

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2016

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Come on Down to the Day of Jubilee

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After Care
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Pen Pal
(letter writing)
Mentoring
Family Ministry
Youth Ministry
Restoration House
Ministry training
seminars are
available for local
churches.

Matt 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Rehoboth Jail & Prisons Ministry would like to invite you to the 29th annual Day of Jubilee Celebration on Sept. 24th. People usually start getting to Tim's house around 10:00 AM unless you are coming to help set things up. Set up usually begins between 8:30 or 9:00. It is always nice to have help setting things up and cleaning up after the celebration is over, and it ends when everyone leaves. (smile) Some people in the past have come to Tim's on Friday to get the building cleaned up and make room for all of the tables. That is a great benefit since then we do not have so much to do Saturday. Tim is generous enough to allow us to use the building so it is nice if he does not have to do all of the work getting things ready

as well. He and his wife Lisa put a lot of work into the event. Kathy Allen will be joining us for our praise time in singing praises to the Lord. We have many great things to



praise God about with the Restoration House and the support, both physical and financial, we had from so many wonderful places. We will also want to invite all of those people to attend and get a first hand look at how we appreciate all God is doing for the ministry and the inmates we serve.

As usual we will start out with prayer, praise songs, and testimonies from those who have benefited from the outreaches and the Bible studies and Worship services. Then we will be singing more praises to God and in between update will be given in various projects and needs such as more pen pals for male inmates. I have never had anyone come and not enjoy it. If that happened I am not aware if it. If you would like to bring things like drinks, snacks like chips, deserts, along with a cover dish. The meats are provided by the ministry and we have some drinks and snacks. We have never run out of food yet. Praise the Lord!

September is Budget Month

"I remember over the years not knowing where the money would come from for fuel to make the trip across the mountain on Friday to go to Staunton for the service at SCC (Staunton Correctional Center)". I remember when we had to decrease the budget several years in a row because we did not make the previous

month's budget. "I remember when the only support we had for this ministry was what I made plumbing and selling hogs." I praise the Lord it has not been that way for a long time now! Being frugal has allowed us, even in the lean years, to get all of the ministry's needs met by God's riches in glory through Christ

Jesus. We are still being good stewards as God commands. God is good and we praise Him for sending so many wonderful, generous believers to help in our needs. To all of the churches and individuals who support us monthly, quarterly, yearly, or from time to time we thank you with all of our heart!

2016 Day of Jubilee



2 Tim 3: 1-7 1 “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Big stinker... I mean thinker



What up in the prisons as to this ministry?

We have been studying 1 John for a while at both prisons. We actually moved into 2 John at DCC in the last part of June. I have studies ready for the book of Acts when we finish the Epistles of John. I just started a study of 2 Peter. I originally intended to preach a message on 2 Peter, but it would have ended up too long for a worship service. I will make it into a study. Since I have more time to minister at the prisons with the captive audi-

ence than I am ever allowed in a church I can almost do two messages in one.

Where some pastors are blessed to have 20 to 30 minutes, I am blessed to have over an hour for either a worship service or a Bible study. I hold special holiday services, such as at Thanksgiving where the men have the entire time to share things they are thankful for from the Lord. That is one of my favorite services, since many would not realize that men incarcerated

have much to be thankful for. Very rarely do men pass up the chance to praise God, unless they are very bashful. During Christmas and Easter I try to get singers to come in and bless the men. Kathy Allen is very faithful to do this and her sister Christy, Hannah Swan, Billy Bridgewater and a few other have joined us in the recent past. The numbers run low in the summer since the recreation yard is open later and the men can go outside.

Director of Operations Needed

God has so greatly blessed us with Restoration House and the work we have been able to accomplish! He has provided volunteer labor and gifts from so many individuals and churches.

However, we still face a very serious obstacle. We need someone to operate the daily activities of the house. Someone responsible, spiritually mature, pa-

tient, caring and able to live in the house as a Director of Operations. This is not going to be an easy task, but God is able. Eph. 3:20, 21 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages,

world without end. Amen. We will continue to mention this need, but if anyone knows of an individual able to fill this position they can contact us. We are trusting God will provide in His good time!

We can not move inmates in until this position is filled though. Pray with us and keep your eyes and ears alert for this person.

Maybe Ron is pondering how to get new pen pals for male inmates.

In the months of May and June the ministry received 24 request for pen pals for male inmate and 2 from female inmate. So there is always a need for pen pals for these men. I did get two volunteers to write inmates from two people who read about the ministry pen pal outreach on our website. That was a true blessing

since both of the individuals are writing to several inmate each. I try to follow up with the people writing inmates to see if all is going well. I want them to know they are not just forgotten after the sign up to write letters. If an inmate stops writing, as some do for various reasons, I let these volunteers know I have

many more names if it is something they enjoy. I also ask the pen pals to let me know if their pen pal starts asking for things he has been assured we do not provide through this outreach. You can write from home and can use a P.O. Box or church address and even an alias if it makes you feel safer.

L.W.C.F. has a new place to serve the Lord.



On July 3rd Living Word Christian Fellowship held our first service in the new building. The Lord has provided us with a beautiful place to grow our congregation in this new area. We had **over 87** people attending the first service and we look forward to the Lord leading many of the residents in this area

to join us for weekly worship. We held our first VBS July 11-15 in the new building it was a grand success.



There is still some inside work to be completed, but praise the Lord we got the occupancy permit the same week we needed to be out of the facility we were renting for 4 hours a week to hold our worship

service. We were very blessed to have that space for the time we were waiting for the building to be



completed and now we can hold longer services. We no longer have time limitations as to when we can use the facility. We invite you to join us on Lowesville Road beside the firehouse for our 9:00 Sunday school and 10:00 worship service as well as our Spanish service at 2:00.

A thought I had back in July 4, 2002
As America sets aside today and separation from a former ruler; let mankind set aside every day as separation from the ways of the world. Let us separate ourselves from sin and celebrate the freedom we have in Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Continuing the Work on Restoration House

Here is where the deck needs to be since the old one had rotted off. You can see how high the door is off of the ground. Next, you see the brush removed and the beginning of



the new deck. The work was done by Joe Arbaugh and Robert Cason, an ex-offender. Next you see the finished work with the treated wood. This could last until Jesus



returns (since He could come at any time!) We have been so greatly blessed by the work of so many volunteers. Praise God for each of them!



Volunteers for the Prison Work at Restoration House

Anyone interested in doing any kind of teaching, counseling, or anyone with other skills that would help the residents at the Restoration House would be welcome to join us as we find uses for their skills. In like manner the staff of the ministry will be doing similar teaching and counseling as well for our residents. It will be nice to have

more people involved in these training activities. On the other hand we plan on making the residents available for projects in the community to prove the worth of this program and change the minds of many who feel this is a waste of time. So either way; if you need our help or you are able in some way to help us please contact us. We

do not have anyone running the house now but we pray that will happen in the very near future. Also if anyone reading this newsletter is in the area of Schuyler and might need to hire on one of these men they will be available for work the day after they enter the program, and I understanding the em-

ployer will get a tax deduction for hiring an ex-offender. Some of these residents will have skills while other will have to learn a trade but all of them will work and support themselves.

SEPT 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 Grand-parents Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Day of
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCT 2016

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

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Sundays are evenings I minister at Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons
The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church.

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.

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 Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry.

Ministry Address:

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Here are a couple of responses from pen pals about their experiences

Grace says: Being a pen pal has been a most rewarding experience. When I was approached about writing, I had just recently retired so I decided it was something I could do from my recliner (lazy ministry). I took on the challenge. Only one inmate came from this ministry, someone who just wanted to hear his name during mail call. Others I have acquired by other means, but all are a joy to write to.

What does one talk about? Well ... the Sunday sermon, Sunday School lessons, your personal devotions and Bible readings, what one does during your day, funny stories from my own life's experiences, nature things like fishing, rivers and mountains. The list is endless. The inmates are not picky about the topics that come to them. What is important to them is that they are getting

mail. They look forward to our letters more than we can imagine. A pen pal becomes a very important person in the life of the inmate who has no life.

Each one has expressed their appreciation for me being there when even families seem to have abandoned them. They appreciate knowing they can expect a letter regularly when they may not be as prompt in their reply. One expressed to me that I tell him all these things that make up my life, but he has basically nothing to give in return. What does one write about in prison? Much of it is the responses to what they hear from their pen pal.

Yes, I am thankful for Ron asking me to participate in this program. My initial response was, "Why not?" Now my response is, "Wow! The blessings are all mine!!" They have become personal friends, I pray

for them, but they are praying for me as well. Try it folks! You will be amazed at the blessings that come your way. Don't be left out!

Karen says: Ron I have been writing letters for several years and overall it has been a positive and rewarding experience. My current pen pal is slow about responding, but she has written me back a couple times. My first one was the best experience, because after I had time to write to her several times I drove down to the prison to meet her and that made us better friends. I picked her up when she was released and drove her to several appointments her first few weeks out. We still chat on the phone and I visit her in Waynesboro occasionally. She has been very successful getting back into society. My second attempt was not as suc-

cessful, [because] she did ask for money several times and when she got out she could not make herself do all that she needed to succeed, although I made several trips to Harrisonburg to support her. Finally I had to cut the connection but she wrote me from Middle River Jail when she was back in for a drug violation. I picked her up from there when she was released, but haven't heard from her since.

I think it is a great ministry, and advise people to take a chance and try it. Mail from outside is a great encouragement when life is the same old, same old every day. If you're willing to drive to the prison and meet them in person it will make them and their experiences much more real to you.