

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

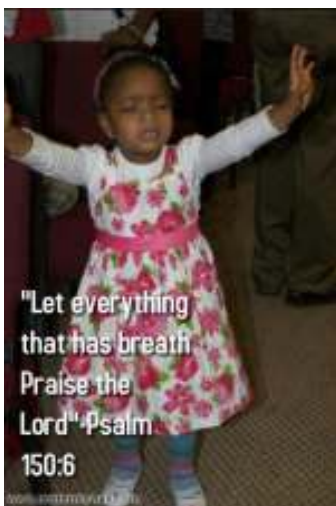


CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

We give thanks to Artis Mules for the articles in this newsletter.

Nov. / Dec. 2014

A Grateful Heart



Thankfulness is an attitude of the heart; it is like breathing. "Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." Ps. 150:6 When we rise up and when we lie down, before meals and throughout the day, our prayer should al-

ways be, "Thank you God in Jesus' name." Col. 3:17 - "And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Christian faith is expressed best by an 'attitude of gratitude,' which is a major part of walking the walk with Jesus. "In order for faith to come to flower, it must be planted in the soil of gratitude. - Peter Marshall

Thankfulness can only come in the presence of forgiveness; as long as we are thinking of the wrongs done to us, we are not able to be thankful. Anger, frustration, bitterness, and rage are all the opposite of thanksgiving. At the same time, choosing to

say a prayer of thanks, even in our hearts, drives out these negative thoughts. God, who sees our hearts, greatly rewards those who diligently use this type of praying without ceasing, for it is His will. (1Th. 5:17-18)

This changes our walk in this world, for what is in our hearts is what we will speak, and others around us will notice and often respond to the change as we practice being grateful to God on a daily basis. Gratitude changes everything.



Giving Thanks For God's Greatest Blessings

Thank You, Jesus

When I fall, He lifts me up!
When I fail, He forgives!
When I am weak, He is strong!
When I am lost, He is the way!
When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends

me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!

When I face Death, He carries me home!
He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, and every way. He is God, He is faithful. I am his and He is mine!

Author Unknown

Board Chairman:
Tim Miller
Board Members
John H. Miller
Joe Arbaugh
Gary Mules
Secretary /Treasurer
Lisa Miller
Editors: Artis Mules
Cristy Horsley

Non-Board Members
Chaplains &
Executive Director /
Founder
Ronald R. Baker
Associate Editor:
Sherry Wilkerson

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 available for local churches.

- Dec. 1 John 1: 1-5
 Dec. 2 Isaiah 9: 2-7
 Dec. 3 Isaiah 11: 1-10
 Dec. 4 Jeremiah 33: 14-16
 Dec. 5 Luke 1: 5-10
 Dec. 6 Luke 1: 11-17
 Dec. 7 Luke 1: 18-25
 Dec. 8 Luke 1: 26-38
 Dec. 9 Mathew 1:18-21
 Dec. 10 Matthew 1: 22-26
 Dec. 11 Luke 1: 39-45
 Dec. 12 Luke 1: 46-56
 Dec. 13 Luke 2: 1-5
 Dec. 14 Luke 2: 6-7
 Dec. 15 Luke 2: 8-12
 Dec. 16 Luke 2: 13-14
 Dec. 17 Luke 2: 15-18
 Dec. 18 Luke 2: 19-20
 Dec. 19 Micah 5: 2-5
 Dec. 20 Matthew 2: 1-2
 Dec. 21 Matthew 2: 3-6
 Dec. 22 Mathew 2: 7-8
 Dec. 23 Matthew 2: 9-12
 Dec. 24 John 1:14

A Little-Known Prophecy

Ps. 68:13 "Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."

This verse is, I am sure, very comforting to housewives and others who spend a lot of time washing up dirty dishes. It gives a wonderful promise for even the lowliest of labor.

However, the word translated here as pots, *shâphâ* in the Hebrew, has several

meanings. It means not only pots, but also a butcher's hook and sheepfold.

At the temple, a sacrificial lamb would be hung up on such a hook after slaughter to finish preparing it for the sacrifice. A sacrificial lamb hung up, rising again with silver and gold wings. Reading the verse this way points to the resurrection after the cross and Jesus rising to the heavenly realms.

Another way to look at this verse is with the translation as sheepfold. The Literal Bible translates this verse this way: "If you lie down among the sheepfolds, the wings of a dove are covered with silver, and its feathers with gleaming gold." This would point to shepherds seeing shining wings - the angels visiting the shepherds.

It is amazing the way God puts layers of meaning into every part of His Word.

Another Flight

Joseph and Mary aren't the only ones who fled from the wrath of Herod. Zacharias and Elizabeth also escaped to a more distant place. The Bible is subtle in the details, but the full story is there for those who look.

Before John's birth, Zacharias and Elizabeth lived in a city in the Judean hill country (Luke 1:39), within reasonable commuting distance of Zacharias's work at the temple in Jerusalem. And yet, we are told that John was raised in the desert (Luke 1:80), and that he was so impoverished that he was dressed in camel hair clothes and ate locusts (Mt. 3:4, Mark 1:6), living a survivalist sort of life.

Why would John's parents leave their house in town (Luke 1:40) and a lifetime allowance from the temple (Lev. 22), as well as all their friends, family and neighbors, and a position of respect in the local synagogue, in order to raise their child in the desert,

teaching him themselves with little social support?

Secular history tells us that about a decade before Jesus was born, when Herod came to power, fearing the birth of the Messiah, he went through the temple and Sanhedrin and massacred all the Levites who were also descendants of David and therefore potential fathers of the Messiah. He then replaced the missing ones, including almost the entire Sanhedrin, with his own appointees.

Zacharias was a survivor of this purge, a descendant of Aaron but not of David, and was one of the elite few that had had the privilege of going into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. The famous circumstances of young John's birth (Luke 1) were known not only at the temple, where there were many of Herod's beneficiaries, but throughout the entire region (Luke 1:65-66). The family was too well known to hide near any people. When they heard that Herod had ordered the deaths of children

in Bethlehem, although they knew it was Elizabeth's cousin Mary and her Child that Herod was after, they went to the desert, away from people, any one of whom might bring to Herod's mind this other special little boy.

While Mary and Joseph were able to eventually return to Nazareth and blend in with the other people in town, Zacharias and Elizabeth apparently never felt secure enough, or led by God, to return. They seemed to understand early (Luke 1:76) that John was called to be "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Mark 1:3, Is. 40:3) And so they stayed there to raise him. Their consolation was the knowledge that God had called them to do it and that they were doing God's will. They also knew without a doubt that the Redeemer Messiah had been born and would begin his work when He was grown. That must have given them hope for the future.



The Real Saint Nicholas

Nicholas was born March 15, 270 AD to wealthy parents in Lycia, in what is now called Turkey. While he was still young his parents died in a smallpox outbreak Plague of Cyprian 251–270 AD and he was raised by his uncle, Bishop Nicholas of Patara, Lycia. He was well educated by his uncle and was a reader during church services.

As he grew older and became convicted to serve Jesus Christ, he began to give away his inherited wealth to the needy. One of the oldest and best-known stories about him is how he threw dowry money into the window of a poor family three times so that the three daughters could marry well and be saved from the streets. He was still a young man when he was ordained as a priest.

Later he went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt, both to visit the Christian sites and to continue his studies under the Desert Fathers. On the return trip, as he was nearing home, the ship he was on was caught in stormy seas. The sailors feared for their lives and did what was logical - they asked the ordained priest to pray for their safety. Nicholas prayed for their safety and promised God that he would give thanks in the first church he came to when they got to land. The seas calmed. When they arrived at Myra (also in Lycia, Turkey), he ran into the church and gave thanks. Unknown to him, the church leaders had decided to let God choose their new bishop. They prayed that God would cause His chosen bishop to be the first one to come into the church. Then they sat in the church and waited. It was Nicholas, coming to give thanks, already ordained and well known among the churches

in Lycia for caring for the poor, fresh from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and with his additional studies abroad, very learned.

During his ministry as bishop, Nicholas led groups of believers to tear down the idol temples in the city of Myra, starting with the smaller shrines and eventually managing to bring down the biggest edifice. Nicholas is said to have prayed greatly before these events and that demons fled before him. The reason he started doing this is because a few of the church members were actually going to some of these shrines. He is credited with removing idol worship from the city of Myra.

He also stood firmly against political corruption, especially when one of the city leaders held back grain to get higher prices during a famine (known famines in AD 311-312 & 333). He is also said to have, in his later years, calmed a civil disturbance caused by some soldiers on leave, and also stopped the execution of three innocent men.

Bishop Nicholas was imprisoned during the tenth Roman general persecution of Christians, ordered by Emperor Diocletian in 303 AD. Nicholas was around 33 years old at this time (all Christian clergy were ordered to be arrested), and was tortured during his eight years in prison (Freed by Edict of Toleration by Galarius in 311 AD.), receiving many deep burns. It is reported that he led the flock of Christians within the overcrowded prisons. (Christians' confiscated property was returned by the Edict of Milan in 313 BC).

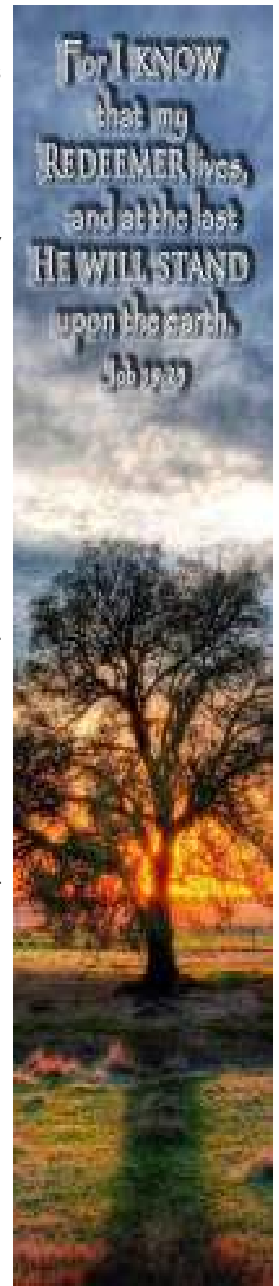
During that time there were many martyrs and the church did their best to remember and record all of them. Those who suffered great persecution in the name of Jesus Christ, but were not killed, were commonly known as confessors. Confessors were celebrated on

their return to their church communities and were greatly honored and respected. During his own lifetime Nicholas would have been known as Bishop Nicholas, Confessor.

Emperor Constantine called a council of all the bishops to Nicaea in 325 AD. Bishop Nicholas was now around age 55. He was not the only learned man of this group to be called Confessor or to carry physical scars from Diocletian's persecution. One of the main purposes of the council was to consider the doctrinal claims of Arius. Arius was called to give an account of his teachings and he began to sing a song which he felt exemplified his precepts. Bishop Nicholas considered the song blasphemous, and reacted by jumping up and striking Arius in the face. The council of bishops were shocked; Christians were supposed to be peaceable and Arius had been called and given opportunity to speak his viewpoint. Bishop Nicholas was defrocked (removed from being a bishop) and put in prison. Accounts vary, but it seems some of the bishops had trouble sleeping that night and Nicholas was restored to being a bishop the next day. The council eventually found against the doctrine of Arianism, and produced a statement of belief for all Christian churches, still in use today, known as the Nicene Creed. Bishop Nicholas of Myra is a known signatory to this document.

It is also said that Bishop Nicholas approached Emperor Constantine and asked for relief from the high taxes because the poorer people in Myra could barely afford to eat after paying their taxes - and that the people of Myra were still enjoying lower taxes than the rest of the Roman Empire a full century later, attributing this to their bishop's request.

Nicholas passed away on December 6th 343 AD, age 73.



All great Christians have been wounded souls.
AW Fojer

NOVEMBER 2014

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

Prayer Corner

Page 4

Pray for the upcoming year to be as blessed as 2014.
 Praise God as he works on the heart of the parole board to help them release men and women who have been incarcerated under the old law and should have been released years ago if the state would have continued to allow parole under that law.
 Pray for the shortfall for state budgets and that all of the cuts in the DOC budget do not affect the programs for rehabilitation, which seems to be the case most of the time.
 Pray for us to find a man to take Ron's place as chaplain one day when the Lord decides his work is finished.
 Pray for men and women getting out of prison who continued to be turned down for a job because of a past sin. The state speaks of recidivism but they do little to ensure society will hire an ex-offender in any kind of meaningful position.
 Pray for more churches to provide aftercare, support groups, pen pals, family ministry, youth ministry, and mentoring for men and their families. We need partners for this work.
 Pray for the DOC not to continue in a direction of not seeing the importance in Christian volunteers teaching the Word. At times it seems they are ready to cancel a program for the slightest reason, because it does take officers and time from other activities to be present for these services.
 Pray for the ministry board and chaplain for strength.

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;

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.

MOM stands for the Monthly Outreach Meal held at Living Word Christian fellowship every last Saturday of the month where I help

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

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.

DECEMBER 2014

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