

Breaking chains of addiction through our Lord Jesus Christ



THE CALL TO BE A FATHER

This past weekend, at Mission of Hope, we had “Visitation Sunday.” It is a time when men visit with their families. As visitation reached its final moments, a young child no more than five or six began to cry and beg to stay with his father. This episode caused a familiar knot in my stomach like it has so many times before. Ironically, for the last few weeks the Lord has provided me teaching opportunities and counseling, focusing around this very subject matter. It is no coincidence that many of the men here, past and present, have grown up with absentee fathers; only to find themselves in a vicious cycle. How can we change this?

There is “good news!” As a blood bought, born again, believer in Jesus Christ and the One who sent Him, and a father of two myself; the call to be a father must be rooted in the Word of God! Ephesians 6: 4 says, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” The Apostle Paul is talking to – “FATHERS”. It’s not that he is saying that the mother is void of the infraction... but it’s technically referring to the male parent. I myself want to be the first to confess and repent of my failure. So men of God, I encourage you this Christmas season; Let’s begin today and make a new covenant with God to be Fathers called by God. Let’s give away the legacy of faith to our children and let this be the greatest gift we can give, not just this Christmas, but every day. Praise God for the fathers that are fighting the good fight and are already at work in their homes!!

****Footnote** – According to the U.S. Census Bureau of 2017 statistics; 19.7 million children, more than 1 in 4, live without a father in the home. Consequently, there is a father factor in nearly all social ills facing America today. This; my friends is a greater pandemic in this world than any virus. This is a virus of the soul which increases the number of dads, while diminishing the need for fathers.

MISSION STORIES

The Testimony of Brian Thomas



Growing up I had a normal, great childhood. Had God loving, God fearing parents. From childhood to early adulthood I was highly involved in the local church in Missouri. I was a member of a traveling praise group. Even though I was very much involved in the church, I dealt with depression, and suicide was becoming the solution. When I hit my early twenties, I began to dabble in the bar scene. I thought with alcohol, this would be an easier way to achieve confidence and happiness. When I drank alcohol, I thought I wasn't sad. But little did I know that alcohol would lead me to smoking cigarettes. By the age of twenty seven I was in a bad cocaine addiction, which led to multiple years of methamphetamine abuse. A drug that fueled my depression. Suicide was no longer a thought, but an action, and during my addiction I tried multiple times to harm myself, degrade myself in the effort to take my own life. This mind set placed me in the Psych Ward twice and in three rehab facilities prior to coming to Mission of Hope. Before Mission of Hope the word that described me best was "Defeated!" I was finished with life. Being defeated pushed me to seek help. I worked for a man that was a missionary at Mission of Hope as a sister church in Missouri. He told me about Mission of Hope and God met me where I was in my addiction and therefore called me to Mission of Hope. On July 17, 2019 I arrived for the three month program. On July 27, 2019 I realized my need for the Savior and gave my heart to Jesus Christ after working with a local minister. Towards the end of my program I had a loving family help me decide that I was not ready to leave and needed some more time. Looking back I truly believe that in most cases three months is not enough. Thus, God called me to the twelve month Step Up program. In 1Peter 5: 10 it says, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you." It was in that year that I was able to endure trials and test that would strengthen my walk. Today I no longer live with depression; because I serve a God that says in Philippians 4: 6;

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God..." God gives me the tools to conquer these areas in my life. Today I want to live! Because I serve a God that says in verse 7; I will have, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." God gives me peace and guards my heart and mind, when I operate in verse 6.

After completing the Step Up program, the Lord blessed me with a Staff Intern Maintenance position in conjunction with a local sister church in Mobile. I am so grateful to be delivered from depression, addiction and now a part of Mission of Hope Ministries.

NEW & UPCOMING

MESSENGER IS GOING DIGITAL!

Don't forget, beginning in January, the Messenger will start being delivered via email!! We will gladly continue to mail out our traditional paper Messenger, but if you would like to subscribe to our email list and haven't received a call, please call us at 251-649-0830 or send us a message at office@missionofhopeministries.net with your email address.

MIRACLE ON DAUPHIN STREET

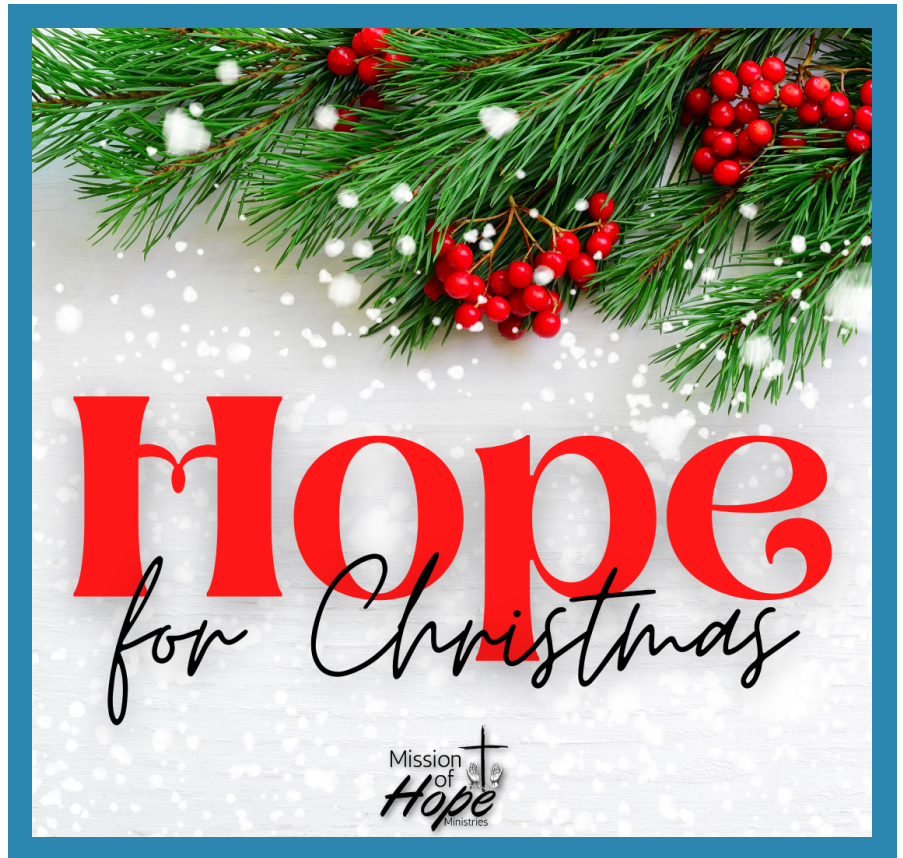
Come see us December 11 - 13 at Dauphin Way Baptist Church for "Miracle on Dauphin Street—Ice & Lights". There will be ice skating, a Christmas Market, Christmas hayride, food, plus Mission of Hope's Redeemed Gifts and Wood Shop will be there as well!! We hope you can make it! For full details and schedule, please visit www.missionofhopeministries.net/events-2.



HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS

Help us bring HOPE for Christmas this year. As you know, oftentimes when men and women come to Mission of Hope, they come with broken families, broken lives, and they have lost everything. The mere thought of providing Christmas for their children or receiving gifts seems impossible. BUT GOD, through you, shows them they are LOVED. What an incredible blessing you have faithfully been for so many years! When you send a \$50 contribution (online, cash, check or gift card- **please clearly designate that it is for Hope for Christmas**) to sponsor one of our Mission of Hope Children you help not only bring joy to the children, but joy to the moms and dads who believed it not possible. With help of our staff and volunteers, gifts are purchased and

organized for the clients to choose from and wrap for their children. ALSO, If you are a church or organization and are interested in participating in our angel tree program for our men and women at Mission of Hope, please contact Jamie Kirkwood at 251-649-0830 for full details (including a list of needs) on this and all Hope for Christmas Programs. We love you and are so very grateful for all you do! God bless!



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