

# REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY

SEPT/OCT

NEWSLETTER

2008

*21st Annual Day of Jubilee Celebration - come and enjoy*



Last year's celebration.

Each year it is my honor to hold a celebration of the presence of the Lord and His blessings to this and other prison ministries throughout VA and other parts of the country. This year it will be the 21st year, and we are praying for an even better time of celebration than last year. Each year as men are released, they make plans to come to the celebration since they are a large part of the reason for this celebra-

tion. However, last year there were only three of us present. I realize that if the parole officer will not allow travel that they cannot show up. I pray that more of the men who are blessed by the ministries to those incarcerated will show an interest in coming as a part of their testimony of the work God is continuing to accomplish in their lives. It is a time to exalt Jesus, not the ministries; but it is good for supporters of the various prison ministries to see the result of God being shared in the jails and prisons. I invite counselors, parole officers, wardens, and CO's as well as volunteers and inmates to come and see

the work that is being done through the power of the Holy Spirit in the ministries that are being allowed to minister in the jails and prisons. Sometimes the staff of the prisons get the idea that ministry outreaches are a waste of their time, especially when they see so many men returning to prison. Seeing how God is blessing others and allowing them to have a productive life after their release helps them see that God is making a difference in lives. There will be a time of fellowship, sharing testimonies, great food, and singing praises to Jehovah. Come and see for yourself; call for directions.

## *Inmates Acknowledge a Need for a Restoration House*

I am currently a prisoner in the Virginia Department of Corrections, and I am writing this letter to respectfully express the needs of the many men and women who are being released on parole or are being let out on mandatory dates.

There are many men and women serving time who will, at some point, be released, but after serving 20, 30, or even 40 years. These individuals are at a tremendous disadvantage. They

have been away from society for so long that most have few family members or friends, no financial resources, and no place to live upon release. A large number of these individuals have a violent crime or a sex offense – both of which are looked at more harshly by the parole board. The parole plan of these individuals is scrutinized more intently by the board, and because so many of them have no place to be re-

leased to or program to help reintegrate them back into society, they are denied parole and continue to cost taxpayers millions of dollars a year to be warehoused in prison. The majority of these individuals want to get out and stay out, but they have no support system on the outside – let alone a Christian-based program to be released to.

It is my belief that if there were more Christian re-entry programs

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**Christian Counseling  
in Marriage, Alcohol,  
Troubled Youth,  
Christian Living**

**Offerings & Donations**  
are tax deductible since Rehoboth is a non-profit organization. They can be sent to the address below and will be used to further the Jail & Prison Ministry.

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*Inmates Acknowledge a Need for a Restoration House (continued)*



INMATES WRITE OF THE NEED OF CHRISTIAN POST-RELEASE PROGRAMS

**Pray for the Needs of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry**

Funds for Restoration House Project.

For ministers going into prisons not to be ear ticklers, but God pleasers.

Wisdom for the ministry board as they serve the Lord.

Two new volunteer board members are needed.

For more churches to partner with Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry.

For those newly released who are having a hard time finding jobs or housing because of their past, rather than who they are now.

set up, the parole board would be more inclined to release the men and women they have been warehousing into these programs. These programs have worked in other states, and statistics show that the overwhelming majority of individuals who are released to these programs to not re-offend. The key is that these programs are Christian-based. They offer guidance and support to the released prisoners, but are in no way what society would call “soft” or a “free meal.” The programs that succeed have a dedicated group of Christian supporters who are committed to seeing the program and its attendees succeed. Help in finding housing, jobs, obtaining a driver’s license and car, and learning to manage finances are just a few of the areas the released individuals need help in. These issues and others are very important to the individuals being released because it helps them re-establish themselves back in society and feel they’re a part of society – not just a number. This is important in that the

programs would help provide a hand up – not a hand out.

Just as important in these programs, and really more so, there needs to be firm rules and guidelines that the offenders will be aware of going into the program. These rules need to be made explicitly clear to those running the program and attending the program, and they need to be enforced. This aspect is vital to the integrity and success of the program because by the rules being enforced and adhered to, the program will establish credibility with the parole board and society. If it is shown that the program is succeeding, the parole board would quite possibly release other offenders to the program.

There are a few places now that released prisoners can go to, but most of these are not Christian run, they are overcrowded, and they do not take in violent offenders or sex offenders. Most of the prisoners left in the prison system now are violent offenders or sex offenders, so there really is a need for a Christian run program or pro-

grams to help these individuals transition slowly back into society.

The state continues to build new prisons and spend millions and millions of taxpayer dollars on their construction, upkeep, and warehousing of prisoners. They have all but given up on rehabilitating prisoners through treatment programs, and the offenders who do get released are left with little to no preparation for how to deal with and live in a world that has moved on without them.

I humbly and respectfully present this letter to you in the hope that it will offer a clearer picture of what so many women and women not getting out of prison today are facing. Thank you so much for your time, and thank you for any help you can provide on this issue. God bless you!



*Another Inmate Shares Concern for Restoration House*

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to say that even though I am not officially a resident in the State of Virginia, I still want to voice my opinion on this issue. But first allow me to ask of you all to please open your hearts and minds enough to hear the cries of the many Christian brothers and sisters who are incarcerated, as I earnestly do feel that some form of half-way house is seriously needed

to support the many Christian brothers and sisters within these institutions who are truly sincere in making a change within our lives. I personally think that such a foundation would inspire us to move forward in maintaining our self-esteem, dignity, integrity, morals, principles and character as we strive in that path of righteousness to be a productive citizen in mainstream society once

again. But do bear in mind that such a change of life becomes so difficult for us to conquer when we are pushed back into society and have no concrete support of family members or community active to stand firmly beside us in helping us to encourage others to believe in our sincerity. So now in my closure of this letter, I ask for you all to give this matter at hand your deep-

[Continued next page](#)

est consideration before making your decision. I am sure that you will find within your heart and mind that this is the right solution to give you the people a chance to monitor our daily activities when we depart from these facilities and begin our process of turning our lives around with your effort to provide a program that will be well appreciated by many. This program will not leave us stranded in our only option of returning back into that same negative environment of life that got us here today. So now I ask you the people to diligently find within your heart to grant us this opportunity to keep our

lives upright with Christ.

Sincerely from your Christian Brother, [name withheld]



**Tim & Lisa Miller two board members. Tim is the Chairman and Lisa works twice as hard as secretary/treasurer.**

Thanks for the help in editing

I want to thank Jim Searcy for finding some additional help in editing some of the word articles and the lady who volunteered, that will ease the workload on Artis our present editor. We are looking for additional people who can receive an e-mail and attachment and correct a newsletter or article and send it back the same way. My newsletter is in Microsoft Officer Publisher 2007 so that program would be necessary for work on the newsletters or brochures in color. The other articles are in Word 2007. If you are interested contact me by e-mail.



One of several prison ministry volunteers from the past who still attends the annual Day Of Jubilee.

### *Do you have a **strong** interest in prison ministry?*

Are you retired and want to serve the Lord? Do you have too much time on your hands and have a eager desire to serve our mighty God in some mission position, but you do not want to travel to another country?

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry is looking for someone not so tied up or busy already,

who might be looking for a position on a ministry board. The board needs someone qualified for soliciting support in general for the ministry's needs and additionally for the building of Restoration House for the program we want to begin for inmates who have been incarcerated for longer

periods of time. We also need a member who might enjoy working with Brother Ron in setting up a website for the ministry. This person would not necessarily need to be a board member, but if he or she could volunteer that time to the ministry it would be very much appreciated. Please

### *The Day Of Jubilee 21st Year of Praising the Lord for Prison Ministry.*

Each year I send out letters, make calls, and e-mail people reminding them about this celebration. Unfortunately, many people see it as a cookout and nothing more. While the food is great and more than enough, it is just a additional blessing to the celebration. It is about Christian fellowship above and beyond most occasions I have experienced. Everyone who desires is able to give a testimony of what God is doing in their lives, therefore praising God for His working in that one's life. It is a time

to get to know what this ministry has accomplished in the past year and what plans it has for the future years. We want to be sure to acknowledge all God is continuing to do through and for this ministry over the years; this day is a chance to magnify God for His blessings for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. It is a reunion for inmates who were served by various prison ministries and the volunteers and churches who assist in the ministries and outreaches. It is a time for churches who support this

ministry to assure themselves that God is in this ministry and a chance for any church who might be considering beginning to support this ministry to check it out for themselves and be sure of its legitimacy. So with all this said, come on Sept. 27th and enjoy a time of WORSHIP of the one true God who continues to bless this ministry with His provisions and direction for the future, until His return. Come and spend a day of celebrating God's goodness and mercy and share what God is doing for you.



Another of the prison ministry volunteers from the past who still attends the Day Of Jubilee.

# SEPTEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 CBS	3 DCC/ PF	4	5	6
7	8 BCC/ RJPM	9 CBS	10 DCC/ RJPM	11	12	13
14 DCC/ RJPM	15	16 CBS	17 DCC/ PF	18	19 Food Bank	20
21	22 BCC/ CBS	23 CBS	24 DCC/ CBS	25	26	27
28	29 BCC/ RJPM	30 CBS				

## Mission Statement

To establish and strengthen the Christian life of inmates and their families by providing opportunities for worship, instruction, nurturing of children, fellowship, service, mutual aid, brotherly counsel, and to establish and strengthen the Christian life of evangelism. To bring the Gospel to the unsaved and to lead them to faith in Christ followed by membership in the body of Christ.

## FROM OUR FILES

**Jan. 8, 2002**

Let the Holy Spirit of God reign and rule in my spirit, overriding the desires of the flesh, let my love and obedience of God be stronger every day and the lust of desires of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in my life be replaced with a Godly walk in total obedience to the direction of God's Holy Spirit made available to mankind through Jesus return to heaven to intercede for us with the Father.

*The initials BCC stands for Buckingham Correctional; Monday and Wednesday services are Bible Studies at DCC stands for Dillwyn Corrections Center RJPM stands for Rebooth Jail & Prison Ministry; PF stands for Prison Fellowship Sunday service and 5th Monday services are usually a Worship service.*

*DCC services are held at 6:00 till 7:30 PM*

*BCC services at held 6:30 till 7:45 PM*

*Food Bank is held from 5:00 till 7:00 every third Friday in Schuyler V.A.*

*CBS stands for Community Bible Study*

# OCTOBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 DCC/ PF	2	3	4
5	6	7 CBS	8 DCC/ RJP	9	10	11
12 DCC/ RJP	13 BCC/ RJP	14 CBS	15 DCC/ PF	16	17 Food Bank	18
19	20	21 CBS	22 DCC/ RJP	23	24	25
26	27 BCC/ RJP	28 CBS	29 DCC/ PF	30	31	