

Broken Hearts Ministries

September 2022

Hola Hermanos,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this update. You may have received both a letter and an email as we do not have email addresses for all our contacts. If you would like to stay updated via email, please send us an email saying so to bhmjuarez@gmail.com

I would like to share a true story with you that is a clear representation of who Broken Hearts Ministries is in Juarez, Mexico.

A young woman, who we'll call Maria for privacy, and a young man who we'll call Jose, met while they were in High School. Maria was a junior and Jose a senior. They began dating. Maria comes from a Christian home. Her parents were concerned about the fact that Jose was pretty much unchurched. Maria had always been active in the church, and she's been active in the BHM youth ministry. Jose comes from a nice family. His dad is an optometrist and has his own clinic. The couple have now both graduated from high school. Jose is in his first year of college studying optometry. He plans to work in the family clinic. Maria is currently working as a receptionist and still trying to decide next step. I was talking with Maria's mother about how the couple is doing and had marriage ever been a topic. I'm nosey partly because Maria is family to me. Apparently, Maria had made it clear from the start that she's a Christian and a Christ follower. That's who she is, and any boyfriend would have to not only respect that but be perusing a life of faith himself. Jose has been attending church with Maria and her family. They also attend the youth group events together. Therefore, Jose has been learning about the significance of Maria's faith. Jose then approached Maria's mother and father and asked if they would disciple him so he could learn more.

Obviously, there is a whole lot between the lines of that cute story. Without a doubt both parents have had lots of the typical battles that come with raising a teen. We all know how that goes. Let's not forget these kids have grown up in a city whose notoriety isn't for being the industrial hub that it is. Instead, it is known for being one of the most violent cities in the world and for having one of the busiest routes for drugs and human trafficking. This year the government was proud to announce raising the minimum wage. It is now \$17 per day for a twelve-hour day. No time and a half. A friend of ours just told me her son received a raise at his factory job. It was eight pesos a day. That's \$.40, which is nothing more than insulting. Therefore, there is no wonder why so many choose a life of crime in such a hopeless working-class economy. Maria has experienced some rough times at home. Her parents have struggled through some major issues in their marriage but, she has seen God's grace, love, and mercy pull them through. She has remained in fellowship with people who love God and has participated in Bible studies and activities where she has learned of how God has a plan for her. Jose's father approached Maria's parents and asked if they would take the rest of his kids to church with them because he is seeing good things in his son's attitude and walk. Of course, we would want to explain to Jose's dad how he should be taking the family to church, and that day is coming but what an awesome testimony of how God moves in people's lives.

Since the year 2000 Broken Hearts Ministries has been working with the community to not only share the gospel but to exhort people to continue to walk with God and see how good He is. How to care about their kid's spiritual life and that of their neighbors also. BHM has always been a mercy ministry whereby we reach out to people in their physical needs and help them see their greater need is Christ.

These last few years, despite or because of global scale crises, have been great in terms of opportunities to minister. Peggy and I (Jim) had a few major health problems but God, in His faithfulness, brought us through them well. We have seen our faith community grow through the Bible Studies and other events both numerically and spiritually. During the summer months we had three separate groups of youth come down to serve with us. Also, a dad and mom and their three boys spent a week with us, experiencing Juarez and helping on a construction project. It was a great time!

Keeping busy hasn't been a problem, but it takes dedicated people. We currently have a staff of eight people besides Jim and Peggy. The staff are paid salaries plus their health care is provided for. We have three vehicles used for ministry plus our personal vehicles. BHM owns two facilities; the house and dormitory and the ministry center in the Colonia Juanita Luna. A food pantry is still maintained with which we can provide a couple bags of groceries for an extraordinary need.

The outrageous inflation we are experiencing in the states is the same in Mexico. Food, household goods, and building materials that were already often out of reach for many of our families have become ridiculous. During these tough times most of our supporting churches and individuals have continued to provide financial support. We are so thankful to God for you all. Now with ministry continuing to grow and expenses along with it. With inflation as it is we are experiencing some of the worst financial condition that we've ever been in.

Please pray. Again, thank you so much for all you have done. Perhaps you once supported BHM monthly but because of circumstances you had to pause that. May God bless you! Perhaps you would be interested in helping provide for something very specific. How about sponsoring or helping sponsor a staff person. Maybe you simply believe in maintaining your house and property and you would like to provide some support for our facilities and vehicle maintenance. There is an on-going need for student sponsors to help junior high and high school students succeed in school.

Please pray. Contact us with any questions. Please consider what you could do. Speak to your small groups. Speak to your church leaders. Perhaps your church has never had us come and share in person about Broken Hearts Ministries. We can do that. Consider organizing a short-term trip with us.

Thank you for your attention.

Please check us out at www.bhmjuarez.com

Financial support is accepted through Pay Pal on our website.

We can also use Zelle through Bank of America

Send mail to:

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Que Dios los bendiga, (may God bless you all)

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