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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Ensuring Growth” – Roy Pinder

ANNCR: February 20th, “Ensuring Growth.” Are you much of a green thumb? Maybe plants seem to naturally and enthusiastically respond to your care. Or perhaps, no matter how much you nurture them, they just seem determined to die. Sunlight, water, and soil are the basic necessities for a plant to grow. But these alone may not be enough. Your plant is also vulnerable to many threats – disease, pests, weather changes and much more. A plant, it turns out, must not only be cared for, it must be protected. But plants are not the only things to require this extra attention. Today, we’ll meet, Roy, a man who gave his life to Christ as a young man, but merely making this decision wasn’t enough. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

ROY: I was seventeen and scuba diving one day off the Bahamas when a shark attacked me. My head was in its mouth and I would have died if not for a fishing companion who came to my rescue. The shark had severed my jugular vein, and I was bleeding to death. As I climbed into the boat, I cried out to God to save me. An

ambulance plane flew me to Nassau where blood transfusions and more than 300 stitches kept me alive.

The year before the attack I had gone to a crusade and accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, but I had strayed away. My close call with death brought me back to Him for a time. Then I got married, and our growing family distracted me again. As the bills piled up, I turned to drinking and drug smuggling, which paid better than fishing. We lived on Spanish Wells, a small island with few secrets, and our home soon became a target of police drug raids. I was a miserable man — I felt trapped.

My wife had been going to church with the children, and she lured me back for an evangelistic meeting about Bible prophecy. What I heard that night left me shaking as we left the church, so we went back to talk to the evangelist. He prayed with me to ask God's forgiveness for my sins, and I recommitted my life to Christ. I'm Roy Pinder, and Jesus has given me the strength to resist drugs and stay away from bars.

ANNCR: In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus tells the famous parable of the sower. In verse 22 Jesus says, *“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the*

deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

Friend, when we receive Jesus as our Savior, we have not reached the finish line! Rather, we must be purposeful, nurturing the truth we have received with further Bible study, prayer, and Christian community. And we must guard against evil and the distractions of this world. And now, are you living in this truth today?

CREDITS: Unshackled Daily Devotionals are produced by Pacific Garden Mission along with our Unshackled Audio Dramas. To find even more true stories of God’s saving, transforming power, visit our website, unshackled.org.

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Michael Myers.

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