

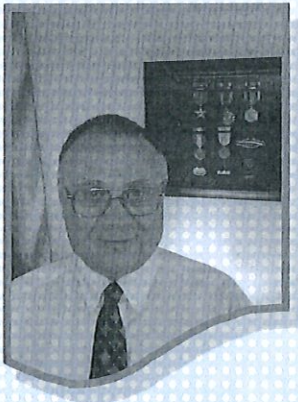
NEWS

June 2023

→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

David Nichols — President
Main Office — (405) 236-3349

UPDATE



Greetings in the powerful, precious, glorious, and wonderful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God! He is love beyond our understanding, and

He is continually working everything for our good. He is fulfilling His plan for us. While Satan, the ruler of this world, continually uses lust, deception, and pride to destroy man, God is there to help those who are His. We experience His miracles every day.

By His grace and mercy, Hand Up is now serving well over 300 clients every day. Thanks to HUM 1 director Steven Yanny, we are able to do more to help our mentally ill residents. We do have a lot of mentally ill residents. Some were not mentally ill before going to prison, but the things that can happen there destroy some people mentally and emotionally. Not all forced treatment is biblical. We spend a lot of time helping men get their sanity back.

I am aware that I am hated by many for helping people who have done



Offering a hand up, not a hand out

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evil and got caught. I do it for several reasons. First, Jesus did it, and He teaches us to do it. Second, it is proven to be best for all other people. That means victims, families, and neighborhoods, and it also means preventing people from being victims of more crime. Third, it helps the state and all authority. Our current clients put over \$15,000,000 a year into the economy, and they pay taxes. Many of them pay fines, and some of them pay child support. Counselors and probation officers are paid. Fourth, our program demands oversight and provides the help needed for permanent change. We may not stop all crime, but we make a difference. We try to accomplish what is best for everyone, if possible. We hope you will do the same.

In the past months, I made a point of exposing the fact that no church in Oklahoma had the guts to help us help the unwanted. Our clients have been totally forsaken by "the church." Now I can tell you that one church has stuck its neck out and is standing with us against Satan. For the safety of that church, I am not mentioning their name. However, they will be rewarded for their act of faith. Will any others take a stand? We shall see.

Our clients now include 40 people who live in tents. They work and fulfill all of the program obligations. They just need beds. We need about \$100,000 to obtain a place to house them. We can maintain our property. We just need a down payment and help with closing cost. If God is speaking to you, give me a call and we can talk. God bless all of those who care.

NEWS

Our purchase of one large building in the country fell through because of state regulations. What we should have been able to do for \$400,000 was scrapped because it became a \$1,000,000 deal. We had to back out. If you have good ideas about housing, write to me. We also need a down payment for an Arkansas project.

Blessings,
David Nichols

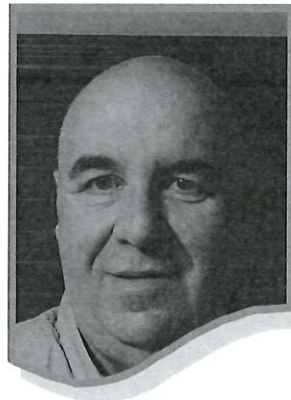
My new beginning started on September 12, 2022. I was referred to Hand Up Ministries by Crossings Church. I arrived at Hand Up at 10:32 PM, and I was checked in by a kind man. He saw that I was tired, as was he. He had a gift bag for me. It had all of the essentials. He also gave me a sleeping bag and a cot. We walked together, passing trailers and mobile homes. We came to an orange tent. I was so upset, I wanted to cry. The man saw that I was upset, and he proceeded to set up my cot and make my bed. He was kind. He left, and I crawled into my tent and lay down. I was free! I was comforted by the moonlight and the noises of the night, surrounded by God's creation. I was humbled by the kind man. I was humbled by the tent. I was humbled by the Lord.

Ray approached me about working in the office. I was hesitant at first. It would be a lot of work. I accepted Ray's offer, and we went to work. Ray became my mentor and my friend. He has been teaching me how to be a better man of God, and he has also taught me how to be a leader in this ministry. David Nichols is our leader. He has created a great ministry in the name of the Lord. As David says, this is God working through him. David sees leaders, and he teaches

leaders how to lead. He has created a very good team, and I am proud to be a part of Hand Up Ministry.

What I bring to this team is a lifetime of experience, both personal and work related. I grew up around mental illness. I am the youngest of eight siblings. Four of my siblings were struck with mental illness. This prompted my mother to start a nonprofit called NAMI when I was ten. I started using drugs when I was eleven. The Lord has been preparing me for this day. I had my own lawn care business when I was twelve. I had fourteen yards and three employees. All of the yards were on my paper route. I worked at Quad Graphics for 35 years. I was employee 326 when I started there. When I got arrested, we had over 22,000 employees. I was regional director for quality from Oklahoma to California. The Lord was preparing me for this job at Hand Up.

I saw it all in prison. I saw teens turned into addicts, plus gang members and worse. I saw men beaten, and I saw men killed. Prison is a terrible place. You see, the Lord prepared me for the job I am doing now at Hand Up as park manager at the 59th Street campus. I thank David for trusting me in this position. Praise the Lord Jesus!



-Stephen Yanny

TESTIMONIES

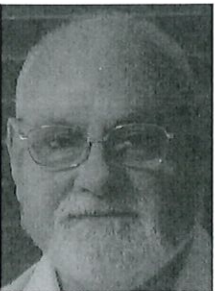
I grew up in Oklahoma City. My early childhood was filled with an abusive father and a mother who was stressed by the abuse she witnessed. My parents divorced when I was seven years old. Although we attended church regularly, and although my father was a deacon and a fill-in preacher, I discovered it had all been a charade. My father had been both a thief and a dope dealer. As I entered my early teens, people whispered about me that I would likely turn out like my father. It made me angry at him and at the world. I started drinking and smoking dope when I was twelve years old. I was attempting to get

past my anger and depression.

When I was fourteen years old, my mom and step-dad sent me to California to live with my dad. In California, I delved deeper into drugs and alcohol. My dad had a recording studio and a bar in our home, and he supplied me with any drugs I wanted. It was at this age that I started committing crimes, such as shoplifting, breaking and entering, and strong armed robbery. I dropped out of high school when I was seventeen, and I went to work fulltime. I also joined the Army and got married.

My family wasn't close. I had an older sister and a younger step-brother, but we rarely did anything together. We were practically strangers. My crime of incarceration occurred in 1989. I was convicted in 1990, and I spent 31 years in prison. I began seeking to know God when I was in prison. I was a Catholic, so began attending mass regularly. After 13 years of this, I wanted to understand God's word. I entered seminary classes through a college, and I studied diligently through the Catholic sponsored college. The more I studied, the less faith I had, because I found that much of what the church taught was in direct conflict with what the Bible actually said. I dropped out of seminary and studied on my own. I prayed and asked God to lead me in my study. After three years of doing this, I left the Catholic Church and I joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church. I was on fire for God.

When I left prison, I had a wife, and we had a new home where we planned to run our ministry. After two years, I was starved for affection, and I started chatting online with a lady. My wife found out, and she divorced me. I ended up homeless. A friend told me to contact Hand Up Ministries, and I was accepted at Hand Up. I would have been homeless and friendless without Hand Up, but now I have a home and friends. I also have hope for a better future. I am getting the help I need to restart my life and find work. I have supportive friends, and God is working



to reset my heart and mind.

-Eldon Henderson

I had a good childhood, and I had parents I loved. My parents were Catholic. They did not pray to Mary, but they did teach me that Jesus Christ was our Lord and Savior. We regularly attended church at Saint Patrick's. We did not attend church much as the years passed, except for Christmas and Easter. We prayed at every meal, but, for some reason, we didn't regularly attend church. I believe this could have caused me to stop taking God seriously. By my teenage years, sin was running my life.

I went through an atheist stage, but a friend brought me to a church service. I don't remember what the pastor said, but it broke the stone around my heart. I cried, and I rededicated my life to Jesus. I married my first wife when I was 22. I could not get her to attend church with me, so I did not go much. I am not blaming her. I should have been the spiritual leader of my house, but I gave up.

I began to drink heavily. I would go out and party, and I would leave my wife at home. I opened the door to more sin in my life, and this destroyed our marriage. I met and married my second wife, and I destroyed that marriage also. We divorced in February, 2009, and I decided I did not want to live anymore. I partied hard from February, 2009 till August, 2009.

I was arrested on August 22nd, 2009. I remember sitting in the jail cell and looking in the mirror. I did not recognize the man looking back at me, and I knew I had to change. My dad bailed me out, and I got a lawyer. I received a four year suspended sentence. I got the call from Bobby Miller (Hand Up Ministries' office manager) in 2013. He said I had been accepted at Hand Up. I learned about Hand Up from my counseling group. All of the services I have attended here have added to the healing of my spirit. I have great memories here, and I have great brothers who love me. Best of all, I have a will to live.

The Lord Jesus took this very broken

man into his family and restored my soul. I am forever grateful to Hand Up, and I even more grateful to the Lord Jesus Christ for saving a wretch like me.

-Bobby Reeves

I was born in San Leandro, California in November, 1982. My mom was in the military at the time. She discharged soon after I was born, and we moved to Louisiana after she honorably discharged. She immediately married an older guy. He was very physically, verbally, and mentally abusive toward me and my mom, and I grew up to despise him. He never did these things to my younger brother, who is his biological child. I started to feel shame and guilt for not being able to say or do anything about the situation.

I became very rebellious when I was a teenager. I found refuge in drinking, smoking weed, and having sex with women. I left home when I was 14, and I moved in with my grandmother. She was older, and she had no control over me. I had no positive male role models other than the men at church. They tried to take me under their wing and mentor me, but I couldn't open up to anyone. I also knew these guys were doing stuff they preached against, and I wouldn't take anyone seriously who wasn't leading by example.

Two days after I graduated from high school, I was hanging out with friends on a country road near three 20 foot oil tanks. These tanks exploded and one of my friends was killed on impact. I was burned on 45 percent of my body. I had third degree burns, and I went into a coma. I was declared brain dead. I woke up a month later, and I was mad at the world. I became a psychopath.

I have over 30 arrests on my record. I didn't care about anyone I hurt, including myself. I just spent five years in prison in Oklahoma. This was enough to get my mind right. I have lost too much and gone nowhere in life by being foolish and not accepting help. I have decided enough is enough. It is now or never, because I refuse to go through hell again. There is a

better life ahead.

I was referred to Hand Up by someone I met in prison. He explained what Hand Up does for people. I cannot thank this man enough right now. I would be homeless without Hand Up. I want to thank everyone at Hand Up for their kind words, loving spirit, and positive environment. I could not be more thankful for Hand Up's love and support.

-Marcus McKinney

Matthew 25:34-40

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

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.

