

REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Changing lives from the inside out!

24 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

MARCH/ APRIL 2011

Twenty four years ago this month Ron was released from Staunton Correctional Center after being paroled on his 13 year sentence. While incarcerated he felt a calling to minister to those incarcerated in the jails and prisons as well as trying to prevent youth from following in the footsteps of an incarcerated parent. Ron was unable to return to Staunton immediately due to security reasons. He was told the risk of illegal activity by an ex-inmate returning as a volunteer outweighed the potential benefit. Ron persisted in trying and later he was told perhaps he might be approved after he completed his parole. Sure enough, after he was released from parole he went in to be approved as a volunteer for a seminar with an already established Prison Fellowship group. He then received letters of recommendation from the then leader of Prison Fellowship and other ministers

who became acquainted with Ron through his ministry in the local jails for the last three years. The person in charge of allowing the group orientation happened to know Ron from when he was incarcerated and was not sure he could be approved as a volunteer. She decided to call the Captain in charge of the day shift and he said, "I remember Baker. Sure you can let him go through the orientation." The Warden of Staunton who had originally denied Ron volunteer status was now a Regional Director and there was a new Warden at Staunton. After the letters of reference were reviewed, even knowing Ron was an ex-inmate, he was approved not only as a volunteer for the seminar but also for the regular Friday evening PF Bible study. After being approved as a volunteer at Staunton, Ron began to apply at other prisons under the ministry of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and usually, after being

turned down a few times, he was approved. In the beginning, Ron paid all of the cost for travel, much as other volunteers for PF did. As some churches and individuals became aware of how often Ron was going into the jails and prisons, some of them decided to help with funds. That was when Ron was told he needed a board to help him be accountable, and he did just that. At first, members of Ron's church were the board members; and later, as the ministry grew, a wider variety of board members volunteered. We have been praying for additional board members for about two years or so, and as you can see we have added three new members this year. We hope to add another member shortly. We still need a volunteer CPA to bless the ministry with experience in finances as we progress toward opening the Restoration House Program. Pray for this need!

Chairman:
Tim Miller

Board Members

Secretary /Treasurer

Lisa Miller

John H. Miller

Joe Arbaugh

Editor: Artis Mules

Gary Mules

Gene Lawson

Non-Board Member

Chaplains &

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

WHAT IS NEW WITH THE MINISTRY?

It came to the attention of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry it was a necessity to get our own tax ID number after 23 years of working under Rehoboth Mennonite Church. So, in Sept we began the process of filing our 501-C3 and becoming incorporated. The incorporation took 3 to 4 weeks. However, the 501-C3 took much longer. We had started this process

several years back, but without an attorney we found it very difficult to fill out the application completely. We attained an attorney in Sept and he made some valuable suggestions, which we followed, and now the ministry is registered separately as a non-profit organization, praise God. We certainly appreciate the help of the law firm and the attorney who made

this all go much smoother than it was going when we were trying to do it on our own. It is our desire to get a tax attorney who would be interested in assisting us pro-bono until we have the financial backing to afford to pay for these services. It is my understanding the attorney or CPA could write off the work they do for the ministry. Either way, we are continuing to move forward as God allows.

Another Prayer Concern:

We would like to make some changes and updates on our Web site:

www.jailandprisonministries.org

If anyone is interested in helping with these changes please contact this ministry from the information listed in this newsletter. We add a newsletter every other month and the changes are limited to a couple times a year.

REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY FORMS A WOOD MINISTRY FOR THE NEEDY

Ron and Tim Miller have been cutting wood for needy families in our community for a long time. Now it has developed into a Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministry outreach to several families who burn wood for heat, who can not afford to burn fuel oil, and are not physically able to cut their own wood. Tim Miller, Marty Napier, and Ron also spent 7 hours on a Saturday cutting wood for Ron for the winter of 2010-2011.

During the early spring, fall, and winter is usually the time we cut wood, since the summer months are so hot it makes it very uncomfortable

to cut wood. However, if someone gives us wood that needs to be cut in the summer, we do that, as well. It is sometimes hard to determine who is really needy and who is needing wood because of inappropriate use of their resources. We try to be discerning

about who we help, so as not to leave a needy person out or aid someone in their undisciplined behavior. We are available for counseling in physical responsibility. Working at the food pantry and being involved in

other giving projects, I see lots of people who are always wanting someone

else to pay for their rent, electricity, or provide food or money for fuel, and in turn spend their income on things that have no real benefit. We ask you to pray for us to have the wisdom and the heart of God when evaluating who will receive help. We want to give not only heat, but more importantly, we want to give them hope. Since Ron mentioned so many times in his letters about cutting wood, we decided to put some pictures of this work with Marty Napier and Tim Miller helping Ron.



The beginning of a long day of hard work. These large pieces of wood need splitting and are too heavy to lift on to the splitter.



I praise the Lord for this gas wood splitter and the work it saves me and whoever it is who helps me. I used to borrow a splitter or I had to use a maul. Now I have one I can loan out.

The winter of 2009 - when having a nice jag of wood was a real necessity. It was certainly not the kind of weather to cut wood. However, we had to cut a load for a lady in need.



As you can see here, some of the wood is large enough to use the splitter in a vertical position. Here Marty and I are breaking down a piece so we can handle it better.

ABOVE AND BELOW ARE PICTURES OF THE WORK OF THE WOOD MINISTRY

Brother Tim and Brother Marty split wood while I take a picture. As I get older, I do not know what I would do without this kind of help.



Cutting wood and loading it directly on the truck saved a step of having to handle the wood more than necessary.

Old faithful, my truck in which I've hauled produce for my hogs and wood since I got out of prison. It has been a faithful blessing from the Lord along with many other blessings.





Here is Ron with his Creative Writing teacher when he was at Staunton C.C. A lot younger! The bag was made in the leather craft shop.

WHAT USED TO BE COULD BE AGAIN.

I remember when men who had served a greater portion of their time could go home for a weekend furlough. I remember when the major institutions had arts and crafts shops where the men could actually use their time to make things to send home and even sell to make some extra money so their families did not have to send them money. I remember when there used to be more industry work where men could make more than a few cents an hour and they could actually help out their family. I

also remember when the inmates were not charged for medical visits. I remember a lot more productive things and better conditions for the inmates in the past than now. I also remember why some of these blessings were taken away. Along with budget cuts, some of the causes for no longer having these benefits were misuse of them. I remember a man actually using his furlough to kill his girl friend. Therefore, no more furloughs for anyone. I remember men going to the medical department for trivial

issues, costing the state large amounts of money. Now that the men have to pay, you do not see that. I was very disappointed when the state did away with arts & crafts because it really helped the men pass the time in a more positive manner. So, if you have something now that is a blessing to you while incarcerated, show the authorities appreciation for it. Also remember, if you mess up it could ruin it and other programs for future inmates. It is not always the DOC's fault when things are taken away.

GARY AND ARTIS OFFICIALLY JOIN THE MINISTRY TEAM

As you know by now, these newsletters are done several months ahead of time. We mail them out in order to allow plenty of time for them to be edited without putting pressure on the volunteer editors. Artis, who most of you know from past articles and from her picture in past newsletters, is now a board member, and her husband at the right is also a board member. They have been very generous in their time and in

financial giving to this ministry for many years. It will be good to work with them in a board position. Gary is going to be in the position of fund raiser for the ministry to try to get secular and spiritual businesses interested in present and future programs this ministry wants to develop. We would appreciate your prayers for this position and continuing prayers for Gary as he heals from the very serious accident he had several years

ago. Because of the accident, Gary will be unable to go back to work and will try out this new position of fund raiser. By the time this newsletter comes out, he will have been active for 6 months. In the letter to supporters I mail out with the newsletters, I will be happy to give an update on how the position is coming along. Either way, the ministry is blessed to have Gary and Artis as board members.



Gary Mules, one of the newer board member, reads a magazine with one of his "kids."

I guess the kid did not like that article. Gary had a hip replacement in Oct and is healing by the grace of God. Thanks for your prayers.

WE APPRECIATE MRS. FAYLENE LAWSON'S DEDICATION TO EDIT AND WRITE FOR THE MINISTRY

Some of you remember Gene Lawson when he came into BCC and DCC with me a few times several years ago. He and his wife are still active in the ministry, even though they live in IN. Gene is a board member and his wife has been a great blessing, helping edit newsletters and other articles as well as writing an article "Do you have a ROACH problem" in Jan of 2010. Gene also wrote the article "Hogs" in Sept 2009. Gene is active in mission work to

other countries as well as ministering to needs all over the USA. Their children are all grown and married. Gene comes to VA often as he still has many friends in the Charlottesville and surrounding areas. Faylene gives seminars to women's groups all over the country, and Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry is blessed to have them both as a part of this ministry, actively working to make this ministry a blessing to inmates and their families. Please keep the board

members in your prayers as you lift up the ministry in prayer. And don't forget Tim & Lisa Miller, John Miller, and Joe Arbaugh while praying for the new board members. Don't forget ole Ron either.

Faylene and Gene Lawson. Some of you know Gene from when he came into DCC and BCC a few times with me. Here is his wife who also helps edit newsletters and other articles.



MARCH 2011

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

Jack's Trivia

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1. What was the name of the ancient city that was destroyed by Joshua as the Hebrews entered Canaan?
2. Who was the son of Jacob and Rachael who was sold into slavery by his brothers?
3. What is the only book of the Bible where the word God is not mentioned?
4. Who was the father of Saul, the first king of Israel?
5. Who is the prophet of the northern kingdom who succeeded Elijah?
6. What was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel and by whom was it built?
7. What is the weight of a talent?
8. Who was the governor of Jerusalem who rebuilt the city walls?
9. Who was considered Paul's spiritual son in the faith and loyal co-worker?
10. Who was the tree climbing tax collector?

Answers from Jan/Feb Newsletter

1. (Philo)
2. Yes: He either says, yes, no, or later
3. (Death; Rom. 6:23)
4. (Jesus; 2 Cor. 5:21)
5. (Zion; 1 Chr. 11:5)
6. (1; Matt. 6:27)
7. (Gethsemane Matt. 26:36)
8. (Tabernacle Ex. 25:9)
9. (Holy Spirit Luke 11:13)
10. (Psalm 88)

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 TIME VARIES HELD BY CHAPLAIN RON BAKER RJPM
SUNDAY SERVICE AND 5TH MONDAY IS A WORSHIP THE OTHER SERVICES ARE GENERALLY AN OPEN BIBLE STUDY
FOOD BANK- THIRD THURSDAY PASS OUT FOOD TO NEEDY IN SCHUYLER WHERE I LIVE BETWEEN 4:30 PM & 6:00 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
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 pro-
viding opportunities for worship, instruc-
tion, nurturing of children, fellowship,
service, mutual aid, brotherly counsel,
and to establish and strengthen the Chris-
tian life of evangelism. To bring the Gos-
pel to the unsaved and to lead them to
faith in Christ followed by membership in
the body of Christ.

APRIL 2011

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