

WHY RON CHILDERS?

RON'S BACKGROUND

Born in 1971 in Selma, Alabama to a young unwed mother, Ron grew up in the care of his maternal grandmother, a woman of faith who took him to church every week. Despite his grandmother's love, Ron couldn't escape his father's absence in his life, a gap that left him profoundly insecure.

Throughout his childhood and into young adulthood, Ron wrestled with this insecurity, never comfortable in his own skin. To cope, he sought meaning and belonging in often questionable places given to traumatic situations. Then came alcohol and recreational drugs. Ultimately, the cost of this lifestyle and a continued lack of meaning culminated in Ron's decision to take his life.

But God had different plans. In the depths of depression, confusion, and lostness Ron remembered something his grandmother had told him about Jesus. She said he could find Jesus at the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. At God's prompting and as a last resort, Ron packed a bag and traveled to Chicago.



RON'S SALVATION & TRAINING

True to his grandmother's word, Ron found Jesus at Pacific Garden Mission, and accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He graduated from PGM's New Life Discipleship program and joined the staff of PGM where he serves in leadership, developing the organization's Guest Services Department. Ron graduated from Moody Theological Seminary in December 2022 with a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies.

RON'S CALLING

Ron recently answered God's call to serve as the Lead Pastor of The Garden Church on Chicago's South Side. He and his wife Claudine live in Chicago with two of their five children.

Learn more about Ron's story by scanning the QR Code on the cover of this packet.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ROMANS 1:16