



# Broken Hearts Ministry

*Reaching out to the streets of Los Angeles*

## *Dear Friend,*

There's a Bethany Dillon lyric that says " You sit at the table/with the wounded and the poor/You laugh and share stories/with the thief and the whore/and when you could just be silent and leave us here to die/still you sent Your Son for us/ You are on our side."

This quote about Jesus resonates within the hearts and lives of our ministry. We truly believe that it's in the dark, broken and messy places like Hollywood that Jesus would spend his time if he were still physically walking the earth. He came to save the sinners, not the self-righteous, because these are the people who know they need hope, love, or just something to save them - even if they don't realize it's Christ. Jesus wouldn't have stood far off and pointed fingers or turned his face away from these judged and forgotten people. No, he spent his time with tax collectors and thieves and all of the outcasts. And if He were in Hollywood, he'd likely be sitting with the prostitutes and homeless runaways, laughing and telling stories, sharing meals together. He'd be their friend.

Our hope as we go to Hollywood each Thursday and Friday night is that we can meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each person we encounter. Sometimes, being the hands and feet of Christ is as simple as providing some free pizza or coffee to a hungry person as we build trust with them. Other times, it's taking a desperate person to a recovery program at 2am. But most of the time, it's just a consistent commitment to developing friendships that meet emotional needs; and building trust to delve into spiritual truths, in the hope that God will save their souls and mend their broken hearts. Our desire is that as we go each week



and commit to being a presence on Santa Monica Blvd, that people would see Christ in us. That we would be a shining example, even in our own sin and brokenness. And that God would use us to show that he is not silent, has not left them to die, and that he sent his Son to save them, just as he has for all of us.

We welcome you to the first Broken Hearts newsletter. This will be an avenue to tell our supporters about what their finances and prayer are doing for the lost and broken-hearted in this community; inform people who want to know more about what we do or want to join the ministry; and more than anything else, to tell stories about how God is changing lives on the streets of Hollywood.

Under His Mercy,  
*The Broken Hearts Team*



## Stories from Santa Monica Blvd...



We first met 'Big Mama' 2 years ago when she was working security at the Del Taco where our teams meet up each week to pray. Wise to the streets, she'd always watched out for the young adults getting caught up in the chaotic and dangerous lifestyle in this area. Always ready with a warning or word of advice, Helen earned the nickname 'Big Mama'.

Her life in Los Angeles and Hollywood has been filled with abusive relationships, divorce, drugs, and prostitution to support her children. Coming from a Catholic background, Helen believed in God but didn't have a relationship with him.

About a year ago, Helen began having seizures. These episodes shook her up and turned out to be the much-needed catalyst for change in her life. She gave up drugs and alcohol, grew frustrated with her living situation, and in her fear and discouragement, turned to God.

Unable to resume her night shifts at work until she recovered from her seizures, she started coming to The Refuge (our midnight bible study) every single Thursday. She began reading Psalms every day, finding strength from scripture.

Helen allowed us to challenge her with a task list of steps to take towards being self-sufficient and physically and spiritually healthy, with a reward for finishing the list. Though it was not easy, Helen began completing the list with some help from the team. Her biggest hesitation was trying out a recovery program, but when a bad living situation turned dangerous and hit rock bottom, she decided to give it a shot.

Helen is now off of the streets in a Christian recovery program, one year sober, and after several miscarriages, just gave birth to a baby boy. Now when she comes to visit us on the street, we get to witness her sharing her story with kids on the street and assuring them as 'Big Mama' that they are loved.

Please join us in praying for Helen and her new baby boy, Jorge.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."*

## Changed By the Streets: A Volunteer Story

I was introduced to Broken Hearts two summers ago during my church's "GO" campaign. Truth be told, I didn't want to be a part of Broken Hearts or any other part of the trip I went on that summer. My life negatively reflected what is taught in 1 John 4:20: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar." I didn't hate everyone, of course, but I was strongly prejudiced. I knew that Broken Hearts ministered to prostitutes, drug addicts, and homeless - people that I wanted nothing to do with. I thought these people were smelly, dirty, illogical... you get the point.

In many ways, I was like the prophet Jonah, whom God sent to Nineveh to preach and save the entire city. But Jonah wanted those people to suffer God's wrath and so he ran from God for as long as he could. In the process, he had to suffer three days in the belly of a large fish, and even then didn't wholeheartedly commit to doing God's will.

*"My heart swelled to the point that it practically climbed out of my chest"*



Eventually he did as he was directed, but with resentment. At the end of the story, Jonah did finally understand God's heart to save all people, not just the people that Jonah thought were likeable.

When God first directed me to Broken Hearts, I did the same thing as Jonah. Instead of literally running, I foolishly thought to myself, "Only God and I know about this. If I don't tell anyone, perhaps God will just forget and I can just not go." God didn't let me off so easily of course.

God and I had lots of conversations leading up to my first trip to Hollywood with Broken Hearts, and we came up with a plan. It basically looked like this: I would depend entirely on God and He would handle the rest. I would walk in obedience and utter dependence and He would perform miracles.

Many things happened my first night to open my eyes to God's immense love for these broken hearts, but the

one act that hit me the deepest was, on the surface, the most benign.

I was tagging along behind one of the Broken Hearts leaders as he went through the streets greeting numerous people, some he knew and others he didn't.

At one point, it was just he and I and two young black men that I assumed to be gang members, drug dealers, or both. The leader shook their hands and then introduced me. They stretched out their hands to shake mine. That moment lasted milliseconds but in my mind lasted a lifetime! What was I to do? Shake hands with these people or treat them like dogs? My rational mind said to shake their hands, but the rest of my body shouted "No, don't do it! They aren't like you. They don't deserve common courtesy like your kind does!"

It was in that fraction of a second that I had a Grinch moment. My heart swelled to the point that it practically climbed out of my chest. I shook their hands with a genuine smile as I came to the realization for the first time that God loves all people and desires to save all of them!

-Jeremiah Jenkins



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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 the Friday night team to find the best way to reach the community in their own unique way every week.
- That more people would support us in praying for Hollywood and those in our community on a regular basis.
- That God would give us divine appointments every single week and people who are ready to hear about Him.

## Upcoming Events:

**Exposure Night: May 29<sup>th</sup> & July 31<sup>st</sup>, 9pm – 1:30am**

Join us for these bi-monthly events in Hollywood, open to those who are interested in learning more about our ministry, have been praying for us, or who can't commit to the weekly ministry. We have a fairly typical night with an event or service to interact with those hanging out on the street. Meeting location varies, so if you'd like to participate please contact Antquan Washington or visit our Broken Hearts Facebook group.



## 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 14-35.

**Mission Statement:** Our desire is to impact the broken-hearted on the streets of Hollywood by building relationships, providing resources, showing Jesus' love, and giving them hope. We want to help someone finish the race when they think they've been disqualified.

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

Broken Hearts, 15649 Risley St, Whittier, CA 90603  
or visit our website at [www.brokenheartsmintistry.org](http://www.brokenheartsmintistry.org) to donate via PayPal. *Donations are tax deductible.*

**To join us in praying for Hollywood:**

visit [www.prayer.brokenheartsmintistry.org](http://www.prayer.brokenheartsmintistry.org) for our weekly prayer blog updates.