

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Merry Christmas

Nov/Dec 2008

Another Inmate Expresses Concern for a Restoration House

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an inmate, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in September of 2000 while attending an outreach program (KAIROS), at Buckingham Correctional Center. From that day forward, my life was changed and I have been serving the Lord ever since.

However, this letter is not just about me – though I will use myself as an example when warranted. It concerns a larger issue or need that encompasses many inmates incarcerated by the Virginia Penal System. Some of these inmates have accepted Christ and others haven't. This does not detract from or alleviate the growing need that exists.

The issue or need that I wish to refer to is having a proper place and support system that will enable an inmate to re-enter society once they are granted parole or released from the penal system; and to remain in society

as a productive and law-abiding individual.

There are some places (very few) which are commonly referred to as "half-way houses." Most of these lack the proper and sufficient training, support and sincere desire to provide the teaching and tools that would offer the best opportunity and hope for successful integration into society, thereby reducing the rising rate of recidivism. Further, many half-way houses and similar programs have rigid entry restrictions, such as non-violent or sexual offenders, regardless of "good behavior – long term" or "exceptional institutional record." Nor in many cases are there allowances for individuals who have been incarcerated for 20 to 30 years. I would also add that if an inmate has no residence or place to parole to then they are most likely to be denied parole. I have presented this fundamental information as

preparative foundation to a request that arose during a Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Bible study class. I was asked, "Why do you think there is a need for a Restoration House and spiritual program?"

My response to this question is two-fold: because there are practical, physical and spiritual needs and compliances. It is my opinion that actively addressing both these issues simultaneously would be the most appropriate means to a successful and sustaining integration of a paroled or released inmate into society. A sincere, comprehensive, residential program of this manner could satisfy public and state concerns regarding inmate release, while establishing a temporary and stable environment that restores the body, mind and soul of these needful individuals.

To support my response for a Restoration House,

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Another Inmate Expresses Concern for a Restoration House (continued)



Pray for Brother Ron to receive more partners for the outreaches offered by this ministry through the local churches.

Jan. 6, 2002
 In the morning
 when I awake,
 before I open
 my eyes, let the
 first thought of
 my day be in
 gratitude of the
 blessings of the
 Lord.
 Let me always
 be thankful for
 His love, mercy,
 and grace
 toward me - a
 sinner saved by
 His loving
 grace.

I offer a brief and concise history of my own incarceration. With no criminal record, at the age of 23 I was convicted of two counts of first-degree homicide (1975). Sentenced to double life and parole-eligible in 15 years, barring no further crimes or institutional infractions, I became parole-eligible in 1987 for "discretionary parole" and each following year thereafter. Each parole denial has been rendered solely on the "serious nature and circumstance of the offense." Though I am classified as a "model prisoner," it bears no influence on the decision to deny, because the nature and circumstance cannot change.

Therefore, I must consider other underlying issues or facts. Could it be that I am from out-of-state, with no financial holdings or source of income? That my only immediate family is a twin brother living in Ohio, which leaves me with no place of residence to be paroled to, or any real support system? Is my being confined for 30-plus years, out of touch with society and its changes in environment, a contributing factor?

The aforementioned practical issues could be construed as cause for parole denial. Yet again, such issues are beyond my control. However, I am a high school graduate, obtaining some college education while incarcerated. I have several vocational skills and I am a former veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served 3 ½ years. I reiterate that I am a true believer in Christ and actively serve God – including all Protestant programs and church services.

In April of this year, I will appear for my 21st parole review and the following month I will be 56 years of age. As I close this letter, I offer these additional thoughts and opinions for consideration and encouragement. The state of this nation is physically and spiritually in dire straights. It is in need of God-fearing men who believe, know, and live upon the Gospel of Christ and are willing to step out in faith to share and teach the "true" Gospel of Christ. I believe that prison can be the proving ground and nurturer of men with real faith, if given the opportunity and support. God can and will use such men

in a mighty way to restore true life to individuals and to this nation as a whole. I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in this most important matter. May God bless and guide you and be with you always.

A fellow servant of the Lord,

[name withheld]



Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry provides newsletters to the inmates we meet in preaching and teaching God Word.

Have a blessed New Year; seek more of the Lord.

As I look over last year's endeavor to draw closer to God, I find the best improvement in intimacy in one year I have ever had. I owe it all to the morning prayer time and devotional Bible reading. I made up my mind in 2007, about a year ago, to spend more quality and quantity time with the Lord each day. I wanted to pray specifically for the people I pray for, I also

made a prayer list so I would not forget people who have specific needs. Then, when the healing takes place, I can move on to other needs. My prayer list is about 6 pages, plus my personal, and prison ministry needs I pray for daily as well. I enjoy reading through the Bible each year; this year and last I have been taking notes when it seems God points out a certain

reading and God gives me a notion to use that reading in a Bible study at one of the places I teach or a worship message. If you want more peace in your life, I suggest you spend some quality time in God's Word. Then let me know what happened. It made the greatest difference in the peace I have in trusting in the Lord to be sovereign in guiding my every step.

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

Christmas does not have to be a sad time for inmates.

The way one perceives the holidays is up to them. No matter where someone is on a holiday they have the choice to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a joyful and happy way. It depends on if Jesus is Sovereign Lord of your life or if you look at Him as a genie who has to grant you every wish or

He is not the God you want to associate with or have as Lord of your life. We need to see Jehovah as the God He is; instead of the God we devise in our own mind for our own benefit. We need to realize God always wants what is best for us, and that no matter what things look like,

God is working all things out for our good. In working these things out there needs to be a time of discipline and chastisement to keep us in His perfect will. So, no matter what is going on, celebrate the birth of the Lord with your whole heart, and praise His precious Name.

Read the story of Jesus' birth in each of the gospels.

In **Matthew 1:18-25** and in **Luke 1: 5-25** the announcement of the birth; then in **Luke 2:1-21** are more details of how prophecy was fulfilled. **Isa.9:6,7** and **Isa. 7:14**. foretell the birth in in the Old Testament. Read these scriptures and praise the living God for the gift of salvation, which

comes through the Son's death on the cross. Never take salvation lightly, or things of salvation in a cheap way. God did it all, and even the acknowledgement of Jesus was a gift of faith and grace from God. **Eph. 2:8** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of your-

selves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast." Try not to give yourself too much credit for a gift that was ascribed for you before the foundation of the world. Give God all the glory, honor, and praise for every good and perfect comes from God.



Chaplain Ron Baker looking for church partners for the prison ministry outreaches.

NOVEMBER 2008

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

Pray for the men who have been released from prison and are seeking a church for themselves and their families. Many churches do not make these families feel welcome, because they do not fit into the mold of what the church figures a church family should be like. God loves these families as well as the ones more traditional in their beliefs.

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.

Prayer requests:

Men are praying for loved ones to be saved, marriages to be restored, children to come to obedience, loved ones to be healed and brought to repentance. Do any of these prayers sound familiar? Inmates have the same needs and desires that people who are not incarcerated have. They just happen to be paying in a different way for their rebellion from God, you may not be incarcerated yet, but if you continue to rebel against God's will for your life there will be consequences. Incarceration is just one of many that may come your way. Spend time enjoying your family instead of working to buy them the things of this world. They will appreciate your presence more than your presents.

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

DCC stands for Dillwyn Corrections Center all services held between 6:00 and 7:45 PM

RJPM stands for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry;

PF stands for Prison Fellowship

Sunday service and 5th Monday are usually a Worship

Food Bank- pass out food to needy in Schuyler where I live between 5 PM & 7PM

CBS stand for Community Bible Study

DECEMBER 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/ RJPM	23 CBS	24 DCC/ RJPM	25	26	27
28	29 BCC/ RJPM	30 CBS	31 DCC/ PF			