

NEWS

April 2026

→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

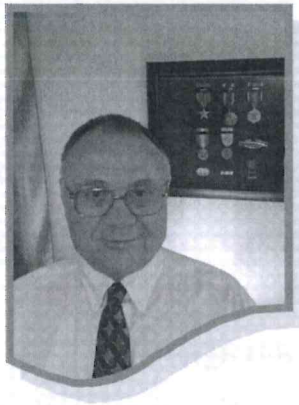
David Nichols —
Main Office —

President
(405) 236-3349

UPDATE

Greetings from those at Hand Up, who are well acquainted with and totally dependent on the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is none like Him. His unmatched love and abundant grace are revealed by this ministry, and they are the only reason we exist. While it is so difficult for the mind to understand, it is always available to those who become humble enough to realize they need help from the God who loves them. This life is full of trouble and hurts, but His grace is sufficient for us to overcome with joy through His love and truth.

If you want to understand the love of God, go to the website "handupministriesinc.org" and read some of the testimonies of the men God has changed. There is nothing God can't change if given the chance. People judge other people and put them in categories they have created. That is how they see



people, but God sees us all as His family. He loves us as His children. If we always do great, that is good. If we leave His presence and go out to waste our lives, He stands watch, ready to receive us back home. May we always be ready to share God's love and welcome home those who have strayed!

We are ready for a loan for our new chapel, but we are taking it slow because we are hoping to get lower interest rates. High interest means less housing. What people need most is housing. Pray we will be able to keep growing to meet the need of housing.

Our farm is slowly progressing. We have 13 beds there, and they are full. We hope to complete five apartments there in the next couple of months to help with our Social Security clients. After that we will work on the other 15 we have started, and then we will begin work on container homes.

We also keep working on our greenhouses, and we are working on our one acre pond to help water our greenhouses. Adding the fish will make them aquaponics. We intend to add another pond of about an acre.

Our website has poetry and songs

NEWS

written by our residents. It also has artwork created by our men. It also has lots of testimonies. We are just getting started. Let us know what you think. Changing lives is our mission. The gospel is our vehicle. It is all powered by the Spirit of the Lord.

-David Nichols

A Second Chance at Life: The Joy of Freedom and the Power to Rebuild

For a man who has spent time behind prison walls, freedom is not just a word. It is an experience, a realization, and often, a deeply emotional awakening. It is the sound of a door opening without it being locked behind you. It is the quiet of the night without chaos. It is the ability to choose where you go, what you do, and who you become. More than anything, freedom is opportunity.

After incarceration, life doesn't simply "go back to normal." In many ways, the old life is gone. Relationships may be strained or broken. Career paths may have vanished. Confidence may be shaken. Yet within all that loss lies something powerful: the chance to rebuild, this time with intention.



Freedom offers the opportunity to start fresh and to lay a new foundation built on the lessons learned the hard way. It allows a man to redefine himself, not by his past mistakes but by his present choices. There is a unique joy in small things many take for granted. A cup of coffee in the morning without a count being called. A walk outside at your own pace. A conversation with someone about whom you care that isn't limited by time or supervision. These simple freedoms become treasures and reminders of how far one has come.

There also the bigger opportunities, the kind that shape a future.

The opportunity to work and earn honestly.

The opportunity to rebuild trust with family.

The opportunity to form new relationships rooted in truth and accountability.

The opportunity to dream again.

For many men, the journey after incarceration is not easy. There are real challenges, such as temptations, setbacks, rejection, and moments of doubt. Freedom provides something that incarceration never could: the ability to choose a different path every single day. Each morning becomes a new decision point. Will I go back, or will I move forward?

At Hand Up Ministries, we believe freedom is not just about being released. It is about being restored. It is about helping men take that second chance and turn it into a lasting transformation. Through structure, support, accountability, and community, men are given the tools they need to not only survive on the outside, but to succeed. Because the truth is, a life once broken is not

beyond repair. In fact, it can become something even stronger.

A man who has faced the consequences of his past, who has wrestled with his failures, and who chooses to rise anyway – he carries a strength that cannot be taught. His story becomes a testimony. His progress becomes proof that change is possible. Freedom is not the end of the journey. It is the beginning of a new one.

For those willing to embrace it, it is filled with purpose, growth, and the quiet but powerful joy of becoming the man you always meant to be.

-Ray Riddle

Testimonies

I grew up with divorced parents, and I travelled from parent to parent. My mom lived in California, and my dad lived in Oklahoma. My mom remarried a few years after the divorce. My mom attended a Lutheran church where I participated in the choir and church activities. My father remarried several years after the divorce. He attended church occasionally. I joined a Nazarene church after I turned 16.

I joined the Navy, and I served my country while I traveled the world. I went to many European countries. I did not attend church regularly when I was in the Navy. I became a cop in Oklahoma after I left the military. I got married, and I had a son. My wife grew up in a family that regularly attended church. Her mom played piano, and her dad helped with the audio equipment. My wife attended a private Christian school instead of public

school.

My wife and I divorced. A few years later I lost my job in law enforcement because of hearing loss related to my military service. I found myself alone and depressed, and I made a mistake that would change my life forever. I heard about Hand Up Ministries when I was in prison. Hand Up helped me with housing and transportation. The Hand Up church services allowed me to reconnect with my faith. With the help of Hand Up and the power of the Lord, I have been able to move past my conviction, and I am able to be successful in work and in life.

-Joshua Davis

I had a pretty normal early childhood. We went to church and Bible study every Sunday, and I went to Sunday school. We also went to church most Wednesdays. My dad was a truck driver, so he was gone for weeks at a time. My mom did most of the raising. I didn't have a rough time at home. I was just a typical kid. School was normal until around my sophomore year of high school. That was when I started to go off track. I started smoking pot, drinking alcohol, and having sex. I also started playing guitar in my first band. My focus shifted away from school, and my grades dropped. I started skipping class regularly, and I didn't graduate. I got a GED instead.

I had my daughter when I was 21. She came from a woman who was supposed to be a one night stand. We dated for about the first two years of my daughter's life, but we were not faithful to each other. I cheated more than her. My

daughter was a real turning point for me at first. I got clean, and I tried to be a dad. I ultimately couldn't handle the baby momma, so I left. She got with one of my friends, then she disappeared. I didn't see my daughter again for six years, when she was eight.

I still played guitar and sang in my band. I joined the Army in 2007. I got clean for about two years. In 2009 I met the woman who would be baby mamma number two, and we had a son in 2011. We were together for four years, during which time I didn't do any drugs other than pot. After being with her for four years, I learned she had been cheating on me for three years with 16 different guys. This killed me. I left, and I went straight to drugs and drinking. My teeth were in bad shape by 2014, and I was in incredible pain. I began dating a stripper who introduced me to OxyContin. There was no turning back. I was nearly instantly addicted.

Over the next two years I spiraled down so fast I didn't see it coming. I was arrested in late 2016, and was sentenced to 10 years. In prison I began doing sound for the praise team, and God started working on me. Their guitar player got shipped, and I was asked to play guitar for them. My entire view on music, faith, and the world changed. I was released from prison in May 2026, and I went to Hand Up Ministries. I have been sober for eight and a half years, and I am ready to live life for God.

-Will King

I had a good childhood. I was born in

Fort Smith, Arkansas, but we moved to Oklahoma when I was young. I had three brothers and one sister. I was the oldest. I was also the black sheep of the family. After I graduated from high school I went to work to try to help my dad. I started drinking and partying. I still had a job, but my drinking got worse. I got married, but the marriage only lasted a year.

I continued drinking, and I got married a second time. We had a son, and this this marriage lasted six years. I went to prison. I was sentenced to 10 years of incarceration and five years of probation. My parents passed away when I was in prison. It was hard for a while, but I got through it. I went to Hand Up Ministries after I was released from prison.

I got a job working for Hand Up the second week I was at Hand Up. Hand Up helps me, but I also have to help myself. I have been homeless before, and it is no joke. I am grateful for Hand Up's help. I have trust issues. I believe in the Creator. I ponder life as I get older. Life is what you make it. I thank David Nichols and Hand Up for giving me a chance.

-Carl Fain

May we think about our risen Savior as we go through this Easter season.

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

or
Mail donations to:
Hand Up Ministries Inc.
PO Box 2896
OKC, OK 73101

