

May 2023

# Foundation For **HIS MINISTRY**

*Restoring  
The  
Broken*



**Doug Clark**  
FFHM Volunteer

**B**ernardo was the youngest son of a single mom with 6 older brothers and 1 sister. At age 5, he witnessed his mom die from disease. The next day his grandma picked up Bernardo

and his siblings and moved in with Bernardo's uncle. All nine of them lived in a small room on the side of the main house. They later moved to another uncle's home. The uncles did not seem happy to have them



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there and always fed their own families first. Only on those days when there happened to be extra food would something be available for Bernardo. He often went to bed hungry. When leaving for school, he entered the main house and slowly walked by the dining room to see if anything would be offered to eat. Sadly, most of the time, it wasn't, and he left for school hungry. No meals were served at school, so he returned home famished, hoping for a bite for dinner.

He grew up with no knowledge of God and never really experienced love from others, and he had no friends or sense of belonging. Lost,

lonely, and without direction, Bernardo began using drugs to ease his inner pain and turmoil. His sister became a Christian and put Bernardo's name on the church prayer list- all the prayer requests were listed with chalk except for his, which was written in permanent ink!

At one point, Bernardo approached his sister to see if he could move in with her. She agreed, but he had become a drug dealer and prepared drugs for sale in her home. Eventually, she asked him to leave. With nowhere else to go, Bernardo left Ensenada to find friends south near San Quintin. With no food or water, Bernardo em-



barked on the 120-mile journey on an old bicycle. He got his nourishment from discarded food scraps. One day he found a full, unopened box of cereal sitting in the middle of the road.

When he arrived at his friend's home, they took him in and provided a job, but that didn't last long. The power of addiction soon alienated him. Once again, he found himself on the streets.

Having tried a few recovery centers with no lasting success, Bernardo heard about a place called Rancho de Cristo. On Christmas Eve 2009, he walked through the front gates. He was welcomed by loving people who offered him forgiveness, love, and a relationship with Jesus. He entered our year long discipleship program, and his life changed forever. As weekly therapy, Bernardo and the other men were brought to the Baja Mission every Thursday to serve. Bernardo prayed daily that God would restore his life, remove his desire for drugs and change his life.

Near the end of the program, Bernardo was encouraged to fill out an application for employment at the Mission. To his delight, he was offered a job in the orchard. From there, he joined the mechanics team and pursued his interest in the Mission's fire department. In a few years, he led the department. Today Bernardo responds

to emergencies in the community and drives an ambulance.

Bernardo had never really pursued serious romantic relationships. But one day, while tending the garden near the children's home, he laid eyes on Elizabeth, a house mother. She invited him to dinner and later asked him to drive with her to Tijuana to drop off supplies. Knowing she was the one God intended for her, Bernardo conjured up the courage to ask Elizabeth to marry him. She agreed and soon became a parent to her teen daughter. (Elizabeth is now the director of FFHM's daycare in San Quintin.) Today, Bernardo is described by a colleague as a Good Samaritan. When he sees someone lying on the sidewalk or homeless, Bernardo will intentionally approach them to see how he can help. And if they are open to hearing, tell them about Jesus, who changed his life. His favorite Bible passage is Psalm 13, and verse 6 describes his life, "I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."

Bernardo is extremely thankful to Foundation for his Ministry and all those who make this ministry possible. He is also eternally grateful for our gracious God, who lifted him from the mire and gave him life itself. Summing it all up, Bernardo shared, "Living here is like a trophy. God gave it to me. It's His restoration. I won't let go."

# Foundation for His Ministry

P.O. Box 74000  
San Clemente, CA 92673

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