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**“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission**  
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**Daily Devotional**

*“A Well-Educated Hindrance” – Fred Jarvis*

ANNCR: July 17<sup>th</sup>, “A Well-Educated Hindrance.” Have you spent large portions of your life in grand academic pursuits? Maybe you were always the straight-A student, the one wanting to change the world, devise the next great invention, or lead a new philosophic movement. Today, higher education is more accessible than ever before. With diligence and hard work, we can obtain however many degrees we’ve always dreamed of. And knowledge truly is power. But it’s only meaningful if we can apply it – if we can use it in its simplest form, to love the souls of those around us. Fred is quite familiar with this concept. His own life was changed through the love of others, but he let education carry him away from this same calling. He’s here now to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

FRED: My father’s drunken abuse led to my mother premature death when I was ten. He moved us to Chicago where life was even rougher. But one day he listened to a Christian radio program and fell under such conviction that he wrote to the station. They sent a couple of men to visit, one of them from Pacific Garden Mission, and they

explained the gospel to Dad. He didn't receive Christ that day, but they began praying for our family from then on.

Not long after that I passed some people on the street who were witnessing for Jesus. I stopped to listen, and then prayed with them, putting my trust in Christ. My brother had no interest until I began talking in my sleep about God's blessings. In time, he professed faith in Christ, too. I married while I was still trying to earn enough credits to finish high school. My wife also loved the Lord, and we decided that a good education would make us more effective in the Lord's work. Between us we proudly earned nine degrees.

One night, we suddenly realized that we had become intellectual snobs, winning arguments but not souls. We got on our knees and asked God's forgiveness for not obeying His commandment to go and preach the gospel and make disciples. Then we realized that millions of people around the world had never heard the good news of God's love and grace given to us through Jesus Christ, and we went overseas as missionaries. I'm Fred Jarvis, and I'm living evidence that sharing God's love and truth makes a difference for eternity.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul recalls first preaching the gospel to the people of Corinth in 2 Corinthians chapter 2. In verses 1 and 2, he says, ***“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”*** Friend, despite his great knowledge, Paul’s purpose was to connect with lost souls through simple, life-giving truth. To love the ones he engaged with, rather than defeat them into obedience. So as we allow our education to inform us, may we never let it hinder us from loving our neighbor. Will you receive 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](http://unshackled.org).

This episode was written by Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Jamie Baron.

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