

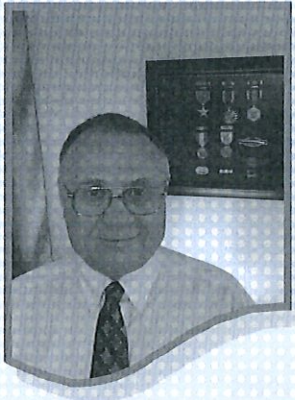
NEWS

May 2023

→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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

UPDATE



Blessed be the God of all great people of faith. They didn't, and haven't, all become popular. They haven't all had their names written for us to hear about. The only thing they all

have in common is they obeyed God's voice when he spoke to them. They all actually did what God asked them to do. Are we choosing to be counted as one of them? We can, you know.

Thank God for a little movement on the progression of the projects He has made possible. We actually may have received enough tax returns to go forward on both the chapel and the new property project for the mentally ill and Social Security recipients. Our main men's chapel has been army tents since 2008. Having offices and meeting rooms in an actual building will be like heaven on earth to many, especially if we have a real tornado shelter in a mobile home park in tornado alley.

Being able to add many beds for the mentally ill and Social Security population will be phenomenal. God



Offering a hand up, not a hand out

joe@huminc.org

cares about these people the most.

We are growing in every area of our operation. We have increased in providing mental health services, and we have established working relationships with other organizations. We have better help with Social Security. We have increased our food services, and we plan a lot more there. We are improving our Genesis One program, which will help spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and, in some cases, physically.

We could start our program in Arkansas if we had the money for a down payment to make it happen. We know the perfect place for it. We just need the money. If you know someone who has some money and a caring heart for men coming out of prison, place a call to me or email me, and we can talk. While we are now big enough to work with banks, and we could also work with private lenders if they are reasonable.

We are on the verge of two major solar projects. Pray for us. We may be going 100% solar in the near future. Our biggest expense is utilities. That has to change. With God's help, it will. Nothing is impossible for Him.

I know many people may not understand when I say God told me to remind you of something. God owns not only the cattle on a thousand hills, but everything in the world. He knows and cares about what you need. If you let Him, he will take care of you. When I started Hand Up, my mother worried when Hand Up's expenses reached \$500 a month. After it reached \$1000 a month, we decided it was

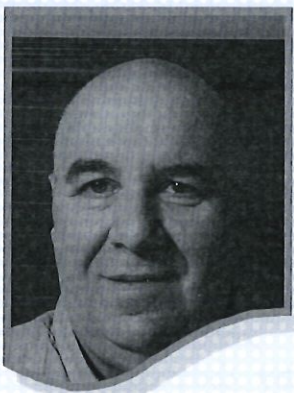
NEWS

best not to talk about the cost. We just turned it over to God. Today, that cost is \$130,000 per month. Someday, it may be \$1,000,000 a month. It's all God's, so it doesn't matter as long as we do our best at what He asks of us. What you believe matters, because you do what you believe.

-David Nichols

I want you to hear from one of new hires into our staff at Hand Up Ministries and let him introduce himself to you. Stephen Yanny has been already a very valuable asset to the Hand Up Ministry team and we look forward to all of his contributions for the future of Hand Up.

-Ray Riddle



My name is Stephen Yanny. I was released from prison on September 12, 2022. I was incarcerated for three years and two months. Before prison, I worked for a Fortune 500 company for 35 years. I started from the ground up when the company had only 320 employees. This gave me great experience in management and in helping the growth of the company. After prison, I came to Hand Up. I worked in construction for Hand Up, and I was let go after two

weeks. For the next two weeks, as I looked for a job, I rode the bus all across town. I learned the bus system, how to get from the probation office to registration and the Hope center. I was determined not to give any more money to Hand Up.

I got a job at Magic Linen Services, and I rode the bus to work every day. On October 28, 2022, I had a heart attack in my tent. I vowed to the Lord that night that if he allowed me to live, I would do anything in my power to help Hand Up. I stayed in the tent for three and a half weeks, when Ray Riddle approached me about working in the office. I was hesitant at first, still angry about my situation. I thought if they would only allow me to help make changes for the good, that I would do the job. Some of the improvements I was seeking were simple. How do we become more of a ministry? Just love people for who they are, and the rest will just happen! It is about empowering the people who work for Hand Up to do the right thing, which in turn will trickle down to all the residents.

-Stephen Yanny

Testimonies

I was exposed to alcohol at an early age, and I lived in a rough and tumble home environment. It was abusive. I had one family member who planted the seed of Christ in me, but I didn't know what to do with it. I chose to live life according to what I had experienced. I knew I was different from the other kids, but drinking and acting the fool helped me be somewhat normal.

I ended up getting married for the wrong reason. Having a wife and kids helped me feel normal, but the drinking didn't stop. We divorced after seven years of marriage. I remarried soon after the divorce. I attended church, but the drinking didn't stop. After seven years of marriage to my second wife, I was divorced and in prison. I didn't drink in prison, and I took the time for soul searching and increasing my knowledge of Christ. I met men of various faiths, and our conversations sometimes confused me. However, I

developed a relationship with God, and I was released from prison after six years. I spent three years working hard, and I got married again. I started drinking again. Seven years later there were problems in my marriage and problems with my job. I was in poor health, and I also had poor wealth and poor spirituality. This led me to my lowest point ever. I hit rock bottom. I went to treatment for my drinking, and I attended AA meetings. I have been sober for five and a half years.

I am focused on spirituality, and I have learned how to pray. I learned about Hand Up Ministries many years ago. I knew Hand Up would be a place for me to start over. With David Nichols' generosity, I am able to focus on the main purpose for living – to serve others. David Nichols has built a community where people like me get a hand up in their journey of life. I serve the homeless on Saturdays, and I serve prisoners on Sundays. I attend two AA meetings each week. I also attend church and Genesis One each week. I work 41 hours a week at a great job, and, in my spare time, I help others. Thanks to David Nichols. Praise God!



-William Sewell

I grew in a Christian family. We prayed before every meal and at bedtime. We went to church every Sunday morning and every Sunday evening, and I was part of a youth group that met every Wednesday night. I went to Falls Creek Church Camp, where I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was twelve years old. On the Sunday after I returned from camp, I was baptized at my home church in Oklahoma City. I helped run the sound booth for my youth group. Over the years, I slowly began drifting away from church and God.

I got into paganism, and I stopped going to church. I bounced back and forth between paganism and Christianity for a few

years. I committed my crime in 2014, and I went to prison. As a result, I lost part of my family, but I found my way back to the Lord. On my 39th birthday, October 9, 2021, a friend, who was in the Irish mob, invited me to church. It was then and there that I rededicated my life to the Lord. I joined a Genesis One group, and I became the Prayer Warrior for our group. I saw that even though I had turned away God, he never turned away from me. He has blessed me, my family, and my friends more than I could have ever imagined. I spent my last week in prison working in the chapel. My family got back into church. My father met the chaplain at a conference on a Saturday, and the chaplain came to see me on Monday. The chaplain is a big part of why I am at Hand Up Ministries.

While I was in prison, I asked God to help me find a safe place to live and a safe place to work. The Lord saw fit to place me at Hand Up. The second day I was at Hand Up, I got a job doing construction for Hand Up. God has restored my faith, my family, and my life. He even gave me people I can call my second family. I have learned new trades, and I have made new friends. I am thinking about becoming a Genesis one group leader after I have been here for six months. I plan to show what the Lord has done for me and help others spiritually. With the help of my brothers here at Hand Up, I have learned we are not defined by our past, but by the actions we do today and hereafter. If it wasn't for Hand Up, I would be on the streets, or back in prison, or dead. Hand Up had given me a second chance at living a life I am proud to live. I give honor, glory and praise to God Almighty.

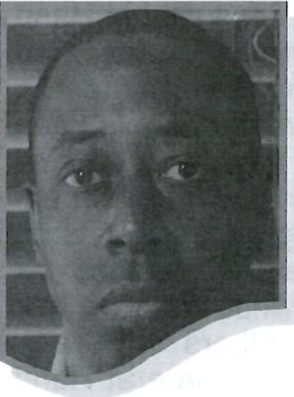


-Bradly Penny

I am a new resident at Hand Up Ministries. I got out of the penitentiary on March 29, 2023. I appreciate another chance to live out here, and I hope I don't

ever have to go back. I am 43 years old. I have never been married, nor do I have any kids. I have known the Lord since I was a little kid. I prayed to Him every now and then, and I attended a Baptist church with my mother. I have always tried to stay out of trouble, but somehow the devil and his demons try to make me do stuff. I am getting stronger now, and I plan to let God handle that. I have been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, and I hear voices. I take medication for it, but it seems it doesn't work. I am keeping the faith, and I am planning on being normal.

I learned about Hand Up Ministries while I was incarcerated. I plan to get on my feet and become a successful guy. I intend to achieve my dreams and goals in life. Hand Up has provided shelter for me, and they helped me get food stamps. They also help with clothing and jobs. I hope I can get a job and keep it, but I am mentally ill, so I don't know if I can keep a job. I get a disability check, so I have an income. God has given me another chance at life as a free man. I pray I keep my freedom. I am going to keep the faith and hope to be normal.



-Ricky Edwards

I was born in West Valley, Utah. Because of drugs, my parents lost custody of my two sisters and me when I was two. My older sister had Down syndrome, and she was adopted. She died when she was 15. My younger sister and I went to live with our grandparents. Life was not good. They were abusive, and I acted out and started committing crimes. I also got into trouble at school. I was incarcerated in a juvenile military prison. I stole my dad's truck. I was locked up twice. I got out when I was 17, and I lived on my own. I finished high school. I worked and paid bills, but I got into trouble again when I was still a

teenager. I was charged with a felony, and I was sentenced to 10 years of probation. I committed another felony. I jumped bail on a ticket, and I was sentenced to another five years of probation. I committed another felony, and I went to prison for five years.

I have always believed in the Lord, but I never really knew the Lord till I went to prison. The Lord used prison to get my attention. I asked the Lord for help with my situation, and the next day there was \$1400 on my books. I went to church, and I got saved. I have loved and served the Lord since that time. The Lord changed my heart and made me a complete person. I now care about others. Before that time, I only cared about myself. I had no family, and now I do. I also have five kids, all of which I cherish. I now have more healthy relationships, which is something I couldn't do before I found God. I now have a degree in theology, and I am restarting my life to serve the Lord. I am building a new, healthy life.

Shilow Dumas

Mark 16:14-18

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

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.

