

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out

Nov. / Dec 2010

Matt. 25:36

I was in prison and ye came unto me.

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In - Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Pen Pal (letter writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Restoration House

Ministry training seminars available for local churches

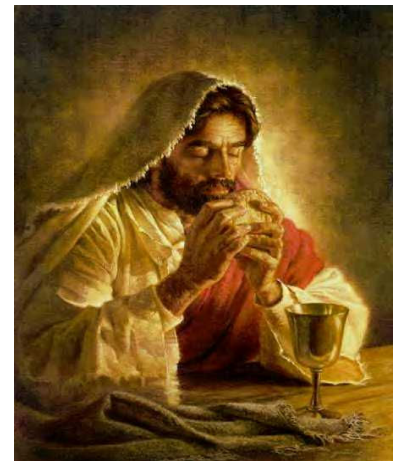
Merry Christmas

Matt. 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful"

For those of you who do not know what to get a loved one for Christmas, try thinking about all the incarcerated men and women who will not only miss Christmas with their families but will not be able to provide any gifts for them, either. Some of you readers might say, "Well if they had not broken the law they would not be in prison," I say, "God forgive you. You don't understand." There is a way, however, these men and women can give gifts to the families through the Prison Fellowship Angel Project. This is a program where local churches or individuals can choose an inmate from a list produced by Prison Fellowship and give gifts to his or her family. If you go to Prison Fellowship Minis-

tries online, you can get all the information you need to get involved. I have not only been blessed by being a part of this Christian giving in the past, but I also made sure our church group got to deliver the gifts and witness personally to the family. If someone in your church knows a spouse of someone incarcerated, and it looks like they might not have a very good Christmas, you do not necessarily have to contact Prison Fellowship. When we deliver gifts to the children of the one incarcerated, we made sure credit for the gifts was given to the incarcerated parent—not Santa Claus. I encourage churches to get involved in such an outreach and bring the joy of the gift of Christ to others by pre-

senting the Christmas story along with a gift to someone who cannot do for themselves. I always suggest contacting the spouse before you buy a gift so if they need clothes you can get them instead of toys. Plus, I suggest one Christian gift be a book, a Bible, or something Christian.



End of the Year update on how the ministry is going.

I cannot thank enough those of you who pray for and give financially to this ministry. This has allowed the ministry to grow for over 23 years, now. I get gifts of anywhere from \$2 to \$100 from inmates and, of course, the monthly, quarterly, and once a year gifts from church and some individuals. It has given

the ministry board and me great joy to not only meet the yearly budget but also put aside some funds for Restoration House. This is possible because we try to keep the budget as low as possible and still meet the needs of the ministry. No one in the ministry receives a salary, but the ministry provides a housing allow-

ance and the minister gets the approved mileage reimbursements set by the IRS. So, we have been able to continue to minister because the goodness of God directs His servants to supply the needs of this ministry. God bless you all who give financially and keep us in prayer.

One of many programs inmates are involved in to benefit society

SOS (Save Our Shelters) is a registered 501C(3) nonprofit rescue organization with a mission to ensure the humane conditions and treatment of shelter animals and lower the rate of euthanasia in Virginia's public shelters. It formed in September 1996 in response to reports of inhumane treatment and negligence at the Richmond Animal Shelter. Since that time, SOS has rescued thousands of unwanted animals and established **SOS Pen Pals**, a nationally recognized training and rehabilitation program with the Virginia Department of Corrections. Inmates are taught professional dog-training techniques to become dog-trainers, as well as socialize cats to make the animals more adoptable.

SOS believes that population control is a more humane alternative than euthanasia to the tragedy of unwanted animals. SOS supports the work of the **PetFix Coalition** and **Prevent A Litter**, both of which have reduced the euthanasia rate in Central Virginia through their low-cost spay/neuter programs. SOS is passionate about legislation to strengthen Virginia's animal welfare laws to ensure that all impounded animals are treated humanely - especially when their lives must be ended.

SOS Pen Pals began its first pet/prison program at JRCC in 2001; BKCC has been on board since 2003. Fluvanna and Lunenburg are involved; Botetourt and Brunswick also had the program, and Pocahontas Correctional Unit #13 has cats. Many states have pet/prison programs. Most of the dogs come from Richmond Animal Care and Control. The trainer goes weekly to the shelter to assess and select dogs for the program. Dogs currently come from the Southside SPCA for LCC.

Temperament testing, or behavioral assessments are tests that help tell what a dog will be like once it arrives at the prison, or when it is adopted. Many dogs are stressed and/or behaviorally repressed, or over-stimulated due to the noisy environment and lack of exercise and attention while at the shelter, and trainers can't get a complete 'read' on the dog at that moment; however, the trainer does her best to assess various aspects of the dog including:

1. Dog's overall physical condition
2. Confidence level – including friendli-

ness with men and women, reactions to odd sights and sounds, ability to navigate through various areas of the shelter (inside and out)

3. How the dog reacts to all sorts of body handling
4. How the dog gets along with other dogs
5. Whether the dog defensively guards its food, toys or chewies
6. What signals the dog gives when it is frightened, stressed, or feeling the need to defend itself
7. Level of arousal exhibited in exciting moments, and how long it takes to settle back down again
8. Interest in physical attention, food, toys, tug, fetching, chasing
9. If/how the dog reacts when seeing a cat in a cage

After the dog is accepted, there are rare instances when the dog is removed from the program; excessive fearfulness or stress levels in certain dogs may require it to be removed for its own well-being. Others are occasionally removed for aggressive behavior which we feel puts handlers, staff, and/or potential adopters at risk.

Not every dog that comes into the program is able to take and/or pass the Canine Good Citizenship test. If they're particularly fearful, or reactive to strange dogs, for instance, they're not CGC candidates. Occasionally we have adopters who want to take a dog from the program prior to us having enough time to get the dog ready to take the CGC test. A couple of our dogs have passed the CGC in as few as 3 weeks; however, 5 or more weeks would be more typical. In 2009, BKCC scored 65% success rating on CGC pass rates, JRCC, 68%, and FCC, 11.5%. LCC was not calculated.

At least eight dogs have gone on to become Therapy Dogs with their new owners. While in our care, we can get a pretty good idea if a dog is suitable for therapy work, and these dogs will pass the CGC test while they're with us. Once they're adopted, some additional training is usually required before they can pass their Therapy Dog test. Most of these dogs are owned by counselors (and one psychologist) at other prisons, who use the dogs

during their work with inmates. A couple of dogs are owned by people who desire to bring their dogs to settings where the dog's presence can have a beneficial impact on a specific population (nursing home, hospital, etc.)

While most of the Pen Pals dogs end up simply enriching their adopter's lives as pets, some do go on to careers. One BKCC dog was selected by the VA State Police K9 unit, went through bomb detection training, and is now working at a Maryland courthouse. Currently a dog at JRCC is receiving extra training to help prepare him for Service Dog work for a lady with MS, as well as one at Lunenburg to work with an adopter's son who is wheelchair bound. Another JRCC dog just completed training and is likely to pass a Therapy Dog test in order to work at Sussex prison.

All potential adopters are asked to complete our application, which is available on-line at <http://www.sos-penpals.com/>. After an application is received and reviewed, the potential adopters (veterinarian/landlord, etc) is contacted via telephone and/or e-mail to determine compatibility/suitability based on written information as well as responses to additional questions. A contract is signed and a \$250 adoption fee is collected. Occasionally, dogs are adopted in as early as 4 weeks. More typically, a dog may stay for 6-8 weeks of training; however, we normally keep a dog in the program until we find an appropriate adopter, and occasionally some dogs stay for months with us. 2009: 114 total dogs adopted via program. 20 BKCC dogs were adopted, 2 were removed, and 1 was returned to his original owner. Through 3/31/10, 27 dogs have been adopted, 9 from BKCC.

Rehoboth Jail & prison Ministry would like to thank the Department of Corrections (DOC) for sharing this information and allowing us to use it for this publication.

Thought for Jan. 28, 2002

Blessed are those who will submit and humble themselves to the mighty God

Individual comments and benefits from the Pen Pal Program not to confuse it with the letter writing Pen Pal ministry. (smile)

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Handlers:

Dogs often have positive physical and psychological impact on the humans that they live with;
 Gives handlers a sense of responsibility and accomplishment as they work with the dogs and achieve success;
 The chance to see how effectively positive reinforcement training works to teach basic obedience skills, good manners, and to create positive change in an animal's behavior WITHOUT needing to resort to coercive or punitive methods. This is good for re-entry, especially regarding family dynamics;
 A chance to learn how to work cooperatively as a team and improve communication skills with other handlers, which is useful in any work or family setting;
 Being part of a program that promotes respect for selves, dogs, and others;
 Intellectual stimulation, i.e. learning new skills and the many details about animal behavior;
 Real-life job skills for those who are released. So far, three Pen Pals handlers have gone on to training careers on the outside. Another donates his time regularly with a rescue group in Lynchburg. 3 men from JRCC are close to release and plan to begin a training business together in the Richmond area.

Staff and inmate's comments:

1. pleasure of having dogs on site, for those who like dogs
2. petting the dogs can be a real stress-reliever
3. improved communication skills with the inmate handlers, as well as over all improved behavior.

Other inmates:

1. Access to the dogs is beneficial to those who enjoy animals.
2. Being able to express oneself honestly and affectionately with a dog is very therapeutic and 'safe' in the prison environment

INMATE QUOTES

"I've wasted too much idle time here in prison, but being in Pen Pals has given me a sense of purpose and a drive to be a

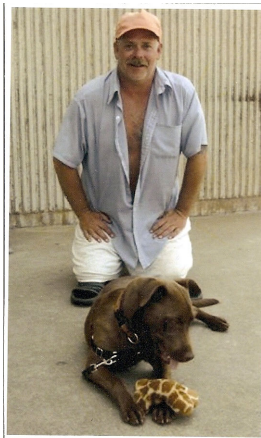
great trainer. The idea of continuing to save lives and make a difference, all while learning, is exciting." ~ Chris, JRCC inmate

"It makes me feel human again. It takes me back to a kinder and gentler time. It helps me connect, and helps me when I talk to staff. Now I understand better their mission, not just incarceration. You think the staff was taught to be mean, to distrust you and be angry with you. But the more I communicate with them, it helps me understand their jobs." ~ LCC inmate

As each dog is adopted: "We feel like we are making parole vicariously, in bits and pieces." ~ Brunswick inmate

From someone who grew up around dog fighting: "What I've learned is that dogs have feelings and needs, and it's taught me that these animals need to be cared for. It's also therapy because you get lonely in here, and men don't want to reveal their emotional side with other men. However, when guys come into contact with the dogs, you can see their compassion. You can see them giving those gentle caresses and releasing emotions they've been harboring for so long. So the program really allows us to deal with our inner selves. In the midst of us training these dogs, these dogs are actually helping to train us to be better people so we can go out into society and represent in a positive way." ~ Nick, JRCC inmate

Hello!



Here is one of many dog handlers serving their sentence at Buckingham Correctional Center. He is a Christian brother Tommy Crute who is using his incarceration to help others.

I am a prisoner in the VA Dept of Corrections. In 2003, this facility introduced a new program; SOS Pen Pals, a non-

profit organization who take canines from rescue homes and nearby shelters and place them with a pair of inmates. (SOS stands for "Save our Shelters") Over a few weeks, we train the dogs using positive reinforcement and basic obedience training (house training, sit, stay, etc.).

Currently, we have adopted over 100 dogs through word ? and internet. A lot of these animals were due to be put down due to a lack of room or funding.

I have a life-sentence with over thirty years incarceration on a single charge. Not knowing if I would ever be released myself, I thought it a miracle to be able to save the lives of the dogs and make some family happy. Little did I realize I was also the one being saved. God must have looked into my heart and saw my loneliness. After being in here for a while you become withdrawn and cold-hearted, never even realizing it.

When inmates receive a dog to work with, it is only for a short period and then they will be adopted. So, you try not to get too attached. When my first dog was adopted, though, I saw the happiness I had been a part of and it just melted my heart.

I was able to create something good. It took coming to prison to learn how to do this. I was a teenager when I was arrested and had not done much good in my life.

Two things have softened my heart and helped me to be less withdrawn: One was giving the dogs love and care so they could be placed in a home – and the other was finding the Father.

Thank you for reading this testimony,

Thomas L. Crute #1122905

Facilitator: A. Harrison,
Counselor BKCC

Trainer: Virginia Broitman?
(fivorefined@mindspring.com)

Thought for Jan.29, 2002

Oh the joy I fell in Your presences,
thank you Lord for you forgiving mercies
for a sinner like me.

NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	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/ RJPM	23 CBS	24 DCC/ RJPM	25	26	27
28	29 BCC/ RJPM	30 CBS				

Jack's Trivia

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Questions for Nov./Dec.

1. What is a word in the Bible that means "one sent"?
2. Who is the priest Jesus is compared to in early Salem (Jerusalem)?
3. Who was called the wife of Nabal?
4. Who was the wicked king of Israel who caused Israel to worship Baal because of his evil wife?
5. Who were the two sons of Noah who covered his nakedness while he was passed out?
6. What is the word used for a person who changes from one belief to another?
7. Who was the high priest with whom Samuel spent his early life?
8. What was the name of the hillside outside of Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified?
9. What does Golgotha mean?
10. What does the word Hosanna mean in Greek?

Answers for Sept/Oct. 1. Jericho (Num. 33:50) 2. Esther 3. Kish (1 Sam. 9:3) 4. Nile 5. Hebrew 6. (Asking a question in return) 7. Melchisedec (Heb. 5:6) 8. Golgotha (Matt. 27:33) 9. (a place of a skull) (Matt. 27:33) 10. Drusilla (Acts 24:24) 11. A prayer of David 12. A prayer of David 13. (Felix Acts 24:27) 14. (Ps 110 as stated by the KJ study Bible notes)

The initials BCC stands for Buckingham Correctional Center; all services are held between 6:30 and 7:45 PM

DCC stands for Dillwyn Corrections Center; all services are held between 6:00 and 7:30 PM

RJPM stands for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry;

PF stands for Prison Fellowship

CBS stands for Community Bible Study; 2:00 to 3:30PM; Held by Chaplain Ron Baker, RJPM

Sunday service and 5th Monday is a Worship the other services are generally a Bible study

The Food Bank is held every third Friday in the Schuyler community at a local church; from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Offerings & Donations

are tax deductible since Rehoboth is a non-profit organization. They can be sent to the address below and will be used for the furtherance of the Jail & Prison Ministry.

Ministry Address

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry
Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain
6166 Helens Way Schuyler, VA 22969-9607
E-mail: rrbak@juno.com
Phone: (434) 831-2593

Web site: www.jailandprisonministries.org

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

DECEMBER 2010

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