

April 2019

→ **MINISTRY UPDATE** ←

David Nichols — President (405) 613-3120
Dondino Melchorie — V.P. (702) 688-3165
Ron Minnick — Sec. Treasurer (405) 473-2378

UPDATE

Wow! Time passes so quickly. When I was a kid, it seemed like the day would never end. Now I'm trying to figure out where the day went. I guess that is why the saying goes, "Life is short." When you are trying to make every day count, there is never enough time.

We are now coming up on 23 years in July. What an experience! I have been attacked with a knife, lied about and lied to, arrested and told to quit, and had false lawsuits and false testimony brought against me. I have been subject to lawmakers passing a law forcing me into bankruptcy, but God made a way out. They used the same law to get me into prison for five years, but God made a way.

All churches, except two, forsook me, and I thought many of those were my friends. They turned their back on me. Three times people who claimed to be Christians tried to take the ministry from me for self-serving purposes.

I have been persecuted by the parole department because it was interfering with their evil deeds. I have been mostly treated as an evil doer for helping unwanted people. My personal banking accounts were closed out because of who I helped. I have been physically attacked by Satan with uncommon problems.

I was once on life support for nearly a week. I have been physically unable to

work since 2003. I learned the hard way that the law is only as good as the people in places of power and the amount of money you have to enforce it.

Added to all of this is the spiritual, mental, and physical care of our clients. Right now there are over 250 clients plus some family members. We are continually improving, but we are far from perfect. The CPA is very close to finishing the updates to our finances. This should put us in a good position for a loan. There are good things to come!

The number of sex offenders living in tents or under bridges, etc., is over 500 in Oklahoma now, and those not registering is over 1,200. The media is not allowed to report this, but we will keep you informed.

Let's take a look at the roots of the bulk of crime in America. It is very predictable, just like growing plants. Very few people live a clean and upright life, and then in a moment decide to be a criminal. A child has no choice where they are planted. They have no choice what kind of nurture they receive.

Therefore it is of mega-importance that parents supply the right atmosphere very early in a child's life. That is why the Bible says, in 1 Corinthians 7:14, that if both the husband and wife are not believers, then the children are unclean. Parents are totally responsible for younger children. What is the reason for this?

Let's look at that. First, what we believe determines who we are. There are only five things that can determine belief: hearing, seeing, feeling, smell, and taste. These are the things that cause your beliefs, and these are the only things that can change your beliefs. Since younger children's senses are controlled by their parents, the parents determine their destiny.

When a child is old enough to control his five senses, he then can make his own

you listen to matters. Truth will set you free just as it does for these ex-offenders. May God be with you.

— David Nichols

TESTIMONIES

choices. The Jews use 12-years-old as that point, probably because of the story of Jesus in Jerusalem at 12-years-old.

Why not just be a believer for life and set the example? With God, it could be an individual determination. Some children are more mature than others. God will be the judge. The whole point is this: producing a life is much more of a responsibility than American culture would have you believe.

Fifty years ago, most children were raised in a two parent home, most children went to church, and the Bible was read in school. Bible truths were taught. Children knew right from wrong when they made choices. Today, the Word of God is forbidden in schools.

Less than 30% attend any church services. Many things can't be preached in church because it has become political. Churches in general have given their responsibility to the poor over to the government. So a multitude of children in America don't know who Jesus is or how much He cares for them. They struggle for identity.

They struggle for hope. They turn to drugs, alcohol, and other addictions to help cope. Everything that brings shame is all they know. They are very confused. They search beyond the material to find the answer in evil spirit territory. They think the church is out of date, if they even know a church.

Living together is the norm. Accepting no boundaries is the norm. Being their own god is the norm. This is the America we live in today. Things they are told are the answer just make things worse. There is only one answer. TRUTH!

The Bible says, "When you know the truth, it will set you free." The same Bible says Jesus is the truth. Anyone who wants to change for the better must hear the truth, see the truth, touch, smell, and taste the truth. Jesus is the bread of life. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Who and what

I was born on Tinker Air Force Base while my dad was serving in the Army. My parents divorced soon after I was born. I never met my father. I have never even seen a photo of him. I was raised by my mother and my grandparents (mostly my grandparents).

Home wasn't very Christian oriented. I didn't go to church, except for special occasions when the church bus visited our neighborhood to recruit children. I watched Bible documentaries, and I had Bibles when I was an adult. However, I never fully understood, nor did I give control of my life to God.

As an adult, my life of crime was significant. My criminal record includes accusations of or arrests for burglary, DUI, possession of a controlled substance, insurance fraud, and a sex offense. It all started in sixth grade. I smoked weed for the first time, and everything fell into place – albeit a bad place. I did acid at age 18 and cocaine at age 20.

All wasn't crime and drugs though. I enjoyed racing motorcycles, and I was quite good at it. I traveled the country participating in various races, including some Daytona motorcycle races. Each time I got on my bike I said a prayer that God would take care of me. After all, motorcycle racing was a dangerous and deadly sport. I guess God had a plan for my life, and He granted those prayers.

I soon married the love of my life, and we had two children – a boy and a girl. I made every effort to give them a good life. We had fun, we did the family thing, and we enjoyed life. It was perfect, but my desire for thrills ruined the perfect family dream.

During the later part of my marriage I was charged with lewd acts with a minor. I was drunk, looking for a thrill, and I didn't care that the girl was barely under 16 years of age. It was another example of me as an adrenaline junkie. I got off on the thrill, but I also got caught. I was sentenced to ten years in prison and ten years of probation. I was incarcerated for nine years.

After two years on probation, I was charged with possession of a controlled

substance.

This happened in 2014. The probation officer wanted to send me back to prison for ten years, and the prosecutor wanted to sentence me to an additional ten years for possession of a controlled substance. My lawyer negotiated a plea deal which got me four years in prison and three years of probation.

God had a plan for my life. He was watching out for me, but my past kept catching up with me, and it came with consequences. I was sentenced to an additional two years for insurance fraud.

I had no home after I was finally released, and I lived in a tent for a little over a month. It was November, one of the coldest months in Oklahoma City. One day I left my tent to look for a job. When I returned, I discovered someone had stolen my tent, ransacked my belongings, and destroyed what little belongings I had left. This was the straw that broke the camel's back, and, ironically, the catalyst which drew me to the Lord.

I started walking to McDonald's, and I ended up in a creek, with mud and water up to my knees. It was then I started saying to myself that I cannot do this on my own. I needed help. When I got to McDonald's, I spent my last \$14 to get something to eat.

A Mexican gentleman and his wife noticed me. I was soaking wet in just a hoodie. The man came over to me, and he made the sign of the cross. He told me he would pray for me. This freaked me out, but I was open to the gesture.

It was this gesture that sent me on my journey to Hand Up Ministries. I went to a family friend's house to ask if I could spend the night and get a ride somewhere the next morning. He wasn't home. I walked across the street to Hand Up, and I attended brother Steve's Sunday morning service. Afterwards, I talked with a friend at the gate and discussed my situation. The next week I filled out an application, and brother Nichols approved it.

Hand Up has helped me grow, but I am still a work in progress. The Sunday services and the Genesis One meetings have taught me things about myself that I never knew, and the ministry has given me the tools to turn my life around. I now read Psalms and Proverbs every day. The wisdom in these books teaches me how to live a Christian life and

walk in faith. I am proud to say I have finally given control of my life to God.

— *Doug Moore*

My life journey started in 1960. When I was six-months-old I was adopted by the best parents possible. I was loved and spoiled as an only child. Looking back, I see it as a true blessing that I was adopted. My parents were not church going people, but they taught me the basics, and they took me to church when I wanted to go. I was taught right from wrong, and I did well in school.

My mother died of cancer when I was 11-years-old. My father worked long hours to pay the hospital bills and support us. I was lost. I didn't know how to deal with death. At her funeral, I heard someone say, "She's in a better place." I don't know who said it. I masked my pain with alcohol and, eventually, with drugs, as more close relatives died.

When I was 17, I got mixed up in an ordeal in which I was shot with a shotgun. I died once, but I made a full recovery. Looking back, I see this was another blessing. My friends say I have someone watching over me. I agree. I came out of the fog somewhat, and I got married. We had a son, and we lived in a house by the lake. This was because I was blessed with a wondrous job. I was the service manager at the marina.

My father died, and I spun out of control. I lost everything, and I did six years in an Arkansas prison. I went to church every chance I got, and I finally woke up. I had the Lord in my life. I was released from prison in 2007. I found a nice country girl, although she had a mark too. I was trying to save her, and I fell again. Both of her parents died, and my cousin died of an overdose. I went back to prison. I knew I couldn't keep repeating this cycle. I thought my blessings had run out.

I couldn't ask my sons for help. They had wives and lives of their own. I am proud of them, but I doubt they are proud of me. I didn't know where I would go. My case manager told me about Hand Up Ministry. I thought it was too good to be true. It was a place to get away from all of my so-called friends and make a fresh start. Hand Up was another true blessing. It is a shame it took me so long to see the light. I gratefully thank Mr.

Nichols and his staff for allowing me to come to Hand Up. My family is also grateful.

— *Mike Moseley*



I was born on Tinker Air Force Base in 1966, and I was baptized when I was born. I grew up in a middle class family. My dad was in the military for twenty years, and our family moved every two or three years. We moved back and forth between Europe and the United States. Living in a military community was structured, but it was nice because we had the military in common.

I was hit in the head by a car when I was six years old, and I suffered a dislocated hip as a result of this accident. I was put in special education when I was in second or third grade, but I lived a normal life. I played with other kids in the neighborhood, and I went on family picnics. I swam, hunted, fished, and went to the car races. I would look for Indian arrowheads with my dad and my grandfather.

I had a difficult time in school and in vocational technical school. Because of my disabilities I had a difficult time finding a job, but I made it. I worked for 16 years at several different jobs. The last job was at Norman Regional Hospital. I had several girlfriends while I was working. People picked on me and bullied me at school and and at my jobs. This was because of my disabilities. When I was 39 years old I did something stupid with my girlfriend's daughter. I was arrested, and I lost my job. The girl told her mother, and her mother told the police. The police told my employer, and I was fired. I got a lawyer, and

I fought the case for four years. I started drawing social security disability six months after I lost my job.

I was supposed to serve 20 years, but because of my disabilities my lawyer got my sentence reduced to five years. I was bullied in prison because I was a handicapped sex offender, but my sister got a lawyer to help me get released after serving only one year. I was released from prison in February, 2011.

After my release I started receiving social security again. My probation officer told me about Hand Up Ministries, and I came to Hand Up in 2011. I didn't like Hand Up at first, but my sister convinced my to stay here because there were so few places where I could live. I didn't have much money, and sex offenders are restricted in where they can live. I was born again after I came to Hand Up, and I changed my ways. I made friends at Hand Up, and as I learned more about Hand Up I realized it is a friendly place. My family lives nearby.

I have never taken illegal drugs, nor have I ever drunk alcohol. I have never smoked.. My dad died of emphysema, and I don't want to die like my dad.

— *Roger Wofford*



We appreciate all our partners and donors. It is your support that enables us to assist individuals back into society as new brothers and sisters in

