

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out.

March /April

2009

Matt. 25:36

I was in prison and ye came unto me.

Matt. 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful for they shall

Board Members

Chairman:

Tim Miller

John H. Miller

Joe Arbaugh

Secretary/
Treasurer:

Lisa Miller

Non-Board
Members

Editor:

Artis Mules

Chaplains/
Ministers

Ronald R. Baker

How do you celebrate Holy Week?

Written by: Gene Lawson

Palm Sunday is on April 5th, and Easter or Resurrection Sunday is on April 12th. Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Many of the same people who followed Jesus into Jerusalem shouting, "Hosanna in the highest!" were shouting, "Crucify him!" only a few days later. How can someone go from one extreme to the other in such a short time? They were caught up in the emotions of the events instead of the Spirit of God. How do people get moved to tears in a revival meeting and a few days later get moved to shouting at someone over some difference of opinion? They were caught up in the emotions of the events instead of the Spirit of God.

The Scriptures are plain about us being a forgetful people. (Ps. 78:7; Jas. 1:24) When we are led by our emotions instead of the Holy Spirit, we forget that Christians celebrate the Virgin birth of Jesus - not trees, lights, and a fictitious fat man in a sleigh. Only because Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit was He able to be accepted as a sacrifice for all sin. This is important to remember, and we need to be careful not to become entangled in "celebrations" that cause us to forget who Jesus is.

Christians celebrate Resurrection Sunday because if there had not been a resurrection there would be no eternal life. Eternal life is worthy of celebrating. We need to be careful not to participate in

"celebrations" that cause us to forget who Jesus is and what He has done.

As Christians we know the Truth and the Truth has set us free. Let us remember to "Speak the truth in love." (Eph. 4:15) The Truth of the Virgin birth and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ will set free all who hear and believe. May we all proclaim the truth of these two holy events and watch our Mighty God rescue the perishing of this world.



Brother Gene Lawson feeding volunteers during a local flood.

Daylight savings time – the good and the bad

On March 8th we change our clocks to give another hour of daylight by moving our clocks forward an hour. I enjoy being able to travel all the way to the prisons and back in daylight since the deer standing on the side of the roads are much easier to see. When I drive to and from the prisons in the dark, the deer run into

the road unseen until it is too late. When the days are longer it makes traveling safer. On the negative side - I find when the days are longer the prisons keep the recreation yards open later and the number of men attending the services decreases because many of them are in the yard instead of Bible Study and/or

church. I praise God for the faithful men who continue to attend because they have put the study of God's Word first in their lives. Watch and pray.



Another letter confirming the need for a Restoration House

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 36-year-old man currently serving a life sentence with the possibility of parole. I have been incarcerated for over 17 years, and hope one day to make it back out into society. At the moment, my parole release plan involves being released to live with my mother – who is 70 years old.

One of my main concerns is having a place to parole to upon release in the case that, God forbid, my mother was to pass away while I'm in here. I have a sex offense, so it is becoming more and more difficult for people with sex offenses to find a place to stay upon release because of society's fears and

the progressively restrictive housing guidelines for people with these types of crimes.

As a Christian, I believe that God will always provide one way or another, but I also believe in working hard and earning my keep. I am able-bodied and of sound mind, and would be willing to do any kind of work upon release. My goal is to stay out if I am fortunate and blessed to make parole one day. I know that I can only accomplish this goal by staying focused on the Lord and surrounding myself with positive people whose focus is also on the Lord and leading a healthy life.

I led a self-centered life prior to my incarceration, and that contributed to my downfall significantly. It is my desire to get involved with volunteer work in whatever community I move to. I have taken and taken in the past for so long, and I want to give something back – even if it is just my time – to help others. I thank you for your time in reading this letter, and I pray that one day I may be a part of society again and prove that a person can change in prison. God bless you!

March 20th first day of Spring.

How God works in a believer's life.

I was sharing some words with one of the men at Dillwyn one night, and he told me of a dream he had. He said on his job at the prison he had to change a tire on a truck and do some maintenance work. He had changed a tire on a truck that day, and during the night he felt the Lord leading him to think back to that work at something he might have forgotten. The next day he went immediately to the officer in

charge and asked to recheck the truck he had worked on. When he checked it out he was able to witness to the officer that the Holy Spirit had warned him there was something wrong. When he actually checked out the truck he saw he had not tightened the lug nuts on one of the tires he had changed. If someone had driven that truck, there would no doubt have been an accident, which could have incurred in-

jury. How bad the accident would have been would have been determined by how fast the driver was going when the lug nuts came all the way off. Some will say this is a coincidence. Not me.

Jan. 17, 2002 The Lord has given me light in the darkness of my heart, that I might see his word and have understanding of His will.

Speaking to a small woman's group promises to be a prayer blessing

At a small local church, I spoke to a women's group about the outreaches offered to churches through Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. As I spoke, these ladies became more aware of the needs of this ministry for partners to provide some of the outreaches this ministry cannot provide alone. It was not just about financial needs of the ministry; they understood how their actual participation in the working of the outreaches would be a great bless

ing. They promised to invite me back to give a more detailed seminar about the outreaches so they might be some sort of ongoing financial support in the future. Every donation counts – from the \$2 donation of an incarcerated inmate who makes \$.23 per hour to the larger donations from churches and individuals who are able to give much more.



The mentoring process put into work.

Recently, a man who was ministered to by Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry while incarcerated was released from a federal prison. While he was incarcerated, he requested that Ron be a mentor for him when he was released. We actually started the process while he was still incarcerated, and now that he is home I am continuing to work with him and encourage him and his family in their walk. He has a good church, which stuck with him while he was incarcerated, and a loving family that has always been

there for him. He is also continuing



to go to substance abuse programs. All this man is doing to help himself

makes the mentoring process much easier for me. We are also going to try to have a Bible study one day a week. We now meet several times a month and speak on the phone as often as he feels he needs to talk. I must say I am being blessed as much by this mentoring process as I pray he is. Perhaps you have something to offer to someone in your local church who needs a mentoring partner. Contact this ministry if we can help in any way.

Restoration House – Do you know how important such a program can be?

Dear Brother Ron,

I will first begin with a small testimony about myself and why I feel a Restoration House would be good for me.

At the age of 18, I went to prison for 3 years and was released at 21. I was released to a friend's house because I have no family. My friend wasn't very supportive for a man that just got out of prison without even a toothbrush to his name, no job skills because I got locked up at a young age and grew up in a dysfunctional family, and fines over my head.

Here I was, 21, no job, no transportation, no license, a felon and without Jesus and I was not only asked to pay fines but just survive. It was overwhelming so I tried to sell drugs but ended up using and violated parole and I was still 21. I was glad that at least I was in jail with a place to sleep and food to eat because I couldn't make it in the world without some type of help.

Well, on my violation I got 1 year and was released from jail at the age of 22. The jail didn't require

any address to be released to; they just let you out the front door. So what do I do? Here I stand, no place to live, nobody to turn to, and still no Jesus. Well, I hitched a ride with a girl and talked her into letting me stay a while, but she did drugs and partied, and I began to do drugs, too, and violating parole. Sincerely in my heart I wanted to change but really never got a good opportunity to do so.

So on my second violation, I also got 1 year. I got out with the same situation, 24 years old, no job, more fines, no Jesus, drug habit, no family, no stable friends. So this time I just beat the crap out of a couple police officers and got 6 years, 3 months and am on my way to prison for the fourth time and I was only 24.

Today I am 28, but now I got Jesus in my heart. I am in prison, but I do not know where I will live when I get out. What do I do? I've been locked up all my adult life. I'll be released when I am 30. I have no physical possessions and no experience of living life on the street. How do I survive on my own? I feel like a sheep being tossed to the wolves.

I've never owned a car, cell phone, home, went grocery shopping for myself, no credit cards, never hooked a phone up, etc. All I have done is drugs, criminal activities and spent 11 years and 3 months in prison. Prison has done nothing to rehabilitate me and train me with any job skills. But by the power of the Holy Spirit, my mind has been transformed and now equipped with the attitude and faith that I can do anything with the help of Christ who strengthens me and will give me wisdom.

All I need is an opportunity. Will the state provide and care for me? Or will they do as they have done for many years – put me out with a \$25 check and told to survive and don't violate probation or you will spend the rest of your life in prison.

Thank God for Jesus Christ who has loved a sinner like me and given me eternal life in his glorious kingdom, whom I am not worthy of.

Jan. 20, 2002 You correction is not too harsh oh Lord. When it comes it is necessary. Help me submit to your correction so I may walk pleasing to you my Father. and

MARCH 2009

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

We always need churches that are willing to minister to inmates and their families. Pray that God will provide these churches.

Pray for the families of the men and women who are incarcerated. They must face the bill collectors and fight for their families as a one income family.

Pray for the men and women who get out with no place to go and no family or even someone to give them a helping hand. Maybe you or your church could be that someone. Many men return to prison because they have no helping hand during the first weeks of their release.

Continue to pray for the board and the chaplain of this ministry, our editor, and others who help from time to time with various aspects of this ministry.

Pray for the parole board and Governor and all our leaders.

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 to further 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

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

APRIL 2009

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