

July Aug

2010

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Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out.

Count your many blessings.

During a couple of Thanksgiving services last year there seemed to be a need in the Christian life to show ourselves more thankful each day. I felt it was good to mention to those at these services that perhaps, if we could start our daily prayer and devotional time with thinking of several things we are thankful for, it would help us to better realize how good God is to us. I said maybe we could mention ten things every morning we are thankful for, and try not to repeat them the next day; it would help us see just how many things we need to be thankful for. Yes, this will take some time, and yes, everyone is always saying they do not have enough time, but everyone has the same amount of hours in their day; so what are the priorities in your life that do not allow you to spend time being thankful to God? Maybe that is some-

thing to concentrate on. I remember many years ago when someone mentioned they read through the Bible every year, I thought "Where do they get the time? I could never do that." Then I tried it, and when I got to certain books I started missing some readings or when I got to the numerous genealogies and I could not pronounce the names I got behind, and then used the excuse, "I will try it next year." Well, I finally made up my mind to make this a priority and I have read through the Bible every year since. I also remember several years ago deciding to get together a prayer list and pray for needs brought to me and when they were answered I would give thanks and move on to other needs for those I pray for. This helped me be reminded of the serious prayer requests the people around me had, and that also

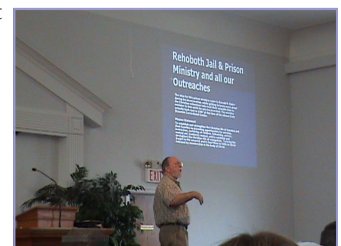
helped me be more thankful for all the blessings God was providing me with. When I was ill while I was praying for someone much sicker than I was; I could praise God for his mercy. When my leg hurt and I was praying for someone who was ready to lose a leg, the pain I had was put into the proper perspective. The same with studying the Bible - I do not let my morning devotional and yearly reading through the Bible count for my Bible study time. I actually get many of my messages from reading through the Bible and then start a deeper study of those scriptures that God seems to have revealed to me and then I have a Bible study to share with others. Let's be thankful and count all our blessings and let people know how good our God is to His children.

When was the last time you got an update on prison ministry outreaches?

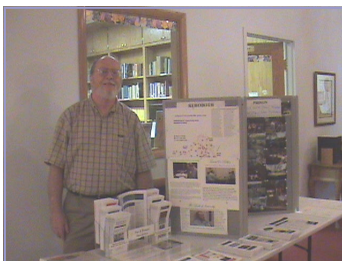
On the far right we see Ron giving a Power Point presentation of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and its outreaches at one of the churches in the Valley. We can either make this presentation available to your church on a DVD or Ron would be more than willing to come to your church and give the presentation or the full seminar. The seminar is usually given in two parts with a short break in

between to get a snack and stretch your legs. The full seminar includes ways to start your own prison ministry and it also covers in detail all of the various outreach ministries available through our ministry. It covers the do's and don'ts of prison ministry as well. You can also look at the website for all the information available through this ministry. If

you want more information please contact us.



A Few Things that Might Help Us Walk Closer to God



The display you see here is set up when we visit churches and brochures and literature is made available. It is also set up at the annual Day of Jubilee.

A thought from Jan. 22, 2002

As I walk through the world, let me not be of the world. Brighten my light through your Spirit every day that I might draw others to You. Help them see You in me and keep my flesh far from them. Oh that I might glorify God in all I say and all I do.



Chris and Stephanie Shook join Ron at one of the church presentations and share a testimony.

Here are some suggestions from men at Buckingham as to how to be more intimate with God. The suggestion was made to **spend more time memorizing Scripture**, as a way to get a closer relationship with the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I sometimes make excuses for the reason I don't have a good memory, such as my past drug and alcohol use, as a justification not to memorize scriptures, yet this is something I could certainly put forth more of an effort toward. **Ps. 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

Another suggestion that was not one of my favorites either ☺, was **getting up early to be sure we have some quiet time before the Lord** prior to our busy schedule of the day. I have been doing that already, but it is more that God awakes me and does not allow me to go back to sleep, rather than my getting up with a big smile saying I am glad to be up this early. So often, in prison or out here on the street, people try to have their devotional time in between or even during a very busy or noisy time. They could easily make better arrangements with just a little effort on their part. This also leads into another suggestion of quiet time: to listen to the Lord and see what He has to say, instead of a constant cry of give me, give me, give me. God wants us to hear Him.

This next one is a must if anyone is going to truly walk with the Lord: **denying self, and with that some fasting** could also be a blessing. **Matt. 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me.** As long as a man does not submit himself totally to God, he will never accomplish

what God has for him (or her). Even though fasting is not as much spoken about these days; as one man said, it is not a commandment, it is a privilege we have to honor God. To deny myself means not only putting God first, but my fellow man as well. **1 Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:** **Matt 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.** I can put others before me because I know God is the One taking care of my needs.

Fasting, as these men at the study mentioned, can be done in many ways. It is not only abstaining from food, it could be giving up other things we enjoy for the purpose of honoring God. Fasting needs to be done with a purpose, and we should allow God to know we are doing this for a certain amount of time for the purpose of honoring Him. When we are having incredibly low times we can fast for relief, but there is nothing wrong with fasting during the high times as well; as a way of showing gratitude to God for His blessings.

As always one who wants a closer walk with God needs to do more than talk a good talk. There is nothing worse in the body of Christ than people who Jesus described as hypocrites. I do not mean people actually struggling between the flesh and the spirit, I mean people who talk a Christian life, but live a totally different one. **Matt 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me.** So when someone truly wants to walk closer to God one needs to **subject themselves to God and actually live the life of Christ;** not try to pretend to be someone they are not.

Another suggestion was **keeping a journal of things God is doing in your life.** When someone asks you to pray about something, write it in your journal and then after a time ask that person if that prayer had been answered yet. At the end of the year one could review such a journal and be reminded of the many blessings God had blessed them with. A true Christian, even a brand new Christian, should not have to even think about **witnessing**, it should come from the overflowing of the fullness of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Just telling someone what God is doing in your life, how God saved you, that is a great witness in a personal way for the work of the Lord. To begin witnessing, one does not need to memorize numerous scriptures before they can share the love of God. That can come after, as one studies the Word to show themselves approved of God. **2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** As we mature in the Word our witness becomes stronger, but the original testimony of one's salvation will never lose its value as a witness.

One man mentioned there were **things we need to set aside in our life** in order not to be drawn away from God, and he also said there were people we need to "**cut lose**" as well. Such as when an old friend cannot or does not want to be witnessed to, one needs to turn this one over to God, and continue to pray for them, love them, and witness to them, but this person should no longer be an influence on the saved one's life. **2 Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for**

Continued from (Walk Closer to God) page 2

what communion hath light with darkness. This is in no way meant to say give up on someone, but anytime someone causes you to lean more toward the world, than you draw them to God, there is a danger you cannot afford to ignore.

Another suggestion to have a closer relationship to God is to **listen more and talk less.**

Pro. 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: [and] he that shutteth his lips [is esteemed] a man of understanding. Sometimes when people come to us

with a problem they just want someone to listen; they just need to sound out their situation, and when we interrupt them with solutions it might not be what they are looking for. I have had people come to me for help and, as they talked out their situation, they solved their own problem; with the Holy Spirit's help and their hearing the problem spoken out loud, things are resolved. The same goes for God, if we only talk to God and do not listen we will certainly miss a lot of intimate blessings of fellowship with the Lord. Be-

ing a preacher and Bible teacher, it is sometimes hard for me to be quiet and listen, but I get a blessing when I do ☺.

Last, but not least, of all of these suggestions for having a closer walk and a more intimate relationship with God, we need to **be humble.** **James 4:6** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. When you write back, perhaps you could share anything you see as a way to have a closer more intimate walk with Jesus.



Four of this ministry's close friends; two of them are board members. From the left: John Miller, Joe Arbaugh, Marion Arbaugh, and Anna Miller.

What are you celebrating freedom of on the 4th?

As society celebrates independence and freedom from England on the 4th of July, I think of a much deeper freedom of which a child of God can celebrate. That freedom comes from the cleansing blood of Jesus from the power, penalty, and **punishment** of sin. I am free from the penalty of sin because I have been drawn to God through His Son and to the Son by the Father.

If you are still living in fear you

are lacking faith in God's Word. **1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. Faith in the truth of God's Word delivers one from fear of God's wrath and allows one to know their sins are covered. The good work God has begun will be completed by the same God Who began it. **Phil. 1:6** Being confident of this very

thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:

While we can celebrate freedom from sin's power and its penalty, we never want to be independent from God. One of the main problems of the church today is not teaching that it is necessary to submit **totally** to the perfect will of God and to make it a point to know His perfect will.

Bill and Ellen Judy, two additional members of the early Prison Fellowship group who were instrumental in Ron's spiritual growth. They have been attending the Day of Jubilees from the beginning, which allows for some traveling



Inmate's Corner

I have not had any inmate articles for a while now. If the men who are incarcerated want to share something in the newsletter they can send their articles to the address on the back page. I do have a brother who developed some Bible Trivia questions which I am working into future newsletters as a regular part of the newsletter.

If I put the questions in one newsletter, of course I will need to put the answers in the following newsletter. I got a lot of enjoyment reviewing and looking up many of these questions and we will see how the people getting the newsletters feel about a brain teaser.

For an example of what to look forward to in the next newsletter here is a sample. I am sharing these questions just as they were presented to me.

1. A Greek word for Hell.
2. Who avenged his sister's rape by killing his brother?
3. What is the word that means one sent?
4. Who was the wife of Nabal?
5. Who is the wicked king of Israel who's wife lead him to worship Baal?
6. Who was the high priest that Samuel spent his early years with?

Let me know what you think.

A thought from Jan. 25, 2002

My God, there are times I read Your heart and it brings me joy. I move as if you were making the movement, and I feel your approval. Then Father, there are times I ignore your warnings and move in a way contrary to your will. Forgive me, Oh God, correct my ways and restore me to where I please you and grant the forgiveness I have through the blood of Jesus.

JULY 2010

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

Pray that the state will not continue to cut so many valuable programs in order to be in line with their budget. Many of these programs are exactly what the men and women need to actually help in their rehabilitation process, along with receiving the inerrant Word of God.

That the state will work alongside post-release programs giving them more authority and encouragement, when inmates are released into such programs.

That some of the jails and prisons who are trying to suppress the Word of God coming in, will have a change of heart and encourage the Christian programs.

That the inmates involved in Christian programs will show the administration they are changing their behavior while incarcerated as well as when they get released, and give God all the glory.

That as prisons are being closed, supposedly for financial reasons, that this will not just be an excuse to pack inmates into those prisons and jails that are still open; but that the parole board might take a closer look at inmates who have served much longer sentences than the judge had originally supposed.

Pray for someone to be ready to take Chaplain Ron's place if anything ever happens that he is unable to continue.

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 7:30 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 the 5th Monday are a Worship the other services are generally a Bible study.
 Food Bank— pass out food to needy in Schuyler where I live between 5 PM & 7PM.

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 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.

AUGUST 2010

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