

**"UNSHACKLED!"** is a member of the **National Religious Broadcasters (NRB)**. It is a **non-partisan, international association of Christian communicators** whose member organizations represent millions of listeners, viewers, and readers through radio, television, the Internet, and publishing. Members are linked through a Declaration of Unity that proclaims their joint commitment and devotion to the historic Christian faith.

**J**ESUS SAID: "Unto what is the Kingdom of God like, and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." And again Jesus said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

These Scriptures and others like them have been the focus and the passions for every aspect of the "Unshackled!" productions. We are so honored by the privilege to dramatize the true life stories of God in the lives of real people to untold millions around the world.

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# "UNSHACKLED!"

Did you know? "UNSHACKLED!" is broadcast around the world over 7,000 times each week on over 2700 radio outlets. In addition to the English broadcast, it is translated and re-dramatized in Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Romanian, Polish, Korean and Japanese.

"UNSHACKLED!" sound man Martin Robinson working the controls at a Saturday Night taping.



**QUIET Please!**





***“Unshackled!” is a radio drama series that first aired in 1950. It is the longest-running radio drama in history and one of very few still in production in the United States. Each episode is 30 minutes in length and is produced in the same way that shows during the Golden Age of Radio were produced. Shows are transcribed (recorded) live before a studio audience. An organist provides live incidental music and a sound-effects person provides sounds in real time as the show progresses. The show has retained a consistent and distinctive quality throughout its years of production.***

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“Unshackled!” productions are similar to the grain of mustard seed referenced in the verse noted; it started on one secular radio station, WGN in Chicago on September 23rd, 1950 and today it is aired on 2762 outlets around the world. Through the internet, it can be heard by all people groups in the world. The English production is dramatized before a live audience each Saturday, but other teams have been added through the years, now totaling fourteen languages.

We receive many accolades daily through phone calls, emails, and letters of the eternal impact that “Unshackled!” programs have made in lives. An example is of a few who were ready to take their own lives but then turned on the radio; “Unshackled!” came on and told just the story needed to bring them to faith. Another lady in Albania wrote that the program has helped to change the character of the people in Albania. This station also airs “Unshackled!” in Kosovo. One visitor came from Quito, Ecuador where God burdened her heart to start a ministry to street people through “Unshackled!” stories. A couple with their four boys came from New Hampshire to convey how

they weep as the “Unshackled!” programs are aired. They want to start a similar ministry to PGM in their small community because the needs are so great.

Each year we attend the National Religious Broadcasters Convention (NRB) where at least 4000 are in attendance. The attendees come from many countries and most states in the US. Through this event, many of our contacts were made which led to foreign production teams and radio stations that added “Unshackled!” to their lineup.

We are humbled and so honored by your investment to send “Unshackled!” into all the world to preach the Gospel. Thank you for choosing us as your missionaries. It is our passion to be “first”, pleasing to God in all that we do, so that your giving and your prayers for us are not in vain.

FLOSSIE MCNEILL  
—Director of “Unshackled!”

***Flossie McNeill, Director of “Unshackled!” confers with members of her staff—Martin Robinson (left) and Fred Hernandez (right).***





*“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the*

## *The RONALD FITZGERALD CHILDERS Story*

**I**T WAS THURSDAY, October 13th, 2011. I stepped off the airplane into a terminal at Midway Airport Chicago, Illinois. While I walked through the airport, toward my aunt’s waiting car, my mind was all-of-a-sudden flooded with thoughts of anxiety, fear, uncertainty about my situation, and some doubt about the decision to come to Chicago in search of (what I thought at that time) a new life. But that was just the point! Prior to leaving Alabama, I prayed to God (as I knew Him) to guide my thoughts and my walk. Even though I was unsure about my present surroundings and current situation, I was confident that I was supposed to be in Chicago. As I was getting my bearings from the mental fog I had been in for the past few hours – I saw it! JESUS SAVES; Pacific Garden Mission Home of “Unshackled!” These were the words on the signs that hung outside the marvelous building that is the home of Pacific Garden Mission. This was the place that my grandmother had been telling me about for the past couple of years. It was then that I knew that God had answered my prayers. I had come to the right place and this was the first day of the rest of my life.

My name is Ronald Childers. I was born in Selma, Alabama to a single young mother in October of 1971. I have one younger brother and an older half-brother and sister on my father’s side. Because of my mother’s inability to care for me and my brother at that time, we were raised by my Grandmother. A precious, God-fearing, soul who did all she could to raise me well. She instilled in me a sense of decency, right and wrong, and how to treat others as I would want

to be treated. However, I couldn’t grasp or appreciate what it all meant so I just followed along out of respect.

I attended elementary school just like everyone else and managed to blend in with the crowd as I attempted to mask my insecurity and fears. My thoughts would inevitably return to the next time I would be able to spend time with my mother. One of my

most vivid memories of that period in my life was, standing at the screen-door of my grandmother’s home in the country, once again waving goodbye to my mother with tears streaming down my face as she left to return to a life she was attempting to build in the midst of her own struggles.

May 1989, the end of high school was quickly approaching and I had no clue as to what I was going to do next. Not once, did I even think to seek the Lord’s will for my life, or ask for His guidance. I decided to go to college.

Little did I know as I left the protection of my grandmother’s home and the community of believers at the church, that the Devil would turn what should have been an enjoyable, exciting period in

my life, into what would be over 20 years of struggle with alcohol, drugs, and violence. At that point in my life I felt like material things and possession, acceptance by people were the keys to my peace and joy.

Mt 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

After graduation from college, my wife to be and I set off for Birmingham, Alabama to start our new lives together. This journey only took us deeper and deeper into



*whole world, and lose his own soul?” —MARK 8:36*

the abyss of the drug lifestyle. For the next several years, I was trapped in the vicious cycle of selling and using drugs. I was in and out of jails throughout the southeast so much until I lost count. I was verbally and emotionally abusive to my wife and was barely a father to my children. I put myself in life-threatening situations and I knew it was just a matter of time before it was all over. I felt hopeless. This roller coaster life continued until I found myself in situation that cost me my right eye. I often say now, “I couldn’t

really see until I lost one of my eyes.” I was on a quest for things; all those things that I felt I didn’t have when I was growing up as a child—the money, the cars, the nice homes, and a regular family.

Mark 8:36 “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

But things couldn’t satisfy; only a living relationship with Jesus could satisfy. *Read the exciting conclusion to Ron’s story in the next month’s issue.*



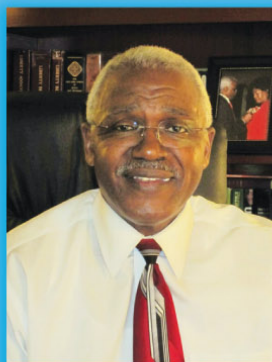
**John Walker and his mother. John speaking at the graduation. Graduates Milton Clark, Phil Hodges, Joseph Lydon**

## **CCK Graduates**

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS four PGM graduates have also graduated from Chicago Community Kitchens (CCK). On March 22, John Walker, was privileged to give some opening remarks in which he acknowledged his mother’s inspiration. She had served lunches to over 500 youth daily and now Chef John is serving meals to 100s every day at PGM. Several more PGM graduates are in culinary training and will be graduating over the coming months.



**VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to all the volunteers who spent some of their spring break with PGM and a special thanks to those who helped serve our Easter dinner.**



**Pastor Ervin McNeill** has been the Chaplain of PGM since 1995. But pastor McNeill’s connection to PGM began much earlier in 1979 when he was delivered to PGM by Chicago’s Human Services, a rebel in need of a Savior. Ervin gave up his addiction to heroine and chose instead to become addicted to serving Jesus. He was on staff at PGM in various supporting positions until 1988 when he went to Bible school. Chaplain McNeill urges you to please pray for the many needs of this vast ministry and the hurting rebels coming to PGM for answers.

Chaplain McNeill has a wonderful PGM story of what God can do when a rebel surrenders. If you live in the Chicago area and would like to have him speak to your group please contact him at (312) 429-6730.



# *A Word from Dave McCarrell*

*President, Pacific Garden Mission*



## *Three Ways to Walk*

**O**NE OF THE MOST PERPLEXING QUESTIONS in rescue mission ministries, and for that matter in all Christian ministries is, “Why do some who accept Christ as Savior move on to fruitful Christian lives, and why do others seem to fall by the wayside?”

I believe the answer can be found in the Bible, specifically in Paul’s words found in I Corinthians 2:9-3:4. In this portion of God’s Word the apostle divides the whole human family into three groups: (1) the “natural man,” who is unregenerate or unchanged spiritually, lost in his sin; (2) the “carnal man,” who is a “babe in Christ;” and (3) the “spiritual man,” who is filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul proceeds in chapter 3:1-4 with the description of the “carnal man:” “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

Some Christians thus are said to be “carnal” because they receive only the milk of the Word in contrast to the strong

meat: they yield to envy, strife, and division, and are walking as men, in their own strength. The child of God who is spiritual is expected to “walk in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16) to “walk in love” (Eph. 5:2) and to keep “the unity of the Spirit” (Eph. 4:3). Though saved, carnal Christians are walking “according to the course of this world” (Eph. 2:2). They are carnal because the fleshly desires are dominating them (Rom. 7:14). Also the carnal Christian is characterized by a “walk” that is on the same plane as that of the “natural man.” The objects and affections of “carnal Christians” are centered in the same unspiritual sphere as the “natural man.” In contrast to such a fleshly walk, we read: “This I say then, walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16).

Could I challenge each of you reading this to pray daily that the men and women in the PGM Bible program would grow daily in grace and knowledge of God’s Word and that they would not only be filled with the Holy Spirit, but would yield control of their lives to the Holy Spirit, so the lives that they live and the words that they speak would be worthy testimonies to our precious Lord and Savior?

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### **A PRAYER REMINDER:**

Please join us in praying for our president Dr. David McCarrell who continues to suffer through health difficulties. These began when he experienced complications after knee replacement surgery done in June of last year. Thank you.





## NEW SUPPORTER TO PGM

**PLS FINANCIAL SERVICES** is one of America's most successful and fastest-growing consumer financial services retailers. Headquartered in Chicago, PLS has recently become a supporter of PGM. Last November they donated 50 turkeys and this March they delivered over 100 new blankets to help our homeless guests. Thank you, PLS! If your company would like to help PGM, please contact Gerald Casey x 1461.



**John Brewster**

**ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW 70 1/2 OR OLDER?** Have an IRA? John Brewster, PGM's Financial Officer, would like to pass on information he received from the IRS which may apply to you. The U.S. Congress has extended a provision in the tax-code authorizing withdrawals from IRAs, which would otherwise be taxable, to count toward meeting your minimum distribution requirement for the year provided they are transferred to a qualified charitable organization (like PGM). If this applies to you, and you would like to know more about how you can contribute to this ministry and avoid tax penalties, please contact John Brewster at (312) 429-6760. He is happy to provide details and walk you through the process.

## MARCH 2013 NUMBERS

- 720** Daily average of homeless receiving aid and attending Gospel services.
- 924** Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight.
- 90** Number of men and women enrolled in Bible Study Program and provided room and board.
- 64,182** Approximate number of plates of food served.
- 89,257** Estimated number of items of clothing distributed at PGM or given to other missions.
- 517** Number of patients treated in free Medical/Dental Clinic.
- 100** Number of persons who professed faith in Christ!
- 2,762** Radio stations and outlets in the U.S. and around the world broadcasting "Unshackled!" in English, Spanish, Arabic, Romanian, Russian, Polish, Japanese, Farsi, Albanian, and Korean.

Pacific Garden Mission makes no charge for care. Food, clothing, overnight accommodations, and medical treatment are totally free. Financial gifts from faithful supporters—and their prayers—keep this ministry alive. PGM receives no city, state, or federal aid.

Areas of ministry include the Mission for Men, Women's and Children's Division, Medical/Dental Clinic, "Unshackled!" radio, Bread of Life outreach, Polish evangelism, and PGM Men's Choir.

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