

NEWS

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→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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UPDATE

What a great God we serve, and what great things He is doing. All the kings and authorities of his earth are no more than pawns in His hands. What



God's word says will come to pass and is coming to pass. While a revival is happening right now, the end will happen. Only God knows how and

when that will happen, and it is our responsibility to keep oil in our lamp (Matthew 25:1-13). Be ready for the Lord's coming.

We are in the middle of getting the loan for our chapel and offices. While we have some sharp people involved in doing all of the tremendous amount of work necessary to get this done, I'm sure they would appreciate your prayers. Several contractors and other professionals will be involved. This is no small project, nor is it easy.

The farm is progressing, and it is amazing. We had to increase our number of laying hens to 340. More



changes are being done to the greenhouse, and work is being done on more apartments. We have cleared more of the property, and the new sewer system is being completed. We are also making progress on enlarging the first pond. We will start sharing pictures soon.

Our Vice President, Dondino Melchorrie, and his wife Donna have been here for a long week. They do a lot for this ministry, and soon Donna will have the new website going. Donna is also over grant writing and social media. Who knows what God has in store?

We are now in need of more beds, and we are having to turn away more people. We could be adding another 20 clients a month if we had more room. Nearly all of the people we can't take end up on the street sleeping in ditches, etc. Politicians try to keep all of these facts hidden, so for most people it is "out of sight, out of mind." God help us all.

-David Nichols

TESTIMONIES

I didn't have a good childhood. I knew my mother when I was little, but I

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didn't know my dad. I have two brothers and one sister. I was the youngest of my mom's kids. All I can remember are the bad things, never the good. I was always making my mom spank me by running away or being bad in school. I was 10 or 11 around that time. We moved to Oklahoma City when I was 12, and everything went downhill for me.

My so-called friend wanted to make some money, but not by selling drugs. He wanted to take things from people's homes. They called 911, and I was taken into custody. I didn't go to jail because I was 12. I was sent to a boys' home for three years. My mother and my sister brought me home when I discharged. I was 15, and I was living with my mother, my sister, and my brother. My mother was different. She was more chilled. That was when I met my first baby mama. [Editor's note: For those not familiar with modern slang, "baby mama" refers to the mother of one's child]. I was almost 17. My family moved around a lot, I didn't know she had given birth to my son until I was 20.

I have two other kids by two different women. I committed my first big crime when I was 21, and I went to prison for four and a half years. Smoking weed and having sex caused me to go astray from the Lord. I knew it was wrong, but I wanted to be cool. To be honest, I wanted to be somebody because I felt like I was nobody. My

whole life I felt like my mother didn't love me. I found out she did love me. She just didn't love what I was doing with my life.

I am a new resident at Hand Up Ministries. I was in prison, and I was looking for a good program to help me be a better person. I came across Hand Up. I wanted more information, and Mrs. Lee helped me set it up. I didn't want to leave Tulsa, but I didn't want to be the same person I was before. Thanks to Hand Up Ministries, I am now drug free. Hand Up has done a lot for me. They helped me get SoonerCare, food stamps, a state ID, and a license. They are helping me look for a job. They give me rides to my appointments, and they have helped me get clothing. They see the good in people, and they push us to be better. God did everything to put me here, and He put people who care about me in my life. I can learn from people at Hand Up, and I can be the son He wants me to be. Thanks be to Hand Up Ministries.

-Tre'Shawn Horton

I was adopted when I was two years old. My dad bought an old house in the country, and he spent the next ten years turning it into a three bedroom house. I was raised in the Pentecostal religion. I was saved and born again at the age of seven. I was baptized three times, and I received the Holy Ghost when I was 10. My dad was ex-military. He served at Tinker Air Force Base. He was the deacon of the church.

My early childhood consisted of farm work. I wasn't allowed to play sports, nor was I allowed to wear shorts or tank tops. Those things were ungodly. I had to be home to do farm work. We went to church twice on Sunday and once on Wednesday. We also

went to prayer meeting service on Friday night. I went to school, and I got my first degree in auto mechanics. I went back to school, and I got degrees in carpentry. I got an apprentice license at OG&E. I worked with my uncle as a pole lineman until he retired. I moved to Pennsylvania, and I worked for Sony for 14 years. I built computers and televisions until Sony moved the plant to Japan. I never took my eyes off of God, and I kept my faith.

I bought a used car from my neighbor so my daughter could have a car for high school. I didn't know my neighbor had been convicted of selling meth and had lifetime probation. She had sold out her husband, and he was in prison. She had money, and she had friends in the court system. She stole the car she had sold to me, and I spent a year trying to get it back. I finally threatened her with grand theft auto charges, which would have violated her probation and sent her to prison for life. She said, "Not if I get you first" I was accused of a crime, and here I am.

Hand Up Ministries has given me a place to live, and I have good brothers in Christ. They have been like family to me. God is healing my severe emphysema. I have a place to call home, and I have food and finances. I am truly grateful and humbled. God is real. I thank God, Hand Up Ministries, and the Love Foundation.

-Faron Churchwell

I was born in Idabel, Oklahoma, but we moved to Tulsa after living in Wright City for two years. I lived in Tulsa for 20 years. My dad was a deacon in a Baptist church, and I gave my life to Jesus when I

was five. When they asked how I felt, I told them my heart was changed. The little community where I grew up was a very low income place. We did not have much, but it was okay because the Lord provided. My dad was a drunk, and he spent all of his income on beer.

I graduated from high school in 1974, and I joined the Army in 1977. I got married to woman who had three kids, but it didn't work out. She just used me to get back at her ex. I worked many different jobs when I was in the Army, and I went to Germany. I loved every minute of it. I started drinking a lot, and I didn't do my job right, so I couldn't reenlist. I married my second wife. She already had a kid. I rejoined the Army, and I was sent to Korea. I lost my family. I started driving a truck after my second stint in the Army, but I got off of the road after four years.

I moved to Muskogee, where I met my third wife. We had a daughter. She already had a son, who I adopted in 1997. I committed a crime in 2006, and I was sentenced to 20 years in prison. I served 17 years, and I got out of prison in 2023. Before I got out, someone came to the prison and talked to us about Hand Up Ministries. I applied to Hand Up, and I went to Hand Up's 59th Street campus when I discharged from prison. They treated me well as soon as I got there.

I stayed in a tent for about two and a half months, and then I got a chance to go to Hand Up's Chandler location. I really like it in Chandler. I have made good friends, and I love everyone here. God has blessed me with a good place to live. I receive Social Security, and I make it. I am still trying to reconcile with my family, and

with God's help I will.

-Harold Hicks

I was given an abundance of two things when I was growing up. These two things were love and God. My mother was a registered nurse, and my dad was a Viet Nam veteran who was a supervisor at Anheuser-Busch. My parents divorced when I was five. My two sisters and I chose to stay with my father. Though he was my hero, I had no discipline or structure. I was still receiving a heavy dose of God. My maternal grandparents would take me to church every Sunday morning, every Sunday evening, and every Wednesday evening. Attendance was not optional.

As I grew up, my athletic ability started to present itself. I excelled at any sport I played. I settled on three sports. I was a quarterback and a linebacker in football. I was a point guard in basketball, and I boxed. I excelled in all three sports, and I was getting a lot of attention in all three sports. I was pursued by colleges for football and basketball. My boxing was even bigger. At 17, my boxing record was 11-1, and the lone loss was due to a disqualification for kicking my opponent in the stomach after I knocked him down with a right hook. Boxing made me feel invincible, which started to bleed into my personal life.

I was always fighting and doing everything I could do to see how far I could go. Because of my athletic ability I was given pass after pass. Then I decided to start selling marijuana. With the money came the girls. I was sent to prison in 1993, and I wasn't released till 2004. I stayed out of prison until 2021. To be honest, how I

stayed out of prison that long is a miracle, because I was doing everything wrong. Before my release in 2024, I found my way back to God.

I was terrified of being released. I dropped to my knees, and I told Jesus, "I'm yours, and I can't do this alone." The chaplain who baptized me suggested to me that I go to Hand Up Ministries instead of going home. I filled out the Hand Up application, and I was accepted. I arrived at Hand Up on April 22, 2024. I had nothing but the clothes on my back. Hand Up provided me with a roof over my head and food to eat. They helped me get an ID and a Social Security card, and they provided transportation to work. Most importantly, they gave me a church where I could continue to grow as a Christian. I have been at my job for a year. I have my driver license and my own vehicle. I am extremely rich in my faith. None of this would have been possible without David Nichols and Hand Up Ministries.

Matthew 7:7-8

7) Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened for you.

8) For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

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