

# Broken Hearts Ministries

December 30, 2021

Hola hermanos,

We hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year celebration.

While 2021 was an improvement over 2020 it wasn't without its special challenges for all of us. The good news, rather great news, is that God is on His throne and in control of every part of our lives. Ministry is always full of challenges, but we have the awesome opportunity to see God move through it all.

We thought we'd give you a brief update on our own families. As you surely know, Eli, our youngest son and his wife, Lulu, are serving with Broken Hearts, taking on more and more responsibility for the day to day working of the ministry. Our oldest son, Erich, still works for Exxon Mobile. He and his wife Michelle and their 3 kids were living in Papua New Guinea but have recently been reassigned to the Exxon headquarters in North Houston and are now living there. We had the blessing of having all of them, including Eli's 2 kids at our U.S. residence in New Mexico for Christmas. We praise God for good health and blessed lives for all of us. Peggy's mother had to be moved to a full nursing home facility in recent months and is weakening. She's almost 90 years old. Thank you for your prayers for all of us.



2021 brought three great short-term groups, two of which came from the same church. They helped us bless a few families with much needed construction projects and we were able to do some upgrading on our own facilities. Two of the groups were mostly teenage youth and were able to have some great times with our own youth group. We had the opportunity and blessing to host a young woman, Abby, for six weeks this summer. She has a heart for missions and is pursuing God's will for her. We also received designated financial support which enabled us to complete a few major projects on our own house and dorm. These are a big deal. This fall we had a "not so fun" project to deal with. The city sewer system plugged up and flooded the property behind our house. The liquid seeped in and flooded the dorm and Eli and Lulu's bedroom leaving them unusable. We've since built a solid wall in back and installed a sump pump system for redundancy and have been able to use the dorm for visitors again. Without prayerful support, both financial and physical, we wouldn't be able to do these projects.



With the help of several churches and individuals we were able to do our annual Christmas gift box for 125 families. This event gives us the opportunity to bless the families within our ministry community and to meet new families in the area. We also received an incredible donation of Tupperware items from an awesome friend and supporter which were gifted to over 60 ladies who attended the Christmas ladies' events. They were so blessed!



As we are into our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of ministry we thank God for all He has done and will continue to do. Our staff has grown to nine people; six women and three men. We represent three different local churches. One church, Gracia Soberana, (Sovereign Grace), is a large, well-staffed and resourced work which offers many opportunities to learn through classes, and conferences for almost every aspect of ministry. Over the last several years the staff has been growing spiritually and in their understanding of how to reach into the community on a very personal level. The area in which we focus our work is called the colonia Juanita Luna. It is literally expanding daily to our north and south. We are making plans for how to make connections in these new neighborhoods. There is a great need for helps ministry and the majority of the people are unchurched. Pray for us to answer the call to reach our new neighbors with the hope of Christ. Luke 10:2 says..." The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few." This speaks to the need for our staff to be committed, prepared and resourced to be an effective team.

The daily, on-going work of Broken Hearts Ministries includes, but is not limited to:

- Evangelism through building relationships,
- Excellent, well planned, separate Bible studies for women, children, youth, and men.
- Weekly youth group gathering/Bible study for junior high and high school students.  
A College group is being planned.
- Small, personal discipleship groups.
- Student scholarship/sponsor program for Junior High, High School, and College.
- A wide variety of helps or mercy ministries including construction, home visits and cleaning for those unable to care for themselves, financial help for emergencies like unexpected medical bills or unemployment.
- We maintain a food pantry used for extraordinary needs, which is all too common.
- We often aid with the numerous funerals, including funds, food for visiting family, tables and chairs, transportation in our van, etc.



Staff and spouses

Certainly, there are an endless number of responsibilities for the logistics and administration of the organization. Some of these still fall on Jim and Peg, but each of the staff does their part. They account for any ministry expenses they may have, organize receipts and see they are passed on to Eli and Lulu each week. They then put them in order and see that Janet and her husband Mike in El Paso receive them and can do the bookkeeping. (They're amazing.)

Believe it or not, all this is done by nine full time staff with a monthly salary expense of under \$7000. Yes, that's for all nine people. The total ministry expense is of course much more than that. Much of the other work is funded through designated giving. This may come by way of student support or designations for specific projects or people. We are so grateful for the awesome response we have always received for these special needs.

But, back to the salaries. The salaries are an expense of the general fund which also covers every other admin expense such as general vehicle and building maintenance, utilities, taxes, etc.

The last two years of fear and crisis have certainly taken a toll on many families' personal finances plus with inflation out of control we expected to see a reduction in the regular on-going general support for BHM. Jim and Peg both now receive their SS and have reduced their salary accordingly, but still each month we've been about \$2000 short in the general fund. This has caused our available funds in the bank to quickly be depleted.

God has been faithful through His faithful ones to sustain us during this time. We pray for all our supporters that God would abundantly provide for you and give you hearts for supporting His mission throughout the world.

Please see that the leaders of your church receive this newsletter. If your church is not yet a regular supporter of Broken Hearts Ministries perhaps you could be an advocate for us and encourage the church to invite us to visit in order to share in more detail what God is doing in our part of the world.

You may consider organizing a short-term group within your church to come and work in hands on ministry with us. Please check out our website for a lot more details. Contact us with any questions.

I realize these newsletters can be long, but please take another couple minutes to read the last page. Lorena is on staff with BHM. We asked her to write out a testimony about what God did through her and her husband recently. (Eli and Lulu translated it for you). This is what making disciples is all about.

Que Dios los bendiga. (May God bless you all)

*Hello brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*My name is Lorena, and my husband's name is Jorge. We send our greetings and hope you are doing very well. God bless you in this new year!*

*We want to share with you what God is doing in our lives and in those around us. Recently, my husband and I have been through some tough trials in our marriage. But, even through all of this, God has shown us His faithfulness and love through His people. Especially through Jim and Peggy. They have been praying for us, counseling us, supporting us, and exhorting us in love and patience. As a result, we see God restoring our marriage once again. Now that we have seen this evidence of God's grace in our lives, we are convinced that God is moving in our hearts. Calling us to look for opportunity to build relationships with other families needing to know God. Restoring marriages. (Matthew 10:8)*

*Jorge and I have some friends named Karen and Oscar. We have known them for years. They are a young marriage, with four kids, because Karen has given birth to twins, twice. Karen attended church as a child, but since her teenage years she left the church, and she married Oscar. A man that has never known the gospel. Right now, they are going through some struggles. One year ago, Karen's father (who was a Christian) died. He was the only person that shared Christ with them.*

*A few weeks ago, the Christmas season arrived, and it was time to prepare the BHM Christmas Gift Boxes. We deliver groceries and necessities to families in need. Jorge and I had been praying for Oscar and his family since Karen's dad passed away. One morning, while praying together, we asked God to guide us to whom to give a Christmas gift box. My husband told me that he felt God putting Oscar and Karen on his heart. So, we wanted to visit them and take them the box. We did not know where they live, because they recently moved. So, we set out with vague directions from Karen's twelve-year-old brother and began looking for their house. After driving in circles, trying to find the house, we stopped. Right then, a door opened, and a little girl came out of the house where we were parked. She walked into the garden, and we recognized her as one of Karen's twins! Little did we know, we were in front of their house! In that moment, we realized that God had led us to them. While we talked, they were surprised that we had found them. With tears in their eyes, they recognized that it was God who made us arrive there in that precise moment. They have been going through a very hard time in their lives, and they have no-one to counsel them. Not even friends with whom to get together. We had a great time with them. After we prayed with them, we invited them to church that Sunday, and they accepted.*

*They did come to church, and now they have a desire to continue knowing Christ. Oscar is very excited to find out how God wants to use his life. This all makes us so excited as well, and we thank God! Jorge and I are spending time with them after church and trying to get together with them during the week. We would like to spend time alone with them, and let our daughters baby-sit their kids. We hope that God uses us to bless their lives, and that in everything we can point to Christ. All of this is possible by God's mercy; to Him be the glory.*

*We ask that you all pray for Karen, Oscar and their kids. May God save them and restore their marriage. Pray for my husband and me, that God continues to guide us and help us to do His work. Also pray for the BHM staff, that we would all be sensitive to His direction.*

*Brothers and sisters in Christ, we hope that you are encouraged in your faith and that the Lord guides you to use your lives for His glory. This is our prayer.*

*God bless you all!*

*- Lorena y Jorge*