

NEWS

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→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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UPDATE

All praise and glory to God, who has provided a path to eternal life with Him through the sacrifice of Christ. We praise Him for giving us the Holy Ghost



to comfort us through this life with all of our sorrows. Although Satan still has the power to steal, kill, and destroy, God will continue to give power by

His Spirit to overcome in this world.

Due to many factors out of our control, getting all of the work done to get the chapel loan has been slow. It should have already been started, but it will still be accomplished. God's timing is always the best.

The devil has come to steal, kill, and destroy. My heart has been very grieved at all of the destruction of lives I personally witness, as well as that which I hear about and read about. Satan's time is getting very short, and he knows it. Wars and rumors of wars are happening NOW. When peace is thought to be achieved, sudden destruction will



come. Has the gospel been preached to all nations? Must be close! Has the great falling away happened yet? Not falling away from religion, but falling away from God. It is time we kept oil in our lamps and made ready for the bridegroom.

Jesus, the peacemaker, is ready to come take His bride. He didn't come to bring peace to this world, but to the hearts of those in His kingdom. Only when Satan is bound for 1,000 years will there be peace on earth. It won't happen by man, but by the Lord Himself. Right now the Lord can give you peace in your heart, even during all the tribulation of this world. If we sincerely ask, we will receive.

Concerning the farm, we had to add another 100 hens. We have one customer taking one hundred dozen eggs per week. Who knows how many hundred hens we will have to have? Our new septic system is finished, and the first two apartments are half done. The first large pond is nearly half done. Much of the brush has been cleared to bring beauty to the property. We are continually working on the greenhouses.

The website turned out to be a huge project. It will be up and active before our next newsletter. The women doing this are very talented and dedicated. We can

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dream, but only God knows what the future holds for Hand Up.

-David Nichols

Letter from Rob Taylor

Our God is a generous God. At times, He works great things through people who have tremendous hearts. These are people who believe in something simple, yet powerful: humanity. There are individuals in this world who genuinely want to help others – not because of who they are on paper, not because of their past, but simply because they see the value in every human life, just as God has taught us.

I've had the great pleasure of meeting one of these people – a true child of God. This person is someone who sees the struggles that many of us face in our daily lives: the challenge of finding decent paying jobs, attending the required classes, and dealing with financial hardships. They looked past the surface, and they reached out to help.

With the help of a local benefactor working through a local foundation, we are now able to assist some of our residents who have fallen on hard times. These are individuals who are committed to our program, who walk faithfully with God, but who face barriers due to legal history or

societal judgement. Jobs may be available, but good paying opportunities are often out of reach because of those perceptions.

Thanks to the Linda and Steve Slawson Family Fund and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, we can offer direct financial assistance to help some of these residents maintain housing. These are residents who might otherwise become homeless. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support. It means the world to me personally.

I deeply believe in helping people who are on this same road. I walk it daily. When I had nowhere else to go, God brought me here. He showed me not only a place of refuge, but He also showed me a purpose. I arrived here two and a half years ago. I started by building tent bases to expand how many people we could serve. I was entrusted with managing our books two years ago, and I take this responsibility seriously. I was appointed Park Manager at the 59th Street location one year ago, and in January I was given stewardship over much of our finances and payments.

I am blessed with a second job, and I have occasionally been able to help others out of my own pocket. I am grateful God put me on this path and gave me the opportunity to build a future rooted in helping others. God has assembled an amazing team here, and each member of that team has a heart to serve. I am deeply thankful for every one of them and the work they do both here and beyond Hand Up. I truly look forward to what God has planned for us. I want to see how many more lives we can touch and uplift, not just today, but long term.

It is a long and winding road, but with

God's guidance, and with open hearts and minds, we will continue doing His work. To everyone who shares this mission and believes in second chances and lifting up others, I sincerely thank you.

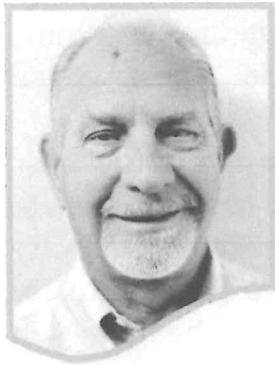
-Rob Taylor

Hope and Healing for Men Rebuilding after Incarceration

As the seasons turn toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, many of us prepare our homes and our hearts for family gatherings, shared meals, and warm traditions. For men who have spent time incarcerated, this time of year can also bring heartache – reminders of what was lost, of time apart, and of the uphill battle toward rebuilding life and trust.

Coming home after incarceration is not a simple homecoming. It is often a daily battle with stigma, limited opportunity, and the quiet fear that one mistake will define a lifetime. Many of these men are working tirelessly to prove themselves anew – holding steady jobs, rebuilding relationships with children and family, seeking stability, and walking a path of faith and transformation. Yet during the holidays, when joy and belonging are on full display, loneliness and regret can weigh heavily.

This is when the power of community truly matters. Prayer and



compassion can make an extraordinary difference. When we lift up these men in prayer – asking God to strengthen their resolve, soften the hearts of those around them, and open doors of grace – we join in the redemptive work that Christ Himself began. A kind word, a listening ear, or an invitation to share a meal can remind them that their story is not over and that restoration is possible.

As we gather this holiday season, let us remember those who are rebuilding their lives one day at a time. Let us see them not as the sum of their past, but as men being renewed by hope and guided by faith. Your thoughts, prayers, and encouragement may be the quiet miracle that helps one of them stay the course.

"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison." – Hebrews 13:3

-Ray Riddle

Testimonies

I was diagnosed with cancer at fourteen months old, so I really didn't have much of a childhood. I was in and out of the hospital. I went through full body radiation and chemotherapy. I relapsed when I was four and a half years old, and I was put on a list for a bone marrow transplant. They found a match for me in October 1995. My mother was by my side during this entire time. We lost my dad to cancer in January 1995. They kept a close eye on me after my bone marrow transplant, but after ten years they told me I was free from cancer. I just had to be checked once a year to be safe.

Since then everything has been on the positive side. When I was young, my dream was to become a pro wrestler, and I pursued that dream when I turned eighteen years old.

I knew about the Lord when I was growing up, because someone was healing me. I didn't turn my back on Him when I got older, but I wasn't putting Him first. I was doing lots of drugs in 2016, and I went to prison. My sentence was two years of incarceration and five years of probation. I found the Lord again during that time, and I was told about Hand Up Ministries at that time. I went back to the same habits after I got out of prison, and I became homeless. I was also charged with another crime, and I went back to prison in 2024.

My life now is much better. I have been sober since July 2024. I got back into church after I turned my life over to God. This time I took the time to apply to Hand Up, and I was accepted. Hand Up has provided me with the opportunity to get my driver license, and I have a safe place to lay my head at night. Hand Up provides transportation. Every day I thank God for everything. He has brought me through everything, and He will continue to bring me through everything. God has wonderful plans for me, and I know He will help me succeed.

-Bobby Thomas Jr.

My dad was a pastor, and my family regularly attended church services. During my early teen years I fell under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and I got into trouble. I was in and out of prison in multiple states several times. I had

different DOC numbers. Drugs were available when I was incarcerated, and I used drugs in prison. Because of my addiction to drugs and alcohol, I went to prison several times. I was caught with someone who was committing a crime, and I was charged as an accessory.

I learned about Hand Up Ministries while I was in prison in May of 2007, and I was at Hand Up's original location on Broadway Drive in Oklahoma City. I had been in and out of several halfway houses, and Hand Up was a blessing because it gave me the opportunity to gain stability and independence. Hand Up has helped me keep my life moving in a positive and productive way.

Since I became a part of Hand Up, I have been able to keep my health stable with consistent doctor appointments. Hand Up gets me to my appointments on time. The love and forgiveness of God helped me find Hand Up Ministries, which has helped get my life back on track and move in a positive direction.

-Charles Whitters

Psalm 100:4

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!, and acknowledge that all good gifts come from God.”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
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