

In
the beginning
God created
the heaven and the earth

At PGM Jose came out of hopelessness and despair to a secure future.

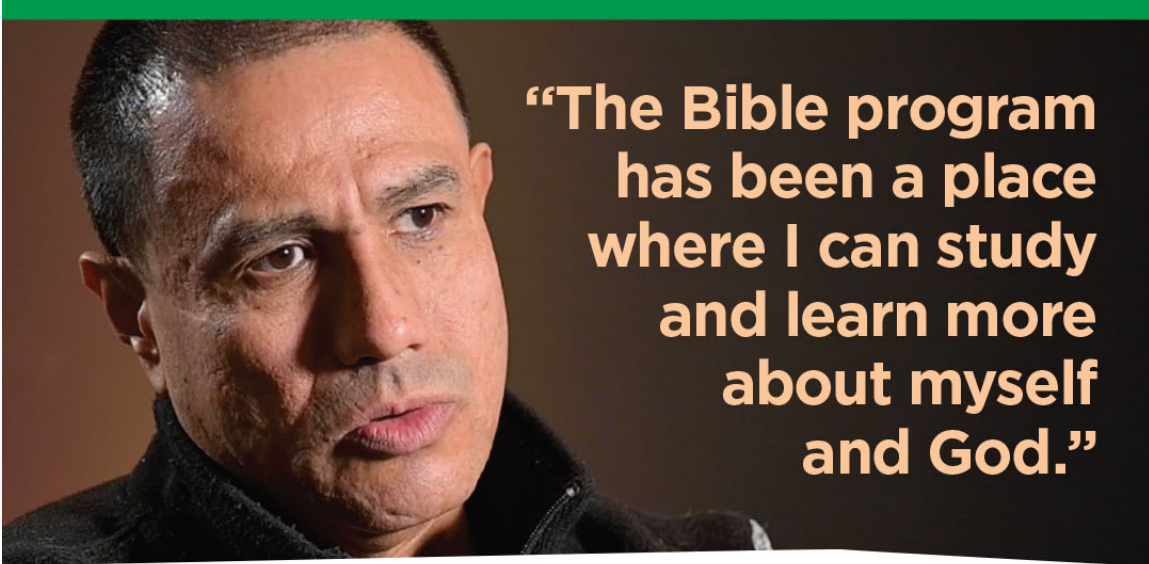
YOUR SUPPORT IS A LIFELINE

When someone struggles with their health, it can quickly and completely change their life. They can lose their job, home, and life savings because they are unable to work. They can find themselves sick, homeless, and without hope. Here at PGM, we have seen people with cancer, on kidney dialysis, and recovering from the effects of open heart surgery. That was the case for Jose, who is featured in this month's issue. We hope Jose's story encourages and reminds you of how your support of PGM is a lifeline of hope to those who have fallen into unexpected homelessness due to health and financial issues.

JOSE

"My name is Jose Banda, and first, I would like to praise the Lord for how graceful and merciful He is. He has performed so many miracles in my life. When I first came to Pacific Garden Mission in 2016, I didn't have a place to stay. My landlord had illegally kicked me out of where I rented, but because we hadn't signed any paperwork or lease, I was unable to prove to the police that I had paid to live there. I went to the police station for help, and they told me I could come to PGM.

"I came here, and they let me in, but three days later, I got pneumonia. An ambulance arrived, picked me up, and took me to the hospital. They



“The Bible program has been a place where I can study and learn more about myself and God.”

found a lot of fluid in my lungs and ended up having to perform lung surgery. I was in the hospital for over a month. After that, I was unable to work because I was still healing from the surgery. Eventually, the money ran out, and with no other options left, I came back to PGM. That is when I learned about the Bible program and enrolled in 2016. I was in the program for one year and then graduated.

“When I got out, I rented an apartment, started working and doing the things I was supposed to do, but because I abused my body throughout my whole life, my body doesn’t have the same resistance, and it stopped keeping up with me. I started doing drugs when I was eleven years old, drinking, smoking, and huffing glue because it was the cheapest way to escape reality and today, even though I have been completely clean from drugs and alcohol for over nine years, my body is still struggling with the adverse effects. Now I am 57, and my body is having many problems, but God is helping me get through it.

“In 2021, I had to have open heart surgery, a triple bypass. I couldn’t go back to work because of the heart surgery and was eventually evicted from my new place because I had run out of money to pay the rent. I eventually had to come back to PGM for help. Like always, the Mission had its doors open for me. It doesn’t matter what type of problem you are dealing with. It could be drugs, it could be financial, it could be health, but they always are willing to



Serving on the second floor, Jose helps maintain the areas where the transient men sleep.

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. —Psalm 34:18 KJV

help. I have been here for 16 months and recently graduated from the Bible program for a second time.

“God is working blessings and wonders in my life. Now, I have a brand-new family here. They accept me the way I am. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you come from, or what language you speak; God always has His arms open for you. This place is a fellowship and a real brotherhood. We learn to deal with each other and have so many testimonies and have dealt with so many problems in our lives, but God has taken care of us.

“The Bible program has been a place where I can study and learn more about myself and God. Each person that comes to the Mission for help comes with different problems. Some have issues with drugs and alcohol, and others like me come because of health problems. God helped provide me with medical insurance as soon as I arrived. Graduating from the Bible program was a significant victory for me. I don’t think I would be the same person without Him. I aim to find a job outside, get an apartment, and move out of the Mission.

“All you need to do is trust in God. We often do that superficially and just say we do, but through the Bible program here, we get to study the Bible and the Gospel and get to know who Jesus Christ is. You get a much deeper understanding of what He did for me and everyone else. Just trust Jesus and be willing to do His will.”

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors whose generosity and compassion have made Jose’s story possible. Your unwavering support has provided shelter and care for those facing health crises like Jose, and has been a beacon of hope in their darkest moments. Together, we continue to be a lifeline of compassion and assistance to those navigating unexpected homelessness due to health and financial challenges. Thank you for your kindness and for believing in the transformative power of love and community.



Jose graduated the 16-month New Life Bible program in January of 2024 with two other men.



The women in the New Day and New Life Programs come together to take a group photo in the women's common area. As they go through the programs, address their issues, and heal, they form close bonds with one another and staff. It is a close and wholesome community, fostering growth and encouragement.

OUR ACTIVE MINISTRY

Preaching to a full house, two staff evangelists share the Gospel message to transient guests in the PGM auditorium. Through your support, every chair is occupied by someone seeking refuge, and they will hear the clear teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is crucial to true and lasting change.



To donate using your phone, just scan this QR code with your phone's camera, and it will direct you to the PGM Donate page.

GIVE NOW pgm.org/donate

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

LAUNCHING THE REDEEMED

Our residents' graduation is the culmination of their time here at Pacific Garden Mission.

For many, graduation has served as a springboard to God's purpose and plan in their lives. The dictionary definition for commencement is a beginning or start. Our vision statement reads, "We offer life answers through faith in Jesus Christ, through any season of life, so that our guests become fully functioning followers of Christ."

As we equip them during their time spent here, graduation is the beginning or start of that vision being lived out. Seeing what God will do with those who submit to Him is always exciting. Hear from one of our recent graduates, Carl.

"Graduating from the New Life Discipleship program at Pacific Garden marked the beginning of a new chapter in my journey toward embodying the character of Christ. This transformative process began with recognizing my inability to overcome anger and bitterness alone. In acknowledging my brokenness, I realized only God could mend the shattered pieces of my life. I am deeply thankful for the lessons, guidance, and support the men at Pacific Garden Mission provided. Following my graduation, I advanced to complete my

master's degree in counseling and am currently pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology. I hope to bridge the gap for others, offering the same encouragement and support graciously extended to me."

Another graduate, Jason, writes, "For most of my adult life, I always had a plan for what I would do next. After coming to Christ and spending 16 months in the New Life discipleship ministry, I found myself without a plan. The reason for that was I had received biblical instruction that I had never had in my life. Part of that instruction included where to place my trust. My trust went from my ability to what God would do for me. As graduation approached, I viewed it as stepping off a cliff and knowing that God would catch me. What I found was that God opened doors. That 16 months provided me with a foundation of biblical instruction and a taste of more to come."

Jason is now pursuing his Master's degree in Biblical Studies and manages our New Life Bible ministry.

These are just two examples of many made possible by your love, prayer, and support. I wish to thank all our donors who provide an excellent, God-centered ministry for those in need.

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Learn more about our Mission, where lost souls find hope, compassion, and purpose.

GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Extending the Love of Jesus Through Medical Care

Peter Leavitt,
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

Unstable living situations and financial constraints experienced by guests arriving at PGM often contribute to their unaddressed healthcare needs. Even access to essential healthcare services can be out of reach. That's why PGM offers free on-site medical services. You are helping to provide these services as another tangible way to demonstrate the love of Jesus!

From Bandages to Biopsies

The medical unit at PGM is a fully equipped primary care health center. Services include treatment for acute conditions such as colds, frostbite, and wounds, and extend to managing more serious chronic conditions. Routine procedures are performed, such as sutures, biopsies,

and injections.

A lab is located on-site, and medical supplies and many prescription medications are available. Dental, vision, and mental health resources are also available.

Partnership With Lawndale

Lawndale Christian Health Center provides PGM's medical services. Dr. Alex Porte leads Lawndale's medical team at PGM, which consists of two Medical Doctors, three Physician's Assistants, and one Nurse Practitioner. They provide not only vital medical care but also take time to encourage and pray with our guests who may be experiencing the lowest point of their lives.

We express our sincerest gratitude to those at Lawndale for their partnership. All of Lawndale's medical services are provided at no cost to PGM. This allows PGM to use the donations it receives for other critical guest services and, most importantly, to share the life-changing spiritual healing that can only be found in Jesus.

THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

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 April your support made a true difference:

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

29,850 plates of food were served (est.)

18,500 clothing items were distributed (est.)

1,137 media outlets around the world broadcasted *UNSHACKLED!*

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

8 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

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

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