

Brandon Moss

Brandon Moss began talking about his life by saying “I love my wife and I love God!” He considers himself a thinker and an analyzer, “curious about the world and how and why it works. I like watching people and am a student of society and culture.” And for those who know Brandon, clearly he loves to think and analyze and discuss (both in groups and one-on-one), and also clearly he loves to be around people. And he will certainly laugh a lot and make you laugh!

Born February 19, 1981 in Bourbonnais, Illinois, Brandon lived with his parents and brother T.J. in various places around Chicago before moving to New Jersey when he was 10 years old. There he experienced life in the all-white suburban town of Denville while attending an all-black church. In 1999 he was off to college, University of Maryland College Park, where he became friends with such famous people as Ryan Diener, Brita Grothe, Sarah Fulton and Penny Riordan. Majoring in American Studies with a minor in African-American Studies, he was involved in the InterVarsity Fellowship Group on campus.

Brandon refers to three different faith experiences that brought him to where he is today. The first was when he responded to an altar call given by his dad at a Pentecostal church when he was 8 years old. Then at age 15 he attended a retreat where he was challenged to take God and his faith much more seriously. Third, in college he was exposed “to a broader and more diverse Christianity, one that was more Reformed, and I met white Christians for the first time. The gospel of grace I was encountering caused me to wrestle with God and my faith.” As Brandon became increasingly involved in the ministry of InterVarsity, living in the urban context in Washington D.C. with other Christians for a summer and then in Ethiopia for six weeks, he was confronted with justice and poverty issues and “I realized that I did not like poverty and injustice and neither did God. In Ethiopia I met families who were living in a tiny shack; I have never recovered from the shock of such dire poverty.” The D.C. and Ethiopia experiences “messed my whole life up, and I realized then and still do now that I have a lot more to figure out.” So his Pentecostal upbringing, Reformed teaching and race and poverty issues have all contributed to the formation of his faith, and to Brandon “they are all a part of God’s kingdom and heart.”

Anyway, Brandon graduated from UMCP, worked on staff at InterVarsity for awhile, and then in October of 2003 he and Ryan moved to Baltimore where Brandon soon worked as a housing inspector for the Department of Housing and Community Development. He and Ryan had learned of New Song through reading *Black Baltimore*, and they had visited before moving to Baltimore. When they moved they attended one Sunday and, much to Brandon’s delight, a group went to lunch at Old Country Buffet after the service. Pastor Thurman asked him after the lunch if he would see him again next week, and Brandon had no choice but to say “Yes,” so he’s been attending ever since!

While helping Darryl Jordan move into 1372 Stricker Street in April 2004, Darryl asked him to knock on the door of 1366 to pick up a desk. As the door opened he was “shocked to see a beautiful, blue-eyed white woman answering the door.” It was Jessica Tibbels. They hit it off quickly, and a little over a year later (August 27, 2005) Jessica Tibbels became Jessica Moss. They of course are living happily ever after.

Brandon recently changed jobs and now works as a property manager at CSI Support and Development Services where he manages three buildings with 450 tenants and oversees six paid staff and 45 volunteers. But he still has time for the things he likes: “hanging out with my wife, playing NBA Live on Nintendo, the Miami Heat, bike riding and drives.” His favorite food is “anything free” and his favorite films are the Lord of the Rings trilogy. He does not like “injustice, confusion and depression.”

By the way, Brandon’s cat’s name is Reesie. The cat (or perhaps Jessica?) won him over by immediately putting her paws and head on his shoulder to hug him. His enjoyment of the cat so far has included joining Reesie in the bath tub for a lovely bath...