

NEWS

March 2024

→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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UPDATE



Glory to God, the father of all good and precious promises. His love surpasses anything our carnal mind can conceive. He loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to provide a way to escape for all who would accept His Son as Lord and refuse to follow Satan to his destiny. We could never praise Him enough!

Great things are happening, just never fast enough for our impatience. While I would like to report all things, it is prudent to wait until it happens first. One thing for sure, everything is moving forward continuously. The rain and the cold has slowed us a lot, but the weather has not ever stopped us.

By the time you read this, we should have seven men living at the farm, with two working the greenhouse, and at least two working on apartments. Two or three clients are men who can't work. We have two or more greenhouses operating, but



that will just be the beginning. Ben, our contractor, pushes forward at a fast pace, so pray we can keep up. We hope to have four or five greenhouses active by the end of March. We still have tons of work for any volunteers. There is bulldozing, brush hogging, carpentry, driving men to appointments, and help with produce. Text me at 405-613-3120 if you want to help.

Due to the many changes of city regulations that cost nearly twice what building costs are in the country, we are having to postpone building our offices for now and just build a chapel building. We have started the paperwork process for that. We will tackle the office building after that project is finished. God is in the business of doing what men cannot do. He expects us to do what we can do.

We have had several guys who did not take thought about what they were doing to their body by what they put into their body. Some died, while others came close to dying before changing their bad habits and bad food. Too many think that by repenting and changing their heart, everything else will take care of itself. Because the body becomes God's temple, renewing the mind becomes the next important step. As God enlightens our mind, it reveals to us how to trust His temple to become all He wants us to be.

-David Nichols

finally went to prison for 25 years, and for the first 15 years I stayed high. I decided I couldn't live that way anymore, and I gave myself to the Lord. I started to do the right thing. I got out of prison, and I found Hand Up Ministries. If it wasn't for the Lord and Hand Up, I would be in bad shape.

-Larry Ryans

I grew up in Plainview, Texas. I had a good life with my mom and my dad. I had a bad experience with a teacher when I was very young. She permanently damaged my hand with a ruler. When I was 16, we moved to Roswell, New Mexico to help my grandparents on a farm. I got into trouble with the law when I was 20, and I spent five years in prison. A few years later, I went to prison for assault. It seems I spent a good part of my life in trouble for one thing or another.

A case manager in prison told me about Hand Up Ministries. I applied to Hand Up, and I was accepted. I am 57 old, and I am on SSI for mental health issues. I live the Hand Up's Chandler location. I miss my family in Roswell, but, due to my crimes and situation, I can't have contact with them. I have made good friends at Hand Up. They are people who help me to do the right things and live the way I should live. I don't remember when I prayed or asked Jesus into my heart, but I know I love Jesus and I love other people.

I don't know where I would be without Hand Up Ministries. Because of Hand Up, I have a roof over my head, and I have people around me who care. The people at Hand Up are kind and considerate, and they give me good advice. I have no real plans for the rest of my life, except to remain where I am and help others around me. I am so very glad to not be in prison anymore. I am also very glad to have a place to live.

-Samuel Hayes

I grew up in a very rough family. My

step-father was very abusive. My mom tried dealing with both of us as best she could, but she had issues as well. It was no better in school. I felt since I couldn't win at home with my step-dad, I acted out on the bullies at school, and I fought a lot. I got dope from the people with whom I got along. I was 13, and my use of dope led to an addiction that lasted until I was 50 years old. By the grace of Jesus, I quit dope. I have been clean for almost three years.

I went to prison for the first time in 1990. I was a pagan. My religion was paganism, and I practiced this religion every day. I got out of prison in March 1991, and I went back to prison in July of 1991. I got out of prison in 2008, and I had all new addictions. I went back to prison a year later. I got out and went back again. I spent 12 years in prison this time.

I joined Celebrate Recovery in 2016. By God's grace, I got clean. I am still in Celebrate Recovery, and I am on the leadership team. Here at Hand Up, I am learning to put away my past and get forgiveness for the wrongs I have done in the past. I know life for me will never be easy, but through the Lord I can do all things as long as it lines up with Jesus' plan for my life. My goal is to go back into prison as a Celebrate Recovery volunteer and give to others what was given to me.

-Harold Newman

I was born in Oklahoma City. I was raped, and so were my two sisters and my adopted brother. I grew up in a rough, low-income neighborhood. It was full of drugs and gangs. I spent my teen years getting into trouble and running with the wrong crowds. I got involved in the drug trade when I was 13 years old. I was running from the cops and living on the streets. I had godparents who tried to steer me down the right path, but I never listened to them. I grew up going to church, but I never knew God.

I have spent most of my adult life in and out of jail and prison. I spent 10 years in prison the last time I went to prison. I lost

my houses and land as a result of going to prison. Hand Up Ministries gave me the right start in my new life. They gave me a place to live, and they helped me find a job. Hand Up keeps me from going back to the streets and my old life. I am just now getting to know the Lord. I have a job that I love, and I am starting to make amends with my family. My new life is going in the right direction. God has helped me get through hard times, and He is guiding me through my new life. God is pointing me in the right direction.

-William Dean

I was born in July of 1965, and I was the youngest of seven children. Both of my parents worked, so I was raised a lot by my older siblings. We never had a much, but we knew that we were loved. We went to church, and I was saved at the age of ten. I joined the Army when I was 18. I was involved in a car explosion shortly after I joined the Army, and I was burned over 22% of my body. The doctor didn't expect me to live, and I was read the last rites. I began to improve, and I spent 29 days in the hospital. I was deployed to Germany after I recovered, and I met my wife in Germany. We had a son in 1987. I spent three years in Germany, and I finished my service at Fort Hood. I moved to California, where I worked in a solar energy plant for one year. We moved back to Germany, where I lived for 20 years. I moved back to Arkansas, and I met my second wife.

Work brought me to Oklahoma, and we adopted two beautiful kids. I found myself in trouble with the law in 2000. When I was in prison, I found God once again, and I relished what was missing in my life. I heard about Hand Up Ministries when I was in prison. I applied to Hand Up, and I was accepted. I have been at Hand Up for about three years. I am thankful for David Nichols and the men at Hand Up. I have been truly blessed since I got out of prison. I have met some very nice people here. God has blessed me over and over

again.

-Craig Hooper

I was raised in the church. Despite the church, I was abused by my parents, both physically and mentally. My mother died when I was 14 years old, and I was thrown into the street. I grew up with a hatred for authority, for family, and for the law. I spent much of my life in and out of jails and prisons. I finally went to prison for a crime I didn't commit. Instead allowing my heart to grow harder, I cried out to God, and He heard my voice and found me in the pit. God answered me and revealed Himself. I gave my heart to Him, and He rescued me.

I came to Oklahoma after prison to be with my sister, but I didn't have a place to live. I was thrown into prison again. I learned about Hand Up Ministries when I was in prison. I applied to Hand Up Ministries, and I was accepted. God provided me with a place to live. I have since learned how to love unconditionally and how to live with people. I am thankful to the Lord for providing me with a home at Hand Up. This is a place where I can grow in my faith.

Mark Blake

2 Chronicles 7:14

14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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.

