

NEWS

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→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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UPDATE

Praise be to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! He created the heavens and earth, and all things were good. He gave it all to Adam and

Eve, who were deceived by Satan into questioning whether God was hiding something better than what they had been given. The thing they looked at looked good to the eye, so it couldn't be bad. Right? So they gave their power away to Satan by trying it out.

Through His Spirit we have been given power over the flesh and the kingdom of this world. Satan tries to convince us we are missing out on better things. All we need to do is partake of the things God has said not to touch. Not everything is what it looks like. God wants us to trust Him so we can become part of a kingdom without all the hurt, pain, disease, death, and lack of anything we need.

In this life we are tempted to think God is withholding good from us,



so we submit to things the world says is good and will make us better, happier, wiser, and more like God. By participating, we give away the power God has given us, and we walk into the snare the devil has laid for us.

Satan has deceived man into thinking men and women are of different importance to God. We judge man by what we think is best and worst for us. We decide who is worthy to receive God's grace, and we judge man accordingly. We no longer see sin as sin, nor do we see God's grace as free to anyone who repents and accepts it. We think we should dispense grace, not God.

The ministry God created through me represents those at the bottom of the barrel, the lowest rung on the ladder, and the worst of the worst in our society. I've had ministers, pastors, and clergy, those who represent God to the public, say these people cannot be saved. They say they should be driven into the ocean; that they should not be able live among us. These are things I have heard with my own ears. So laws have been made and being made to try to accomplish just that. Then when one of their own family or someone they like becomes guilty, they

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want to make these people exempt from the law, and those with enough money or power usually get it done.

Our ministry has never changed its calling and objective, which is to reintegrate ANY person coming out of prison into society, regardless of his crime. The only requirement is that they obey the rules and not break any laws of the state. We are a program that works on the three areas of any person's life in order to achieve a successful life. These are the physical, the mental, and the spiritual items laid out by God's word. Therefore we get to see a high rate of success in most of our clients, and we see a very low rate of reoffending even after moving on from our program.

Since I have been cut off from the church world, I have come to realize the power of the family and community inclusion that we provide for our men and women. The only inclusion we feel from outside our program is those few people (and a couple of churches) who show it by donating to us, and we use these donations to make more bed space for more people needing a hand up. So I am starting "The Family Club." This club will be for anyone who donates at least \$1 a month to our endeavor. This will let me know who my friends and family are. Those who we can count on as family and know they are more than talk. You can either

go to our website "huminc.org" and click on donate, or you can mail a donation. Our clients take care of maintaining our program, so your donation will go to helping "NEW CLIENTS" find a family and new life.

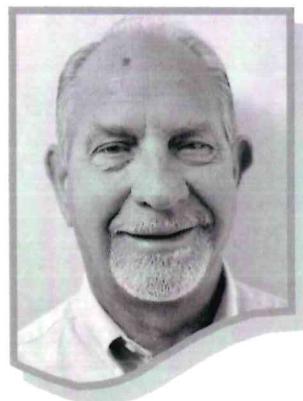
I want to express my sincere thanks to "Life Church" in Walker, Louisiana for inviting me to "Red Carpet Weekend" in April. The fellowship was "SUPER," and the food unending. It started with a crawfish feast and it never let up from there. The worship was phenomenal, and the friendship was sincere. The specialty coffee was the best, and I was even sent home with large bag of Cajun food and some coffee.

A big thanks to Pastor Val Taylor for blessing me, and a very big thanks to Linda Janet for putting the weekend together. Thanks to Vicky McKnight and many others for making it all happen, and I want to give a big thanks to Garry and Becky Gaspard for thinking of me and inviting me. I so enjoyed the fellowship of the many missionaries and ministers. We were all treated so well. Thanks for all of your blessing.

-David Nichols

What is in a day?

What's in a day, did you ever stop to think?



Just a repeat of the day before that makes you want to shrink?

Or more like a beginning, a fresh start for all?

That starts with

promise until you get that first call.
Do you look at it with a positive view?
Or do you find the hours are just too few?
Is it time filled with busyness and projects
stacking up?
Or is there time to celebrate a victory or
even raise a cup?
I believe what's in a day is mostly up to
us
We can make it pleasant or a fuss and
fume and cuss.
Can I decide what kind of day that I would
like to see?
Perhaps it's just perspective of what's in
front of me?
What I know of each new day, is it can be
just like the others.
Filled with busy and overwhelmed
enough to make one smother.
Or it can be a different tempo where I
decide the march,
Start out with optimism and a humor
that's not parched
What's in a day is up to me even when
troubles come.
For difficulties are a plenty and there will
forever be some.
But how I handle the trials is what decides
the landscape
So buckle up, put on a smile and don't
forget your cape
-written by Ray Riddle
I grew up in the church, learning to

pray before meals and praise God on
Sunday. Like most kids, these actions
were devoid of spirit, done out of routine
instead of faith. I remember hating
Sunday school, because it took away
from play time. I excelled in my biblical
studies, not because I was moved to do
this, but because our Sunday school
teacher gave us donuts. As my childhood
progressed, I came to better understand
the concept of God, but I still lacked
faith. I viewed God as a genie-like figure
who granted wishes from heaven. My
family tried to integrate faith into my
daily life, but I wasn't very responsive.

As I entered my teenage years, I
began to stray from the teachings of the
church. I stopped praying, and I teased
those who were outwardly Christian. I
was lost. I began battling depression and
self-loathing that I now realize came from
turning my face from God. Even when I
was arrested at the age of seventeen, I
did not turn to God. I bonded out that
day, and I continued idolizing worldly
things. It wasn't until I was sentenced
and incarcerated that I began rebuilding
my relationship with God. My parents
sent me a Bible, and I started to read.

God's word was completely
different to me as an adult than it was
when I was in my childhood. Concepts
my parents tried to teach me over two
decades finally made sense. In prison, I
made friends with knowledgeable
Christians, and I grew in my faith by
studying the word of God with them.
These friends of mine helped me stay
sober and walk the straight and narrow.
They also helped me find Hand Up
Ministries, a sober living reintegration

facility.

Hand Up helped me get my life as a free man started and provided me with sober living conditions. Without Hand Up, I would be homeless and struggling to make it. Their weekly church meetings help me stay connected to the Lord, and their weekly Genesis 1 support group meetings help me cope with all the passions of being in the free world. I thank God for putting me in such a helpful place.

-Anonymous

I never had a child's childhood. I was constantly seeking guidance from those around me. I had to grow up at six years of age. I was running the streets by age seven. I was doing drugs of any kind and sleeping under bridges. I ate maybe once or twice a week. That was my "childhood" up until I was 13. It was then that I started breaking into places to earn money. I started hanging around worse and worse people, and I started pushing drugs. I got kicked out of school when I was 16. I got a job when I was 18.

Things got better until I lost my job. I started selling drugs again, and I went to jail. I was in and out of jail till I was 22. I was charged with a felony while I was incarcerated, and I went to prison. I am not an entirely religious person, but I know for a fact that God is real. He does forgive a person more than he deserves. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. I never expected to get a second chance like I did, and I am grateful for that.

-Anonymous



Proverbs 31:28-29

28 "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

29 Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

Happy Mothers Day to all the mothers and we remember the ones we have lost.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
To Give Online: www.huminc.org/give

or
Mail donations to:
Hand Up Ministries Inc.
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