

March/April
2016



Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lives From the Inside Out

We want to thank Artis Mules for her part in this newsletter.

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LOVE ONE ANOTHER



It was said of the last living apostle, John, that when he was old, the believers would carry him on a pallet to the meetings to hear what wisdom he would tell them. And he would say to them, "My children, love one another, love one another, love one another." (See also: John 13:34-35, 15:12, 15:17, 1 John 3:11, 3:23, 4:7, 4:11-12, 2 John 5.)

When we love one another we show that we are one with God who IS love 1 Jn.4:8b "...for God is love." When we love one another in Christ, our joy is full (Jn.15:10-11). And when our joy

is full, so is our strength. Neh. 8:10b "...the joy of the LORD is your strength." Loving one another increases our joy and strength because it demonstrates our love for God and our obedience to Him. (1 John 4:21, 1 John 5:3).

As loving one another is the strength of the Lord, this is the kingdom warfare which we are called to fight in the Lord's strength, that is, to love one another in meekness. (Ps. 144:1, Ps. 45:3-4, Mt. 11:29) It is our God who uses loving meekness to win Kingdom battles.

As we approach Resurrection Sunday, it is good for us to think on the love of Jesus Christ as he fought the good fight and laid down His life for us (Jn. 15:13) to rescue us from our sins, even when we didn't deserve it (1 Jn. 4:10-11). Jesus used silence,

meekness, love, and patience in suffering to win the biggest battle of all.

The cross that we must bear is not any physical ailment (Those are thorns: 2 Cor. 12:7.), but rather laying down our lives in service to one another in love—the same cross that Jesus bore for us. As we have not yet prayed until we sweat blood, so we have not yet meekly loved one another to the point of crucifixion (Eph. 4:2).

Therefore, as we have opportunity let us show love to one another (Gal. 6:10), even as Peter and Paul also taught us. (Rom. 12:10, 13:8, Eph. 4:2, 1 Thes. 3:12, 4:9, Heb. 10:24, 1 Peter 1:22, 3:8)



Restoration House

TWENTY NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

We rejoice greatly in the fact that this March marks our 29th year of ministry, and we give God thanks and all the glory for all he has accomplished through us during this time. As we begin this our 29th year, we are so excited to see the beginning also of Restoration House

for "...when the desire cometh it is a tree of life." (Pr. 13:12b) We look forward to a day when the completed Restoration House will bless the spiritual lives of our brothers who have been released; helping them step into fully restored lives in the community. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we

eagerly look forward to all that the Lord our God will do in the coming year as he leads us to serve Him by loving and serving our brothers and sisters in Christ each day (Gal. 5:13b).

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.

SIMON OF CYRENE

Simon and his family had to travel almost 900 miles from Cyrene, what was then a very large and prosperous city in Libya, North Africa, to get to Jerusalem. They left the large Jewish community in Cyrene to make the possibility once in a lifetime pilgrimage to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem.

When the Roman soldiers laid hold on Simon, put the cross on his shoulder and ordered him to carry it (Lk.23:26), they were using the Roman law which allowed them to make anyone passing by carry their gear for one mile. This was a well-known law referred to by Jesus in Matthew 5:41. Taking up the bloody cross would have also rendered Simon unclean and therefore unable to eat the Passover meal that he had

traveled so far to celebrate, but he had no choice.

Later however, his testimony was treasured among the early Christians and recorded in three of the Gospels (Mt 27:32, Mk. 15:21, Lk. 23:26). This may be because of the participation of Simon and his family in the life of the early church. This is shown by Mark's quick mention of him as the father of Alexander and Rufus, clearly expecting his readers to recognize these two men and who their father was.

The church in Antioch was started by native Greek speaking men from Cyprus and Cyrene (Acts 11:19-21) who naturally associated with the Greek speaking community in Antioch, after they fled from the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. Many com-

mentators believe that the Simon mentioned as one of those who sent forth Saul and Barnabas as missionaries in Acts 13:1 is the same Cyrenian Simon who carried the cross and whose eye-witness testimony may have carried great weight in Antioch. Rufus and his mother were also known to Paul (Rom. 6:16) and were in Rome by that later date, perhaps traveling there as missionaries.



AN UNUSUAL SOUNDING PROPHECY

Psalms 8:2 "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."

On the face of it, this is a very strange statement. How can a baby stop an enemy? How can a toddler be strong against an avenger? How can the mouth, or utterance, of such a little one be powerful enough to still, or shut up, anyone else?

To those reading the Scriptures in Old

Testament times, this must have made little sense. Yet, for that very reason, it should have been easy to remember.

Jesus himself gave the answer to the meaning of this verse. Matthew 21:15-16: "And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased. And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never

read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

Their answer? Silence.

So Jesus left them (Mt. 21:17). It must have been irritating to them to think that Jesus called the things the children were saying about him, "Hosanna to the Son of David" in the temple as a fulfillment of that verse - and also to be cast themselves in the role of enemies and avengers. Yet, they could think of no reply.

Heb. 4:12a "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword..."

When it comes to swords, there's one really important thing to know:

*Which end of it are you on?
John 12:48*

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older. Keep me from getting talkative and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everyone's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me

REFLECTIONS

wisdom and wings to come quickly to the point. I ask for grace to listen sympathetically to the tales of other's pains; help me to endure them with patience but seal my lips on my own aches and pains. They are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming greater as the years go by. Teach me the glorious lesson that I may occasionally

be mistaken. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, knowledge and experience it seems a pity not to use it all. But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

- By Unknown

STEADFASTNESS

Luke 9:51 "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,"

Jesus knew it was getting close to the time when he would suffer crucifixion for our sins. And he moved firmly and decisively to accomplish the goals that he knew God had set for him.

He did not waste time engaging in wishful thinking about what it might be like if things were different, or trying to live like a regular person with a home, wife, kids, possessions, or trade. He simply preached to as many as he could on the journey to go be crucified for God's purpose for his life.

He put aside all distractions from this

difficult reality he needed to face and warned others also not to be distracted from the plans God had for their own lives, even as he continued on to Jerusalem, knowing ahead of time that the outcome would be his death.

Luke 9:61-62 "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

This is the same as what he had preached previously (Mt. 8:21-22), but it carried added significance as he lived it out himself before his disciples as a witness to us



of how we should behave.

Let us seek first the Kingdom of God (Mt. 6:33) and not let anything distract us from the work that we know God is calling us to complete for his Kingdom with our time here on earth.

APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN CHRIST

As we approach the season of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is a good spiritual exercise to remember just exactly what it was that the disciples based their witness upon (Luke 1:2, 2 Peter 1:16). They knew for a certainty that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead because they had seen Him themselves, and this is what they taught everywhere they went. Below are the Biblical records of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection:

Mary Magdalene (Mk. 16:9; Jn. 20:15-16)
Women at the tomb (Mt: 28:9)

Two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-31)
Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5)
The ten (Jn. 20:19)
The eleven (Jn. 20:26)
The seven (Jn. 21:1-22).
The eleven on a certain mountain in Galilee (Mt. 28:16)
The twelve, including Matthias (1 Cor. 15:5; Acts 1:26)
To 500 brethren (1 Cor. 15:6)
James, the Lord's brother (1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19)
All the apostles (1 Cor. 15:7; Mk. 16:19-20; Lk.24:50-53; Acts 1:3-12, 26)



"...eyewitnesses of his majesty."

NO GO, NO LO

Some of God's promises are free gifts of grace from him and some are conditional, based on our obedience to him, for if we love God we will naturally want to obey him. In John 14:23-24 Jesus makes this clear: "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent

me."

Matthew 28:19-20 is one of those conditional promises: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." This verse is easily remembered by the phrase, "No go, no lo."

This verse can refer to preaching the Gospel, but also It could refer to encouraging those who are already believers. (1 Cor. 3:6-8)

Do we want God to be with us always, and yet not want to go and witness about him? The two are connected! This is one of God's Bible promises to us that is conditional. We are told to go and share our testimony about God, and he will be with us! That is indeed a great and precious promise!

MARCH 2016

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	24	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2016

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

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday are evenings I minister Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons. The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church.

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

THE RESURRECTION STORY

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." Acts 2:32
Then, as the text declares, the disciples became witnesses to the world of the fact of the resurrection and the reality of the Christian religion.

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." This witnessing of the disciples was in accord with the divine purpose. Christ, in referring to the occasion of our text, said, "Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto Me." They were to witness for him at home and abroad, not merely witnessing unto Him, but witnesses chosen by Him to take His place where He was not. The confidence that our Lord

was real and absolute. Through His resurrection, His mission was fully revealed to them, and henceforth their lives were to be different. They were no longer the selfish, worldly-minded people they once were, but they had become spiritualized and filled with confidence and joy. Thus they set out upon their work, and the record of their untiring zeal for the Master's work shows that His confidence was not misplaced. They became witnesses of the highest type, embodying in their lives the spirit of the Master.

Witnessing then for Christ involved no little difficulties. These disciples were required to face persecution and even braved a martyr's death. Christianity was not then held in high esteem. The

Gospel was hateful and odious to many people. To the Jews it was a stumbling block and to the Greeks, foolishness. The disciples were hunted as disturbers of the peace. They were obliged to suffer ostracism and all manner of abuse. Only men of real convictions could accomplish anything during these trying times. But they were so enthused over the resurrection that they considered it a great honor to suffer for His sake. So after referring to the afflictions he had endured and those that awaited him, one disciple said, "Neither count I my life dear unto myself that I may finish my course with joy and the ministry that I have received of the Lord."

Never forget. "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that

whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Again, when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons. Also, "It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Jesus came into this world and lived among men that we might be saved from eternal ruin. "Greater love hath no man than this that he will lay down his life for others." Perchance a good man may die for his friends, but who will die for his enemies? Yet that is what Christ did. He gave his life on the cross for his enemies and the haters of God.

—Rev. Charles A. Snider