

REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2016

Changing Lives from the Inside Out

Have a Merry and Blessed CHRISTmas

I pray as we celebrate the day set aside for the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the lost, the Lover of the downtrodden, the King of kings and Lord of lords, that we do it in a manner pleasing to God the Father who is watching over His children. Let's not compromise our holiday greeting with a "happy holiday," or some other season's greetings.

Let those of us that belong to God make it plain, in love, especially during this special time of the year. Ps. 107: 2 "Let the redeemed of the LORD say [so], whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." So if we are redeemed we need to show God's love to all the lost of this world, not compromising what we believe for fear of offending some lost soul who needs to hear the truth about why this day is being celebrated.

Each year I share concerns about the way society makes Christmas all about gifts, spending, and about how people feel they deserve things, and that these things will make them and their families happier. I get more criticism from church goers than from people who do not believe when I share these things. I just wish all of the Christians would decide to celebrate this time of the year in a

special spiritual way. Many already do! I blame some of the way Christians celebrate Christmas on the liberal ministers who are afraid to speak out against the idea that it is all about gifts, shopping, and parties, which do not celebrate the birth of God's Incarnate. I have heard several times, "Your articles are offensive," and I ask, "Why are you offended?" If you are celebrating the birth of Christ in a proper manner, none of this applies to you.

How would you feel if, on the day they celebrate your birth, you are not invited, you are ignored totally, and, in fact, your name is not even allowed to be mentioned? I know how I would feel and since Jesus had done so much for me I feel just as bad when people celebrate this special time of the season in ways contrary to giving honor, glory, and praise to God for His Son.

I encourage each one who reads this newsletter not to get upset, but think of better ways to celebrate this wonderful event. Perhaps some of you have a custom of reading the story of Jesus' birth and explaining why we set aside this day to celebrate even though we are not sure of the day of Jesus' birth. I am sure they will hear that from class mates. Reading the story of Jesus birth,

explaining why He came and what He has done to make us free from sin. Explaining to our children it is not about gifts, Santa, or all the things they hear about in public schools. When children are taught how serious Jesus' birth is to mankind through reading the story of Jesus' birth, and when these things are reinforced year after year, our children could be strengthened in a world that denies Jesus' existence at every opportunity.

Ps 78:4-7 4 "shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know [them, even] the children [which] should be born; [who] should arise and declare [them] to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:"

Chairman: Tim Miller Board Members: Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa Miller, Paul Driver, Jon Freivald, Editors: Artis Mules, Non board member: Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain/ Executive Director: Associate Editor: Sherry Wilkerson, Lindsey Wydner, Kelly Locklear, Phoebe King, Mary Kiser

Ministry Outreaches Available:

In - Prison Ministry - After Care - Support Groups - Pen Pal (letter writing)
Mentoring - Family Ministry - Youth Ministry - Restoration House

We thank Mountain View Mennonite Church for all of their blessings for Restoration House



Not only has Mountain View hosted our first fund raising banquet, agreed to host it again next year, and taken up offerings for windows from the male and female VBS students, many of the members have been very active in the actual hands-on work in the house. Some of them did carpenter work, some electrical, some cleaning and painting, while other did other jobs to help us get ready for residents. There is still

much work needed for Restoration House. If your church would like to get involved as Mountain View has PLEASE contacts us and do not miss out of the blessing you will receive doing something for those who society would call the least of these. Matt. 25: 45 "Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [it] not to one of the least of these, ye did [it] not to me." We have a list of

things we can still use for the House in this newsletter and of course anything that is not donated we will buy for the house as the money becomes available.



Thanks to the Nelson County Youth Mission group!

We at the Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry would like to thank Beamer Magan, Daveon Rose, Michael Knighton, Joe Bender, Jacob Fitzgerald, Hunter Ponton, Leroy Harper, Devante Rose, Devon Cousins, Darius Hill, Tristin Lucas, Delaney Bias, Xavier Lucas, Dylan Small, Seneca Gruber, Thomas Almquist, Bucky Simpson, Michael Turner, Caleb Davis, Jacob Chaney, Carson Lucado, Heather Campbell, Hailee Campbell, Lexy Deane, Corinne Bridgewater, Jared Bridgewater, Kayla Collins, Kris Norris, Kaua Rose, and Robert Toliver for helping with work on the Restoration House. They also worked in other central VA areas on many other projects helping needy families with many repairs. Thanks and God bless you and your leaders. In the top photo to the right, we see a picture of

one of one of the piles of brush that the youth had to work on along with many



other task at Restoration House.

After a morning of hard work, the youth and leaders rested with a good lunch. Ron was ask to give his testimony during this time and to tell a little



about what the house was to be used for. Then everyone went back to work - some at the house and

others to different locations. To the far left, we see pictures of before the work got started. The plants were all grown up. After Scott and the rest of us finished digging and hauling some of the brush, rocks, and stumps away, it looks like the picture on the bottom left. We want to thank the leaders of the youth group, the youth, and Scott for all the hard work they did to help get the Restoration House closer to being ready for residents. I am sorry I did not have a picture of the entire group together. As you can see in the bottom picture far left we still need help with the landscaping but we have a tractor to help make that work easier. So we are praying we will get the lawn leveled up and grass planted by fall or earlier. We started the siding the first of Sept.



Is there a writer in you wanting to get out?

We used to have an inmate who authored a section called *Inmate's Corner*. He would present a list of questions one month and the following month would share the answers to the previous month's questions, along with another set of questions. We have also in the past had others write poems, short stories or testimonies. I have no problem filling these newslet-

ters with, articles which I hope are interesting. However when I get materials from others, readers really love them as well. So if you are reading this newsletter and would like to write something, we will be happy to look it over and see how it fits into our agenda. Keep in mind this is a Christian newsletter, so the less secular materials we add the bet-

ter. If you would like to do an ongoing article let me know how many words it will include to be sure I can fit it into the newsletter.

If you are like me and your grammar and spelling is not the best we have excellent editors who can edit your work. All articles will need to agree with our Bible teaching, of course, in order to be used.



Writing articles could be fun

Do you know or have you felt the joy the shepherds felt?

Luke 2:8-20 8 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall

find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found

Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen [it], they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard [it] wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered [them] in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

Isa. 9: 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Moving into year 30 for this ministry. We could not have done it without you all!

As we get ready to start another year of service to the Lord in the jails and prisons, this ministry has taken on an extra outreach in the Restoration House Program. Continue to pray for us and all we want to do to serve God, inmates, and their families through this ministry. We have come a very

long way, from not knowing where the money for fuel was coming from to visit a prison, to having so many people get behind us financially to help start the Restoration House Program. We prayed for this for 28 years before we actually got a house to start this program. God taught us

patience during those years. We certainly saw these words come true: Phil. 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." and Gal. 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."



When this program proves to be successful the next house could house 20 residents and look like this.

NOV 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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DEC 2016

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 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.

"All donations of any kind are tax deductible under United States Code Section 170(c)(2). All giving constitutes your express agreement to relinquish control in accordance with IRS regulation."

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Things still needed for Restoration

We still need some drywall repaired and some carpentry.

We need to get the bat dung vacuumed up in the attic.

We still need some painting done and when all of the work is finished we will need to clean the carpets once again and shampoo them.

We need a refrigerator.

We are going to need pots, pans dishes for 8, eating utensils for 8 and other kitchen items.

We will need towels, wash cloths, and other things for the bathroom.

We need lots of prayers for the success of this project. With success, when the time comes we can start looking for another house which will be for men. Then the present house will be for women.

Would anyone one know of a prospect for Director of Operations?

Job description of the Director of Operations for Restoration House and Serenity House

The duties of the Director of Operations of either the Restoration House for male residents or the Serenity House (later on) for female residents will be identical.

In order for the director to have a basic understanding of what needs to be done to keep the house in order, he or she will need to have a working knowledge of the House Rules and Spiritual Guidelines. Both of these forms are located at <http://jailandprisonministries.org/> under Restoration House.

The director will be responsible for seeing that all the rules and guidelines are followed and that the mandatory Christian services are held daily. This can be understood by going to the above Web site. Sunday church is mandatory. If a resident is ill and cannot attend any of the mandatory ser-

vices or programs, he will need to fill out an excuse which will be signed by the director and the resident. Missing a lot of such programs will determine the holding off of certain privileges.

Personal devotional times and Bible reading will be encouraged since this entire program is about becoming more intimate with God. The House Rules and Spiritual Guidelines will be presented to the inmate before he or she is given an application to the program and both of these documents will be signed by the inmate as to the fact he or she has read them and agrees to follow each. I had a short discussion with the local parole officer and he has agreed if residents will not follow the rules either on parole or probation he will assist us in dismissing any unruly resident. The director will be sure the chores are assigned to each resident and that these chores are accomplished. He or she will

keep the daily and weekly records of each resident filled out so as to know when the resident deserves special privileges such as going to town (after a suitable amount of time in the program) or have family or friends visitors at the house.

When special work details are designated for the residents to help in the community if one of the board members is not available the director will supervise the detail. We want the community to see the Restoration House Program as an asset to the community and we know actions speak louder than words. We will go over more details with any applicant at the time he or she shows interest in this position. Room and food will be the compensation for the director until we can begin getting revenue; when residents begin working to make the Director of Operations a paid position.