

To The Church,

I am sending you this letter due to what I believe is a calling from God... When I was young, I was completely broken by some major storms in my life. For a time I lost my faith due to this overwhelming darkness, despite growing up in a Christian home. It was only at rock bottom that I turned back to God and was saved. As He helped me recover, He used theatre in special and unique ways to model His Kingdom, leading me out of the dark and into the light. It helped me heal, rebuild and thrive, and to fall in love with Him on a much deeper level.

Over time, He helped me understand that the darkness that had broken me was part of a larger spiritual campaign of destruction, targeting young people in particular, in the places, ways, and times that they are most vulnerable. This has fostered a toxic culture of achievement at all costs, creating a pressure cooker of competition, comparison, judgment, and other negative influences that destroy so many people and relationships. The media uses buzz words like “depression” and “mental health crisis”. These are accurate, but they do not truly capture the scope or the intensity of the problem, of the darkness and pain so many young people in our community are facing, and for which so many churches seem to lack adequate resources to deal with.

In 2011, the Lord called me to start **Chrysalis Youth Theatre**, a new program built for the specific purpose of helping young people through safe, nurturing personal development experiences. Over the course of our first few years, God showed me how Chrysalis activities can counter the darkness by actively modeling and developing the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Our initial pilot program was developed over five years at a local church. In the years since then, our Board has created a non-profit organization called **Chrysalis Arts Ministries**, which is designed to expand our reach and impact. We are now seeking to re-launch our programming and more broadly partner with the local Church to rescue young people from the darkness, to provide healing, freedom, and sanctuary. We are not a traditional Bible teaching ministry or a traditional high-pressure Broadway-style theatre program. We use special arts-based personal development experiences, inspired by God, to model His Kingdom, loving and helping young people of all types. We also use storytelling, not necessarily directly from the Bible, but with seeds of Biblical truth, similar to how Jesus used parables or how Fred Rogers used secular stories full of God’s truth to minister to young people. We have a particular heart for those most at risk of falling through the cracks and being lost to the darkness, those who are most in need of light, love, hope and joy.

Chrysalis has been life-changing and transformative for many young people, including saving at least one person’s life, and strengthening families through healthy bonding and growth opportunities. The story of our positive impact has even been shared on NBC News Bay Area and in local newspapers.

Now we need further support from the Church as we work to re-launch in-person programming after a couple years off for planning and the pandemic. I would love to connect and explore how we can work together to help the young people in our community. Can you support our program in any way, whether it be through prayer, opening up a classroom for us once a week, telling your congregation about us, or possibly inviting me to come and share about Chrysalis? Perhaps there may be some other method of support that God puts on your heart. Would you please pray about it? I hope for this to be the beginning of a special partnership that will bless everyone involved.

For more information about Chrysalis, visit our website at **ChrysalisArtsMinistries.org**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven Brown

Founder & Chief Vision Officer

Chrysalis Arts Ministries

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