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2014

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

There Are Absolutes for Christians Today and the Church Should Be Teaching Them

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God's Word does not give man a choice to obey God or do their own thing without consequence. Many so-called ministers of God's Word are not presenting God's commandments as a fact for today. Rather than cause people, who really do not want to know the truth, to leave a congregation, ministers in some church water down the Word of God, so as not to cause people to feel bad. God gave us the Law so we could know what He expects, and He gave us His Spirit so we could have the Law written on our hearts, that we might not live in wanton

sin. If ministers do not teach the truth, man cannot be set free from the captivity of sin, which is one of the things Jesus died for. Rather than having a church with large numbers, a minister should preach the truth, so that his congregation will be set free from the law of sin and death. God's truth is not always popular in this present age of a society practicing the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (I John 2:16).

Jeremiah (Jer. 2:27) was told to take a hard truth to God's people, but he was told they would not listen. He was still

responsible to prophesy the truth, and the people were then accountable for the truth they heard. What people today need to understand is that someone who lies to maintain a friendship, or a minister who waters down Scripture to keep people from getting upset and leaving the church, is not showing they truly care. Not wanting to hear the cold hard truth is foolishness, since no one will have an excuse when they come before Jesus. The Word says in **Matt. 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall

be added unto you." Today many ministers are promising the latter "all these things shall be added" with no thought of seeking the kingdom first, or at all. Seeking the kingdom cannot be done with a watered-down Gospel, and since "all these things" are a reward of first seeking God with one's whole heart, the things promised by false preachers of today is just a lie. **2 Pet. 2:1** "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."

Ministry Outreaches

Available:

In-Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Pen Pal

(letter writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Restoration House

Ministry training

seminars are avail-

able for local

churches.

We had a mild winter for the end of 2013 and into 2014. But February and March brought a mixture of various kinds of weather, which was still mild compared to a lot of the surrounding areas. With the heat of July and August upon us, are we now complaining about

the heat? As you look at the picture to the right try to remember if you were one of the ones who complained about the cold and snow, with the heat now the topic of your frustrations. I am just like many others, I have my favorite kind of weather but I am learning to try to be

content with whatever God brings, giving special praise when it happens to be my favorite kind of day. Phil. 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content." Praise the Lord in all situations.



In case you are wondering about why I have a hard time getting out of my driveway at times.



Have you ever felt you were all alone?

When you feel like you are all alone and without hope.

It is always easier to give advice than to take it. It is always easier to come up with a Scripture to comfort someone in need than it is to hear the same Scripture when we are the ones facing uncertainty. I have recently realized I need to be much more careful with words I think are comforting someone. I need to think: are my words of comfort lessening the trouble or stress the one I'm speaking to is going through? It is much easier to trust God for someone else's healing than our own. In March some of you know I had to go to UVA hospital for a catheterization of two arteries, one of which was a main artery to my heart. I had spoken to people going through similar and even more serious procedures and

shared Scripture with them that were now being shared with me. However, at times the quick Scriptural response made me think that perhaps the person sharing these verses did not understand the seriousness of this circumstance. Then God brought to my mind what I had done in similar situations with other people whom I truly loved, but about whom I had every confidence God would get them through. So was I not trusting God for my healing like I could for others, or was it just I wanted people to know how I felt? Then God allowed me to ask myself why I felt this way? When I shared the verses with others, was I taking their situation lightly? Did I come up with a Scripture so quickly, it seemed as

if I was downplaying the seriousness of the situation? I have a new outlook on sharing Scripture in times of serious difficulties. The Scriptures are just as important as ever; however, I will take my time to hear the pain of the one I am sharing them with. I will not be in too much of a hurry to hear their fear. I will show I realize the serious nature of their circumstances, as I share how much better God understands, and how His love will carry them through. I am thankful to all of those who shared with me and encouraged me. I am also thankful God has given me insight as to their true love for me and their trust in God, so I can present that same love and trust in God with others' needs.

Thought from Feb. 19, 2002

Something was wrong; I did not know what it was. It was God warning me to beware of sin crouching at my door.

Are you watching for the Lord's return?

How many time must we hear of the soon coming of the Lord before we truly pay attention? In Noah's day the people would not hear Noah's warnings to the sinful world. In Jesus's day the Jewish nation would not listen to Jesus and His disciple's warning to repent and come to Jesus. Today there is so much trash being taught as the truth of God's Word, that without the inspira-

tion of the Holy Spirit there can be no understanding of the truth. Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Ministers who tickle ears and do not bring conviction of sin will not lead the lost to the

narrow gate. Matt. 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Seek Him with all your heart and He will be found. It is the truth that makes man free. (John 8:32)

Visiting Churches and Sharing What the Ministry is Doing.



Ron speaking at Staunton Mennonite Church a few years ago.

One of our favorite things this ministry does is tell the church congregations about God's work in the jails and prisons, and how they can get involved. Most of the time people are very blessed after becoming involved with various aspects of the prison outreaches. But there are times when pen pals take on the responsibility of caring for the spiritual well-being of someone incarcerated

and then they are constantly made to feel bad by the inmate because the pen pal does not have the resources to send personal gifts to assist an indigent inmate. This is why we send out an initial letter explaining it is against pen pal policy to do certain things. We have had a few inmate get downright nasty about such things. Of course, needless to say, the church member is less

likely to continue to be involved in future activities. We have also had inmates who were assisted getting started by a local church when leaving prison, only for the inmate to fall right back into their old lifestyle and then completely ignore the church that helped them. Lets try to make a positive impact when someone reaches out to us, and forgive those who fall again.

Celebrate the Lord, For He is Worthy to Be Praised

Every year the United States celebrates the 4th of July. It is a celebration of our independence from England, and what we considered a tyrannical hold on the then colonies. As Christians we need to remember to celebrate every day, and especially when we partake of the Lord's table, we should be mindful of how the truth has made us free from the tyranny of sin. John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." You might ask, how does the truth make one free and free from what? Today, people like the Jews waiting for the Messiah want physical freedom, while they are in bondage to sin, for which the sentence is death. What good is physical free-

dom alone when in incurs the wrath of God? Mankind in general wants to do whatever he wants to, and without consequences. That is not how the world works. Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry, and raised the dead. Society was more than willing to receive all of that, but they rejected the one main thing Jesus brought and even died for: to allow man to be free of the debt of sin. Many came asking what they needed to do to be saved, but when it came down to giving it all to Jesus, many walked away sorrowful. (Matt. 19:22) Why is society so ready to celebrate everything under the sun, except the gift of freedom from death and sin? Why? Because

society has too much enjoyment in sin, even to the point of redefining sin as no longer being sinful. With all of the celebrations the world has, why does the world consistently reject or pervert any celebration that has to do with the Savior of the World, Jesus? As Christians, let us glorify God in every celebration that society marks. Think of all of the money spent on celebrations of things pertaining to the flesh (like fireworks), and let us not get caught up in these celebrations without glorifying Jesus. When we celebrate anything, let us make sure in all things to give honor, glory, and praise to Jesus. Let's exalt Him so the world will have to see Who He is and what He means to us as children of



Outside Ron's house in the spring and summer these cacti bloom.

What Can Society Do About Overcrowded Prisons?

Everyone knows criminals need to be punished for their crimes, but what happened to rehabilitation? If the punishment one receives for wrongdoing is not accompanied by rehabilitation, there will usually just be a repeat of an unchanged life. Punishment with no incentive to do better is why the prisons are full of men and women who do not care about anything. When Virginia had a parole board, which actually released inmates who seemed to show remorse, and a change in the direction of their life, the prisons were not as violent. When a man has a certain amount of time to do, without any hope in shortening that time, he usually gets harder. That is a sad but true fact of life. When a man is rewarded for programs he completes and good behavior, with a possibility of earlier release it gives him hope. There is another fact that adds to the over crowdedness of prisons which the tax payers are paying for. There is a great need for halfway houses for all types of inmates and their indi-

vidual crimes. Most people do not want a halfway house in their neighborhood. However, a halfway house run properly would not cause any problems for the neighborhood. If the people running the program always knew where the residents were day and night, there would be no reason to be concerned. The residents would be accountable to the house, to work and pay their own way, relieving the tax payers that burden. Properly run, the director of operations could arrange for the residents to do community service in the local community and therefore form a bond between the neighborhood and the house. Proper screening from the Executive Director or the Director of Operations before an inmate was received as a resident would help weed out some of the people who might not succeed in such a program. Looking at institutional records, interviewing the counselor, the chaplain, and some of the correctional officers would give a fuller picture of the inmate's be-

havior before the program accepts him or her. Inmates with serious institutional infractions within a certain time of their release would not be eligible to fill out an application. Also, making all of the resident's daily behavior accessible to his parole officer would help keep the resident in check. This kind of restoration program would have to be, in my opinion, totally Christian-based, and all of the Christian programs would be mandatory. However, in order to have a mandatory program, the residents would have to face some kind of penalty if they refused to participate in the Bible studies or other Christian activities. This is where we run into a problem. Unless the local parole office or the DOC would honor the contract the resident would have to sign, there is no way to hold them to this agreement. Efficient programs after release would lessen recidivism and prison overcrowding.

Thought from Feb. 22, 2002

The Lord wants the very best for me; He loves me so much He allowed His Son to live in this sinful world and die for me.



Jim Searcy and Ron enjoy a meal after one of the visits to a prison.

JULY 2014

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

Prayer Corner Page 4

See if you can find 30 Books of the Bible in this paragraph. This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers; also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

The initials BCC stands for Buckingham Correctional Center; services are held between 6:30 & 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.

Sunday Service and sometimes the 5th Monday are worship services; the other services are generally a Bible study.

Food Bank—pass out food to the needy in Schuyler, VA, every third Thursday between 4:30 & 6:00 PM.

MOM: Monthly Outreach Meal—this meal is served to the community at LWCF the last Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LWCF stands for Living Word Christian Fellowship in Lovingson, VA.

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:

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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.

AUGUST 2014

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