Osie Handley

**Life Story of Osie Handley**

*Born April 12, 1951*

**Early Life**

I was born on April 12, 1951, in Tillar, Arkansas, delivered by a midwife named **Sweet Ola James**. At birth, I weighed 12 pounds, the heaviest of all sixteen children, which earned me the nickname **“Fat Boy.”**

As a child, I often had to stay home to work in the fields. This responsibility caused me to fall two grades behind in school.

**Education**

When our daddy moved us to Pine Bluff, I was 16 years old. I attended **C.P. Coleman High School** and graduated in 1972.

Although I was two grades behind, by the time I reached the 12th grade, I only needed one credit in order to graduate. This allowed me to begin taking college courses at the **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB)** that same year.

I was also able to take classes with my older brother, David, since we were both in the **Political Science program**. David had returned from serving in the Marines, which made this possible.

I completed my courses at UAPB in 1976.

**Career**

After college, I worked at the **Department of Corrections** for about a year, teaching in my field. However, I soon discovered that teaching was not my calling.

I later began working at **Central Maloney**, where we manufactured transformers.

In 2000, I moved to **West Memphis, Arkansas**, and began working at a chemical plant called **CIBA**.

**Health and Recovery**

After six months at CIBA, I became seriously ill and was unable to work for nearly two years due to **pancreatic cancer**.

Through God’s grace and mercy, I made a full recovery. Today, I thank God daily for keeping me and restoring my health.