



# Broken Hearts Ministry

*Reaching out to the streets of Los Angeles*

## *A Letter from the Director:*

After much waiting and anticipation, my wife and I finally made the move up to Hollywood!! Bring on the traffic, high-priced rent, and lack of legal parking spots.

We owe many thanks to all who prayed and supported us in this process. Seven days prior to being out of our old house, we still hadn't found an apartment in Hollywood. But as God so often does, he faithfully provided an answer to our prayers and we found a wonderful new home at just the right time. Many of our supporters have heard me say that this was just a physical move demonstrating something that has been spiritually moving in me for quite some time. My heart has been in this neighborhood for years, and now we can finally play a much bigger part in it.

While this move means we must say goodbye to a lot of things, we get to welcome many others. Our move from Rock Harbor to The Hollywood Church was a tough one, but we love those that we have met so far and are looking forward to getting more involved in our new community.

We recently had dinner with an amazing couple from the church, and they were so welcoming that we're already feeling at home. They talked about being called to minister to the city and getting the congregation involved in various organizations throughout Hollywood.

It is so exciting for us to see that there is a Kingdom-minded focus in this couple and within our new church.

I've also been reminded that this Kingdom-focus does not exist solely when the Broken Hearts team is out on the street and holding Bible study.



Photo by SeungMichelle

For instance, on my way home from work one Friday morning around 3 a.m., I stopped to get gas up the street from my apartment when a boy no older than 18 approached me. He proceeded to tell me about how he wanted to have a good time out on the streets that night. Now you can imagine I was exhausted from work and more than ready to slump into my comfortable bed, not to mention I wasn't even on Santa Monica and Highland where we do ministry, so I was out of my "ministry zone" - right? *(continued on next page)*



Wrong.

For the next hour we talked about life choices and the consequences of some of his past actions resulting from the pursuit of fame. He was left with two options: live a life of righteousness, which would remove all of that guilt and build more relationships; or forfeit it all for his five minutes of fame. That night he chose fame, but that doesn't mean his story ends there. We simply have to take every opportunity to sow or water, then trust that God will give the increase in his time.

In addition to conversations on the street, ministry will be based out of our apartment until the Lord blesses us with a building.

Since moving here, we have been able to host our men's Bible study that meets on Thursday before Broken Hearts, host our weekly prayer meetings, and probably the most exciting for me is that we have been able to have some of our friends from the streets come and hang out as we do life together.

Some days we are just watching TV, other days we are filling out resumes, and yet other days we are enjoying a feast prepared by my lovely wife, Lorena.

Just recently we were able to utilize our home to fill a gap that Broken Hearts has always longed to fill for the homeless in Hollywood, by serving as an 'emergency shelter' for a friend from the street to spend a few nights here as he transitioned into a rehab program and had nowhere else to go.

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We have learned that Broken Hearts ministry doesn't stop and start during the hours of a specific organization or on a specific street or even to a certain type of person. Rather, ministry happens at all times and places through motivation to share the gospel.

When we are called into a relationship with Christ we are called to be ministers. Some do it as a job as well, but we all should be living this lifestyle.

All in all, it's good to be in Hollywood!

*-Antquan Washington, Executive Director*



*Photo by SeungMichelle*

## Stories from Santa Monica Blvd...

I first met Bryan in March of 2009. My first impression of him was that he had a quiet, child-like nature that was ready to soak up everything he saw and heard. He was very polite and his wide-eyed appearance made him approachable.



I came to find out that our team had met Bryan two weeks earlier while he was sitting in Magee's Donut Shop, trying to stay dry from the rain. Krista, one of our team members, ran up and greeted him with her favorite question: "If you were to die tonight, do you think you would go to heaven?" Taken back at her intensity, he fumbled the reply, "Yeah, I think so."

At that moment, Antquan introduced himself with Bible in-hand. Bryan figured they were probably from some church or religious organization based in Hollywood. The whole thing seemed strange to him: "*Why are these people out on Santa Monica Boulevard at midnight? And how come they're so kind?*" Then he told himself, "*Okay, if Antquan opens up the Bible in his hand then I know it's legit.*" And sure enough, Antquan opened up his Bible.

Seeing that Bryan was cold and had no way of keeping warm, Antquan went out to his car and returned with a sweatshirt. He also handed Bryan a Bible and invited him to come back the following week.

Into the early hours of that morning, he contemplated what all of this meant, and in his own words describes the situation as a complete answer to his prayers.

Before coming to Magee's that night, Bryan had argued with his older brother, who then locked Bryan out of their apartment behind the donut shop. Out in the rain, with no place to go, he headed to Magee's for a place to stay warm, wondering, "*Why do things have to be this way?*" It was shortly after that when he encountered Krista and Antquan.

Since going home wasn't an option, he decided to ride the bus until the early morning when his mom would be leaving for work. On that long ride up and down Santa Monica, he recalled Krista's piercing question. "*If I were to die this minute, would I be in Heaven?*" Having time to think about it, he honestly confessed 'no'. God was with Bryan on that metro bus.

I tell this story because it is completely staggering to me to think of how far Bryan has come. God truly met him in his despair and Bryan wisely recognized it. He has come to Broken Hearts every single week since that rainy day in March. Weeks after we began our great friendship, I pitched an idea to him about starting a Bible study every Thursday night before Broken Hearts. There was no hesitation in his answer; he loved the idea. His hunger to grow as a follower of Jesus is inspiring.

Bryan now attends church on Sunday, and is having Bible studies with Campus Crusade at his college.

I've had the amazing opportunity of being able to look into his life from an outside point of view, and see how God is unmistakably driving his life through the people and circumstances around him.

One night when we were having Bible study at Starbucks, I asked Bryan what he thought of all that has happened to him. He humbly replied, "I have no idea; all I can do is hold on."

**Romans 12:9 says, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good".**

-by Jorge M. Angulo Fernandez





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## Prayer Requests

- That God would provide a building for outreach throughout the week, and the resources to sustain it (financial and personnel).
- For more volunteers to commit to our Friday night team, as well as a co-leader.
- For volunteers to join our Thursday and Friday night Prayer Ministries, as well as the development of those teams.
- That God would give us divine appointments every single week and people who are ready to hear about Him and have their lives changed by Him.
- For the growth and discipleship of our friends who have entered rehab, transitional living, or are getting more involved with church or Bible studies.

## Upcoming Events:

### **Thanksgiving Dinner - Nov 26<sup>th</sup>:**

Every Thanksgiving we host a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for our friends in Hollywood. Afterward, we take the leftover food to the streets.

Location and time TBA.

Visit <http://www.brokenheartsmintistry.org/special-events/> for more details and updated volunteer opportunities as the holiday approaches.

## *About Broken Hearts Ministry*

**Who We Are:** Broken Hearts is a mission-based organization that serves in Los Angeles, focusing on relational evangelism to share Christ with the broken-hearted. We seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people we minister to while communicating the gospel through our words, work and worship. Our primary demographics are homeless men and women, transsexual and homosexual prostitutes, drug addicts and dealers, runaways and club-goers, ages 14-30.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to impact the broken-hearted who live on the streets of our cities by building relationships, providing resources, demonstrating the love of Jesus, and giving them hope.

**If you'd like to financially support Broken Hearts, please send donations to:**

Broken Hearts Inc, 1352 N. Formosa St, Apt C., Los Angeles, CA 90046

or visit [www.brokenheartsmintistry.org/donate](http://www.brokenheartsmintistry.org/donate) to donate via PayPal. *Donations are tax deductible.*

**To find out more about how you can get involved, visit:**

[www.brokenheartsmintistry.org/get-involved](http://www.brokenheartsmintistry.org/get-involved)