

MATT. 25:36
I WAS IN PRISON AND
YE CAME UNTO ME.

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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.

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

MAY / JUNE 2008

How Successful Can Jesus Be?

I have been going through some difficulties in this ministry for several weeks now, and so have the men I am ministering to. Some changes have been made that seem to hinder the effectiveness of this ministry. I was feeling a little overwhelmed today and it felt like the Lord was telling me, that if Satan is being successful against this ministry it is my fault. No, I do not mean that I am living in sin, just that I am not waiting on the Lord to deliver me from the situation before I seem to feel defeated. God is trying to teach me all He wants me to learn - to strengthen me. Certainly things could be better, and on the other hand they could certainly be much worse. The question I need to ask and anyone else needs to ask in time of trial is, how much glory am I giving Satan for what might look like his successful efforts to hurt the work of the Lord. I need to ask what am I learning from this and how am I reacting. Are we allowing Satan to rejoice because he is accomplishing his work to cause a child of God to doubt the power of God to deliver us? As things come against a child of God, how are we representing the fact that Christ lives in us and is allowing

this to happen for our good? Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work

together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to [his] purpose." Why do we allow ourselves to not believe such Scriptures right in the time we are actually going through a trial? It is because the Word is not hid in our heart that we might not sin against God. When we give circumstances



Jesus loves even me

more honor and respect in our lives by allowing them to dictate our attitude, we are not trusting in the Lord to teach us through the process, and help us grow to trust God even more the next time. Christians have heard for years to submit to God and praise Him in all circumstances and be

thankful. I believe as I walk with the Lord more closely, I have finally recognized why I need to be thankful in all situations. When hard times come I am not like the heathen, because I have the God of the universe, the God of all ages, dwelling in me to provide strength and deliverance from all trials and troubles. 1 Cor. 10: 13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]." Anyone who has strength in tribulation cannot brag on themselves; it is through the power of God through the Holy Spirit that one can praise God in the midst of trials. This comes from complete faith and trust that even in this trouble God is sovereign and He will make a way through this situation, not always around it. When we come through this testing we will grow in faith because we have trusted in the Lord and once again He has made Himself known to us. Even when things do not work out the way we wanted we must still trust in the Lord and not lean on our own understanding (Pro. 3: 5, 6). Let us praise the Lord at all times and exhibit our trust in His perfect will for His children. ✚

Inmate's Corner

I praise the Lord who this ministry, family, and me up in daily prayer. It is very hard to deal with people weekly and not grow a spiritual bond with them. However, as a volunteer for almost 21 years I understand that I need to be careful not to give the impression that I am above the rules of the institution, or that they do not apply to me. I do not always understand the why's of the institutional guidelines, but I know they are set up for the safety of inmates, staff, and volunteers as well. When I disagree with something, I have the privilege to ask



why, but then I need to be obedient. I also have the privilege to pray to Father. He may also not give me a reason why, however He will assure me He is still sovereign and He will make a way. This ministry wants to be a blessing to the administration as well as to the men who are incarcerated. In providing a blessing to anyone we do not want to be a security risk in any way. Volunteers need, from time to time, to be reminded of the hidden dangers to be aware of and a need to watch and pray. This ministry also wants the men who are claiming to be children of the Lord, to remember to be obedient to the authorities over them. These disciples should not react to disappointment in a negative way, giving Satan room to get his foot into the situation, and take the light off of how God would want them to react.

Dealing with disappointment and things that "I feel" hinder the work of

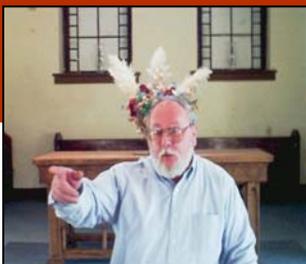
God and this ministry is one of my many shortcomings. However, the way I respond to a situation could either win or lose souls for the Lord or cause people to not see God's love in the way we respond to opposition. God does not tell his children to be in obedience to the authorities over us only when we agree. If we have enjoyed certain privileges for a time and then they are taken away, we have the Lord to cry out to; He Who can change the hearts of kings and rulers. So rather than mumber and complain, let us submit to God and let His will work out through the situation in love, that Christ might be exalted. We want this ministry to remain in good standing with the authorities of the DOC until Jesus calls the believers home and there will no longer be a Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. So please allow God to work out the details and just praise His Holy name. ✚



The Prison Ministry Board when it was at full capacity.

Matt: 25:35-37 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee]? or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink?

Chaplain Ron preaching at his church (before he lost 60 pounds).



What is your calling and are you making it sure?

2 Pet. 1: 10, 11 10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” There is a lot of misunderstanding about a Christian’s calling, and the meaning of election. 2 Pet. encourages those who read that Scripture to make their calling and election sure. The word used here for **calling** means “the divine invitation to embrace salvation of God”; and the word for **election** means “the act of God’s free will by which before the foundation of the world he decreed

his blessings to certain persons”. So what is God saying when He encourages us to make these items sure? Since the calling is from God and we can do nothing to be called, and election is also an act of God, He wants us to: **Ps. 139: 23** “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts 24 And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” When someone truly asks this of God and really desires a response from God, he is making his calling and election sure in at least two ways. God wants us to prove Him, to try Him and see if He is not true to all He says. God knows only those called according to His purpose will have all things work together for their good, to only those who love God and prove their love by repentance, submission, and total obedience to Him. Making sure these things is the way we are working out our

salvation with fear and trembling, not with a fear of God but a reverence of the awesome privilege of being one of the called, and knowing it is now up to us through the power of the Holy Spirit to follow the leading of God. **Pr. 3: 6** “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” When we shy away from God’s will we are not acknowledging Him. So as we allow our faith to grow and as we trust the Holy Spirit to teach us all things, we make our calling and election sure. If you are no longer satisfied in a state of sin, if even the smallest departure from God’s will causes you grief, it confirms the active role of the Holy Spirit working to chasten you and to bring you back into the fellowship with the Father. We miss so much when our fellowship with God is not what the Father wants it to be. ✚

The Love of God

The Love of God should be reflected as much to unbelievers as it is to our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord. Even though it is much harder to show God’s love to unbelievers, God commands it of His children. Since the unbeliever has no way of experiencing God’s love absent of the active movement of the Holy Spirit, and by their rejection of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the only way they can receive God’s love is by the commandment of God for His children to love one another. To even love those who hate us and also hate the Father. **Matt. 5: 44-46** “44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he

maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?” Let us as children of the only God Jehovah, reach the lost through being a living example of the Lord of God in all we say and do. This can be done without compromising the principles of God’s Word. God does not want us to be tolerant to the point of calling sin anything other than sin. True love never lies; we never need to agree with lies of cults or of things against the Word in order to show God’s love to them. Only the truth of God’s Word will set the lost free from the sin that rules in their lives, and that is a very important part of God’s love; to make the truth available to them. We are not trying to make friends, we are making disciples for the Lord

Jesus. A true disciple needs to know the truth so they will follow the truth and not a false doctrine. So, in truth love your neighbor, love those who show no love in return, and pray for all those who try to make your life unbearable because of this ignorance of God and His love toward them, and His forgiving grace to those called to be conformed to the image of God’s Son. **Rom. 8:29** “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” **John 3:16, 17** “16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Hear the Word of God and do not allow anyone or anything to turn you from His commands.

Brother Ron Baker was called to prison ministry while he was incarcerated, but failed to follow God’s call after receiving several negative comments in reference to this call. He was told because of his past he would not make a good preacher; and who would listen to him since his past was so corrupt and ungodly? After giving much thought to these comments

Ron decided to forsake God’s call in favor of well-people to do ended back to and like the time before God graciously allowed Ron to return to prison so God might get his attention again and work in Ron’s life to renew a right spirit in him. This time it ‘took’, and



what some meaning advised him and he up going his old ways

Ron knew that God had called him the first time and that he did not need to ask anyone else because God had made it clear. Not that it was not clear the first time, but Satan loves to put doubt in the heart of a newly anointed believer that they could never be worthy of serving the Lord is such a way as ministering with such a sinful background. Let those people just remember Paul. (continued)

Jesus is the only way to receive salvation

Pray for the future Restoration House

In the 21 years of this ministry I have seen a lot of men come and go from many institutions. Some kept in touch for many years, some are still in touch, and others never followed up with letters after they were released. Some of the men went on to serve the Lord and became prominent members of their churches and society, and others were not out long before they were back in jail awaiting their transfer back to prison. Some of the men got good jobs and their past incarceration did not interfere with their daily routine after their release from prison. What makes the difference between the various ways men approach freedom and how they face the trials and tribulations they will certainly encounter in the evil world around them? When men find a church before they are released, and have Christian support for the upcoming trials that are sure to come, they do much better. Some men go home to families who are not walking with the Lord, and some families are even still involved with illegal activities when the inmate is released. Of course these men need to be careful, or it is almost certain they will return to prison. I am not trying to speak negativity into the lives of men who go into such situations; however I am just trying to address this type of situation with caution.

This ministry is happy to assist inmates in finding a church in the area of their release, to support them at the time they get home. If the inmates will let us know before they are discharged, we will try to find a church, and will even make contact with the church. We will try to get someone from the church to correspond with the inmate and get a relationship with him, so when he comes to the church for the first time, he can feel more welcome since he already has a friend there.

Sometimes it is hard for us to follow up with some churches, since they may not have a church phone, but we will do our part to help facilitate a home church. In order for this ministry to be successful we need the cooperation of the inmate, and perhaps their family, to make this effort successful. We also need churches willing to make these inmates feel welcome, even before they are released. Month after month we continue to reach out to churches and ask for partners willing to assist Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry in outreaches to inmates and their families before they are released and as they reenter society. So please keep this in your prayers; and if individuals in local churches would like to be considered contact people for this purpose, they can contact the ministry from the information available on the back page of this newsletter, and we would be happy to keep them informed of any needs in their area. While finances are very important to this ministry, it is not the only way to partner with us.

To speak further on the matter of the men being released; some seem to leave the prison with the idea that, "Now everything is going to be just fine." Then when they get home they find an entirely different set of problems. Certain temptations are now even stronger than ever because the inmates have been locked up so long and these same temptations are now back in their faces. I never tell the men things are going to be better because they are out of prison, because where they are physically does not determine how well they are. God is the provider of peace, and anyone can have peace anywhere they find themselves, if they abide in Christ and Christ in them. Some men have the notion that they need God in prison to get through that experience, but since they think they can do fine back in the world, they will not need God after they are released.

That is like the man who gets into a situation feels he can not handle, either physically, financially, or mentally, and he begs God for help only to set God aside after that incident, thinking they do not need God for their every day life. Certainly this causes God much sorrow since He desires to lead us all the time, so we do not stray from His will. **Pr. 3: 5, 6** "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Sometimes after someone is "saved" they think it is all over as far as things they need to do. How one lives after the point of supposed salvation will be the proof as to whom he belongs. There are so many lies being taught by very famous ministers that many individuals will feel no matter how they live they were saved, they are still saved, and they will be forever saved. This is why so many false teachers do not encourage people to read the Word for themselves.

The Bible tells us in **2 Tim 2: 15, 16** "15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane [and] vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." And in **2 Chr. 15: 2** "And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD [is] with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." Abandoning God after a blessing is an act of forsaking Him. God bless each of you who read these words.

2 Chr.7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Hear the Word of God (continued)

Remember that when you hear from God, He will confirm His Words to you and it may not always be by you asking questions of everyone around you. He will prove His Word true to you so that you can move forward in His will. Just like not one knows your heart, no one knows God's call to you like you do. However, there will be those sent from God to verify

that His call is real and to encourage you. Just as God will send encouragement, Satan will discourage, but let's not give him any credit because the Holy Spirit will teach you all truths and lead you in the way you should go; greater is He in you than he that is trying to distract you from God's call. So trust in the Lord and do not lean on your own understanding, nor on the

understanding of even the well-meaning people around you. God has something for you to do and you will only accomplish it in His power and by His authority, for greater is He in you than the one who is trying to oppose God's will in your life.

MAY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 DCC/ PF 6:00 PM	8	9	10
11 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	12 BCC/ RJPM 6:30 PM	13	14 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	15	16 Food Bank 5:00 PM	17
18	19	20	21 DCC/ PF 6:00 PM	22	23	24
25 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	26 BCC/ RJPM 6:30 PM	27	28 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	29	30	31

Other activities for the ministry

1. Ron is preaching many Sundays at his home church and is mentoring a man who will be released to work release in April.
2. The dates you see on these calendars are the routine meetings he holds and services he provides monthly, but in no way are they the entire list of outreaches Ron is involved in.
3. Once again Ron will be trying to partner churches with the work of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry by making various churches available to provide outreach aid to families of inmates in their area.

Pray for the needs of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

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

4. If you have talents you would like to share with Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry feel free to contact us. We need someone who knows computers, software, how to set up Web pages, and other technical qualifications to teach some of us to get the most out of the office blessings God has provided for us.
5. We are still looking for someone with fund raising talents to raise much needed money to make Restoration House a reality.
6. Ron is still offering churches training in any areas of ministry outreach to inmates and their families.
7. Pray for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

JUNE 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 DCC/ PF 6:00 PM	5	6	7
8 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	9 BCC/ RJPM 6:30 PM	10	11 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 DCC/ PF 6:00 PM	19	20 Food Bank 5:00 PM	21
22	23 BCC/ RJPM 6:30 PM	24	25 DCC/ RJPM 6:00 PM	26	27	28
29	30 BCC/ RJPM 6:30 PM					