

NEWS

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→ MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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UPDATE



Praise our Lord in the highest, who came and experienced all the problems of this life, and death, so He can understand our prayers and intercede for us with the Father. He

endured everything we can think of, as well as some things we have trouble comprehending. We give Him continuous praise and honor.

Hand Up has now reached 400 clients on a daily basis. That does not include some spouses and children. Most these are considered lepers in our society. At the coming of Christ, the lawmakers will give account for all they have done to make them homeless. In the meantime, we make it possible for them to help each other survive in this life and have the opportunity to know God and His love. That is because He totally forgives those who ask, and He gives us the power to change.

The men put together a huge meal and served it on Christmas. Over two thirds of our 59 th street residents took part in the meal. We were family, and the men weren't alone on Christmas. Every person needs family, and I thank God we could give that to them.

We are making progress on our new home for the Love Foundation campus number two. By January 1 st it will have four beds, and we will soon be able to start our aquaponics gardening operation. I will share more about that next time.

We are still working on finding a way to build our new office at HUM 1. This will include a storm shelter and a chapel. We believe this could happen in a year. The huge army tent has served as a chapel, and this has been better than nothing. We have three services a week in it, but we believe the time has come for something better.

I want to thank all of the individual donors for their generosity. I promise 100% of your donations go to creating more bed space. We now have three churches that support us monthly. Every dollar helps, and it is sincerely appreciated.

We also want to thank David Brisco. He is a musician, a singer, and a realtor, and he is honoring Hand Up at his concert

celebration at the state capitol on January 26 th . We know this will cause more people to realize what God is doing outside church walls. Thanks.

-David Nichols

My son, Charles Broadway, came to Hand Up Ministries in 2016. He had just been released from prison. I tried to find a place for him to live, and I brought him to Hand Up. I begged them to give him a place to live, and they did. Thank God! He worked at Little Caesar's, and he walked to work every day for five years. His story was not typical, but was sincere and true. He lived in trailer 5 until his brother found him a home close to me. He helped me in many ways. He had a degree in music, but to no avail. He worked hard, and he was a good man. He started feeling sick, and he died of small cell cancer on September 30. He was my oldest son, and he lived a pure life dedicated to God. He was 61 years old when he passed away. Please use this donation in his name.

-Mrs. Walker

We are now approaching the new year of 2024. Many are excited about new resolutions in their life, although most people never keep or maintain those resolutions. Many people have New Year's Day traditions they repeat every year. They do certain things every year in keeping with the change of

seasons, and this is true when ushering in a new year. I have never been one to make resolutions, because, like so many others, my track record of keeping those resolutions has not been good.

However, I do like embracing traditions. They are usually once a year, or seasonal, and they are easy to remember and practice. So, I am proposing a new tradition to you. As we begin our new year and look forward to what this new season might bring into our lives, it is common for Christians to usher it in with prayer. I celebrate that idea, and I believe prayer to be wonderful vehicle for this purpose. So I propose that as we put our hands in front of us and begin a prayer for a new year, we should do it a little differently. Instead of putting our palms together or folding our hands in front of us, we should open our hands as we pray. As we pray with open hands, we should practice "letting go." We should let go of all of the frustrations, all of the pain and heartaches, and all of the anger and disappointments of the previous year. When we have released all of that, we make our pledges and requests for a brand new season of growth and accomplishment. With



hands still open we can then receive the blessings of God for the coming year. What do you think? Consider it as a possibility, and have a blessed and wonderful new year in Christ.

-Ray Riddle

Testimonies

I was raised in a good Christian home. My family went to church every Sunday morning

and most Wednesday nights. Our church split up during my teen years. One of the pastors had doctrinal beliefs that were different from those of the senior pastor, and this led to half of the congregation following one pastor and the other half following the other pastor. This bothered me a lot, so I shied away from church after that. I graduated from high school when I was 18, and I joined the military soon after graduation.

I didn't care about God from 1972 to 1991. All I cared about was me until I met my wife. She was a devout Christian woman. She was always talking to me about God and Jesus, but I didn't listen to her, and I made excuses. One morning, she woke me up, and she said she had a dream about me that night. She didn't understand what it meant. In the dream I was wearing a bright orange jump suit, and I had a worried look on my face. I dismissed it as a crazy dream, but two years later the dream came true. In 1993, I was arrested for a sex offence, and I remembered that dream when I was sitting in a jail cell. I was wearing an orange jump suit. I immediately knew her dream was a warning from God. I got down on the floor of that cell, and I told God I was sorry for what I had done. I told Him that if He would take this broken life of mine and change me, I would serve Him for the rest of my life. The Holy Spirit swept through all of my being.

I spent 25 years in prison. I spent the time studying God's word and learning all I could about our Savior. I had to live in a motel when I got out of prison. There was no place else where I could live. My money ran out, and I was desperate. My brother suggested I try Hand Up Ministries. I had heard about Hand Up when I was in prison, but I had never pursued it. I was out of options, so I told my brother to take me to Hand Up. They told me they didn't have

room at the 59 th street location, but they did have an opening at the Chandler location. They asked if I wanted to go to Chandler, and I immediately said yes.

Going to Hand Up was the best decision I have ever made. They cared about me when no one else did. They gave me my dignity and showed me I was worth something. I don't of any other place in



Oklahoma that has a program like Hand Up. I will forever be grateful to Hand Up for helping me get back on my feet and live a productive life. Praise God!

-John Hider

I am the oldest of four kids. I am the only son. I had to grow up quickly. My father was abusive. He hit me and my mom. I feared him if I did something wrong or had a bad report card. My mom was there to protect me. My sophomore year I finally got away from him. During that time, I got baptized as a Mormon. I had been a Catholic. I graduated early, and I was given the choice to go on a Mormon mission. I chose instead to join the Army. I did some deployments, and I got out before 9/11 happened. I got into trouble for the first time in the early 2000's. My family has been with me throughout my trouble and probation the first time and second time. I learned about Hand Up Ministries from my lawyer while I was in the county jail. Life now back to being sort of normal. I live at Hand Up's Chandler location. Hand Up has given me help with stuff to do on a daily basis to help me keep my mind on the straight and narrow path. They have given me a place

to live and to focus on my future with my family when the time comes.

-Anonymous

I was raised in a Jewish home. When I was a child, I felt like everything was ritualistic. We said certain prayers at certain times. I suffered abuse as a child, and I began rejecting everything and everyone in my life. My grades started to decline, and I barely graduated from high school. I visited Christian churches with friends, and I learned about a little bit about Jesus. By the time I was 16 or 17, I felt like something was missing.

I attended the University of Oklahoma after I graduated from high school, and I accepted Christ as my savior when I was at OU. I remained a Christian for many years. I went to prison in 1975, and I was released in 1977. I worked as a courier when I was out of prison. I went back to prison in 1983, and I spent 12 years in prison this time. During that time, I felt I still wasn't right religiously. I became Messianic in 1992. I had no place to live when I was released in 1995, so I stayed with the parents of my cellmate. I learned about Hand Up Ministries. I continued working as a courier, but I drifted away from the Lord and went back to prison in 1997. I was released in 2000. The pastor of our church gave me a place to live. Because of all of my prior offenses, I was arrested for a crime I didn't commit in 2013. I had a choice between going to trial and getting a life sentence or pleading guilty. I pled guilty.

Just before my discharge from prison, my unit manager had me fill out an application for HandUp Ministries. They initially turned me down, but four days later they accepted me. I have been at Hand Up's Chandler location since I left prison. I am happy and successful because of the Lord and because of support from my fellow Hand

Up residents. I give thanks to God and Hand Up. I am alive and well loved.

-Jay Spiel

I had average childhood. I was in and out of trouble. Other than a few arguments, I had a pretty good relationship with my parents. I was not religious for most of my life. I didn't believe there was God, nor did I care to. I first started to believe in God when I hit one of the hardest times of my life. I tried to commit suicide. I found God in boot camp. I was struggling at the time.

I came to Hand Up Ministries' Chandler location a few years ago, and they have treated me well. I have a few issues at times, but they do their best to make us feel like a family and make us feel wanted. I hope I will eventually move on from here and give my place to another person who needs Hand



Up's help. I have to thank Hand Up, because, if not for Hand Up, I would be in a worse place than I have been in the past. They have helped me do better for myself.

-Kyle Majowitz

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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.

