

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2016

Changing Lived From the Inside Out

What does this new year mean for you?

How will this year of 2016 be different than 2015 was for you? Will this be another year of un-kept promises to yourself and others, or will this be the best year ever of keeping promises every for you and your family? If this newsletter comes out and you are reading it, that means Jesus has allowed a little more time for repentance, a little more time to make old differences right. Are there those you need to forgive, grudges that you have been holding on to for too many years, or is there someone you need to seek forgiveness from that you have been leery to face? Why wait another moment? Why allow this issue to continue

to hinder your relationship with the Lord. Are you thinking the Word does not mean what it says in **Mark 11:26** "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

What a wonderful way to start the new year, by following **Rom. 12:17-21** 17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine

enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." **1 John 4:7, 8** 7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." If we are going to make more resolutions or promises this year let them be spiritual promises to live for Christ, and be sure to follow through with, in the Name of Jesus.



One of the goals for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry for 2016

As always we here at Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry want to honor the Great Commission, which for us basically consists of the jails and prisons, but also wherever we can have contact. We do not exclude family members who re-

quest us to minister to a loved one, or family members the inmate might desire us to pray for. So one of many goals for 2016 is to receive more pen pals from the community with the heart to accomplish to Great Commission and not

even have to leave their home or comfortable chair to do so. I wish you could read some of the letters I get from pen pals both free and incarcerated about the joy they have received through being a part of the pan pal outreach.

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Pen Pal

(letter writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

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Restoration House

Ministry training seminars are available for local churches.

How is being lax in your prayer causing a falling away from God?

I have come to the conclusion that no matter how much I pray, it is never too much. The way the world is falling apart, the sin that is being ushered into society and being received with open arms, and the way so many seemingly previously Christian churches have turned their backs on the truth: can we really pray too much?

Don't get me wrong, I know God's Word prophesies how these last days will be. Men will be lovers of self and turn from God to the desires of the flesh and how God's people will be persecuted and ridiculed. These are the

things we need to be praying for: that we do not allow good Christians to fall into the trap of settling for these ungodly changes, for any reason. **Matt.17:21** "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." When was the last time you fasted for a prayer to be answered? **Luke 6:12** "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." When was the last time you prayed for hours much less all night?



Come to me and I will give you rest.

Rom. 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." Let us put aside the murmuring and complaining about how things are falling apart around us, and be instant in prayer for God's protection and for the fellowship as Jesus prayed: **John 17:9** "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine." Continue to pray and be a witness to all. **1 Thess. 5:17** "Pray without ceasing."

Why does man blame God when he faces the consequences for his sin?

People disobey all the time and then complain because bad things happen, which would not have happened if they had paid attention to God and been obedient. I am guilty like a lot of people. People smoke and ignore all of the warnings, people drink and say it is not harming me; until it does. People sleep around and think because society readily accepts it, now it is alright, until someone gets pregnant, or someone gets a disease as a result. People lie, and that demands more lies in order to not be found out. Society's laws and rules seem to change with the lack of moral fiber in the world; however, God's com-

mandments never change because of the wishes of the majority. Disobedience to the truth demands consequences whether it be from the law of man or God's laws. However man's law changes with the desires of the flesh, the Word is still truth. You cannot find truth in the decisions of the majorities. What is truth you might ask? **John 17:17** "Sanctify them through thy

2 Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

truth: thy word is truth." When mankind really wants to be free from the consequences of sin, the answer is to live in the spirit and rebuke the desires of the flesh. This is not to say nothing bad will ever come to someone walking in the spirit; however, it will not come as a result of willful sin. Do not let this verse give you an excuse to continue in willful sin. **Rom. 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" True Christians are being sanctified, set apart, by God by their recognition of the truth, and their obedience to it. Let us obey more and complain less.

Pen Pals Share Their Stories of the Joys in Letter Writing.

In July 2015 I sent out a group of e-mails to the pen pals who have come alongside this ministry over the years and I requested they share their experiences with our pen pal outreach. I also started writing various inmates asking them about the influence of having Christian pen pal sharing God's Word with them had on their lives. So in the newsletters starting this month we will

place as many responses, as we have room for. I am putting the messages in order of when they were sent back, so you will see them in that order. If you see letter writing as something you might want to try to write to someone the world has



One of many such pen pals reading the ministry newsletter and writes letter.

thrown away, contact us. We will put you in touch with a pen pal. If you are a family you can write male or female inmates. If you are female: ladies write ladies; men or families write men.

With so many lies being taught today as truth, Christians need to live God's truth as an example for mankind.

John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." What exactly does the truth free one from? False teaching is everywhere. Lately I have been getting letters from inmates speaking of chaplains speaking in favor of same sex marriage, saying the Bible is outdated and that things have changed, that these are modern times and people need to change with the times. One man who shared these words from another state even said his chaplain denied the deity of Jesus, however she still calls herself a Christian Chaplain. Now I would expect these kind of statements from cults, but to say "I am a Christian" and deny the deity of Jesus seems to be counter pro-

ductive. She said Jesus was flawed; I would certainly not want to follow a God who was flawed. Of course, why not expect these lies in the prisons, they certainly fill the TV and radio airwaves, and some churches out here in the free world. This is one of many reasons, we who are truly Christians need to live our Christian walk— as we talk the talk we need to walk that walk. Men and woman who were lost in the depravity of their sin, gone to prison for those sins, and then starting to seek God are being introduced to a false god. How can they be made free from the bonds of sin when their god is flawed, when the Bible is being introduced as needing an update because the majority of

society does not want to follow it these days. They cannot be made free except they hear and obey the truth. **Mark 16:15** "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Let our love of others be our message to the world around us. Instead of making judgments on some, as to whom we feel comfortable ministering to or looking at their past deciding if they are worthy of our time; let us see them as potential brothers or sisters in the Lord. **Matt. 10:16** "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

Restoration House, a long-time dream becoming a reality.

What a blessing it is to finally be able to share the good news of having a building and property for the Restoration House program to get started. Here are some pictures of the house to show how much work needs to be done. We pray for lots of volunteers; both for the work, and for the material as well. We have had a couple church groups to volunteer to do some of the work, and we have even received a few financial gifts toward the materials for the repairs.

As you look at all of these pictures try not



to be too negative and, think thoughts like, "Who would buy something in that shape?" We needed a start and God showed us something we could afford, and with the proper help and hard work we will make this house whatever God allows us to make of it. If we decide to fix it up and sell it for a down payment for a much more rural location or use it as the first Restora-

tion House it is a blessing for me to see it as a reality, before the Lord decides to take me home. We need to do the



roof and there is block work and lots of carpentry work. It would be nice to find a nice siding company willing to give us a large discount on siding; if not we will need to smooth the wood and paint. Some of the damage will need some scrubbing and some will just need to be replaced. We will be removing lots of tree limbs and brush which grew out of control. The house has enough space to house 5 or 6 men after the work is done. With them working and paying rent the house might be self-sufficient eventually, as long as we can keep the house full, as men finish the program



and move out and new men move in and start working. There is lots of work to do besides the building. As it gets to the

point of being able to house men, we need to find jobs to start out with which do not demand any kind of certification. We have several places to check out.

We want to be sure the house is insulated well and we have an oil furnace and a heat

pump that I am donating to the house for a heating and cooling source. We still need lots of prayers for the help and finances for the materials. But now that we have something to actually see we hope many will join us and make things happen. Praise the Lord!



JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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28	29					

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday are evenings I minister at Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.

The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church.

The green numbers are the days Living Word Christian Fellowship has the (MOM) Monthly Outreach Meal at Piney River Fire House.

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

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Two comments from Pen Pals Past and Present on Their Experience Corresponding with Inmates.

This is my first time participating in a pen pal ministry with men who are incarcerated. I was challenged to volunteer in this way after hearing brother Ron share about the encouragement a letter from someone can make with a person who is in prison. I have often thought about the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 where he states that it's the simple things like offering food and water and hospitality to strangers that we demonstrate the love of Jesus. And maybe writing a letter is the next best thing to visiting someone as Jesus also talks about in verse 36.

It's seems like such a small thing to take time to write a note a couple times a month but I can only imagine what it is like to be away from family and loved ones and wonder whether anyone cares. I hope my small gestures of interest do indeed point others to a loving God who has not given up on them.

Just like God hasn't given up on me.

I encourage others to take up this simple act of writing notes to persons who God loves and calls us to love on his behalf.

We have been in this ministry for many years, most recently with Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministries, and before that through other organizations that are no longer offering a prison pen pal program.

Encouraging precious souls who are in prison has blessed us probably much more than those who receive our letters.

My husband and I are near 80 years old, so we believe our long years of experience through life's ups and downs might be helpful to our Pen Pals. We too have made many mistakes over the years, since we came to faith in the Lord later in our lives. We have experienced the comfort of knowing that God wipes away

even the most grievous sin if we will repent and place our faith in Jesus our Savior.

Except for two women (who have since been released from prison), all our Pen Pals have been men. With only one or two exceptions, all have been faithful in writing. Only one became angry because we would not fulfill his requests for money or items such as a TV and he asked us to stop writing. Soon after I sent him a birthday card which made him even more angry...and so we gave up, but do continue to pray for him, as well as for those who have completed their sentences. Our other Pen Pals have really grown in their Christian faith since we began writing to them. Although they may have started off writing short letters, as time went on and they learned that we really cared about them, they shared more and more.

They admit their wrongdoing

and are grateful for any encouragement in prison such as worship services, or Bible studies via correspondence. Some are taking GED or other educational courses. One of our pen pals is serving for life with no possibility of parole, two have 40-50 year sentences, others have shorter sentences, the youngest will be released in two years. None had fathers in their lives, which true of so many in our prisons. Most of their family members don't write or visit. They are estranged from their own children, if any, and from their wives, if they had a wife.

We are so grateful for the privilege of sharing with them the wonders of God's love. They have much to overcome, but the Lord is Able.