

*Breaking chains of addiction through our Lord Jesus Christ*



*Happy New Year!*

'Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.'

Jeremiah 18:3-4

## **NEW BEGINNINGS**

*Devotional by  
Bro. Branden Rogers*

We mess up and too often because of our mess ups we give up when all we really need is a new beginning. The Mission of Hope exists to break the chains of addiction through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Mission is all about new beginnings.

The famous Scottish preacher Alexander Whyte used to say that "no failure in our lives need to be fatal or final, although we certainly suffer for our sins. God gave new beginnings to Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, and Peter when they failed, and He can do the same for us today." Pottery was a major industry in the east during the time of Jeremiah, and God uses the story of the clay and the potter to illustrate that He gives new beginnings. Jeremiah had probably passed this potter's house many times. The Word states in Isaiah 64:8 - '*But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.*' Isaiah 64:8

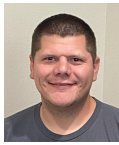
So, with the touch of the potter's hands, a piece of clay can become a great vessel. The work of the potter is done through His hands. When a potter

is working he has to put one hand inside the vessel for support as He puts pressure on the outside.

As the Executive Director, it is an honor to witness the power of God (the potter) at work in the lives of the men and women here at Mission of Hope. It is incredible to see these lives not only restored, but made new and made whole. To see men and women dead in their sins be brought to life by the love of Jesus Christ and their submission to Him is so very powerful and humbling. It has also been amazing to see how God has provided through the love of so many individuals, organizations and churches. Jehovah Jireh! Thank you Lord!

As we move towards our 50th year, it is my prayer that God will continue to use Mission of Hope as a beacon of HOPE for all individuals broken and struggling with addiction. To continue to deliver the gospel and spread the news that the only way to break the chains of addiction is through our Lord Jesus Christ!

## MISSION STORIES *The Testimony of Thomas Bond*



God will never give you more than you can handle...right? I used to believe this statement to be true, until one day I found myself hopeless and without purpose. What started out as innocent fun on the weekends, eventually turned into a 14-year alcohol and methamphetamine addiction. My name is Thomas Bond and here is a little of my story...

I am the youngest of three and was raised by my mom and one older sister. Growing up without a father figure had a tremendous impact on me. I always felt that there was something missing in life. There was an empty feeling inside of me, a void that longed to be filled. Life was everything but normal. It was often abusive in my home and because of this, I took advantage of every opportunity that got me out of the house, including going to church. I professed to be a Christian, but nothing changed in my life.

By the time I got into high school, I found myself without direction. I couldn't really tell you what made me happy or what I even wanted to be when I grew up. To add to this meaningless life that I was living, I experienced a very devastating event my senior year. I found my cousin dead due to an overdose. Within the next two years, I found myself in self-pity and battling with depression. I began to mask the pain with copious amounts of alcohol. Shortly after, some other unfortunate events came about which eventually led to my meth addiction over the next few years. I just couldn't understand why life was constantly going in a downward spiral. Rather than trying a different approach when life got tough, I added more alcohol or more drugs to help numb the heartache. I began searching for anything that would fill the void inside my heart. Things worked for a short time, but the emptiness always came back, and my desperation grew.

Something had to give. My way just wasn't working. I had tried it for far too long and I finally hit rock bottom. I was tired and didn't feel the need to live any longer. BUT GOD! I reached out to my aunts for help and six months later I was drawn to Mission of Hope. The fact that it was a faith-based

program kept drawing my attention. I didn't exactly know what that meant, but I knew it must be a God thing, so I figured I'd give it a try. On September 23, 2019, I came into the 3-month program. The love and compassion that each staff member has expressed since day one is indescribable. They didn't exactly know my story, and to be honest, they didn't care! They just loved on me anyway.

Upon completion of the 3-month program, I was accepted into the 12-month "Step-Up" program. This program is a discipleship program designed to help you grow spiritually deeper. I am beyond thankful for the opportunity that the Mission has given me and for God's grace throughout this journey. It has been such a blessing to be a part of this ministry. I graduate from the "Step-Up" program on January 14th and hope to become part of the staff if it be His plan!

The Mission of Hope has taught me that to know God on a deep, intimate level, you must obtain a relationship with Him.

### ***SPONSOR A LIFE***

Because of His great love for us, God gave His only son to die on the cross for us. Jesus paid a sin debt that we could not pay. He covered our sins and made a way for us to the Father. He did it because He loves us and believes we are worthy. At Mission of Hope we do not charge the men and women for the services provided. It is an honor for us to help them, to lift them up and most importantly teach them about the redeeming, transforming power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just like you or I, they are LOVED. Mission of Hope's "Sponsor a Life" Program is a wonderful way you can show someone they are loved and created in the image of God. Your recurring monthly donation can help us bring those drowning in addiction to Christ Jesus. Signing up is simple! On your cellphone text the word "Give 25" or any other denomination to 251-589-6706 and follow the prompts. You can also call 251-649-0830 and request a Sponsor a Life packet to be mailed to you. God bless you and thank you for your faithful support of Mission of Hope Ministries!

# THANK YOU!

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all the donors, supporters and volunteers who contributed their time, talents and resources to bring HOPE to the men, women and children of Mission of Hope for Christmas this year! We are so thankful and overwhelmed by the loving generosity and kindness God has showered on them and this ministry through YOU. We pray God's richest blessings on you and yours now and in the coming years! God Bless!!

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Consider including the Mission of Hope in your will. You may also give a gift of property, stocks, bonds, boats or vehicles.

☐ In Memory

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Name / Address