

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out!

Sept. / Oct. 2011

Chairman:

Tim Miller

Board Members:

Secretary / Treasurer:

Lisa Miller

Editor: Artis Mules

Gary Mules

Gene Lawson

Joe Arbaugh

John Miller

Non-Board Member

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

The Day of Jubilee: 24th Year

On Sept. 24th Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry will be celebrating it's 24th annual Day of Jubilee Celebration. Each year we use this special day to praise God for another year of serving the Lord in the jails and prisons and we pray for the upcoming year, to be able to continue to serve God another year.

The responsibility for the success belongs to a lot of people and I would like to try to thank as many as I can remember, and there are some who desire to remain unnamed.

In the beginning Rehoboth Mennonite Church allowed this ministry to work through them and helped Ron continue to be accountable to them. Then there was the Southern District of the VA Mennonite Conference and the Conference who licensed Ron and later ordained him as a minister of special ministries, these credentials he still holds. Some of the church members were willing to take on the responsibility of a board for the ministry, as Ron did not want any funds coming directly to him, to keep everything above reproach. So the church treasurer

took on the extra work of taking care of the little funds that were then coming in to the ministry. Later on a new board was formed; some from Rehoboth church, some from other Mennonite churches, and some from other church denominations. Funds were few and far between and the annual budget, no matter how low it was set, seemed to be impossible to reach, but God got Ron back and forth to the jails and prisons and with his work as a plumber and doing general remodeling Ron's bills were paid and he began to get some funds toward the fuel he used for travel. Over the years we have been able to increase the budget and each year we have been putting aside funds for the Restoration House Program for the time when God shows us it is His time to buy property and build.

This year we have successfully applied to get our own tax exempt status and we have a seven-member board and several people willing to help with the editing of newsletters and letters and brochures.

I have not mentioned individual names as to being thankful to them because I do not want to take a chance in leaving someone out.

Certainly all of the churches who have been supporting this ministry from the very early stages need to be thanked and I try to do that with letters every other month along with this newsletter.

There are many individuals as well who, even in these hard times, continue to donate sacrificially to this ministry because of its work with men and women who cannot do much for themselves.

If you look to the right side of this page you see that in partnership with churches we offer many outreaches to inmates and their families. On the next two pages you will read about some of the work that has been going on and perhaps you will feel God calling you to do something to assist the work He is doing through Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. Sign up now. ☺

The Pen Pal Ministry can be more than writing letters.

Ron Baker came to our church, Waynesboro Mennonite, one Sunday a few years ago to talk about Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministry. After the service I told him I was willing to be a pen pal. After all, as an historian, writing is second nature to me, and I thought this would be an easy way to help. Ha!

He assigned me the daughter of an old friend of his, who was a fairly new Christian, and might need some encouragement. Ruth proved to be a very interesting lady, only a few years younger than I, and I liked her right away. She was reading her Bible daily, and since I was fairly shy about talking of things of God, I decided she was getting the best preaching available and what she needed from me was a friend.

I drove down to Goochland one day to visit her, and she invited me to come down for their annual graduation ceremony. She was getting her GED. She saw this as a benefit of her prison experience, that she would never have taken the time to get it otherwise.

As I learned more about her, I enjoyed our friendship more. Her release date approached.

She had hoped her niece could come pick her up, but it was a school day. Well, what was I to do? Naturally I volunteered. It was great to see her expression as we hit the interstate, stopped for an ice cream, and she finally arrived home. I came to Waynesboro daily for about a week

to chauffeur her various places: Celebrate Recovery meetings, Social Security, Parole Officer, Goodwill, the Blue Ridge Food and Clothing Bank, etc. Right away she found a volunteer position at the Salvation Army, and was able to apply an hourly 'wage' toward paying off her fines. (They are all satisfied now!) This is one worthwhile lady. We would meet every so often for lunch at Disciple's Kitchen, a soup kitchen in Waynesboro. She hopes to volunteer there in the future. Ruth and her friend Jimmy have begun attending Waynesboro Mennonite, and hope to join our congregation.

Ruth mentioned her father was in prison. I cautiously asked what he was convicted of, and she answered straightforwardly, "For killing my mother." You can imagine that rocked me, it is quite a conversation stopper, but she quickly added "But we don't think he did it." I asked more questions, and she took me to the courthouse in Staunton and showed me records from the trial. I learned that in 2010 a DNA test was run on some of the physical evidence, which showed he was

not the guilty party. Yet his last parole request was still turned down!

This will need further investigation, for which I am not skilled. But I did write to the governor requesting Bob's parole, and did some more research on the case (After all, being an FBI buff should be good for something!). My husband and I visited him at Coffeewood Correctional Facility. Eventually, based on results of a psychological test among other things, Bob was finally released on parole this year. My husband and I were delighted to be invited to attend his welcome home party, and to meet his wife Helen. They met and were married while he was in prison, and later this afternoon we will attend the renewal of their wedding vows, at Mountain View Mennonite.

There is more to do in the future; Bob is only on parole, not vindicated, yet what has been accomplished so far with God's grace seems like a miracle, especially to me. I am grateful to Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministry for giving me an entrance to yet another part of God's family.

How having a Pen Pal who went beyond just writing made a difference.

I was locked up in Goochland Women's Prison from Oct 2006 to Nov 2009. Ron Baker gave Karen Treacy my name and address and that's how we became friends. Ron is a good friend of my father and that's why he gave my name to Karen. I met Karen in 2007 or 2008 when we became pen pals. We became friends and kept writing each other, she'd write and tell me about things she did, like her trip to Alaska. She came to my graduation, she came and picked me up when I was released and we've been friends since. I started going to a different church, but I go to her church now, there's a lot of love there, at Waynesboro Mennonite Church. We still remain friends. My father was in prison too. I told her about him and she

and her husband cared enough to go see my father and find out about his case. They wrote letters to the governor and tried to help. He is released now and we are all friends to this day.

If there are people out there that want to do this, want to touch someone's life, this is a way to do it. Karen touched my life. It's difficult when you're in prison, you don't have a lot of friends, and they're not the right kind to help you, and it makes a difference because a lot of people forget you or don't have time to write; it makes your day when

you get mail.

I think it is wonderful that God has shown me some good Christian friends because some of the friends I had before I went in prison weren't good for me, drug addicts and stuff. This here has helped me.

This has been a good experience. If you are in prison and have a chance to get a good Christian pen pal stick with them. You can still stay friends with them. This is the kind of friend you need. If you want to help someone, ask Ron Baker for a pen pal.

One of the greatest stories of a man's release from prison after over 37 years.

My name is Robert Turner. Most people call me Bob. I would like to tell a story of my life for the past 37 years. I was incarcerated in 1973 and given a life sentence. I pled not guilty. I was offered a plea bargain of 30 years but I could not accept that because I didn't do what I was accused of.

I was sent to, [at that time to the WALLS] which was in Richmond. In 1975 I met a wonderful woman. I didn't even think about falling in love, but after corresponding and having a few visits during the next five years, it happened. What I didn't know was, she was having the same feelings toward me.

In 1979, right after my dad went to be with the Lord, I was transferred to Unit 10 in Augusta County so I could be closer to my two daughters. Besides, they needed a cook and I fitted right in because of my experience of managing a restaurant a few years before. I cooked there for a year and was transferred to Staunton. That is where my present wife and I let each other know how we felt for each other. In 1981 we were married. This July 5th. will mark our 30th anniversary of a happy Christian marriage.

I met a fellow named Ron Baker during the 1980's. Ron later started a prison ministry called REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY. I started writing to Ron and we have been corresponding for over twenty years. Ron has a really good ministry and has helped a lot of people including myself. He has a big cook-out each September which I WILL be attending. I have planned on going for several years now, but the parole people had other plans.

Now due to DNA testing that was done over a year ago, I will be attending Ron's cook-out. I always knew that God had a plan for me and being free now is just the beginning.

For some time now, Ron has been trying to get a RESTORATION HOUSE started. That is a place for guys to go when they are released from prison. It won't be like a regular halfway house. It will be a place for people to go after incarceration who have no place to go. I will give you a good example.

About a week before I was released, they released this one fellow who's time was up. It was really a bad situation because this guy had no place to go. In fact, he did not want to leave. They had to just shove the fellow out into a world that was a complete change to him. I saw him leaving on his day to be released and someone told him, "Good luck." He had a very sad look on his face and he said in a soft and sad voice, "I'll try to make it." Now I really felt bad and I was somewhat angry because there was no place or anyone out in the real world to help this fellow. The Restoration House project that Ron is trying very hard to get going would have been the answer to his problem. I would like to say that at

this point, Ron really needs all the help he can get to start the Restoration House and to get it going.

This will be a Christian place for those released from institutions who have no place to go. From what I understand, the people who stay at the Restoration House will not only be given a place to stay, but be given training in the ways of a Christian and helped in a way so they can be ready for re-entry into society. They will be helped with finding jobs and many other things.

If there is any way that I can help with this project, I will. I see this a very good thing as to help people not to re-enter the prison system. I would like to urge anyone that can, to jump on the bandwagon to help get the Restoration House up and going.

I am blessed that I had a wonderful wife and a home to go to. GOD is great.



Bob & Helen Turner

The two stories on page two (to the left), tell of this lasting friendship between Ruth, on the left of the picture and Karen on the right. There is so much more that could be said about this friendship.



Saving of a soul: the true purpose of Pen Pal Ministry

The three stories on these inside pages tell a great story about the Pen Pal Ministry for churches to see how this can lead to increasing their reach for lost souls. Many churches just do not want to get involved with inmates, I hear that some these inmates are too needy, they might expect too much from the congregation after their release. There are some who, instead of worrying about what the inmate and his or her family might need, these churches see what a re-

ward the church can receive from God as they reach out to these who society has all but thrown away.

Not to add or take away from the Word: **Matt 25: 35, 36** "35 For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

I was lonely and you wrote me!

SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Jack's Trivia

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1. What was Aaron's sister's name?
2. According to the King James Bible, who built Nineveh?
3. How many pieces of silver did Joseph's brothers sell him for?
4. Before becoming king, what was David's profession?
5. To whom did God give an extra 15 years of life?
6. Who said, "It is better for me to live than to die?"
7. Who was struck dead for lying about an account of money he gave?
8. Where was Abraham born?
9. Who did Jesus heal of blindness?
10. Which king was Jonathan's brother?

The answers to July / Aug Questions:

1. (Ishmael, Hagar, Gen. 16:16)
2. (Passover, Ex 12:13, 14)
3. (Canaan, Num.13:17)
4. (Gethsemane, Matt.26:36)
5. (Isaac, Gen. 17:19)
6. (Lot's wife, she disobey the angle of the Lord and looked back, Gen 19:26)
7. (Terah, Lot Gen. 11:31)
8. (Amen, Rev. 22:21)
9. (Prayer, Matt.6:6)
10. (Worship, Ps. 138:2)

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 10:00 to 12:00 AM Held by Chaplain Ron Baker RJPM

Sunday service and 5th Monday is a Worship; the other services are generally a Bible study.

Food Bank— pass out food to needy in Schuyler every third Thursday between 4:30 PM & 6 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 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.

OCTOBER 2011

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