



**If Jesus asked if you really loved Him, what would **YOU** say?**

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



**Newsletter Enclosed**



*P.O. Box 26629 • Los Angeles, CA 90026*

# MATTHEW BARNETT

May 2008

Dear Friend,

You know the story...how after Peter denied the Lord three times, he then came face to face with Him again after the resurrection by Lake Galilee. There Jesus asked Peter a very important question—the most important question—“Peter, do you love Me?”

When Peter said yes, Jesus told him to “feed My sheep.” What Jesus was telling Peter, and I believe He is saying to us in His Church today is that words are not enough. Anyone can say they love Jesus. The question is do they live like they love Him? Do we live like we love Him?

If we love Him, then we must show His love to those who most need to see and feel His presence. He is urging us today to care for the sheep...those who cannot care for themselves, but need someone to reach out to them in compassion and love.

In this issue of the newsletter, we're featuring a way you can obey the command of Christ to feed His sheep. We've committed ourselves to a major expansion of the Adopt-A-Block program...the central core of all our outreach ministries at the Dream Center. We live in a city in great need. And if we truly love Jesus, we must do all that we can to meet that need.

There are six different kinds of blocks, and six distinct groups of people we minister to through the Adopt-A-Block program. We've highlighted the first three of these in this newsletter to let you see the needs and the people we're asking you to help.

To help us expand Adopt-A-Block to reach more people, we're asking you to step up and sponsor a block with either a monthly commitment or a special one-time gift. By providing the resources to enable our teams to meet the physical, emotional, and most of all spiritual needs of these precious people, you are truly showing them the love of God.

As we share the different kind of blocks we're reaching with you, our prayer is that you will choose the block that most touches your heart. This is not a casual commitment. We want you to get to know the people you're helping us reach.

When you adopt a block as a Sponsor, you will receive regular letters and emails about your block including:

(over, please)

- \* Special in-depth looks at the community profile
- \* Information about what life is like there
- \* Stories and testimonies of the people you are helping
- \* Updates from the workers who are in the field
- \* Pictures of the people and community you are impacting
- \* Special mailings from the kids and families on your block
- \* You can even get a chance to come be on an outreach team that takes supplies to your block and meet the people you are helping.

Your sponsoring gift lets you join with the Dream Center to change lives and change the community. When you adopt a block with your monthly or one-time gift, you are helping provide for the needs of the people who live in those areas. They are facing dire circumstances and are desperate for our help. Through the Adopt-A-Block outreach, you can pick the specific area of need that you help by sponsoring the work that goes into helping on that block.

No matter where you are, you can help impact some of the hardest hit areas in the inner-city and heal broken lives by helping provide the things they need the most including food, clothes, toiletries, medical help, care, and most of all, love.

We have over 250 outreaches and ministries at the Dream Center, and all of them are working together to meet the needs on these blocks that have been adopted. We take seriously Christ's request to show our love for Him by feeding His sheep. And I know you do, too.

We love the people we get the privilege to serve on these blocks, and we know God loves them even more...so meeting their needs is something we know honors Him.

Please join with us to make this possible. Let's show Jesus we love Him, and let's show the people in these impoverished blocks that He loves them, too, by adopting their blocks together. By becoming a monthly sponsor I know you will feel the impact that you are making, but even more, you will get a chance to experience the impact on your own life as well.

Thank you for your faithfulness,

*Pasta Matthew Barnett*

Matthew Barnett  
Co-Founder Dream Center

P.S. Remember to select which of the blocks you'd like to sponsor so that we can send you more information about the people you're helping. And thank you in advance for your generous response.



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

**MAY 2008**



## **ADOPT-A-BLOCK** Sponsor a Block and Change Lives Forever

For years the Adopt-A-Block program has been at the heart of the outreach ministry of the Dream Center. By going out into the community and meeting the basic human needs of the people we meet, we go beyond telling them of God to actually showing Him to them through our actions.

We are determined to launch a major expansion of Adopt-A-Block. The needs are great, and they are growing. The rising prices of food and gas are making life very difficult for people who were already struggling just to get by. And life in Los Angeles is becoming more dangerous. There has been an outbreak of gang violence recently that has resulted in dozens of shootings that make people unsafe, even in their own homes.

They need us now...and we need you. In order for us to expand this vital program, we are asking people to consider sponsoring a block with either a monthly gift or a special one-time gift. This will provide the resources to equip our teams to go "into the highways and hedges."

There are six main different types of

blocks that we are already working in—and there are hundreds more of each type. This issue of the newsletter features the needs of three of the blocks so that you can choose which one you'd like to support. But remember that no matter which one you choose, you will be transforming lives for now and for eternity. As you read the descriptions of the blocks where we minister, please prayerfully consider how you might play a role in meeting the needs of these precious, hurting people.



### **Block 1: South Central Area & Inner-city Housing Projects**

These areas are overwhelmed with hunger, poverty, violence, gangs, lack of chances for education, and a lack of access to basic supplies. Poverty and danger have driven many of the businesses out. With so few

*(Continued inside)*

opportunities for those who live there, they have a saying: “If you are born here, you die here.” To many people, it feels impossible to overcome the obstacles that keep them down.

Most of the families we reach out to in these areas are made up of single moms with teenagers and very young children. There is also a large group of elderly people (mostly women) whom we serve as well.

Kids are often sucked into this destructive cycle. The closest thing to a mentor or caring adult many of them encounter often turns out to be the gang recruiter. Young people join these gangs because they offer safety and help to take care of the family.

Imagine a small child growing up on one of these blocks. Life seems hopeless. The future seems dark. But with your help, that child can get the chance to overcome the surroundings they were born into. Instead of being overwhelmed by the hunger, violence, and poverty all around them, they can know God’s love. Instead of feeling hopeless, they can learn why we call this the land of opportunity.

**You help change lives and the future for them when you adopt one of these blocks.**

**\$35**

**For just \$35 a month, you can take hope and opportunity into their projects. Your gift will help provide:**

- Food (groceries for families in need)
- Diapers
- Hygiene necessities
- Clothes
- Spiritual nurturing and counseling

**\$50**

**For \$50 a month, you can help provide everything at the \$35 level, plus access to additional needs such as:**

- Formula
- Baby supplies
- Cribs
- Strollers and baby furniture
- Furniture, especially mattresses
- Appliances
- Pet food
- Mentoring parents
- Opportunities for kids to get education and educational aid to help them succeed



## **Block 2: Skid Row SRO Hotels**

Most of the people we reach out to in these blocks are little children and single moms who are just one small step away from sleeping on the streets. The SRO (Single Room Occupancy) Hotels are dangerous, dirty, and dark. These are the kind of places they used to call flophouses...and though they may have a new name, the surroundings are still the same. It’s not a place any of us would want to live.

The people who live here are officially considered homeless by the city, even though they use the little money they have to rent small rooms in these “hotels” on Skid Row. They choose shelter over food and other basic needs.

You can help provide for both their immediate needs to help them survive, as well as help us offer them opportunities for a better life when you adopt their block.

**\$35**

**For \$35, you can take hope and opportunity into their projects through providing:**

- Food
- Clothes
- Spiritual nurturing and counseling
- Diapers
- Hygiene supplies

**\$50**

**For a gift of \$50 a month, you help provide all of the above, plus access to these additional needs:**

- Formula and baby food
- Baby care supplies
- Strollers
- Medical needs
- Mentoring
- Opportunities for kids to get education and educational aid to help them succeed
- Parent mentoring helping parents who never had parents learn how to lead their families



### **Block 3: Angeles Block**

Made up of the many different areas where we serve high numbers of *elderly men and women*, these blocks of outreach are where we go to both individual homes and nursing homes. Many of these people find themselves facing their later years with little or no resources. Most came from impoverished communities and either have no family left, or the family they have is struggling to make ends meet themselves and cannot help them.

These people often face desperate emotional needs such as loneliness, worry, and depression, along with their lack of resources. They have no way to take care of their needs, even simple things like yard work, home care, or cleaning. They are in dire need of care and relationships.

**\$35**

**Your monthly gift of \$35 to adopt this outreach block helps provide:**

- Food
- Clothing
- Hygiene supplies
- Yard work aid
- Home care aid
- Fellowship
- Spiritual care
- Bibles
- Books and biblical study materials

**See enclosed reply to send your gift today!**



where is **your** block?



adopt - a - block

**DREAM CENTER**

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



# Sponsor a Block and Feed His Sheep

Jesus instructs us to show our love for Him by taking care of those in need. That's a perfect description of what Adopt-A-Block does, and with your sponsorship, we're committed to expanding this vital outreach ministry.

**South Central/Inner City:** the toughest gang neighborhoods  
**SRO Hotels:** single mothers and small children on Skid Row  
**Angeles Blocks:** help the elderly and those abandoned

You can choose to give: **\$35** per month      **\$50** per month  
**\$420** annual gift      **\$600** annual gift



**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 feed His sheep by sponsoring a block for the Adopt-A-Block expansion.

- Enclosed is my **first monthly gift** of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for (please check one box below):
- Enclosed is my **special annual gift** of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for (please check one box below):
  - South Central/Inner City     SRO Hotels     Angeles Blocks



I cannot commit to monthly support or an annual sponsorship, but I am enclosing a special one-time gift to support the ministry of the Dream Center of \$\_\_\_\_\_

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT,  
COMPLETE OTHER SIDE.

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

(acct#) - 8051 - (seg)



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



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# Feeding His Sheep!

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