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*“One life, One mission.  
One reason why I’m living.  
All for Him, not for me.  
My mess, His message.  
My pain, His purpose.  
My story, His glory.”*

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## ABOUT BRESCIA BIANCO-BADENHORST

**M**y life has been a battleground, where each hardship was a fierce opponent, and every victory, a hard-won triumph.

From profound personal tragedies to navigating the turbulent waters of addiction and mental health struggles, my journey has been a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

The shadows of personal tragedy loomed large from my earliest memories.

Losing my grandmother to suicide, losing my grandfather to alcoholism, and my father's tragic suicide when I was just four years old cast a pall over my childhood.

The anguish of my brother's repeated suicide attempts during my youth inflicted wounds that cut deep into my soul, leaving scars that would forever shape my understanding of loss and resilience.

Each attempt felt like a dagger to the heart, as I grappled with the fear of losing him and the guilt of not being able to save him.

Despite the heaviness of these burdens, I clung onto hope, praying for his recovery and the end of his suffering.

The tragedy of suicide struck my family once again when my uncle took his own life, adding another layer of sorrow to our collective grief and reinforcing the importance of mental health awareness and support within our family unit.

As adulthood dawned, the inevitable became a harsh reality as I received the devastating news of my brother's suicidal death.

His passing cast a long shadow over my life, intensifying the pain of loss and cementing the resolve to carry his memory forward with unwavering determination.

As a preacher's daughter, I bore witness to the complexities of faith amidst the chaos of familial discord.

My brother's battles with bipolar depression added another layer of challenge, highlighting the intersection of faith, mental health, and stigma. Bullied in school and judged harshly by society, I struggled to find my place amidst the relentless cycle of addiction and the pervasive impact of familial struggles.

Addiction became my constant companion, offering fleeting moments of escape from the pain of reality.

From the initial allure of substances to the desperate descent into heroin addiction, my life became a blur of crime, homelessness, and estrangement from loved ones.

Each day was a battle against the demons within and the world outside, as I fought to reclaim control of my life.

Amidst the turmoil of loss and addiction, I reached a pivotal moment of reckoning, realizing that the path I was on would only lead to further despair. With the unwavering support of loved ones, I made the courageous decision to seek help and embark on the journey to recovery. Entering rehab was both a daunting and liberating experience, as I confronted the demons that had long held me captive. Through therapy, support groups, and a newfound sense of purpose, I began to untangle the web of addiction that had ensnared me for so long. Each day in rehab was a testament to my resilience and determination to reclaim my life from the clutches of substance abuse. It was a journey fraught with challenges, but with each passing day, I grew stronger in mind, body, and spirit, laying the foundation for a future free from the shackles of addiction.

Despite the darkness that threatened to consume me, I clung onto a glimmer of hope, fueled by unwavering faith and resolute determination. September 2024 marked a monumental milestone as I celebrated my 21st sobriety anniversary, a testament to the power of resilience and the transformative journey toward healing and purpose.

Through sheer willpower and the support of loved ones and community, I emerged from the depths of despair, a living testament to the indomitable strength of the human spirit.

In the wake of recovery, I embraced the opportunity to rewrite the narrative of my life, one filled with hope, purpose and a calling to help others battling mental health struggles and addiction. Today, I stand as a beacon of resilience and hope, having forged a path of redemption from the depths of despair to the pinnacle of success.

As the proud owner of Semicolon Marketing and Events, I have transformed my passion for advocacy into a thriving business dedicated to creating awareness for the semicolon symbol.

The semicolon represents the choice to continue one's story, despite facing challenges such as mental health struggles, suicide, and addiction. Through my advocacy work, I shine a light on the importance of mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and drug addiction awareness, aiming to de-stigmatise these often-taboo topics. As a sought-after Emcee and professional speaker at schools, churches and events, I boldly address "The things we don't talk about," fostering open dialogue and offering support to those in need.

I am proud to serve as an ambassador for Elim Clinic, the rehabilitation center that played a pivotal role in my own recovery journey. As someone who has walked the path of addiction and found hope, I now have the privilege of giving back by offering support and delivering motivational talks to patients. Through this role, I aim to inspire others to embrace their own transformation and remind them that recovery is not only possible but life-changing.

My journey is a testament to the transformative power of resilience, faith, and unwavering determination in overcoming life's greatest obstacles. My journey is a testament to the power of resilience, courage, and the unwavering belief that no darkness is too great to overcome. Though the scars of my past may never fully fade, they serve as a reminder of the strength forged in the crucible of adversity.

As I look towards the future, I do so with hope and gratitude, knowing that every step forward is a victory won against the shadows of my past. One step at a time.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brescia". The letter 'B' is large and loops around the 'r', and the 'a' has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.