

# BREAKING CHAINS



Hi Everyone,

Thank you so much for once again taking the time to sit down and read about the happenings in our part of the world. God continues to bless our efforts to serve Him in ways that amaze us. I pray that you see His hand working on your life in every moment of your day.

## Children's Day

Children's Day this year was both a smashing success and a huge disappointment. Every year we try different things and learn a little bit more about the best way to do events. Last year we learned that a carnival type day, where they earned tickets and got to pick their prize, quickly turned into a circus. So this year we bagged up all the prizes and everyone was to receive a bible, a vbs type magazine, a large toy, and a grab bag. We always expect some level of chaos at any event so we were prepared to do some serious crowd control, however the first hour was a dream. We had about 200 people there enjoying each other's company, playing games, and fellowshiping with members of our ministry. We



had a short devotional geared towards our thankfulness for the blessings our children bring. And then it was time to hand out the food and toys. We got about 5 kids worth of toys handed out when the parents starting shoving their children to the front. This ended up causing us to shut down completely and send a lot of unhappy people home. Not what we had in mind for Children's Day. But after the chaos we put on a movie for the well behaved kids that stayed behind and it was a wonderful end to our event, cuddling with sweet babies and watching their faces light up with joy at the antics on the screen.

Next year we won't be inviting adults to our children's day event, they cause too many problems for the children.

## Barrie Jo and Kristin Visit

Early this month I was blessed by a visit from a girl I've had the blessing of watching grow up. I have seen Barrie Jo Mitchell grow from a young teen into a very successful adult with a heart for God. It had been 2 ½ years since Barrie Jo had been to Honduras and we were definitely missing her. Barrie Jo came with her friend Kristin Brown and we had the girls working hard all week. They were a true blessing to our ministry and left after touching many, many lives.

## Aquaponics Farm

This month we finally started a variation of a project I've been interested in since the inception of Breaking Chains, a vegetable garden. With the help of Nathan Hale, a friend here working on a large scale farm of the same kind, we were able to build a small aquaponics farm on our upstairs balcony. This project incorporates vegetables and tilapia in a mutually beneficial water nutrient cycle. We have

already planted tomatoes, strawberries, basil, and moringa in the beds and have several other vegetables in starter beds at my house. We're still working on the fish but everyone is eagerly awaiting their arrival. We have many goals with this project, not the least of which is "free" produce and fish. It is our prayer that this project will allow the members of our ministry to experience success through growing their own vegetables. We also hope to use the produce to bless other ministries and help our teens learn about sharing their blessings. The farm will also serve as a way to share our ministry with other humanitarian organizations and garner more support. We also hope to open a small restaurant with the fish and produce within the next year.



This project was made possible through a donation from Lafayette Church of Christ. God continues to shower us with His blessings made possible by the hands of all of you. Thank you so much for being God's hands and hearts.

### **Movie Night**

The success of the movie after Children's Day inspired us to start a weekly movie night. Now, every Saturday night starting at 7, we watch a family friendly movie and invite everyone in the community. I am continually amazed at how many of these rough hardened young people decide to step away from the streets on the busiest night of the week and hang out with us for a few hours. We throw mattresses down on the floor, pull out the folding chairs, and all sit together for the movie. It has become a time of love and affirmation for them and an opportunity for each of them to reclaim a little bit of their innocence. It is our hope that these movies provide good illustrations for devotionals and lessons shared within them throughout the week.

### **Church**

Church at Breaking Chains continues to go well. We have discovered that we tend to go in cycles as far as attendance goes and we are in a lower spot right now. But having only 60-75 people allows us to focus on the needs of those who come on a regular basis and grow our relationships with them. I have been filling in in the children's class between Courtney's leaving and Michael's arriving and I love getting to experience this other side of our ministry. I love children and these babies have a special place in my heart. I love being able to walk through God's word with them.

### **New People**

We continue to have more and more people look towards Breaking Chains in times of crisis in their lives. It is our prayer that they see past us to a God that is stretching out his arms to receive each and every one of them. As of last night we are at capacity with 47 people living in our building. This is more people than I ever anticipated having living with us in a permanent capacity and some of the kids that showed up this week are very young. I am in the process of investigating the most appropriate next step for the young teens. The families we have living with us are wonderfully kind individuals who are helping to integrate these lost teens into the community we have built together. Each new person



brings new challenges and new opportunities to share Christ's love with a very lost and hurting world. It is my pray that we are taking full advantage of every opportunity afforded us.

### **Registry**

The registry continues to come together as we have new people visiting our ministry almost daily. We currently have about 275 people who are registered visitors and many others that have managed to come and go without getting their name on the list. Before this project, I would have told you we work with 100-150 people, now I know it is many, many more. God has placed us in the middle of a huge community of need and I am blessed to be a part of serving his people.

### **Prayer List**

\*Please continue to pray for wisdom and love as we work together to form the best future possible for a large group of individuals.

\*Last month I asked you to pray for Josue, unfortunately this month I was forced to ask Josue to leave our facilities until he is able to make some serious changes in his life. I love this young man dearly and it breaks my heart to ask him to leave but it was for the best of everyone in our community. Please continue to pray for him as he leaves the relative safety of Breaking Chains for the insecurity of a life back on the streets.

\*Praise God for the many souls seeking him in our community. Pray that we are able to take advantage of these precious gifts and bring them everyday closer to Him.

\*Pray that we are able to raise the funds to repair our VERY leaky roof and purchase our building. I spoke with the lawyer this morning and it looks like the second week in November our NGO status should be approved! HUGE PRAISE TO GOD!

If you would like to donate to our ministry, please send checks to:

Jamie Sweeney

Park Plaza Church of Christ

4930 S. Sheridan

Tulsa, OK 74145

Please make checks out to Park Plaza Church of Christ with Amber Foster/Breaking Chains in the memo line.



Thank you all again for your love and support. I am so glad I am able to share this ministry with you. Please keep in touch and look for updates on facebook and my blog if you are interested in more stories and pictures from our ministry.

All my love,

Amber Foster

Breaking Chains Homeless Ministry

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