

NEWS



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→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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UPDATE

How times have changed! It used to be that if you wore a mask into a store, someone would call 911. Now you get fined if you don't wear a mask into a store. Churches used to be on every corner, and you paid someone to get rid of weeds. Now weed is on every corner, and churches are disappearing. Back then, the law was something you respected, even if some cops were dirty. Now the law is supposed to be for whites only, and you are disrespectful if you choose to be in law enforcement.

Our country once stood against Marxism and for a system of laws by the people. Now Marxism is accepted so much that we allow them to pay for destroying and burning many places in our cities, and this is considered okay. If my children or grandchildren did anything like that, it would be several years in prison.

People use to go to church and sing, "Jesus loves the little children, All the little children of the world." Then God was taken out of the schools, and anything sounding negative taken out of the church. Now Marxism says all of our problems are because of identity and not because of the condition of the heart.

If history tells us anything, the next step will be to eliminate whoever and whatever doesn't agree and line up with their thinking. Christians will have to be first on the list. Christians have always been the

first to help the poor, the unfortunate, and the abused. Marxism will replace that with getting control of the government and then deciding who gets what. Redistribution of money will be one of the first objectives.

Our younger generation have already been brainwashed to believe government and socialism are the answer to all problems. It used to be God, but now it is government. Brethren, are we ready and willing to suffer wrongfully? Unless God sees it is not time yet, we are there.

HUM Tulsa is preparing to come online soon. I have had the confirmation that in Arkansas there are many more men ready for release than we can help. COVID-19 has slowed us down, but it is not forgotten. Our refinance is progressing as well.



Principalities and powers shall never stop God's purpose.

— David Nichols,
Executive Director/
President

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Jude 1:20-21



NEWS

GOD IS WORKING MIRACLES AT HAND UP

All is well at Hand Up Ministries at the moment. We are near capacity, and the morale seems to be very good among all the residents. Only a few residents are unemployed, and those residents have been here a very short time. Many across the country are unemployed, but the residents here at Hand Up have managed to find jobs.

I am praising God for His mercy and care over all of the men in our program. On every hand, God has been helping Hand Up Ministries to provide guidance and assistance to all of our residents.

I hope that by next month we will be able to feature some of the men from our Chandler, Oklahoma location. I want you to be able to be greeted them and to read some of their testimonies.

I am proud of John Hider, who is overseeing the Chandler location. Our Chandler campus has a new chaplain, Paul Johnson. It is always a joy for me when I am able to visit the men there and have them share their joys with me.

As always, with the successes we also suffer a few losses as men in residence here occasionally make bad choices and leave the program. However, not all who leave do so under negative circumstances. Lately, many have left the program by choice after achieving success in their own rehabilitation.

In all of life, they are learning to cope and also to support one another in all facets of life. I am mostly excited because I see God at work in the lives of the men here at Hand Up. I hear stories daily of their successes and occasional heartaches.

I trust you will continue to support Hand Up with your prayers and in other ways as God leads you. It is a joy to be a

small part of what God is doing through this great ministry.



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— Ray Riddle,
Oklahoma Director

TESTIMONIES

It is just simply amazing how God works in our lives. He gives us free will, and He allows us to make mistakes. No matter how big or how small the mistake, He is always there to pick us up, dust us off, and put us back in the race we call life. This has happened to me many times. I blamed God most of those times, and I turned away from Him. Now I know those mistakes were incorporated into His plan. It took some big mistakes for me to realize He expected me to learn and use those experiences to further my path and better myself. It boils down to that old saying, "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Now, that is what I do. Instead of feeling sorry for myself, I now ask Him for forgiveness and guidance.

There are many other adages from days gone by which are just as effective today as they were back then. One such saying is, "Learn from the mistakes of others, because you won't live long enough to make them all yourself."

God will always guide you down the right path as long as you let Him, but you MUST let Him. Don't worry, because He will always be there for you. The hard part is implementing His plan and guidance. That doesn't mean go out and make mistakes. As you grow in life, think about your actions beforehand. Think about the consequences of your actions. This was a struggle I dealt with most of my life. I only thought about what was fun and pleasurable. I only thought about ME. I didn't care about what harm I caused others. They didn't matter. My lifestyle was sex, drugs, and rock n roll. I

searched for euphoria in every aspect of my life.

Now I have learned a new euphoria, and that is the love of God and my savior Jesus. I have learned a lot from my past. I learned computers. I learned management skills. I learned perseverance. I learned tactfulness and many other traits. In the past, I used these traits to manipulate people. Now, I use these traits as a way to help God in His works at Hand Up. I now realize these were gifts He gave me to use for His purpose, not for my own selfish desires.

My family moved around a lot during my formidable years, which made it difficult to make friends. As a result, it was a difficult challenge to build relationships when I was an adult. This is probably the reason I never married. Looking back now, I see I sabotaged relationships because I feared they wouldn't last. I'm struggling with this, but I am getting better. My love for God and this ministry is helping me overcome that challenge. I still have a hard time SHOWING that love, and I'm sure many people see that. Sometimes, I overcompensate, and this has caused problems for me. Even so, God always gives me the guidance to see what I am doing, and He gives me the wisdom to manifest this into something positive.

It is heartwarming to see how Hand Up has grown in the 16 years I have known about this ministry. It is awesome to see the work He has done here, and to see all of the many lives which have changed. I am happy to be here and see this growth, and I hope to be a part of this ministry for years to come. I frequently pray to God and ask Him to give me the strength and ability to remain here until He decides it is time for me to come Home.



This ministry has been nationally recognized, and the potential for growth is astounding.

— Joe King
Office Manager

I was taken away from my mother when I was in third or fourth grade, and I grew up in foster care. I was moved from foster home to foster home. I was placed in a Christian home when I was in tenth grade, and my foster parents adopted me when I was 16. I joined the Arkansas Army National Guard when I was 17, and I had another family in the Guard.

I kept hanging around with the wrong crowd. I dropped out of school, and I started using drugs. I was kicked out of the National Guard because I didn't complete school and I had legal problems. I had two years to get back into the National Guard, but being discharged from National Guard took away my purpose in life. I got into heavy drug use, and I broke into a retail store. I received a five year suspended sentence, which meant I couldn't get back into the National Guard.

I was attending a good church, but I kept showing up high. I was told I couldn't serve two masters. I had to choose between drugs and church. I chose drugs. I stopped going to church until I went to prison in 2007. As many people do, I turned to God when I went to prison. I went back to drugs and alcohol when I left prison in 2009. I got married, and I jumped parole so I could move to North Dakota with my wife. I left her after a month because she told me I had to quit drinking and hanging out with potheads. I turned into a drunk, and I went back to prison. Of course, I started reading the Bible when I went to prison. I attended chapel, and I did hundreds of Bible studies. God took me back, even though I have turned my back on Him many times. The Lord has been working His miracles on me.

God is the only person who can fill the void. I kept trying to fill the void with drugs and other things. I served ten years for second degree sexual assault on my 30 year old girlfriend. Many people have turned their back on me, but I can always turn to God. I came to Hand Up Ministries on July 24th, 2020. Hand Up received me with open arms, and no one has judged me for my charge.

If it wasn't for Hand Up, I would probably turn back to drugs and alcohol. Hand Up has provided a structured environment. I am glad church attendance is mandatory at Hand Up. I am thankful for Hand Up giving a chance at a new life.



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— Andrew Jennings

I grew up on the southwest side of Oklahoma City. I am the youngest of three children. My brother is nine and a half years older than me, and my sister is eight and a half years older than me. With that being said, I was picked on and teased all of the time.

I grew up going to church with my mom and grandparents. At a young age, I gave my life to the Lord. We went to church every Sunday and Wednesday. My Dad would go to church on holidays and special events. On the evening of October 31st, 1997, my grandpa, my mom's dad, lost his battle with a lung disease. Over the previous few years, I had lived with my grandpa, and I helped him with the housework and anything else he needed. I knew it was coming, but that did not stop me from blaming God for taking my best friend from me. I blamed God for my grandpa's death. I questioned why He let my grandpa suffer and why He took him from me.

Over the next 15 years, I lived my life the way I wanted to live it. I became addicted to opioids after knee surgery when I was 21 years old. I continued that addiction into my thirties. I discovered crystal meth when I was 32. At the time, I thought it was the greatest discovery. I had no idea of the fast decline my life would take with the discovery of this drug. Over the next three and a half years, I lived life fast and hard. After my mom had a knee replacement, she had to rely on my dad and me to take her to the places where she had to go. One of the places I took her was church. I really enjoyed taking her to church, and I began to search for my faith again.

My dad and I found my mom unresponsive in July of 2015. She took a nap, and she never woke up. She was placed on life support. She had too much

brain damage, and she was taken off life support. She passed away on July 21st, 2015. That is when my life took a turn for the worse again. I blamed God completely, and I turned my back on God. I decided I would do things my way. My way landed me in prison for four years.

While in prison, with God's help, I got off drugs. I have been drug free for almost three years. I also rededicated my life to God, and I have been very happy and blessed since then. I was told about Hand Up Ministries when I was in prison. I applied to Hand Up, and I was accepted. I have been blessed since that day. Hand Up has allowed me start over, and Hand Up was there when no one else was.

— Derrick Kearnes

I was raised in a Christian home. My brother was killed in a car wreck when I was eight years old. My brother was my idol, and I felt like God had let me down. Later, I started running around with the wrong people, and it wasn't long before I started getting into trouble. I was drinking and getting into fights. I got kicked out of school, and I went to jail.

I have had a lot of problems related to drinking. I drank so long that it affected my pancreas and liver. If I started drinking again, I would surely die. Hand Up Ministries has provided a place to live around sober minded people, which is an inspiration to me. I have no temptations living here.

A friend told me about Hand Up before I discharged from prison. I called Hand Up, and they provided a place for me to go upon release. I am very thankful for this. I daily thank God for the help I receive from Hand Up. The food donations are a big help. I just got out of prison. I need all the help I can get.

— Jim Manes

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 Christ.

