

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

changing lives from the inside out !

May / June 2011

What causes a church to die?

What is it that allows a church meant to bless a community to die? Around 1955 a group of Christians saw a need to have a church from their denomination in a very rural community. People left their homes and families in other states and moved to this rural community to bring the Word of God to a lost and dying people. Eventually they found a church building ready to close their doors, because of a lack of membership and not being able to continue keeping the church opened. Up to this time the small body of believers were meeting in an old empty house. Over the years, the ministers worked a full time job and did not receive a salary; you might say this is a good thing. However, as times changed the congregation was not learning to provide for the church in a way that they could ever afford to pay a minister, even a part-time minister. As the years went by and the congregation was looking for a pastor they looked for someone retired or who had a job so he could support himself. They had gotten used to previous ministers working for nothing or for a very little compensation. Members moved on for various reasons and some died, but the vision of the church being a vital part of this community was lost or forgotten. Financial resources put aside in the beginning for a hard time

we spent, hard times were upon this congregation of less than 10 members. What could be done as finances dwindled? How could they get people into the church, why had God abandoned them, how could they keep the doors open if they did not get enough money coming in to at least pay the monthly bills? Being used to not tithing and supporting a minister was now a habit; even without paying a speaker there was still no influx of money to do the repairs on the beautiful building, and when the idea of tithing came up it was either agreed with, but not followed, or discarded as an Old Testament commandment. It seemed each member had their own concept of giving to the church and giving as little as possible seemed to be the answer of the majority. With only a few members tithing these members felt it would be impossible for them to keep the church running, with the way the rest of the church felt about giving. The spirit was dead, in the church and the fellowship between the members for whatever reason had deteriorated to where it was almost gone completely. Some of the few members would attend once or twice a month; some not that often. Men preached the truth of God's Word to ears that seemed not to hear and eyes that did not want to see. So did God declare Ichabod: That His glory no longer dwells in this church. If you were

attending such a church what would your answer be? Pray for the many churches who are closing these days as part of the falling away mentioned in 2 Thess. 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;". 2 Tim. 3:1-5 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, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Matt. 25:30 "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungry, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not." The time is at hand; which category will Jesus find you in, doing His will or Not?

Chairman:
Tim Miller

Board Members
Secretary /
Treasurer:
Lisa Miller
John H. Miller
Joe Arbaugh
Artis Mules/Editor
Gary Mules
Gene Lawson

Non-Board Position
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

The storm of 2009-2010 left a lot of work behind of shoveling and plowing snow!

Since I have mentioned many times that these newsletters have to be written much earlier than they are actually mailed out You are seeing the snow of early 2010 in this article. Besides when is a better time to see pictures of a heavy snow than in the beginning of spring? There was a lot of blessings through this very severe weather. Let me share some of these blessings with you from my perspective. During the majority of these snows I did not lose my power. When I did, my generator started to keep my refrigerator and freezers from thawing out. I had plenty of wood to keep the house warm,



I know there is a car and truck there somewhere.

and on the days I could not get out of my driveway because the snow was too deep, I actually did not have to be anywhere. On the days I needed to be at the prisons God made a way for me to get out and I did not miss any services because of the weather. When he could, my landlord tried to clear the driveway and when he was not able Brother Tim Miller brought his tractor over and cleared the entire small community over here where I live. As you can see this was one of the largest snows we have had in a long time and many of these readers went through it as well. God was certainly with us in central VA even with falling trees and slow responses from the highway department in plowing some of the side roads.



Getting to the vehicles took some shoveling in itself. Praise the Lord the snow stopped.

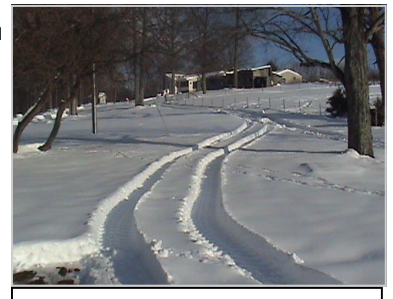


Pretty as long as you do not have to travel in it or as long as the electricity stays on.

Although the snow is beautiful and we need to praise the Lord in all situations, I praise the Lord for not losing power very often during this very severe weather. Another thing to be thankful for is an generator God provided me with so when the power goes off I do not lose my frozen food, and the blower on my wood stove can keep the heat circulating throughout the house.

We usually do not cut wood in such weather, but one young lady Tim knows ran out of wood and so did a fellow who has 12 children and Tim and I ended up cutting several loads during one of the heavy snows. Another thing I need to praise God for is Tim Miller's four-wheel drive truck which we used to deliver the wood and get it out of the area we had to cut and split it in. During the winter of 2009-2010 we were able, through the grace of God, to deliver 12 loads of fire wood. To God be the glory for allowing me to be able to do

more that just provide for my own needs, with the help of other brothers, and of course the power of God. I have a hill going up from my house and with all of the gravel gone several years ago it makes it very hard to get out in the deep snow or after the snow melts and it is very muddy. There is nothing for the tires to get any grip on. So I bought snow tires and was able to get out. I am praying my landlord will be putting some gravel down this spring of 2010 so I do not spin every time it rains for several days in a row. I praise the Lord I have a great landlord and land-lady and God has blessed me in that way as well as so many others. So I appreciate your ongoing prayers for God to continue looking out for me so I can continue to serve Him in the jail and prison ministry that I am so blessed to be a part of. Some people ask me how can I do this, and I say how can I not do this blessed work of God.



Tractor tracks out of my driveway, I had to buy snow tires to continue to get out; the radial tires would not do it.



Looking out from behind my house the woods at around 25" of snow.

As we enter into the month of May and the winter weather is behind us remember in prayer the struggles of the elderly people who have to struggle through the deep snow trying to keep warm, get back and forth to the doctors, the food store, or to get medicine. Also remember that unfortunately as taxes keep going up and services keep being eliminated this affects everyone

and mostly the elderly who are on a fixed income. Only the Lord and direction of God is going to change things, no matter how good or poor a political leader is, he is limited in what he can do. God has no limitations and He is the one we need to lean on; praise His Holy Name. Enjoy your spring and remember those who may even have it worse that you do so many times we are just not thankful enough.



After a few hours of work I see I do have a truck and car.

Cider making and the fun we have.

Every year after apples are ripe the Miller family and some friends get together and with a hand turned apple cider press we make cider. In the past we have made extra cider to sell to benefit the prison ministry; along with the cider we made cookies and cakes and pies and sold the cider by the gallon or by the glass along with the deserts to make money to support the prison ministry. We even sold hotdogs and bar-

beque at one of the local events once a year. Since I have spoken about this time and again I thought, like the wood cutting process, I would share some pictures of the actual cider making.

Of course, after such fellowship events we join together for a good fellowship meal, and I have pictures of that as well. When we used to kill hogs (which that money also supported the ministry) it was much

the same, but unfortunately I did not take pictures of the killing event to show those of you who have never processed meat yourself how it was done. It is not that we enjoyed the killing, but we sure enjoy the fresh meat without any of the additives we get from the store bought meat today. There are many more pictures I will share in another newsletter, but this should give you an idea of what goes on.



After the apples are washed they are taken from the buckets and placed in the hopper where they made into pulp to be pressed to get the juice.



Here we see the beginning of the cider making after the press is thoroughly cleaned.



We started out this year with one crate two years ago we had two. Besides the few we ate these apples make about 40 gallons of cider.



Here you see the apples ready to be pressed after they are grinded.



There are a lot of apple pies in that bucket.



Here you see the way we press the apples.



Ladies pour the cider into jugs.



Yes, I did some work also I had someone take this picture to prove it.



When we work together there is always a good meal following.



MAY 2011

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				

Jack's Trivia

Page 4

1. Who was first Christian Martyr?
2. Who was the father of Canaan?
3. Who was the eldest son of Abraham?
4. Who followed Moses in leadership of the Israelites after Moses' death?
5. Who was the man known for his great strength against the Philistines?
6. What might be the greatest miracle during the last part of Jesus' ministry?
7. Who was the Phoenician princess daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians?
8. Who was King Ahasuerus first wife?
9. Who was King Ahasuerus second wife?
10. Who was the Hero of the book of Esther?

Answers to March/April Newsletter

1. (Jericho Numb. 31:12)
2. (Joseph Gen. 27:38)
3. (Esther)
4. (Kish 1 Sam.9:3)
5. (Elisha 2 Kin. 2:15)
6. (Samaria 2 Kin. 17:1, Omni, 1 Kin.116:23)
7. This is not certain in weight but it would average at 100 LB US which would be about \$5289.
8. (Nehemiah, Neh. 3:16)
9. (Timothy: 1Tim.1:2)
10. (Zacchaeus, Luke 19:5)

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- 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 of the Jail & Prison Ministry.

Ministry Address

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry
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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.

JUNE 2011

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