



If you and I don't care for them...

**Who will?**

(Name)  
(Address)  
(City, ST ZIP)  
(Barcode)



**Newsletter Enclosed**



P.O. BOX 26629 • LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

# MATTHEW BARNETT

August 2008

Dear Friend,

This has been a tough summer for us...and for a lot of other people around the country. Even as finances have been a little tough, we have been so thankful for the faithfulness of friends like you who have helped us make it through without having to cut back vital outreaches.

One group that has been hit especially hard during this time are some very special people who have few options and places to turn – the elderly.

It is truly heart breaking for me as we meet and hear some of the stories of the older people in our community and what they are facing.

At the same time, their wisdom, amazing generosity of heart, and passion for life inspires me. That is one of the many reasons that reaching out to serve them and take care of them is so important. The Bible tells us we should take care of the widows and help those who are in need. Many of these wonderful older people are both widowed and alone, and are facing dire needs they have no way to meet. Yet despite that, they also have joy and life experiences they love to share and they bless us back each time we bless them.

In this newsletter, I want to share some of the stories of one of our most precious blocks of outreach, the Angeles Block. This block is made up of the grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles, who are now back in the role of being dependent on the kindness and care of others. They are not in one area of the city like our other blocks; instead they are spread out across places like Skid Row where many are on the streets, or in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels. Others are in impoverished neighborhoods and some are in nursing homes we go to where they long for visits so they are not always alone.

These are amazing people, facing very difficult circumstances, but we can help them. Together, you and I can make this part of their lives a time of love and compassion, where they know they are part of a great, spiritual family that is always there for them. They can give back and pour out their wisdom as we make sure they don't lack things like food, clothes, and friendship.

Thank you for caring with me. Thank you for seeing the special worth the oldest members of our "family" bring and thank you for helping me make sure they feel how special they are!

(over, please)

Your gifts will go to help care for this special block of outreach, and the other blocks we reach out to every day at the Dream Center. I know your gifts are a sacrifice, and I am so grateful that you are willing to make a difference. I know God will bless you as you continue to help care for the widows and orphans who cannot take care of themselves.

With gratitude,

*Pastor Matthew Barnett*

Pastor Matthew Barnett

P.S. It means so much to know that even in tough economic times you are standing with us so faithfully. Please be as generous as you can this month so that we can help so many people in need. Thank you in advance for your response.



The Dream Center Times is a publication that is distributed to friends and supporters of this ministry.

AUGUST 2008

# SHOWING THE LOVE OF GOD IN ACTION

## “Maria”

Elderly people have many challenges that we seldom consider because for us, they are simple things. Things like traveling short distances can be very difficult for a person who is older. Those difficulties are magnified when blindness also hinders getting from place to place. Maria has experienced firsthand the complexities of being blind and elderly in the inner city of Los Angeles.



Maria grew up in Guatemala and did a lot of housework there, which she continued to do after she moved to the United States. Now in her eighties, unable to see, and enduring poor health, Maria can no longer work to provide herself with food and other essential needs.

Maria comes each week to the location in her neighborhood where she can receive groceries from the Dream Center’s Food Truck. She notes how food can get pretty expensive, and it can be overwhelming to go to the local supermarket. Maria is grateful that our Food Truck travels to her neighborhood to provide

her with basic nutrients.

Thanks to people who care enough to supply Maria with a consistent supply of food, she does not have to worry about how she is going to be fed from day to day. “To me, it’s a blessing all the time when they come,” Maria said regarding the Food Truck ministry. “I just thank God for everything they do for me.”

## “Shan”

Wisdom is a quality that few people take for granted, especially senior citizens. Any opportunity that the elderly have to impart their wisdom on younger generations is priceless to them. Shan has been privileged with many years of passing down knowledge to countless students through teaching at a university, but now that he is retired, his mobility has been hindered because of age. He is limited in his ability to reach out to others with his insight.

*(Continued inside)*

Shan and his wife reside in the Rampart area of Los Angeles, where they moved when they relocated from Miami. Southern California is more comfortable for them as they are nearly seventy years old. Shan used to teach science between China and America, and now regrets not being able to do more with his life because of his age and limitations.



Since he is unable to work now, Shan no longer has a steady income to provide for himself and his wife. “The reason why we don’t have so much money is because I cannot walk because my health is not so good,” says Shan.

Both Shan and his wife suffer from ailments that debilitate them physically, including high blood pressure and depression. While the government has given them some assistance, it is not enough to make ends meet which has been quite a challenge for them.

They have been able to receive food from the outreaches of the Dream Center, which has helped them to meet their basic needs. Shan and his wife are also no longer able to drive, so they are very limited in getting out to get what they need. So we take the food to them!

The food ministry of the Dream Center has been able to bless this wonderful couple. Despite challenging circumstances, Shan and his wife have experienced the love of these individuals who they note, “refuse to see us go hungry.” “Every week I come here to get some food,” Shan says. “We don’t have too much money, so receiving this food helps tremendously.”

## “Rosa”

At eighty plus years old, Rosa seems to have the mobility of a woman who is much younger. However, she has secret struggles that she manages to hide, at times suffering quietly with physical pain while receiving only a minimum income.

Rosa grew up in Los Angeles with four brothers

and four sisters and later had two sons of her own. Now she lives on her own with four cats and four dogs, all of which she takes care of as if they were her own children. They keep her company, but also deplete her limited finances. Her Chihuahua was recently ill and it cost a lot to get her treated.

How do you tell this woman who is lonely and longs for the family she is used to having around her not to care for these animals? They pour into her all the love she has to hold on to.

Rosa depends on Social Security checks to provide for her needs, and sometimes it is not enough. Therefore, she also still cleans houses during the week – at over eighty years old!

This is challenging for a variety of reasons, particularly because Rosa has bad arthritis that doctors have been unable to cure. An elderly woman should not have to overexert herself just to eat and provide for herself.

Since the Food Truck of the Dream Center has been coming to her neighborhood, Rosa has been able to receive groceries.

This amazing woman not only gets her own food, but she also helps sign people in on the

**We Can Help the Hurting Together!  
See enclosed reply to send YOUR gift today!**



sign-in sheet so that they too can receive food. She wants to continue loving others and get chances to be a blessing. She wants to keep giving, but she also needs a lot of help for herself.



Rosa says with tears in her eyes. You and I are able to demonstrate God's love for Rosa, and the thousands like her as we reach out to care for them in any way we can.

**“Muriel”**

She has depended on the Food Truck to meet her physical needs. It is hard for her as so many of those she cares for have taken advantage of her. Friends have offered to help her clean her own house and have used it as a chance to steal from her.

**You and I are able to demonstrate God's love for Rosa, and the thousands like her as we reach out to care for them in any way we can.**

Rosa needs people that she can trust, who will give her relief simply because they love her and want to see her move forward. Without these kinds of loving relationships and people who truly care and are willing to help, life can feel hopeless.

She has found hope through the love of others and experiencing God's unfailing love. “If you don't have God, you don't have nothing,”

Though she is nearly ninety years old with significant needs of her own, Muriel desires to see the needs of other people met as well. Muriel is unable to travel like she used to, and her decreased mobility has limited her ability to reach out to others. However, she has not forgotten how others have reached out to her during her times of need.

Around the neighborhood, Muriel is known as Grandma. She lives by herself in the Rampart area of Los Angeles.

Since it is cumbersome for Muriel to go to the grocery store, she goes each week to the site in her neighborhood where the Dream Center comes to provide her with basic nutrients, including a variety of vegetables to nourish her.

“They have been so nice, it's beyond belief,” Muriel says regarding the Dream Center volunteers. “They really go out of their way to

*(Continued on back)*

---

help me.”

Muriel has a natural keenness to bless those around her, and she receives enough groceries from the Food Truck to provide for others. “What I can’t use I try very hard to give away to somebody,”

Muriel says. She used to travel to downtown Los Angeles in order to give food and clothing to the homeless individuals there, and has been inspired to give much because she has been given much.

Thanks to your help, the Dream Center can continue to meet Muriel’s basic needs every week through the Food Truck and the loving support of people who care about her, as well as build a relationship with her so she is not alone anymore.

## “Yufimia”

As an individual reaches old age, her body may begin to slow down, and it becomes harder to carry out fundamental activities. However, when aging is coupled with illness, those challenges are multiplied, and it is nearly impossible to live a normal life. For Yufimia, these struggles are all too familiar to her.



Yufimia was raised in the Philippines and traveled to America in the early 1980s. For nearly twenty years she worked as a caregiver for the elderly, but now that she herself is seventy years old, she is no longer able to

work. Besides this, she has become sick as a result of diabetes. “I stopped working because I cannot do it anymore,” says Yufimia.

Now living in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles, she lives by herself and attends a Bible study when she is able to. For several years now, she has been receiving groceries from the Food Truck of the Dream Center, which comes to Hollywood each week to feed those in the area who may not have the means to shop at the local grocery store. Even though Hollywood is known for its prosperity, there is also much poverty.

“[The Dream Center] helps us very much,” says Yufimia, “because if you don’t have money to buy food, they give us food.”

**If it were not for the loving support of sponsors of the Dream Center, Yufimia would not have that extra bag of food to get her through the week.**

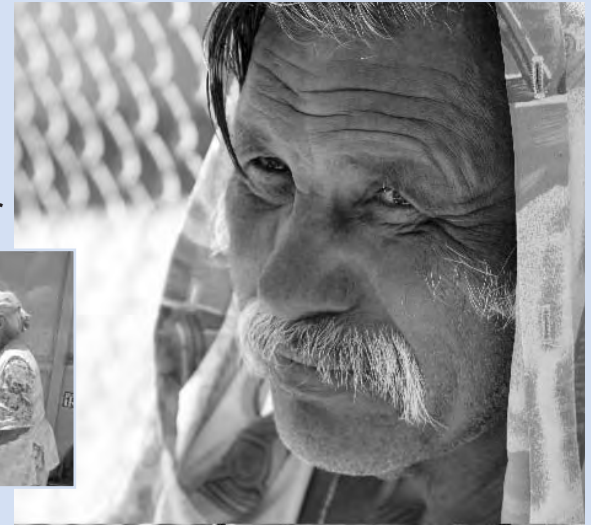


P.O. BOX 26629 • LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

# Helping the Hurting Together

All across Los Angeles, people are hurting. Old and young alike, they need someone to care and make a difference. Whether it is food, clothing, medical care or just a safe place to relax for a little while, showing them the love of God in action changes lives forever.

**Your financial support makes it possible for us to be there every day when they need us.**



## Make a Difference Both Now and for Eternity in the Lives of Precious People!

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR GIFT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED.



**Yes, Pastor Matthew,** I want to do my part to help the precious elderly people...and all the thousands across the city that the Dream Center touches every week.

Enclosed is my special gift of:

\$X     \$Y     \$\_\_\_\_\_

(Name)  
(Address)  
(City, ST ZIP)  
(Barcode)

(acct#) 8082

**FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT,  
COMPLETE OTHER SIDE.**



Please make check or money order payable to the **Dream Center** and mail to:  
**P.O. Box 26629  
Los Angeles, CA 90026**

*All gifts, less the value of any items received, are tax deductible as allowed by law. Upon receipt of sufficient funds for a specific project, support will be used for an equally important project.*

FILL OUT THIS PORTION ONLY IF YOU ARE USING A BANK/CREDIT CARD.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge the amount above to my:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  AmEx

Card #:  Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



Mail to: **Dream Center**  
P.O. Box 26629  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

*All gifts, less the value of any items received, are tax deductible as allowed by law. Upon receipt of sufficient funds for a specific project, support will be used for an equally important project.*

8082

**Helping the Hurting  
Together!**

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 73402 LOS ANGELES CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**DREAM CENTER**

**PO BOX 26629**

**LOS ANGELES CA 90026-9812**



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

