PGMNews
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Crystal found a safe refuge where she discovered unconditional Christlike love and acceptance.

A Place to Be Loved Again

Many people come to Pacific Garden Mission carrying burdens that have weighed on them for years. Some struggle with addiction. Others carry wounds from rejection, trauma, and broken relationships. At PGM, they find more than food and shelter. They find the love of Christ, a place where healing can begin and lives can be transformed.

For Crystal Martin, that transformation began when she reached the end of herself and discovered that God had not given up on her.

CRYSTAL

"Growing up, my parents weren't really there for me. My dad went to prison, and I spent time in a Christian care home. I felt unwanted and unimportant, like nobody really loved me.

"As I got older, I carried pain from childhood trauma, abuse, and rejection. Instead of dealing with those things, I turned to drinking and marijuana because I wanted to numb what I was feeling.

"By 2025, things had gotten really bad. I drank every day and reached a point where I didn't want to live anymore. I felt like I had no purpose.

Finding a Place to Heal

"My mom kept telling me about Pacific Garden Mission. At first, I ignored her. But I finally came on July 23, 2025.

"I knew it was a Christian ministry, and honestly, that scared me because I had been angry with God. But coming here changed my outlook.

"I entered the New Day Program and graduated in October. Then I continued into New Life because I knew ninety days wasn't enough for me. For the first time, I felt loved. I felt accepted. Nobody rejected me. Everyone welcomed me with open arms. That was something I had been searching for my entire life.

Looking in the Mirror

"One of the biggest things I've learned is that no matter how much you run, whatever is inside of you and whatever damage has been done to you, you can't run from it. No matter where you go, it's always going to be with you.

"I had to take a good look in the mirror. I used to pinpoint everybody else's flaws, but I wouldn't take a good look at myself. I've had to learn not to be so prideful and to trust in



"...no matter how much you run, whatever is inside of you and whatever damage has been done to you, you can't run from it."

the Lord.

"I've also learned about forgiveness. I felt like people had to feel my pain. I would shut people out and think I was okay, but in reality I was only hurting myself. I've learned that you have to forgive, not just for the other person, but for yourself.

Learning a Different Way

"Being here has taught me stability and structure. I've learned how to manage the way I respond to situations and to have more self-control. "My children understand why I needed to be here. What I was putting them through and what I was going through wasn't healthy. They knew I needed to do this, to find myself again with the love of God and a different outlook on life.

"I talk to my kids every day. My plan when I leave is to go home to them, but I'm learning to let God lead."

During her New Life studies Crystal also served in PGM's Mothers & Children division. Although being around the children sometimes made her miss her own, she enjoyed serving and building relationships with the mothers. She recently made the decision to return to her family. The lessons she learned during her time at Pacific Garden Mission remain important as she moves forward. Before leaving, Crystal reflected on what it would mean to carry those lessons into life beyond PGM.

"I always ran from things, from my problems and from authority. I never finished anything that I started. I know the big test is whether I'm going to continue doing the things I've learned here and apply them out there. Wherever I go, I know I want to find a church and continue what I've learned at the Mission.

"I'm glad I made the choice to come here because I don't know where I would be if I didn't."

"Seek the LORD and His strength, seek his face continually" —1 Chronicles 16:11 (KJV)

Crystal's journey is still being written. During her time at PGM, she confronted wounds she once tried to escape, learned about forgiveness, strengthened relationships, and grew in her understanding of God's love. Now that she has returned to her family, we ask you to please keep Crystal in your prayers. Pray that she will continue seeking the Lord, and find strength and encouragement for the road ahead.

Because of your prayers and generous support, women like Crystal have a place where they can hear the Gospel, receive care and encouragement, and begin taking steps toward a new life. Thank you for making that opportunity possible.



Crystal proudly displays her New Day graduation certificate after completing her course studies at PGM.



A Word from Philip Kwiatkowski
President, Pacific Garden Mission

Christmas Thoughts

During Christmas, let's remember those who are without. I have chosen a story that highlights some of the daily struggles faced by those who reside here at Pacific Garden Mission. Not only do we preach the Gospel, but we also help meet the immense physical needs of the men and women who come through our doors.

GABINO'S STORY

Ten years ago, Gabino received a pacemaker to manage his heart disease. Without it, he would not have survived. Then, two years ago, he suffered the devastating loss of his son, sending him into an emotional and mental spiral. His grief became overwhelming, and eventually, his wife and daughter stopped speaking to him. He felt alone, disconnected from his family, and uncertain how to move forward.

At Pacific Garden Mission, Gabino found something he had not felt in a long time: genuine care, compassion, and a community that welcomed him during his darkest days.

Recently, Gabino collapsed while staying at PGM and was rushed to the hospital. Doctors discovered his pacemaker had stopped working and urgently needed to be replaced. They explained that had he been living on the street rather than at PGM, he might not have survived. Doctors replaced his pacemaker and provided a heart monitor to help keep him safe. Today, Gabino has medical support and a renewed hope in God's love.

Because of the care and protection he received at Pacific Garden Mission, Gabino has been given another chance at life.

Merry Christmas to all! **Just as the angels proclaimed to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" —Luke 2:14 KJV, let us continue to remember those who desperately need His peace and goodwill this Christmas season.**

Merry Christmas and God bless!



Christmas at Pacific Garden Mission

is a time of joy, fellowship, and sharing Christ's love. Festive decorations, a special holiday dinner, and our Christmas Store, offering free gifts to mothers, children, and other homeless residents, help make the season brighter.

Your gifts, prayers, and support provide more than food, shelter, and presents. They bring comfort and hope to those facing hardship. Most importantly, our guests hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and have the opportunity to receive Him as their personal Savior. Thank you for helping PGM share God's love and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.





PLEASE GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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

PGM's Christmas Store, where free gifts are provided to guests in need.

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

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: *Two Holidays, Thousands of Blessings*

Peter Leavitt
Assistant Treasurer,
PGM Board of Trustees

Thanksgiving and Christmas are special days at Pacific Garden Mission—not only because of the meals we serve, but because of the love and compassion behind them.

Thanks to the generosity of our faithful donors, we are able to serve more than 1,000 meals on Thanksgiving Day and more than 1,000 meals again on Christmas Day. For many of our guests, these meals provide more than food. They offer a place of welcome, dignity, fellowship, and hope during a season when loneliness can be especially difficult.

Every meal is a tangible reminder of God's love and His provision. Your generosity helps make it possible for us to demonstrate the compassion of Christ while sharing the transforming message of the Gospel.

We are deeply grateful for every gift that helps make these special days possible. Thank you for being part of this ministry and helping us serve both a meal and a message of hope in Jesus Christ.





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 **OCTOBER** your support made a true difference for many in need:



16,248 total nights of sleep and shelter provided to our needy homeless guests



41 men and women enrolled in Bible study programs and provided with room and board



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



16 mothers with their **27** 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!*



32,890 plates of nourishing food were served (est.)



56 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

- **12/5** ***Sampson: What Would Have Been?***
- **12/12** ***Before God Promotes You***
- **12/19** ***Desperate Enough for Change***
- **12/26** ***Christmas Special UNSHACKLED!***

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.