

*Breaking chains of addiction through our Lord Jesus Christ for 50 years*



50  
Years  
Of Hope

## MISSION STORIES

*The Testimony of Calvin Bonner*



First of all I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for looking beyond my faults and seeing my needs. I had lived in Chicago for over 25 years. I was homeless and lost my sight and my family. In late 1993 at the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago I got saved. I was a part of the Old Lighthouse Redemption Choir traveling all over the United States testifying about the power of God. Street preaching & teaching about the power and goodness of God was blessing me tremendously. Unfortunately, I wasn't making enough money to take care of my family and the mission wasn't paying me enough to do it so I had to move on. God still was blessing! He blessed me with a maintenance job, paying \$10 an hour. Pacific Garden Mission tried to hire me back and match my salary but my wife and kids did not want me to go back. I wouldn't be at home and would be traveling with the ministry so I did not accept the position. Still, through the years God was blessing! I started my own business, Bonner Co. plus I had a job as a concrete supervisor at a housing complex for 3 years. But, I forgot that it was God blessing me. I thought I was doing it on my

own. I started drinking again, my wife and I separated. I repented to God and stayed clean over 15 years. Because glaucoma took my sight I decided to move back to Pensacola Florida. I started drinking again and went back to drugs within two months. I was back where I started.

Miserable. I almost lost everything. I got on my knees and asked God to help me. I decided to go to the Salvation Army in Mobile Alabama, but when I got there they would not accept me. There was a guy sitting outside who told me about the Mission of Hope, how it was a spiritual program and I knew in my heart this is where God wanted me to go. When I got there, I rededicated my life to Christ. God has been good to me. I am back in the ministry where I need to be. Sharing the gospel with broken people like me. God is good! I lead the choir at Mission of Hope and also play piano for Midway Baptist Church's praise team. I covet your prayers and thank God for using you to support His ministry. Without you and God, it wouldn't have been possible for me to give you this testimony. I praise God! He still saves and is breaking the chains of addiction through Jesus Christ!

# THE POWER OF GRACE

*Devotional by Bro. Stan Givens*

What is the best help and the most powerful truths we can offer the men and women at the Mission of Hope in their recovery efforts? In 40 years of ministering to needy, broken and struggling families I have found that the Grace of God is one of the most powerfully transforming and sustaining truths you can offer anyone who recognizes their need for help. Consider these three powerful truths found in the Scriptures.

## **First: Grace is for my help**

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. The truth is we can run to the source of Grace to receive mercy and help in your time of need. Our old nature, sin nature often makes us want to hide our sins from God. Adam taught us this and some of us learned it too well. The Bible says when you sin, do not run from God but run to Him as your source of help and strength. We need to reject the old ideas that God doesn't help us in our sin. He sought Adam out after the original sin that broke everything. When we sin or struggle we can find grace in your time of need when we turn to Jesus for help.

## **Second: Grace is for my instruction**

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Grace is not just for my salvation. As true followers of Christ we must learn more and more each day as we let grace become our instructor. What does it teach us? Paul says it teaches us deny ungodliness, and worldly desires. Have you noticed as you get closer and closer to God you have more things to repent about and more things to avoid? Grace also teaches us to to live sensibly and righteously and godly.

Grace teaches us to look for the Hope of Jesus' appearing. Are you learning through grace? Are you reading the hundreds of examples in Scripture about grace and asking what you can learn and how you can grow through these examples.

## **Third: Grace is for my behavior**

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. We are to live out the same grace we have been shown. Grace is to control our speech. Grace is to control our actions toward others. This love Jesus commands the disciples to practice is a Christ-like love (agape). It is love that is sacrificial, selfless, bold, unstoppable, passionate and persistent love. It is the love Christ shows us by dying on the cross for us while we are still sinners, to pay for our sins. This is the love Jesus has for the worst sinner you know. This is the love that loves all your neighbors, even the noisy ones after 11PM. This is the love that loves your wierd family members. This is the love that loves your enemies. Grace is not just for our salvation, our help and our instruction. Grace is for our behavior. Live your grace out.



Spring is upon us and we are excited to help you get ready for this summer! If you have lawn maintenance or landscaping needs, we would love to help!!

Please call 251-649-0830 to schedule a visit. To find out more about some of our initiatives, we invite you to visit <https://www.missionofhopeministries.net/missionworks>. All monies donated through our mission initiatives are used to support the men and women of Mission of Hope.



## **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! The Faces of Hope represent 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!



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"HAPPY BIRTHDAY!"  
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Our soy candles and melts are handcrafted by the women of Mission of Hope and come in a variety of scents. They make great gifts for yourself or someone special. The candles are priced at \$8.00 and the melts are priced at \$6.00 . You can find them at Mission of Hope Furniture & Thrift.

*'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' Matthew 5:16*

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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.

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