

Rehaboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out!

How close are we to the last day, not last days?

Jan / Feb 2011

I do not happen to know when the Day of the Lord will be (the day when Jesus Christ will come in the clouds to receive His church to be with Him). **2 Tim. 3:1,2** 1“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.” This was a warning in the New Testament, and we see it coming true today and should be doing what the Lord encourages His children to do - “watch and pray.” We need to watch the signs God is giving us as prophecies are being fulfilled concerning the coming of the Lord. As in the story of the five foolish virgins (**Matt. 25:1**) they were not prepared when the bridegroom came. Many people are putting off Christian living for the ways of the world, thinking they can always get ready in time, since God is a merciful, forgiving God. If

you wait for the 12th hour and Jesus comes at 11:00, you are in a heap of trouble and will not be prepared. **2 Cor. 6:1, 2** 1“We then, [as] workers together [with him], beseech {beg} [you] also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured {helped} thee: behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation..)” Since God does not promise anyone tomorrow, it is foolish to say, “when I get older, or after I have some fun, I will think about salvation.” Your life could end at any time. **James 4:14** “Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” As we enter into 2011 and people are making New Year’s resolutions, instead of a resolution



Watch and Pray!

about losing weight or working out, make a spiritual promise to God. Search your own heart, ask God to show you anything you need to work on, any hidden sin in your life, and promise God and yourself to work on everything He reveals to you. Remember the seriousness of making a promise to God. If you want an intimate relationship with anyone, you have to spend time with them. It is no different with having an intimate relationship with God - we must spend quality time with Him such as prayer time and daily devotions.

Praise list for the ministry.

For 24 years of ministry in the month of March.
For the church who has offered a home church for inmates and their family after their release. The present board members and their patience with me. All of the people who may have volunteered for even a short time to do editing or

other temporary duties for the ministry.
To God for continuing to bless our present office equipment for this ministry. Artis as the main editor and for the institutions allowing us to be a part of their spiritual services.

Prayer request.

I have often been redundant in at least one prayer request. However, that is because I feel it is of the utmost importance to the future of this ministry.
A Restoration House Program. Spanish translators. Additional available editors. Several new board members: Answered

Chairman:
Tim Miller

Board Members:
Secretary /
Treasurer:
Lisa Miller

Joe Arbaugh
John Miller
Artis Mules/ Editor
Gary Mules
Gene Lawson

Non-Board position
Chaplain &
Executive Director:
Ronald R. Baker

Ministry Outreaches
Available:
In - Prison Ministry
After Care
Support Groups
Pen Pal (letter writing)
Mentoring
Family Ministry
Youth Ministry
Restoration House

Ministry training seminars available for local churches

Are you aware of the injustices occurring in the criminal justice system?

Let me once again address the situation of the parole board - the governor's parole board. They follow his resolution totally or they are replaced. The parole board was set up to allow men and women to be released earlier than their original sentence, and it was the board's purpose to consider institutional behavior, remorse for their crime, and amount of time served. When parole was instituted, the judges were aware of the time the inmates would have to serve before they were eligible for early release, so they sentenced the inmates accordingly. Then parole for new inmates was done away with. Supposedly to be tough on crime, those inmates are now responsible to

serve 85% of their time. The men and women under the old parole law were still eligible for parole, but, as I have said over and over, many of them have now served two or three times the amount of time they were expected to serve when sentenced by the judge. Someone might say this is a good thing. At least these dangerous people are out of society. However, if these men are not being released, the tax payers are housing men and women who may have truly turned their lives over to God. Tax dollars are being spent unnecessarily and the jail is overcrowded because the DOC does not have bed space. Do we, as a society, really want to set a precedence that when a man

or woman has been rehabilitated it is not enough to allow them to go home? The DOC (Department of Corrections) states its purpose is to rehabilitate or correct. They showed a strong desire to stop the use of the word prison and wanted society to see them in a different light. When people are just being housed with little hope of being rewarded when they change, society has failed in a major way. I think it is time for society to sound off about people being eligible for parole but still being refused proper consideration. Someone needs to be held accountable for that. They are following what the governor has demanded of them. Let's do something about this.

Another injustice that is already out of hand. Civil Commitment!

I have mentioned before what is called Civil Commitment. This is when a person convicted of a sex crime must be evaluated before he is released after serving his or her entire sentence. If the court thinks, because of statistics, there is a chance this inmate might commit another similar crime, he or she can be held indefinitely. Since society is so affronted by sexual offenders, the DOC and court system seem to think these men and women no longer deserve any rights. Before someone says, "If you had someone sexually offended, you would not be defending these people," I tell you that my niece was indeed attacked by two young men who tried to rape her. I am not opposed to violent offenders being incarcerated indefinitely if it is a known fact they are a danger to society. However, I am not equipped to know the heart of man. I am not comfortable when a man is sentenced to 15 years for a crime, serves that time, and then the DOC sends this man back to court to have a psychologist discern if this man or woman is likely to commit another sexual crime. I do not know if society realizes how serious it is when some-

one is tried for something a psychologist figures they **might** do some time in the future. This court is then allowed to commit this person to a mental health facility indefinitely. In this process, the person is taken to jail from the prison and must appear in court in a trial where there is a prosecutor and a psychologist who will try to convince a jury it is more likely this person will commit another crime than not. They do this because of statistics accumulated over a period of time. The one on trial has served the time the law determined for the crime and is now being tried for what they **might** do some time in the future. If this jury finds it possible this crime might occur, the person in question is sentenced indefinitely to a mental health facility not a part of the DOC. Each year thereafter these inmates or residents are taken back to court and made to go through this trial all over, with one psychologist on the prosecution's side and one appointed to represent the inmate's side. Plus, each year they will need an attorney. There is not a lot of talk about the cost of this program, but it is certainly not the answer to preventing

sexual crimes.

When someone is considered a sexual predator, I can see the need for very serious concern if this person is put back into society. I am not blind just because I do prison ministry. I know what a danger someone is who has a violent nature and continues to commit violent crimes when they are released after their sentence. This is something the judge should take into consideration **after** someone repeats a violent crime. If someone continues to repeat any crime, they should be made accountable, but I do not think anyone is qualified to foretell the future as to what someone **might** or **might not** do. So, the law should be clear concerning the increased penalty for repeat offenders. No one, in spite of the severity of a crime, should be permitted to keep an inmate incarcerated for something statistics say could happen, nor should this law be retroactive to those incarcerated before this civil commitment was made into a law. When the law is not held accountable it easily becomes lawlessness.

God has blessed me with a beautiful place to live and I do not fail to praise Him.

I do not like city life. What I do love is to hear the rooster crowing in the morning and hear the hens cackling after they just laid a fresh egg. I love seeing deer in the field almost as much as I love them on my dinner plate - as long as they are not jumping in front of my car or truck. I enjoy being able to walk out my door and see woods all around and not be awakened by honking horns and people's voices. God, in his wonderful grace and blessing, has given me a home perfectly suited for me and my life. I like wood



have a lot of money to pay high rent, yet I live in a place people who live in the city

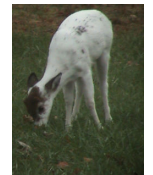
would pay big money to vacation in. My landlady and landlord are wonderful people, and my landlord actually cuts my hair (what little I have left) for free. I get free fresh eggs and fresh vegetables from their garden, and I am able to work with my landlord to help him cut wood and do other work around here to



heat even though it involves some hard work. I do not



show my appreciation for their kindness. I have a pond I can fish in and a lovely place to invite many people to come and enjoy the Day of Jubilee each year. Not only do my neighbors not mind all this traffic, most of them come and partake of this celebration. I want to use this article to say this is only part of the true blessing God is bestowing on me. This means so much to me as I serve God rather than serving mammon. I know He is seeing to all my needs. I made great money when I was plumbing, but I have never regretted giving up that 40 to 70 hour a week job to serve the lord. I have more now than I ever did when I was working all those hours, and I was never as happy. Thanks for your prayers for God's provisions.



I get letters all of the time from men being blessed by the Holy Spirit through this ministry.

I am blessed with many encouraging letters, but I do not share many of these letters because these men are showing appreciation for me as a minister of God, and I do not want to come across as being proud or boastful. I do appreciate their kind and encouraging words since I hear from some I minister to who are neither kind nor encouraging. Sometimes, when I preach in some churches, it is like I am speaking to deaf ears. People are looking

at their watches and cannot wait to get out of the church. Of course, my first thought is my inability or "Where are you Holy Spirit? You know I can not do this on my own." I never feel like that when I preach in prison. Whether the men agree or disagree, the majority are alert and taking in every word. This is such an encouragement. Then when men, who make so little, tithed to the ministry monthly with money or some with a book of stamps, I

know God is honoring the work He has called me to do. I know there are lots of people who attend church who do not want to hear the truth, but the men in prison do not usually bother to come unless they are seeking or hungry for the Word. God is wooing them, and they are heeding His call. Of course, I know lots of churches that are also just as hungry. Which are you?

What are your thoughts for the new year?

Each year I mention New Year's resolutions and the meaninglessness of making promises to yourself that you do not keep. This year I want you to think about the economy. Does the state of the world cause you to fear for your future? I am sure being a Christian will not exclude us from suffering or that we will always have plenty. However, I know my God will continue to supply all my needs {Phil. 4:19}. I just need to be sure I am not identifying my wants as my needs. I

need to be sure I am content in whatever state I find myself in {Phil 4:11}. I need to be satisfied with plenty as well as with little {Phil. 4:12}. In the early years this ministry certainly learned to be content in little, and we are not failing to praise God for having a budget we are able to manage these last 5 years. However, if we are to bless men and women with a place to parole to, we not only know we will have to keep our budget low but also know we will need an increase in giving. Halfway

houses are closing left and right because of the state budget cuts, and there has never been a greater need for a totally Christian program supported totally by the Christian community who are trusting totally in God and not in our economy to make this program successful. Are we going to allow the government to convince us God is not able? I do not want government support if those finances will not allow the program to be a mandatory Christian program. I will not step out in faith unless it is faith that God is behind this effort and that churches are willing to commit to providing for the needs.

JANUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New
2	3	4 CBS	5 DCC/ PF	6	7	8
9 DCC/ RJPM	10 BCC/ RJPM	11 CBS	12 DCC/ RJPM	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther Day	18 CBS	219 DCC/ PF	20	21 Food Bank	22
23/30	24/ 31 BCC/ RJPM	25 CBS	26 DCC/ RJPM	27	28	29

Jack's Trivia

1. What Alexandrian Jew did Martin Luther suggest that could have been the author of the book of Hebrews?
2. Does God answer every prayer?
3. What does the Bible say is the penalty of Sin?
4. Who is the only one who ever lived a perfect life?
5. What city is called the city of David?
6. How many cups were passed at Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples?
7. What was the garden spot where Jesus went to pray?
8. What was the tent called where the Israelites worshiped?
9. How does God manifest Himself in the world today?
10. What might be considered the gloomiest Psalm?

Answers to Nov / Dec questions.

1. (Apostle Rom.1:1)
2. (Melchizedek Gen.14:18)
3. (Abigail 1Sam.25:3)
4. (Ahab 1Kings 16:30, 31)
5. Shem and Japheth Gen. 9:23)
6. (Convert James 5:19)
7. (Eli 1Sam.3:1)
8. Golgotha, John 19:17, 18)
9. (The place of the Skull, Matt. 27:33)
10. (Save now, I beseech thee Matt. 21:9)

The initials BCC stand 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 the Jail & Prison Ministry.

Ministry Address

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain

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Schuyler, VA 22969-9607

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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.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 CBS	2 DCC/ PF	3	4	5
6	7	8 CBS	9 DCC/ RJPM	10	11	12
13 DCC/ RJPM	14 Valentines Day BCC/ RJPM	15 CBS	16 DCC/ PF Ash Wednesday	17	18 Food Bank	19
20	21	22 CBS Washington's Birthday	23 DCC/ RJPM.	24	25	26
27	28 BCC/ RJPM					