

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter



CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

This Newsletter Compliments of Artis Mules

Nov. / Dec. 2013

## A Puritan Thanksgiving Day



Isaiah 65:24 - "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Everyone raised in America knows how, in 1621, the Pilgrims invited the Indians over to thank God for their harvest, and held a celebration—the first Thanksgiving.

The Puritans also had a day of Thanksgiving ten years later in 1631. This second

day of Thanksgiving is almost completely forgotten by our society.

After the harvest that fall Governor William Bradford realized that there might not be enough crops to get them all through the winter. So he sent his ship, the Lyon, home to his wife and son with instructions to sell off some things from their estate and return the ship with food. After that, more shiploads of settlers, fleeing religious persecution in England, arrived completely without provisions and suffering the usual post-trip sickness. The colonists' winter supplies began to go down even faster than the governor had anticipated. Eventually, all the corn was gone and the clam beds were emptied. The Indians

quit trading their own corn as they were running low also. The Lyon had been so long away that she was given up for lost. So the governor declared a fast day before the Lord to seek his help. (They would have been fasting anyway.) But on the morning of the declared fast day, the Lyon arrived in the harbor laden with supplies. The Lyon had come upon a distressed ship at sea and had spent much time towing them to a safe port, delaying her mission. The ship was quickly unloaded and Governor Bradford declared the fast day to be a day of feasting unto the Lord instead. And so the colonists held a feast from the supplies off of the ship. The date was February 6, 1631.

## Daily Giving Thanks

As we kick off the holiday season with a day of giving thanks to the Lord, it is good to consider carefully all that we should be thankful for. For some people this seems to be a difficult process, so they thank the Lord in general terms, such as, "All your blessings," and, satisfied with that, they sit down and eat

their turkey and watch the game. This is a clear sign that someone is out of practice in being thankful to God. If football players can practice continually and go through all that they do for a ring and a trophy, how much more then should we be in practice giving thanks to God every day. We can

start with thanking Him for the air we breathe, for sleep, for waking, for health, and go on from there as He directs us. Those who are in the habit of thanking God daily will take extra pleasure in a day devoted to giving thanks and will encourage others to do so as well.

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**Mentoring**

**Family Ministry**

**Youth Ministry**

**Restoration House**

**Ministry training seminars are available for local churches.**



Is. 9:6b "...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

If we could see love with our eyes, what would it look like? A glorious glowing presence? A leader to lead the world in a true peace? A baby in a manger? A Prince of Peace dying on a cross for our sins? A miracle healing? Daily provision for our needs? Resurrection followed by eternal life? A righteous judge arriving to set the world right? All of the above?

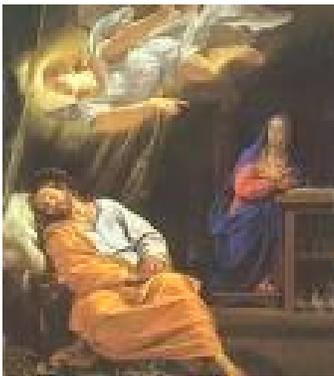
The Son of God coming to earth to be laid in a manger is just one expression of

God's great love for us. It is His way of showing us that He is not just some great unknowable being out there somewhere and that He can identify with all of our weaknesses: physical, emotional, and spiritual. Therefore, we can come boldly before His throne of grace in the name of Jesus, knowing that He understands us fully and loves us anyway, and that He will bless us with what we truly need for this time of testing and learning here on

earth. That is why the angel said to the shepherds, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." It is good news indeed to know that the reason Jesus came down is so that we may have immediate access to approach God without fear.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

## Twelve Days Before Christmas



Joseph Dreams

In olden times, Christmas was often celebrated for twelve days. It is always good to remember our Lord's first coming during the holiday season with some extra Bible readings. Here is a twelve-day series of Bible readings for celebrating Jesus' birth:

1. Zechariah Suffers Doubt—Luke 1:5-25

2. The Annunciation — Luke 1:26-38

3. Mary Visits Elizabeth— Luke 1:39-56

4. John the Baptist is Born — Luke 1: 57-80

5. Joseph's First Dream — Matthew 1:18-25

6. Jesus is Born/ Shepherds—Luke 2: 1-21

7. The Temple Visit - Luke 2:22-39

8. Magi — Matthew 1:1-12

9. Joseph's Second Dream — Matthew 1:13-15

10. Herod — Matthew 1:16-18

11. Joseph's Third Dream — Matthew 2:19-21

12. Joseph's Fourth Dream — Matthew 2: 22-23

## The First Christmas Church Pageant

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.  
- C. S. Lewis

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first living nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, Italy. Tired of seeing people attend the church service only to go out and engage in secular feasting and festivities, and exchanging excessive gifts, he put up a display of live people and an ox and a donkey inside a

cave on Mt. Lacerone. Then he and his fellow monks led people from the town out to the cave by torchlight to "see how he was placed in a manger." Crowds came all night as word spread through the town, and sang carols before the scene when they got there. There wasn't enough room in the cave for every-

one, so people waited their turn in the woods outside. It became a very popular custom almost immediately, and nativity displays rapidly spread throughout the churches. Even today, Christians cherish this yearly reminder as a way to focus on Jesus rather than secular activities.

## Mary's Lifetime of Service

Being the chosen vessel to bring the Savior into the world may very well have been Mary's most important work for God. Later, as Jesus grew up, she would have had a strong sense of serving her Messiah with her ordinary household role. When she cooked, she was cooking for her Messiah, when she did laundry, or fetched water from the well, it was a direct service unto God, raising a child unto the Lord, even more than what most mothers feel. (Col. 3:23)

After Jesus' resurrection she seems to have been rather quietly involved in the early church. She probably just blended in at first, one of the women followers of "the Way." She may have even wondered how she could

possibly serve the Lord, now that she was no longer needed to do the household things for Him, and of what use she could be.

It was some time after the church started up that the disciples began to realize how important it was to not only preach, but to write down the things about Jesus' life and sayings so that people would have an accurate record of them. (Luke 1:1-4) They needed to show how his life had fulfilled Scripture. And people would have wanted to know if Jesus had been special in the beginning as a child. As the church grew and local bodies gathered everywhere, it became important that this information was transmitted accurately to everyone.

Mary was the only one able to contribute the details recorded about Jesus prior to his public ministry and the events before and after his birth. The two different sets of details are the most likely the results of two separate interviews with Mary, one with Luke and the other with Matthew.

Luke makes sure to give her credit: Luke 2:19 "But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean." And, lest we miss the point, Luke repeats it to us: Luke 2:51b "But his mother kept all these things in her heart." The entire Christmas story that Christians of all centuries have had is owed to the memories that Mary kept in her heart.



John 10:10b "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Jesus took  
His place in a  
manger  
so that we might  
have a home  
in Heaven.  
— Greg Laurie

## 'Twas the Night Jesus Came

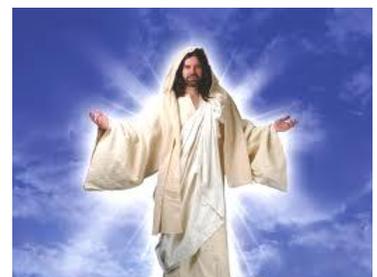
'Twas the night Jesus came  
and all through the house  
Not a person was praying,  
not one in the house.  
The Bibles were left on the  
shelf without care,  
For no one thought that Jesus  
would come there.  
The children were dressing to  
crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or  
bowing a head.  
And mom in her rocker with  
baby in her lap  
Was watching the Late Show  
while I took a nap.

When out of the east there  
rose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see  
what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew  
like a flash  
Tore open the shutters and

lifted the sash!  
When what to my wondering  
eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that  
Jesus was here!  
The light of His face made me  
cover my head--  
It was Jesus returning,  
just as He said.  
And though I possessed  
worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite  
of myself.  
In the Book of Life which He  
held in His hand  
Was written the name of  
every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He  
searched for my name;  
When He said, "It's not here."  
my head hung in shame.  
The people whose names had  
been written with love  
He gathered to take to His

Father above.  
With those who were ready  
He rose without a sound  
While all the rest were left  
standing around.  
I fell to my knees, but it was  
too late;  
I had waited too long and thus  
sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they  
rose out of sight;  
Oh, if only I'd known that this  
was the night.  
In the words of this poem the  
meaning is clear;  
The coming of Jesus is now  
drawing near.  
There's only one life and when  
comes the last call  
We'll find that the Bible was  
true after all.

- Author Unknown



Jer. 23:6b "...and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

# NOVEMBER 2013

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

## Prayer Corner

1. Two new board members with a little time to dedicate to the ministry.
2. An additional editor to do typing and check out Bible studies and college courses on our list to see if they are still in operation. Also someone to go online and make corrections to the website, and suggest or make improvements, keeping it better up-to-date.
3. Families willing to correspond with inmates being very careful and following the pen pal guidelines.
4. I would like to try again to get a coordinator from the churches who get this newsletter: someone to check up from time to time to see how the newsletter is being displayed or distributed. (Churches are welcome to make copies for members or we will be happy to send interested members a copy.)
5. If anyone knows of a Christian business that needs a good tax deduction, we would appreciate you simply mentioning this ministry and directing them to our website, which explains what we have done, what we are doing, and what we are praying to do in the future. Tell people about us and spread this good news: we are available to those who need us.

BCC stands for Buckingham Correctional Center; all services held between 6:30 and 7:45 PM.  
 DCC stands for Dillwyn Correctional 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, held 10:00 to 12:00 AM, led by Chaplain Ron Baker, RJPM.  
 Sunday service and 5th Monday is a worship service; the other services are generally a Bible study.  
 The Food Bank is held every third Thursday in Schuyler at a local church from 4:30 PM to 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 of the Jail & Prison Ministry.

Ministry Address  
 Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry  
 Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain  
 6166 Helens Way Schuyler, VA 22969-9607  
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 Phone: (434) 831-2593

Web site: [www.jailandprisonministries.org](http://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.

# DECEMBER 2013

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