



VOL. 22 | MARCH 2021

MISSION MESSENGER

Breaking chains of addiction through our Lord Jesus Christ

March 26 | 6:30 PM

*50 years of breaking chains
of addiction through our
Lord Jesus Christ*

Mission of Hope Ministries
**50 Years
of Hope**



Evangelist & Motivational Speaker,

David Ring

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Lonnie and Carol Miller packed up their family and everything they owned to move to Mobile, AL in answer to God's call to help the lost, broken, and addicted. In 1971, they opened Mission of Hope for men to offer freedom from addiction through Jesus Christ. As the years passed, and the drug and alcohol epidemic in America grew; it became evident that the lives of women were also being destroyed by addiction.

In 2007, Bro. Jim Jordan was named Executive Director. Through his leadership, God led the ministry to open its first women's campus. Today, in addition to our men's campus, God has blessed Mission of Hope Ministries with two additional campuses dedicated to bringing God's redeeming love to women and their children. Like the men, we see His work in their lives. We see mothers and fathers made whole and becoming the parents God intended them to be. The devil works to destroy the family unit, but God, through Mission of Hope is fighting to restore all that many have thought lost.

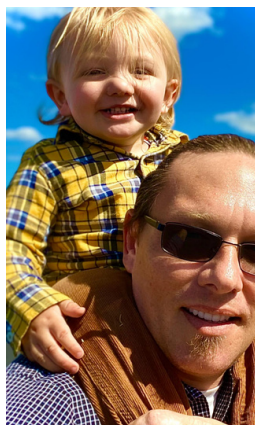
Now, 50 years later, God continues to richly bless this ministry in ways we never could imagine. We are excited at the possibilities and pray for God's continual guidance and direction for Mission of Hope. We are overwhelmed regularly by God's protection and provision. We are so deeply blessed! Daily we see men and women turning from addiction and surrendering their lives to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We see Him restoring all that was lost and beyond. 50 years of breaking chains of addiction through our Lord Jesus Christ!!

We are excited to kick off our celebration of this year by inviting you to join us for a night of praise and worship! Do not miss the powerful and inspiring message shared by Evangelist and Motivational Speaker, David Ring. Enjoy a time of praise and worship from Cottage Hill Worship, hear testimonies of God's goodness and grace and so much more! Please make plans to attend! Friday, March 26 at 6:30 pm, Cottage Hill Baptist Church.

MISSION STORIES

The Testimony of Neil Swartz

Before I knew Christ I was addicted, empty, lost, and miserable. I battled anxiety and hopelessness, I was searching for peace and happiness. Then I met Christ Jesus at Mission of Hope in April 2018 and surrendered my life fully to Him for the first time. Today I am clean, sober, and clear-minded. I have real peace and joy. I wake up daily with a gentle spirit, sound mind and self-control because the Spirit of God living in me. I have learned how to listen to God's voice and be slow to speak and quick to listen. I no longer hold grudges because the cross of Christ set me free from bitterness. For the first time in my life I have a sense of purpose and a sense of peace and I know myself more as God has revealed my old man to me and helped me become the new creation. I love being a servant of other people now and can't wait daily to find out how God is going to use me to help others. That is crazy to say considering for the first 30 plus years of my life I was self centered and did not care about the consequences of my actions to myself or others. Only God could do such a work of grace in man's life. I was born in Mobile, AL, into an abusive family with addiction at the center of the home. I was raised in a wiccan environment and grew up learning about pure paganism. My family taught me how to sneak drugs, do pharmaceutical and street drugs in the home. I took off on my own at 15 and was buying and selling drugs. I had already experienced all the hard drugs. In 2015, at 35 years of age, my lab exploded. I had severe burns over 70 percent of my body and was in the hospital for six months. I was caught in the hospital intravenously mainlining my pain medication and even though I was a hard-core pagan at the time, God was already starting to rescue my future. The medical team had a permanent note put in my medical records about my abuse, so I cannot receive pain medicine any longer even through doctors. (God is good). I eventually married a lady also in addiction. Eventually I learned that my addictive lifestyle meant that I could not be around my children. DHR took my kids away from me three different times. Sadly I thought I was so much smarter than everyone else. Even after jail, and three years in prison plus consequences piled upon consequences, I continued to take and sell drugs. The Enemy of my soul, Satan, had been lying to me for years. He made me believe that Christians were brain-washed, fake and very weak-minded.



How kind and gracious was God to keep pursuing me "even while I was yet ungodly" - Romans 5:8. While on probation, and foolishly still using drugs, my probation officer recommended I go to the Mission of Hope. When I reached out they were welcoming and invited me to the program. Within a short time of being on the

campus, some unusual "coincidences" were happening. I was reading my Bible, and taking notes and every single chapel speaker would mention a verse or a note I had written. As an avowed Pagan I realized God was doing something to me. One night in chapel I gave it all up to Him, in full surrender. I even told Him I would test Him. I told God he could have it all including the crises from my life off-campus and the needs I had while on campus. For the first time in my life I felt a burden lift off of my life. Things were no longer important. Nothing was more important to me than Him at that point. That was the night that I realized that Neil, who was convinced he was the smartest guy in the room did not really know anything. I have been living a life border-line brain dead all my life. He is the resurrection and life He made me a new creation for His glory (2 Corinthians 5:17) I have learned that once you start seeing the Spirit of God move and work, He lets you see more and more work of God. It is like the Holy Spirit gives you a special lens and insight that once you see it, it can't be unseen. You can't overlook God's Hand. Now I live every day looking forward to life, abundant life in Christ. All the things I was searching for like peace, hope, contentment, and joy God brings into my life every single day. After a good season of recovery and being clean, while serving in the second step on the campus, I got a call that my dad was dying of cancer and wanted me by his side. So after a long stay with him in hospice, helping with his pain meds and watching him slowly lose the battle with cancer I found myself tempted and falling again to drug use. But something was different. Now that I had experienced a real relationship with Jesus, the drugs no longer would give me a sense of peace or help me feel better. That's when God let me come back to the Mission for the second time. And God's grace is amazing to give me more hope than I have ever known. I have truly found freedom from the chains of addiction through my Lord Jesus Christ. Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. This is my hope for all who hear this testimony.

SPONSOR A LIFE

Men and women come to Mission of Hope in search of freedom from addiction. We know God not only gives us freedom he gives us HOPE! These faces of Hope are beautiful and precious pictures of lives restored and made NEW through the Love and transforming power of Jesus Christ! At Mission of Hope we do not charge the men and women for the help they receive. It is an honor for us to help them, to lift them up and most importantly teach them about the redeeming, love and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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!



In Memory Of

PAUL EMMONS

Marsha Donald

ROY THOMAS KRUSE

Carmen Kruse

JOHNNIE & WILLIE ETTA STRICKLER

Ronnie & John Etta Bosarge

JIM BRANNON

Warren & Cecil Guidry

KATHERINE ELLIS

Hugh Ellis

HERMAN SHOEMAKER

Ben Glover

MILDRED PATTESON

John E. Patteson

BOB HENLEY

Chris Henley

JACKIE SIMS

Ray & Nina Stringfellow

DOUGLAS & DORIS JONES

Debbie Galloway

LEIGH ANN BOOTHE HARDERS

Marsha Fendley

RAY & JEWEL HORNER

John & Susan Severn

BELVIN L. MCDONALD SR.
*Friendship Baptist Auditorium
Sunday School Class*

JESSE WILLIAMS

John & Susan Severn

BELVIN L. MCDONALD SR.

Warren & Cecil Guidry

GEORGE EARL YOUNG

Kenny & LouAnna Reed

HERBERT MIMS

Kenny & LouAnna Reed

REV. FRED WOLFE

*Rev. James E. Jordan
Norman & Susan Malone*

In Honor Of

JAMIE ENTREKIN

Barbara Isham

JIM SPAFFORD

Pam Beedy

THE MISSION OF HOPE STAFF
Dr. & Mrs. Claude Warren, III

JAY ZAKARY

Miriam Brown

REV. & MRS. JIM JORDAN

The Haney Family

JESSE LUNDY

Teresa Lundy

BILL OLIVER

Debra McArthur

KRISTA MADISON

Glenn & Tammy Madison

Mission of Hope
P. O. Box 8504
Mobile, AL 36689
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U. S. Postage Paid
Mobile, AL 36601
PERMIT # 10019

Your gift will change lives

Your Gift Amount
\$

How can you help?

Consider a gift to this ministry in memory of a departed friend or loved one.

An honorarium is a wonderful way to celebrate a variety of occasions. You may honor a client or family member by making a donation in their name. These will be acknowledged in our newsletter.

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

☐ In Memory

☐ In Honor

Name

Name / Address

Please send an acknowledgement to the following:

Name / Address