

Sept/Oct 2015

Below another Day of Jubilee from the past.



CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Day Of Jubilee # 28

The Day of Jubilee started as a reunion for volunteers I met while I was incarcerated. They were invited to come to my house and enjoy, food, fellowship, and praise God for His ministry to some of the least of God children. Along with the volunteers we also invited inmates who had been released, and their families. We started the day with much praise to God for the work He had done in the lives of many of the ex-inmates who were present, and extended that praise for other inmates still being touched by those ministries who were represented, and now to Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry which had not yet received that name.

Although I began going into the jails in 1987, there was no outside support for the ministry at that time, other than a love offering for my travel from time to time by individuals who knew

me. I supported the ministry with my job as a plumber, and raising cows and hogs to help with the cost of travel. It was not until around Sept 1992 that the ministry started getting some small, but pretty regular, donations. It was at that time I was advised to create a board and appoint a treasurer. We wanted to keep everything above board, especially since I was an ex-offender and still under the scrutiny of some who might doubt my integrity. So from some members of the church, we created a board to keep me accountable, and from the very beginning I have not controlled any of the money. Even though the checks come to the ministry address, they are deposited by a treasurer. Later on, as board members left and other people interested in the ministry joined the board, more people from other churches and even other

denominations joined which made the board more diverse.

Gradually we formed bylaws, a constitution, job descriptions, and in September 29, 2010, we applied for a tax-exempt status. We had been working under the church's status, where I was the pastor when we first started receiving funds; however, because we desired to buy land and be on our own we decided to try for a tax-exempt status. After over a year, in Dec. 2011 we were approved as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization. We have so much to be thankful for. I am especially thankful for the present and past board members who made this ministry what it has become through the anointing of the Lord. I am also VERY grateful for all of the prayers and financial support from the very beginning. May God bless you all.

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

Non board member: Ronald R. Baker,
Chaplain/ Executive Director:

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

Hidden idols, how hidden are they and from whom?

In Judges and throughout the Bible, the Israelites continue to walk away from God to serve the gods of the people around them. God commanded them to get rid of all the idol worshipers in the land He had given them. Most every tribe allowed those pagans to remain for one reason or another. Jehovah had gotten them out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, and given them the possessions He had promised their forefathers. Through all of this they were a stiff-necked, rebellious, and hard-hearted people. Still God loved them and continued to forgive them and save them from the messes they got themselves in. Their God defeated every other so-called god of any of the nations they went up against; He



Some of last years Jubilee guest

people Jehovah had conquered. Why is it when they had a winner, they strayed to a non-existent god? Throughout the book of Judges they changed between serving the One true God and a god which their God had proved inferior, even non-existent. When they served these false gods on one too many occa-

showed Himself superior in every way. Still each time they reverted to serving the gods of the

sions, God told them in Judges 10: 13-16 13 “Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. 14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation. 15And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day. 16 And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.” Are there any hidden idols you are serving or that you are putting before Jehovah and His commandment, “if you love me then obey me?”

The Pen Pal Ministry is growing. Are you involved yet?

Right now I have 15 pen pals writing to male and female inmates, women to women and men to men. Some of those pen pals are writing up to 3, even 4 inmates, but most of them just 1. As I write this, I am writing around 62 inmates and 8 men who used to be locked up but still keep in touch. Tomorrow this number could change, and by the time you read this I am sure that num-

ber will have changed. In the last 3 weeks I have gotten 10 new inmates, with two inmate requests three days in a row for a pen pal. When I do not have any pen pals signed up, I write these men until I can find a family to

write and take some of these men for pen pals. As I have mentioned before I like to write at least three letters to get a feel of the pen pal’s desires before I choose a suitable pen pal for him. If he needs spiritual guidance, of course I would give this pen pal a more mature Christian to write him.



We are trying to revive an interest in Restoration House.

This past spring and summer we have been once again mentioning more regularly the desire on our part and the need on the inmate’s part for a place for men to be released to. This would be for men who have no place to go to live until they get on their feet. We are not talking about a flop house where men lay around all day, or work and have little or no supervision during their stay. We have devised a 12-month

Christian program with complete accountability for each resident 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will work and pay their way, and when not working they will be supervised by a Director of Operations who will live in the house. There will be 4 devotionals each day, Bible studies each day, household chores, and each of

these will be mandatory! We can make all of the forms, literature, and information available to any church, business, or individual who might have an interest in knowing more or being involved, either in running the house or by providing financial support. If you have no other interest, we would ask for your prayers.



For some years now I have been blessed with local help to cut wood for some needy families in our community. The slowdown in not so much on their part but mine. I am so grateful that while I am not able to do what I did years ago toward this work, that younger, stronger friends and church family have stepped up to take up the slack. Of course, burning wood myself as the only means of heating my house, there is a necessity for me to continue cutting or to buy the wood I need. There is something wonderful about going out with good Christian friends and working together to share the blessing of supplying heat for needy families through the wood that would just rot away of not used for heat.

When I look at the wood stacked up for winter burning, I know I did my part to stay warm one more winter. I want to thank all of the many individuals who bless the ministry year after year to provide heat for many people in the surrounding area with their wood. Like all of the aspects of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry there is no way one or two people

It starts out something like this



could accomplish all of the outreaches we try to join with local churches to provide. Some of the work goes on because of young, willing individuals willing to give a helping hand. Come join us this fall for those who need wood. I assure you it is wonderful exercise, if your body can take it!



Just in case one might think I actually don't do much work I posed for this picture just for you.

We could use some help with our website

We have been blessed with a wonderful brother who has been working on the computers for the ministry, at no cost, for years now. However, we could use some volunteer help with making some upgrades and changes to our website. I am able to add things to the present website, like the new newsletters every other month and change some pictures. We have been paying for our website for a long time, and although it has been helpful getting us men and

women interested in being a pen pal, we feel it could do so much more. The Network Solution company is always asking me if I want to do this or that to increase our viewing, but to be honest, I do not understand a lot of their questions. Anything they do of course costs more. I would like a volunteer to do the website changes and updates for me. That would free up that time for me to do other ministry duties I am more familiar with doing. I have also heard

there are many free websites available, so if we could take what we have now and place it on a free site we could save the ministry at least that much money per month. Maybe the other site would even be easier to work with, for when I have to make the changes. It took me a long time to learn how to work with this current site. If you have any ideas please contact us at the phone number or e-mail address in this newsletter.

I would like to praise God for His ongoing work in me.

I would like to take this small section to praise God for His many personal blessings in my life. I am thankful I have a church family who prayerfully and financially supports the prison ministry. Five of the members of my church families are writing twice that any pen pals. I am thankful that once in a while I am called on to give a message at my church even though there are several men there much better

qualified and willing to do so. I am thankful that although the local Holiness Church has a very vibrant and exciting pastor they have been satisfied to have me preach for the last two years every fifth week to give him a break. I praise God that with my preaching and teaching several times a week at the various prisons I visit, that it keeps me in the Word and keeps me studied up and I praise God for helping me lately

to realize my need of a better time of prayer and communication with Him.

Always plenty of food and fun.



SEPT 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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			

OCT 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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 minister in Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons. The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church. The green 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

Come and join us for the Celebration of the 28th Annual Day of Jubilee

Once again this year's celebration will be at Tim & Lisa Miller's home at 165 Quarry Hill Lane Schuyler, VA 22969. We would still appreciate some people coming early to help set up, and just as important will be cleaning up at the end when everyone is tired and wants to go home. The official start of the celebration will be around 11:00; however, we will be having music as the guests arrive and fellowship before the crowd gets so large. At 11:00 we will have someone explain some about the ministry for newcomers, and then we will have some opening prayers and praises, including prayer for the upcoming year and praises for the past one. Then Kathy Allen will lead the music and play some of her own songs of praise. Next on the

agenda will be several testimonies of ex-inmates who have come to know, or come back to the Lord through some of the various prison ministries while incarcerated. If there are family members who want to share about the changes in their spouses now that they are walking with the Lord, they will have time. Then we will sing some more songs of praise and enjoy God's presence. If there is still time before the meal we will give opportunity to any of the pen pals to share the simple joy of sitting at home serving the Lord by corresponding with an inmate who has no one who seems to care. Then around 1:30, we will have a wonderful fellowship meal. How do I know it will be wonderful, because each

of you can bring your favorite dish, dessert, drink, or snack. I will provide the meats. We usually have hamburgers and hot dogs, and sometimes chicken, as well as barbecue at other times. In all of the years we have had this, no one has ever gone away hungry because of a lack of food. After the meal those who are not in a hurry to leave will enjoy some more testimonies, from those who might just want to give praise, honor, and glory to the Lord, which does not necessarily have anything to do with the prison ministry. Of course there will be more music. Tim and Lisa Miller may share some songs, and others who come prepared to celebrate God, not to entertain, will also be given a chance to share their praises

through songs. Throughout the years, especially at this event, we have been asked if we would accept donations for the ministry. This question was mostly asked by those who felt the need to give from the Holy Spirit, not because they were pressured by the celebration. So we always gladly accept gifts toward the ministry even though this event has not been a fundraiser in the past. With that said we will put out a basket and there will be a statement as to where it is in case someone wants to give. However, please do not let that keep anyone from coming and enjoying this wonderful day of praising God. Your prayers are as important as any funds.