

July/Aug
2015

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Do you need a hand?

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lived From the Inside Out

Are you Celebrating your Independence?

As our country celebrates its independence from another country this month, is this country also wanting to be independent from the sovereign will and morals of God? From the time I was a child and entered school I can look back at the changes I am experiencing in society that I would have never believed could occur in my lifetime.

Take for instance how we used to open our school day with the pledge of allegiance (under God) and prayer, yes I said prayer, something un-thought of in these day and times. Back then Christianity was looked upon and respected by the majority of society for its good moral character if nothing else. Today society, especially Hollywood, takes pot shots at Christians and God at every opportunity. Some members of society, with their perverted lives, want to be independent from the moral designs of the Bible and godly living. So in order to make themselves feel good about their sin, they try to make Christians look like fools and bigots. Society demands tolerance for all manner of diverse lifestyles, while denying Christians their right to

disagree with the world's ungodly moral values.

I do feel, however, that some so-called Christians could do a lot better job of showing God's love to those who live a lifestyle other than what we see as godly. We need to remember sin is sin, but that God commands us to love those who do us wrong.

Matt. 5 :44, 45 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." **Matt. 5:10 -12** 10 Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

If we followed Jesus' example of returning love for hate, more haters

might become brothers and sisters. Souls cannot be won through returning unkind acts to those persecuting us.

However, that does not mean we have to tolerate sin, or compromise godly morals or agree sin is allowable if they do not see things the way the Bible sees them. I know people who are living in various types of sin and who see nothing wrong with that way of life. They are not blessed with the indwelling and anointing of the Holy Spirit which allows believers to feel uncomfortable in sin. Agreeing that they have a right to live that way is like buying a drink for an alcoholic or giving money to an addict who tells you he or she just wants something to eat. It is enabling! In love we stand on Biblical morals and in love we refuse to compromise in fear of falling under more persecution.

There are too many undercover Christians today who deny the power of God in their lives, so they compromise to face less persecution. **Matt. 10:33** "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." There are many ways to deny the Father.

What must you do to receive eternal life?

Mark 10: 17-30 17 “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God. 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. 20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give

to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among

themselves, Who then can be saved? 27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. 28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

My thought for July 1 2002: Great is the Lord of the Bible, the creator and sustainer of the world. Yes he is a God of love but His judgment is as true as His love. His truthfulness and mercy are no more a part of God than His being jealous and wrathful. Know the God of the Bible not the god thatt the world has made up in their minds. Either worship God in His entirety or do not worship Him at all.

What is it you desire more than eternity with the Lord?

In **Mark 10:17-30** above, we see that Jesus showed this man what was the most important thing in his life. Although he came running, although he came excited, although he asked the right question, and even though he asked the right One, he did not receive what he asked for. **James 4: 2, 3** 2 “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and

cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts.” Did this man desire to live for eternity?. He wanted eternal life but not at the cost of what he felt was most important to him. Do you think this life has more to offer than eternity with

God? Do you ask God only for things to make this life more comfortable, forsaking the spiritual needs God has in store for those seeking to further His Kingdom? Are you asking God for the right things for the right reasons?

Jesus the Good Sheppard



Do you truly believe Jesus is coming again? If so, will you be ready?

I don't know what people are waiting for as far as a sign of Jesus coming for His church. The signs are here just as they were before Jesus was crucified. Jesus clearly told His disciples that he was going to Jerusalem to die; however, they did not understand because they were looking for the Messiah as a conqueror of Roman rule. Jesus wants to save us from our sin, not to

live our eternal life here on this earth. God always has something far better for man than man can imagine. Do we want Jesus for the spiritual blessings He has for us, or for physical comforts in the here and now? 1 Cor. 15:51-54 51 “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trum-

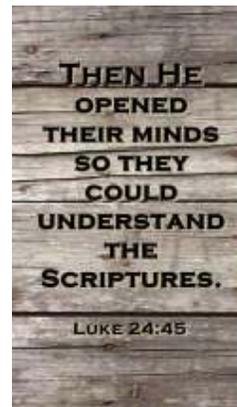
pet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

Does it seem like more and more preachers are preaching less and less about Jesus today? I remember not too long ago when certain ministers were highly respected in the Christian community. It seems like many of them have fallen into “easy believism.” Otherwise Jesus seems to be taboo in their weekly message for fear of offending a heathen who do not want to hear that name. If people complain about hearing about Jesus, I am sure they can find an apostate church that will allow them to feel

comfortable in their sin. Why do gospel-preaching churches feel so bad about losing these people that they are willing to tone down or water down the message for numbers? Why hinder the ones truly seeking the truth so the church is full or so the collection plate is running over? One day soon those ministers and those congregation member who insist on watering down the Word will answer for that decision. I have heard people say, “We do not want to offend them, or they will stop coming.” Nothing you

do will get them saved if they are not hearing the truth. Besides, we preach the truth and the Holy Spirit does the saving. **Heb. 4:12** “For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Only the truth can accomplish the convicting of sin that causes godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:10)



My thought for Aug. 1, 2002:
Your word is better than gold and your ways more important to me than my daily sustenance. I can live certain days without food and water, but I cannot exist outside your presence. Without Your Spirit, life is not worth living.

The Day of Jubilee

This year our annual Day of Jubilee will be Sept 26th. It will be a celebration of the past 28 years of this ministry. We will also pray for many more years of the same. We would love to have you come and join us. It will be held at Tim Miller’s house again. Directions will be sent out with next month’s newsletter with some pictures of last year’s celebration. As always it will be a day of prayer and praising God for

watching over us and His blessing on the ministry. Some of you have been part of that blessing. Last year we changed things a little and it worked so well we are going to continue with that format this year. We will be singing praises as the guests arrive. We will try to get the celebration started at 11:00, but you are welcome to come a little earlier and help set up. We will also appreciate some help with the cleanup after the celebra-

tion. The agenda will start with singing and prayer. Then men who have been served by a prison ministry will give their testimony, then testimonies from pen pals, and then board members. In between we might have some more singing, then the meal around 1:00 or 1:30 depending on the testimonies. After the meal there will be more testimonies and singing praises. Come and dine, spiritually and physi-

Thanks for 28 years of prayerful and financial support.

From the very early stages of this ministry, when I was living on selling livestock and my weekly paycheck as a plumber, God has been ever-present in providing all our needs through His riches in glory through Christ Jesus. From having no budget or board to having a yearly budget and a wonderful active board, God has proven His desire for this ministry to continue to serve Him in

the jails and prisons. We have received prayers and encouraging letters from inmates and lots of mothers who have praised God for providing prison ministries to be there for their sons while they are incarcerated. These letter reassure us in the hard times that God is working to save souls when we do not see any immediate result in the men were are working with. Please

continue to pray for the incarcerated, and the Church in the prisons. Like the true Church on the outside, true believers are constantly under attack from Satan. Budget cuts always seem to affect programs for the inmates as these cuts have affected their food and medical care. Many people could care less; let us pray we never become so self-righteous to be like that.



I remember the time I raised animals to support this ministry



JULY 2015

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

AUGUST 2015

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

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday are evenings I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.
 The orange numbers are the days I preach at a local church.
 The blue numbers are the days we have the (MOM) Monthly Outreach Meal at Living Word Christian Fellowship.

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.

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

How can you participate in God's work in this ministry?

There are many things people can do to help the work of the Lord in any kind of ministry. Lately, unsuccessfully, I have been requesting pen pals mostly for the male inmates I am writing. I seem to be getting an average of 5 or 6 a week added to the ones I am already personally writing. Since the number of inmates I am personally writing to varies so often (there are always new inmates requesting a pen pal, while others might be assigned a pen pal volunteer, or they might just stop writing), it is hard to say how many men I am writing at any one time, but it runs around 50 to 60 at any given time.

Some people wonder how I do it and others do not believe I do. I attained a habit of writing when I was in the

service writing home every day, I was very homesick. Then when I was incarcerated I continued writing my family daily and I picked up a few pen pals of my own. Plus, there were many inmates who could not read or write so I wrote letters home for them and read their letter from their families to them. So all that time God was preparing me for this pen pal ministry, which I will never get too old to do.

It is not so much that I do not have time to write all of these men that I ask for help; it is that I know how much someone who starts this work for the Lord will get out of it. I could tell you story after story of pen pals from the street being the one who receives the greatest blessings

out of this ministry. So being a pen pal is definitely a way to assist this ministry.

Inviting us to your church to share about the ways church can work to provide home churches and discipleship for men and women being released is another good way to assist it getting the word out.

Telling other people about this ministry who might have a loved one incarcerated might help them get insight in various aspects of incarceration they are not aware of. I just spoke to a lady in South Carolina who had gone online to request a pen pal for her son who have been in and out of prison for years with a drug problem. She said she was afraid to ask her church family to write since he had never

attended church there. I pray if someone in your congregation would ask for the church to get involved with writing someone who was not a church member they would not hesitate to write.

In previous newsletters and other correspondence I continue to mention we are looking for a place to start a Restoration House Program. This includes the need for a place to have the house, volunteers to help with the work, and finances to get it started. As I have said often, we hopefully would eventually be self-sufficient, perhaps after about two years.

Last but far from least there are the effectual, fervent prayers of the righteous for the anointing of God's presence to rest on the ministry.