



Jawyon's life-changing story brings hope to many.

“I FOUND HOPE AT PGM WHEN I HAD NONE.”

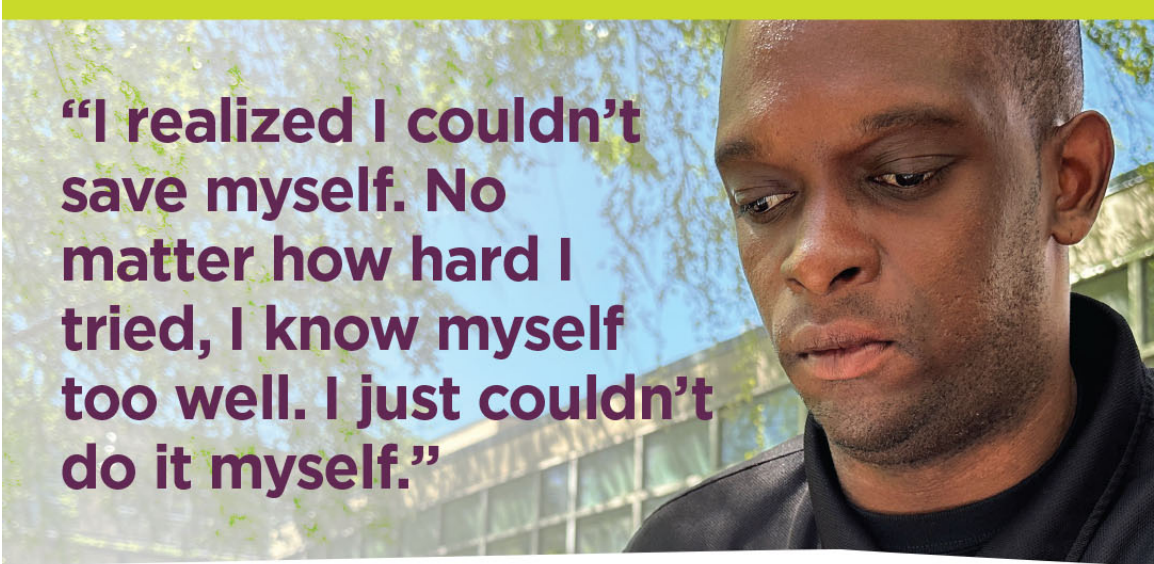
The stories bringing people to PGM may vary widely but many seem to culminate into an overwhelming moment of hopelessness and fear of the future. It might be a drug addiction that has spiraled out of control or the inconsolable loss of a loved one, but regardless of what brought them here for help, they all are searching for consolation, healing, and hope. We are able to provide all that because of you, and we are pleased to share this story with you.

After losing his mother, Jawyon's life began to crumble and he came through our doors for

support. He came for shelter and found the life-transforming power of the Gospel. Thank you for making his story possible and for giving him an opportunity to find hope and faith in Jesus Christ.

JAWYON

“My name is Jawyon Martin. I am from the west side of Chicago. I come from a household where I am the youngest of six kids. I lost my mom in January 2023, and when I lost her I kind of spiraled out of control. I lost my job and started smoking a bunch of weed every day. Then I got injured; I got hit on the side.



“I realized I couldn’t save myself. No matter how hard I tried, I know myself too well. I just couldn’t do it myself.”

“My brother told me I had to get myself together because no one was going to come save me, so I came here and joined the 90-day New Day program. I wasn’t even planning to join New Day, but was going to stay as an overnight guest so I could get a job. Slowly but surely, I sobered myself up and I stopped smoking cigarettes. I then went into the 18-month New Life program and it was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life because it helped me build a relationship with God.

“I had thought that since people were praying for me over the years

that was all it took. I wasn’t aware that you have to get your own relationship with God. In the program, I started learning more about the Gospel, the Good News, and I found out it was actually the good news of salvation. Later in the program, I read through the four Gospels, Acts, and Romans. The Gospel of Matthew opened my eyes and taught me how to measure my faith.

“I had faith in nobody but myself. I thought as long as I was responsible for what happened that I dictated my life, but that wasn’t the case. The truth is, as long as we trust in God, He will direct our path. When I saw in Matthew that all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed I started seeing the bigger picture. Nothing happens by mistake. God places all of us in situations for a reason. He tears us down to build us back up for His glory. Ten months later I am still here.

“I am eight months away from graduating. It has just been a roller-coaster of events, but I am looking at it all as a blessing



Pastor Phil gives Jawyon a congratulatory hug for earning his New Day graduation certificate.

and I am enjoying the process of it all. The first thing I learned was to stop trusting in my own understanding. When I opened up to that concept I realized that I couldn't save myself. No matter how hard I tried, I know myself too well. I just couldn't do it myself.

"The New Life Program is one of the best decisions I ever made because it taught me how to measure my faith, it showed me the works of Jesus Christ, and it showed me the kinds of people Jesus Christ goes for. He digs into the trenches and gets the people who others think can't change. He builds you up for His glory.

"It is the good news of transformation. It takes you from a nonbeliever to a believer. My future is extremely bright because I am focused on the cross. I am letting God order my steps on the path He wants to take me in.

"If you have that heaviness, and the reader will know exactly what I am talking about, you are well rested, but you have a heaviness on you at all times. Maybe you can't get that off you. Maybe it takes God. You have to search for something more than yourself. That was me every day. I was sleeping well. Had a stable home. But I woke up every day with that certain heaviness and this is the first time in my life that heaviness, has been lifted. I now actually look forward to the next day, sitting through devotions, going to the classes, and becoming a better me today than I was yesterday."

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." —Psalm 37:23 KJV

Jawyon was weighed down by a heaviness that he couldn't shake off. Today he looks forward to each day and sees a ray of hope in his future. Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the wisdom in the Bible, and the comfort and advice from fellow believers, many who came to PGM hopeless and lost have found faith and a lasting contentment. We recognize the importance of your support and the impact it has on the lives each day of men, women, and children staying here. Together we are helping people triumph over situations that once seemed impossible and are giving them the resources and love of Christ to build a new life.



Jawyon shows his New Day graduation certificate, and is now enrolled in the New Life program.

CLASSES AND MENTORSHIP AT PGM

Bible classes and mentorship programs at Pacific Garden Mission play a vital role in the lives of individuals endeavoring to rebuild from homelessness and addiction. These initiatives offer more than just spiritual guidance; they provide a supportive community and practical tools for navigating life's challenges. Through studying the Bible and receiving mentorship, participants gain valuable insights, develop essential life skills, and find strength to overcome their struggles.

The transformative impact of these programs is profound, fostering personal growth, healing, and the restoration of hope. To our donors, your support makes this possible. Your contributions empower individuals to embark on a journey of healing and renewal, ultimately transforming not just their own lives, but also the communities they belong to. Thank you for believing in the power of redemption and for your unwavering commitment to helping others rebuild their lives. Jesus is powerfully working here through the Word of God.



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

CARING FOR THE DISHEARTENED

“But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” —Luke 14:13-14 KJV

Recently our Women’s department hosted a formal banquet for our overnight guest women, and it was moving. Listen to some of the residents:

“I am homeless, I feel alone most of the time. Today I didn’t feel alone, I felt like a member of a family.”



Another writes, “My experience today was absolutely amazing!!! Coming to PGM, I feel so much joy and happiness now. I eat better, sleep better, and feel so much better. Thank you guys so much for the wonderful events you guys do—especially this one. You guys go above and beyond when it comes to us!”

Another writes “It felt like a family. The food was delicious. I appreciate being at PGM.”

These words are so encouraging for many of our women. Some feel forgotten, so alone. This was a moment to let them know they are loved and important to our Lord. After a time of devotion and worship, the ladies were treated to an amazing feast as many staff sat with them and listened to their stories.

Continue to pray for our residents, and thank you for making this possible.

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 June your support made a true difference:

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

27,358 plates of food were served (est.)

25,000 clothing items were distributed (est.)

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

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

14 mothers with their children who were sheltered at PGM

22 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.

GODLY STEWARDSHIP

Creating a Haven for Families: Remodeling the Children's Area

Peter Leavitt,
Assistant Treasurer, PGM Board of Trustees

Over the past months, we have embarked on a transformative journey to remodel and enhance living areas throughout the building. Today, we are delighted to unveil the culmination of these efforts in the mother's and children's area. Other bathroom and bedroom areas still need renovation, and this was a wonderful start to the work to ensure PGM can continue serving all those who come through our doors well into the future.

Key enhancements

Updated Shower and Restroom Areas:

This renovation includes the installation of new flooring, partitions, tubs, and



Newly renovated shower facility in the women and children's dormitory.

toilets in our shower and restroom facilities. These upgrades not only improve functionality but also enhance hygiene and comfort for our guests.

New Beds: Brand-new beds have been added to the children's area. These comfortable accommodations ensure that every child can enjoy a good night's sleep, laying the foundation for better health and well-being.

Moveable/Adjustable Partitions:

Recognizing the importance of privacy and accommodating varying family sizes, we have invested in moveable and adjustable partitions. These versatile partitions allow us to create personalized sleeping areas tailored to the specific needs of each family.

Beyond physical renovations

From comfortable sleeping accommodations to hot meals and medical care, we strive to help women and children in need. But our support extends beyond providing these needed spaces and services. Most importantly, the life-changing message of the Gospel is shared with each guest.

None of this would be possible without prayer and the unwavering support of our donors. Thank you for partnering with us to be a beacon of light and hope.

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