

REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER - MAY/JUNE 2017

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Do you know when the Lord is coming ?



JESUS IS STILL
SPEAKING TO THE
MULTITUDES
THROUGH HIS WRIT-
TEN WORD

Suppose you knew when the Lord was going to return for His church (ekklesia) what would you do to get ready? When would you begin preparing? There are many different interpretations of when Jesus will return. Some confuse the second coming with the rapture. Some feel the rapture comes before tribulation, some in the middle of tribulation and some say the rapture comes at the end of tribulation. My question is do you know for sure when Jesus is coming back to take His church out of this world? If that answer is no, then when will you as a born again believer begin to get ready for His coming? Another question is how will you prepare? Let's look at some scripture to help us in the situation. Paul and the early church after hearing Jesus speak of the drawing away of His followers felt it could happen in their lifetime, so they were ready if it hap-

pened at any time. Rom. 13:11-14 ¹¹And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is high time to awake out of sleep*; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.¹²The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.¹³Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Certainly, we know the coming of Jesus, no matter when it happens, is closer now than it has ever been. When Noah warned the people for 120 years of the coming flood, they must have gotten tired of hearing about it, but when the rain finally came only Noah and his family was prepared. Preachers have been warning of the coming of the Lord for many years, and a lot of people are still ignoring it. Matt. 24:30, 31 ³⁰"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹"And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end

of heaven to the other.

The angels are not gathering the elect for judgment, and Jesus is not on the earth. He is waiting in a cloud. He is waiting in a cloud. The second coming is for judgment, and He will not wait in a cloud. John 14:1-4 ¹"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴"And where I go you know, and the way you know." John McArthur says this was a new revelation of what had previously been an unrevealed mystery: **we who are alive and remain.** This refers to Christians alive at the time of the Rapture, those who live on this earth to see the coming of the Lord for His own. I say all of this to say you will be without excuse when Jesus comes either in the drawing away of His church or for those at the second coming. The warning is in His Word! True born again believers have the indwelling Holy Spirit to keep them ready at any time for the Lord's return for His church. If we heed the voice of the Spirit, we will be ready, so let's get use to obeying God's Word both written and that still small voice.

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If someone knew when Jesus was coming but wanted to wait until the last minute to be ready, would that be the spirit God would want one to have?



REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Our Heavenly Father should be the example of the Father we Should be

A thought I had on May 6, 2002:

Come to the Lord and see how good He is. He forgives the sinner and renews the sinner's heart so that he wishes not to continue to live in sin. If we come to Him, he is available for us., If we repent of our sins, He will give us the strength to do His will.

Quotes from one of my pen pals:

Give thanks to God, our creator, who gives us the breath of life.

God is the Master of turning burdens into blessings.

The reason we exist is to be in fellowship with God.

Unseen heroes are always seen by God.

We cannot change the past, but God is changing us for the future.

God's will done in His way will never lack God's supply.

Many men have not been the best father they could have been



thus far in their life. It is never too late to make positive changes. Let's look at God and how he so loved the world. Let's look at Jesus' love for the little children both actual children and those new believers in the Word. My children were taken from me long ago through no fault of my own. Their mother, who lived out of state, took them for a

visit, and she never brought them back. I was not the best father in the world, but I never felt that I deserved that. Of course, we never feel we deserve what is coming to us. Anyway, when my children were gone, I went down a very dark path, and after I came back to Jesus, I was glad they had not been with me during those very dark years. In going down that dark road, I could blame my rebellion, saying "if she had not taken the children, I would not have rebelled." However, knowing the love of God like I do now, I see God removed those dear children from the path He knew I was headed down, even though He was showing me a better way

and had been for years. I still do not see my own children and have not for many years, so I make every child the object of Godly love as if I was showing my children my love.

If you have not been a good father, no matter the reasons, start trying to make up for it now. Some reading this letter may never see their children or may never be able to show their love toward children. Remember, God is sovereign, and He will restore the years the locus stole. To me this explains that God will restore our peace and joy that was lost during our journey outside of His will. Have a blessed Father's Day

Lets take a look at your father.

Some us may not have had the best father possible, perhaps he was a tyrant, treated us harshly or worse. We need to forgive and remember no matter how good or bad our earthly father was we have a Heavenly Father who will never leave us nor forsake us. Many fathers are absentee fathers or some even dead beat fathers. Remember, our Father God never leaves us, and we should never refuse to do our best for our family, no matter

what the circumstances. Just because you have children by several women because of a life of sin, it does not relinquish your responsibility to support the children the best you can. If our fathers were not supportive, not there, not loving, we need to pray for them if they are still living and forgive them either living or dead. The sins we committed before acknowledging Jesus as our Lord have been forgiven, but you are still re-

sponsible for the consequences of those actions. Father's Day should be a time of joy for children to know their fathers are taking responsibility for their family. If in turn your father was not the best, remember since Jesus has saved you, you are held to a much higher standard now, and therefore, you need to forgive all sins against you and make up for past sins again your children.

Readers of this newsletter

These newsletters go out to inmates in many prisons as well as to churches and individual Christians who support this ministry. Some of the articles may not be for everyone; maybe they seem a little harsh or out of place to some, while touching the hearts of others. So I pray you can read and enjoy the newsletters and pray for the ministry and all of those who read this newsletter and all who we reach out to. I

thought a lot before using the Mother's Day story, I prayed and read it over several times. I decided to use it. I have lost one of the people who used to write some very wonderful stories or share some that she read elsewhere. She is not longer able to write for the ministry newsletter, so I do the best that I can.

Here are two very different pictures of my mother, one on a Harley and the other with my

sister. Oh how I wish I could see her and talk to her now. There is so much I wish I would have said, but thankful that I did show her love. I wish I would have been more obedient.





Your Son Was Shot!

By Katherine Kehler

Standing near the cross (was Jesus' mother, Mary)" (John 19:25)

"Your son has been shot," the ambulance attendant told me as they wheeled our son Mark into the hospital lobby.

The grocery store where our son worked evenings and weekends had just called and told me to rush to the hospital because Mark had been hurt. But they didn't tell me what happened.

When I saw Mark's ashen face I was shocked,



but also very thankful he was alive. It was the evening before his 18th birthday.

They rushed him to the emergency room and I stood there watching as they peeled back the bloody bandage, revealing the gun shot wounds. The bullet went between his bottom two ribs and out the back. Then they began to look for a vein so they could give him antibiotics intravenously. I guess I must have been quite pale because one of the nurses said I better sit down, which I did.

I sat there stunned, not being able to take in what had just happened. Shootings happen to someone else's family, don't they? Is this what Mary, the mother of Jesus felt like, I wondered? When she saw Jesus on the cross, wounded and bleeding,

was she numb? Did she want to scream at the men who nailed him to the cross? How could she bear watching?

Every time I hear a child cry in pain, every time I see starving children on TV or hear about a child being abused, my stomach turns into a knot. How could anyone be so cruel?

It took about three months for our son to recuperate. The man who shot him was never apprehended. (He walked out of the store with a cart of stolen groceries and Mark had followed him.) We prayed for this man.

We must accelerate the prayers for the mothers of the hurting, hungry, thirsty, and wounded children of the world. Pray for them. Ask God to show you how

you can help.

Father, sometimes it takes a shocking experience to open our eyes to the pain around us. Give us seeing eyes and compassionate hearts. Don't let us become apathetic. Amen.

"Suppose this was your son or supposed you were the robber who shot this young man, do you think you could understand how the mother in this story felt. Perhaps at one time you would not have cared. Hopefully God has changed that heart if that was necessary. A good mother is a precious gift from God. Show her all the love you can while she is living. As the saying goes, give me my flowers while I am living." Ron Baker

Celebrate!

by Katherine Kehler

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Mom's eighty-third birthday! I almost forgot. This could very well be her last birthday, so we better celebrate — to show honor to a wonderful mother, grandmother and a faithful servant of God.

Quickly I phoned my sister-in-law and suggested we invite all our children, their spouses, and the grandchildren for an evening of fun at the seniors' hospital where Mom was living.

We made arrangements with the hospital to use the open area for the party, called all the kids and grandchildren, baked the cake, and packed

forks, plates, and napkins. Whew! We made it. Most of the local family members were there. Her son and daughter wheeled her into the room as we sang "Happy Birthday!" She looked so frail and small in her wheelchair, but she was so pleased that we were there. I could see that it would not be long before the Lord would take her home to be with Him. That would be a great day for her.

What I remember most vividly about that evening was watching her as we began to sing her favorite hymns. Even though she wouldn't remember the party five minutes after we left, in that moment she was singing with us. She lifted her arms in praise to her Heavenly Father as we all

sang her favorite, "God is so good! God is so good! God is so good, He's so good to us."

That party was in the middle of June. The Lord took her home in July.

When I think back to Mom's last birthday, I recall it being a very busy day. It would have been so easy to think, "She won't know the difference. Why bother?" But God put the thought of a birthday party in my heart, and I am so glad I made it a priority.

Celebrate family! You never know how long they will be with you.

Father, I thank You for Godly mothers and fathers. Thank You for family. Thank You for children and grandchildren.

Show us ways to demonstrate that we love and appreciate them. Cause us to remember to celebrate. Amen.

"Mother's Day was special to me, especially when I was in prison and could not see my mother. When she died while I was in prison, I felt cheated by God, after all I was now a Christian and why would He allow this to happen now before I got out. God made it very plain I had plenty of time to show my love to my mother before being incarcerated, but I chose to follow the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. I pray no one reading this newsletter waits until it is too late to show their parents all of the love that they can now." Ron Baker

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	t
	1	2	3	4 <small>National day of prayer</small>	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14 <small>Mother's Day</small>	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29 <small>Memorial Day</small>	30	31				

JUNE 2017

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 <small>Father's Day</small>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday are evenings I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons. The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church. May 7th I will share about the prison ministry at Springdale Mennonite Church May 21st the Holiness church in Schuyler, 28th LWCF June 25 Holiness Church in Schuyler 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.

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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**

Here you see some poems from some of the men I correspond with:

God Never Changing

When I think of how things
have changed over the years
I'm so glad God is the same,
and my prayers He still hears
He is still the same as He was
long ago
And loves me just as much
and even so
God never changes brother
Though things in the world do
He is still in charge
Though those who trust Him
are few
He will never forget the people
He has called to be His own
And takes care of everyone
While He sits upon His throne
God is still the same Brother
Ronald
As He was way back when
He has never changes
He's right where He has always
been

He has never moved
From His throne on high
Oh that I might come closer to
Him
Is my heart's cry....

He is Faithful!!

God is faithful to hear your
pleas
Whether standing or on your
knees
Nothing can separate Him
from the Heart
Prayer being the very place to
start.
Do not be afraid of a single
thing
Only a broken spirit surely
bring
Faith will as well make itself a
way
Bringing light into a darkened
day

If I Had Been the Only One

If I had been the only one
In this dark world of sin
Still Ronald Jesus would have
died for me
He is my dearest friend.
The pain He bore, the agony
Upon a cross of pain
Is more Brother Ronald than I
can fathom
For me, He suffered shame.
It is for me, His blood was
shed
He saw me in life's time
The stripes He bore, the
crown of thorns
For me, now He is mine.
To me one thing is certain
The battle could not be won
Were I the only one upon this
earth
Still Brother Ronald Jesus
would have come.
AMEN

New Year

Another year unfolds:
New paths we have to tread
Brother Ronald
We wonder what life holds
In the brand new year ahead.
My special wish for you
Ronald
And your loved ones
Is a blessing from God above.
To make this year your happiest
year
Filled with an abundance of
joy
And peace and love...
Once again if you are reading
this letter and want to submit
an article for our approval to
use in the newsletter please let
us know. Names of inmates
are withheld for security reasons.
If you do not want your name
on your article, just let us know.