christ. I'm learning



Scripture, order and structure. I'm learning to keep things in a routine. I feel like Jesus had been calling me over the years, but I kept wanting to go my own way. That kept me in the wilderness, but now I'm learning to listen."

A New Direction

"Today, Jesus is everything to me. He's my lifeline. I talk to Him every morning, pray every night, and talk to Him throughout the day. He helps keep the negative thoughts away.

One of the hardest things about recovery is *staying*. It's a daily battle. Staying means sitting with the discomfort and learning to pause and let it pass instead of immediately acting on it. I've met a lot of people who want to go into recovery but are afraid to take that first step. That was hard for me too. But the next step is staying in recovery and not feeding those negative thoughts that tell you to go back and run. I believe my faith in God will keep me grounded, and I want to use what I've been through to help other people going through recovery."

When Terry first arrived at Pacific Garden Mission, completing 90 days seemed like a long road ahead. But he took it one day at a time and successfully completed the New Day recovery program. Today, Terry has moved on from Pacific Garden Mission, carrying with him the lessons, Scripture, and encouragement he received during his time here. Please keep Terry in your prayers that he stays the course. Because of your prayers and generous support, men and women like Terry have a place where they can step away from addiction, hear the truth of God's Word, and discover that through Christ, a new direction is possible.



"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him."
—Psalm 62:5 (KJV)

Above: Terry served on the Male Transient Dorm assisting homeless guests each night.

Terry reading his Bible in the PGM courtyard.

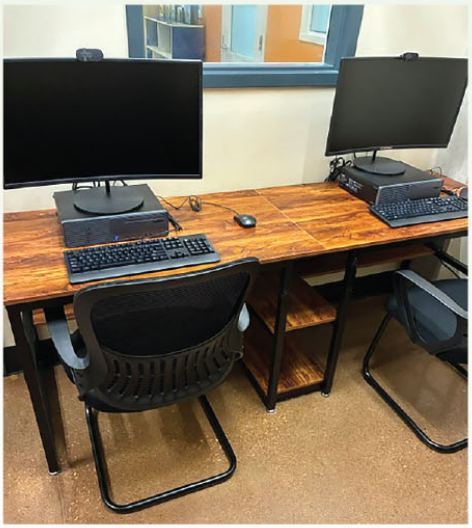
FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: *Building Hope, One Click at a Time*

Peter Leavitt
Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

The Resource Room in our New Beginnings Program is helping mothers and children take meaningful steps toward a brighter future. Earlier this year, four new computers were installed, creating a quiet, welcoming space where children can complete homework while their mothers pursue goals of stable housing, employment, and education.

Equipped with video cameras, the computers also allow mothers to meet virtually with case workers, attend Zoom interviews, and complete important paperwork without traveling to a public library. One mother, who did not have access to a working phone, was even able to reconnect with loved ones and research valuable community resources.

These computers are more than a convenience—they are tools of hope and empowerment. They communicate to every family that they are valued, their dreams matter, and they are not walking this journey alone. Through the faithful support of our donors, practical resources like these open doors for lasting change while pointing families to the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.



A Warm Welcome This Thanksgiving

As November arrives, temperatures begin to fall across Chicago and preparations for Thanksgiving are under way at Pacific Garden Mission. In the kitchen, turkeys and all the trimmings are being prepared, while throughout the Mission our staff and volunteers get ready to welcome men, women, and children for a warm Thanksgiving meal. At the same time, warm coats and winter clothing are sorted, clean blankets and linens are made ready, and our staff prepares for the colder days ahead. For someone coming in from the streets, a hot meal, a warm bed, and a safe place indoors can provide immediate relief. But our hope is that everyone who walks through PGM's doors will receive something even greater: an opportunity to hear the Gospel and new life found in Jesus Christ.









GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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

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



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski

President, Pacific Garden Mission

SAFELY HOME

I want to relay a heartwarming story from Rumbi Echmann, our Women's Day Room manager.

"Janet was attending a physiotherapy school, but she found it challenging. Overwhelmed and frustrated by her struggle to achieve A's, she decided that she didn't want to disappoint her parents any longer. As a result, she resolved to quit school and look for a job. She sent her dad a message expressing her feelings of failure and informing him that she was okay but would be dropping out of college.

"Meanwhile, her father was worried and searching for her. He prayed throughout the night and ended up at the entrance on 14th Place, where Tyrell directed him to the Canal Street entrance to seek assistance. When he arrived, I could see the glow of the Lord on him as he recounted his story, his eyes swollen, saying that all he wanted was for his daughter to come back; he didn't care what she did in life, just that she was safe.

"I walked back inside and found a beautiful young lady named Janet sitting on the new intake benches. I brought her to my office and asked her what she was doing at PGM and where she had come from. She explained her story, and I told her that her dad was outside looking for her.

"We ended up calling her father inside, and witnessing their tearful embrace was heartwarming. The father whispered that she was forgiven and that it was okay; he just wanted her to be safe. Janet told her dad that she wanted to go home and be safe with her family. This is what PGM is all about—reuniting families."

PGM has been a haven of rest for so many, hearing the Gospel, reuniting families, and changing lives for 149 years. Thank you for your love, faithful prayer, and kind 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 **SEPTEMBER** your support made a true difference for many in need:



15,270 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



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



18 mothers with their **30** children were sheltered at PGM



13,000 clothing items were distributed to the needy at PGM (est.)



3.137 media outlets around the world broadcast *UNSHACKLED!*



30,102 plates of nourishing food were served (est.)



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

PGMTV

Watch PGM TV every Saturday evening on the TCT Network at 9pm CT

11/7 Destiny Is a Matter of Choice

11/14 God Uses Broken People

11/21 When the World Feels Hopeless

11/28 When God Gets Your Attention

To view the other platforms and stations PGMTV airs on please visit: pgmtv.org

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