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→ **MINISTRY UPDATE** ←

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UPDATE

Greetings from all Hand Up campuses! The 245 ex-offenders, along with some of the families of the married couples, wish you the greatest joy and blessings of the Christmas season. They want to remind you how important family is and how quickly a temptation of sin can spiral downward to a broken family, loss of hope and dreams, and time. Although God can and will forgive, people have a tougher time forgiving, and the affects of sin can linger for decades. According to Number 14:18, it can reach down to the 3rd and 4th generations. The feeling of "I deserve" or "God understands " are huge red flags and must be dealt with immediately. Don't wait, it costs too much. And it can happen to anyone who lets their guard down. Satan comes to "steal, kill, and destroy. Don't let Him do it. Jesus came to give abundant life. Let Him do that. Pick someone to hold you accountable, maybe even a small group. It may literally save your life. Hand Up now has 245 ex-offenders not counting spouses and children. I have ac-

cepted many more, depending on God to provide the bed space before they get out. I have no doubt He will. I can be a little cocky about God because I know His heart and He has unlimited resources.

We believe everything is in order. Now to file in December for a consolidation loan which would save us \$10,000 a month. Keep us in prayer.

We also want to thank God for causing the lawmakers to acknowledge our exemption to new laws so I wont be arrested again for doing God's work. It's either that or they got tired of fighting with this Christian fanatic who believes anyone can be saved. I'm getting too old for jail anyway.

Our non-SO population is growing again and will eventually outgrow the other. All our enemies efforts failed to shut us down, and most have been removed from their positions of authority. So I see great things happening for the gospels sake going forward. Sometimes God just waits for the king to die.

I have decided I will never be able to retire. I don't really need to fish all the time anyway. But I sure hope to get to go some. Now that my wife is retired, we are hoping to get a real vacation sometime. Her 45 years of working has

given us means to do things. Now we just have to stay healthy enough to do them. My wife has stood by through all the tough times and deserves some good times. And I laid the fishing aside when I needed to, so I am not going to feel guilty when I can fish.

—David Nichols

CAUTION

While things are improving for Hand Up, there are troubled waters ahead for this nation. We are 21 trillion dollars in debt and in the 2020 election, there will be promises made by some that will sound too good to pass up, so voters may flock to easy money. The promises will include but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Write off student debt
2. Free education
3. Free medical for everyone
4. Over \$1100 per month for every person 18 and over
5. And anything else they feel will guarantee election winning

Forget the fact that all these things have been tried and failed in other countries. Being in power to usher in a worldwide power system is all important. Then when the dollar falls (and it will) the IMF will be there with their already printed money to

catch the leftovers and supposedly bring peace.

Christians should know, (most don't), that only Jesus can bring peace at His second coming when He is to rule and reign for 1000 years. The whole worldwide system is being rigged for the anti-Christ, (not Jesus), to set up rule and reign. He will claim to be Christ, (not Jesus), and will bring all religions together for a time. The whole purpose of these politicians is to redistribute the wealth and pave the way for the anti-Christ. This is not some guess. This is already in motion and it would seem very likely to succeed in 2020. They only need to persuade 1% more of the voters. You may think I'm crazy, but this next year you will remember what I am telling you. Voters are gullible for slick talkers and giveaways. Prepare for tough times now and pray our Lord comes quickly. I am sharing what I know, things the media will not share yet. Power and control in the new age will determine who has and who has not. And unless you are "connected" you will be a "have not".

America has turned away from God and the season of reaping will come. God will not be mocked. His word will prove true. There will be a great falling away. The anti-Christ will have success. The world will follow. We will cry, "Lord, come quickly!" As the religious people brought on the death of the real Christ, so many religious people will bring on the coming of the anti-Christ. And like Judas, they will have much sorrow afterward. But it will be too late. God, help us look to you and not to man for our needs. Amen.

—David Nichols

TESTIMONY

I was raised in a family affected by divorced. Both my parents were there for me. We were not church going people. My Grandmother was the one that would take me to church and I was as active member growing up. Most of my friends were from church through my younger days and looking back, it was one of the happiest times of my life.

I married in my early 20s, had two (2) daughters and was divorced with in 7 yrs. This period of my life was without church and talking to God. After my marriage, I became a daily drinker and lived with different women. The whole time working a job I held for 12yrs.

I was introduced to meth on my job and I liked it. I ended up losing my job over it and became homeless. While living on the streets. I met a lady 25 years older than me and she took me in. I didn't work. All I did was get high and started heroin with meth. She was raising her granddaughter who was 25 years younger than me. I began a relationship with this young girl that became sexual. She became pregnant and I was arrested for 1st degree rape which was later changed to 2nd degree rape.

The first day I was in jail I made God a promise that from this day on I would do his work. From that day I've been the happiest I've been since I was that little boy going to church with my Grandmother. I've surrounded myself with men of God and we take care of each other. Hand Up is a place of God and the only place I want to be and this

is the only way I will live the rest of my life. —*Randall Ingram*

GOT HOPE??

On the way to the store, I saw these words written on a sign at a local church. It said, "Hope Is Real." I thought about it and (needless to say) agreed with the statement. But as I drive further, I realized that for many people hope is not real. There was a man with one leg on the street corner begging for change. Then there was a sign about child sex trafficking. These are some of the people who may have lost hope. I believe that is one of the most important gifts we can give to another person, the gift of hope.

Someone who is hopeless and alone usually cannot help themselves out of their situations. They have a great sense of loss and helplessness. We must come alongside and bring the good news of Jesus Christ and all that He has to offer.

One definition for hope is: To look forward to with confidence or expectation. We must bring the Word of God with all its hope to someone who does not know it is real. When we bring hope, we bring life. It is life changing to finally believe again. It is more than just asking God for something we so badly need; we must expect our miracle. Somewhere in the midst of asking, believing, and expecting God to answer, we will find what we are looking for.

I have felt for a long time that one of the biggest problems we have in the world today is there are so many

people who have lost hope. There seems to be so many hurts, problems, sicknesses, troubles, financial woes, family problems, world issues, political concerns, etc. It seems the world has no hope.

Apart from God, it is an awful, hopeless place. But with God's help, we can make it. I want you to know that whatever situation you find yourself in at this moment, there is hope. You may not be able to see or feel the hope, but it is there for you. How do we find the hope? There is only one place where hope can be found, and that is in Jesus Christ.

I did a word search in the Bible for the word 'hope' and found many wonderful passages. They were mostly in Psalms and Proverbs of course. David found himself in situations many times and had to remind himself that *hope is real*. It comes from God.

Trust God. He wants you to trust Him. You need to agree with God about your situation. What does God say about who you are and what His will is for your life? Don't go by your feelings. Instead we should remind ourselves that God only has plans for us that are good. Jeremiah helps us remember what God has to say about us. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

We do not need to be disappointed and feel alone. We can have hope! God's love in our hearts will ignite the flames of hope we have buried deep inside our hearts. God's Word can encourage us as we read it with great an-

icipation and faith.

In scripture there are many keys to hope. Words like "be strong, take courage, wait, reverently and worshipfully fear God, tarry for the hope, wait patiently for it, and be joyful in hope. They are all action words we need to work on. If you read scriptures out loud you can soon see how hope has come alive in your heart as you speak the Word of God over yourself and your situation.

I don't want this to be just another article. I want it to bring life to you. Pray out loud the words of hope into your life and your situations. I have hope! My hope is in the Lord! I will be strong and wait on the Lord. I trust God with my life and the life of my family. Speak these words every day. Hope Is Real. It comes from God! He has placed it in your heart. Speak it out and watch what God will do for you.

What is your need today? Is it for a financial blessing, healing in your body, a new job, a house or car, etc.? Whatever it is, take it to Jesus today. Is there someone in your life today that needs encouraging? Speak the Words of hope that bring life. Hope Is REAL, just try it. —Jeff Wendel

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