

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Nov. / Dec.
2017

Happy Thanksgiving

There is always much to be thankful for even in this troubled world. Some of you reading this newsletter may see many of the things we, as a ministry of the Lord are thankful for. 1 Chr. 16: ³⁴Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever. 1 Thess. 5: ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Ps. 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, [and] into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, [and] bless his name. If we look at the positive things in our lives and the God Who is over any circumstances we find ourselves

in, we will have the peace of God instead of a lot of anxiety. Isa. 26:3 Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee.

Each year on the day I go into the prison closest to the day we celebrate Thanksgiving I allow all of the inmates to share what they are thankful for. After opening in pray and saying a little about me being thankful I let the men share what there are thankful for. Even where that are in prison I find some of their responses incredible. I hear them praising God for their incarceration, since being

incarceration has allowed them to either seek God for the first time or return to Him after being separated by the ways of the world they had been involved in to some extent. I see them praising God for Jesus after they realize how much God did for them by sending His Son to die for their sin. Many of the praise God for their families still being there for them and then there are some who praise God for various prison ministries who bring the truth of God's Word to them. If men in prison can find reason to praise God can we do less.

Are you looking for Biblical truth?

I have gotten several letter recently from men who say they are reading various Christian books and how these books are helping them. I say "praise the Lord, what book are you reading?" Then my next question is, are you reading what man is saying about God's Words and getting what He is saying to them or should you be reading God's

Word to see what He is saying directly to you. I try to encourage all of the pen pals that I write that they get involved with some good Bible correspondence courses. When I say good, there are many I do not recommend, and some I know will tell these men the truth of God's word. Some might be surprised at how confused many people are getting their

Bible understanding from places like the History channel, or some of the name it and claim it evangelist on the TV. This is why I always seek good Christians to share the truth of God's word with their pen pals. Where are you getting truth. John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth : thy word is truth. Seek the truth in God's Word only.

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**Ministry Outreaches
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**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.**

Merry Christmas



What are your thoughts as you enter into the Thanksgiving season and then the time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus. The advertisements come out earlier and earlier each year for Christmas gifts. I am not saying there is anything wrong with giving a loved one a gift, but why pile the up all in one day when they are already expecting gifts. Why not spread them as a surprise over the year and save

Christmas day strictly to celebrate Jesus. Give Him a gift by spending a day with your family worshipping Him no matter what day the 25th falls on. Have a good meal prepared, decorate if you must, even have each person open a gift, but mainly read Jesus' story. Have each family member prepare a nice section of the Bible about Jesus and share it with the rest of the family. Have each person give a testimony of

what God has done for them and celebrate the payment for the sin we would be condemned to Hell for if it were not for the blood of Jesus.

I have seen children open gift after gift and after all of their gifts; look at the parents and say is that all. My question is, is that all Christmas means. I know this article will not set well with a lot of people who read this. That is why I did not anyone's opinion as to if I should add it.



Ron at Fort Huachuca AZ a few years ago.



Ron with his creative writing instructor at Staunton Correctional Center

Ron the founder of this ministry will celebrate number 70 on Nov. 21. Along with that he has celebrated 30 years of ministry as of March 2017. In those years he has enjoyed serving the Lord to those incarcerated. The board is now looking for help to keep the ministry going when the Lord decides to take Ron home. Here are some of the jobs the ministry would like to have someone willing to take on when Ron is gone or even before since he could train someone to do these activities while he is still with us. There is the by-monthly newsletter that will need to have someone take over. The pen pal ministry would consist of someone finding Christians to write the male inmate all over the USA. There are outreach brochures that need to be kept up with to see that people understand the various help the ministry provides coming along side the local churches. Then there is

Happy Birthday Ron

the Web site that we have found someone to help with. One thing needing to be done is the by monthly newsletter need to be added to the Web site and someone would need some training to do this. Ron could go over how to do this any time someone becomes interested in doing so. One of Ron's major duties as chaplain is preaching and teaching at Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons. All the services are in the evening from 6:20 PM until 8:30 PM. So a minister interested would be needed to serve on the evenings the ministry is set to do a Bible study or Sunday worship service. There is a ministry display board that need to be updated with information for the visits to churches which would need to be done once in a while as not to have the same information on it all of the time. There is a ministry Seminar which can instruct a church on how to start a prison ministry or how to become involved in a prison ministry already established, such as Rehoboth Jail &

Prison Ministry. The seminar also speaks on all of the duties of the ministry and all of the outreaches we make available so the church will be able to see which of the outreaches they might be interested in or how many they might want to get involved in. I doubt the wood cutting ministry will continue after I am gone. I use wood and so we cut for me and several other families but we are not cutting for as many now as we use to. However it would be a wonderful outreach to elderly people on a fixed income to cut and deliver their wood and save that much for them. There are many other duties, some could be done at home and would take very little time, but would supply blessings to the one volunteering they might never imagine. After 30 + wonderful years of being a blessing to other and being greatly blessed by God we do not want the ministry to end. Pray for us! We still need 3 board members.

How do we celebrate the birth of our Savior?

Who is Jesus to you? How important is Jesus to you? How do you think God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit would desire someone to celebrate the fullness of the Godhead bodily coming into the world? **Col. 2: 8, 9** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. **9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. The way one answers these questions should determine how you celebrate Jesus's birth.

We pretty much know the story of Jesus birth, the way God orchestrated Joseph and Mary to be in the place prophesied that Jesus would be born because of taxes needing to be paid. (**Luke 2:1**) We know the story of the shepherds who were looked at as the lowly of the lowly; were the first to hear the announcement of Jesus' birth. (**Luke 2:8**) The Jews were waiting for Messiah and knew the details of His birth. Even after the appearance of Persian Magi, (**Matt. 2:1**) with an entire caravan, had come so far to worship the King of the Jews. The king and people were troubled but they still did not see the birth of Jesus as Messianic. **Matt. 2:3** "When Herod the king had heard [these things], he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." They were not troubled enough to go with the wise men to see what all the fuss was about. They went on with the daily routine as if nothing special was happening. Today it is much the same. This seems to be the way a lot of people celebrate the day Christians have set aside as a day to show appreciation for Jesus' birth. To a great extent this celebration is so polluted with giving gifts to each other Jesus takes a back seat.

Col. 2: 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. Much of the celebration is not spiritual, but instead tends to satisfy worldly pleasures, and even seems to get out of hand with the promotion of

great bargains and sales; one more thing that Satan uses to distract Christian's attention from the true reason to celebrate. Over the years I see less about Jesus involved in the celebration, even in many Christian's homes. It seems to be more about buying gifts, elaborate parties most of which certainly do not exalt Jesus, and although it is great with families getting together, what do they spend their time doing.

The promotions of sales from Christmas use to start after Thanksgiving, then as early of Oct, and now it starts even earlier.

I want these Scriptures to help us see better how such as Holy Day should be celebrated?

Isa 29: 13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.

Matt. 2: 11 "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." This account seems to be used as the reason the giving of gifts for Christmas. However the gifts were a present to the King of King and the Lord of Lords. Like at a birthday gift for a King. The pagan's who came so far were better prepared than God's own people to show reverence to Jesus. **Isa. 60:6** "The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD." Since God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are to be honored and worshipped with the same reverence, how should one celebrate the wonderful event of God sending His Son to die for man's sin?

John 4: 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (How much of the way we worship Jesus's birth is done in truth, or how much is of a spiritual

nature. For that matter how much has anything in our "so called Christian celebration" have to do with Jesus at all?) **Ex. 34: 14** For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God: (Since God is a jealous God so is Jesus; how do you think They looks at the celebration of Christmas. Where does Santa hold a position in this celebration, does he replace Jesus as the most important figure during this time?) **Matt.15: 9** "But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men." {How much of our celebration is vain in the eyes of God and focus on anything except Jesus. Would a reminder of Jesus's death and how badly He was treated help us narrow down the way we celebrate Christmas? What need do we have to share this celebration with a fictitious beings, who seems to take precedence over Jesus in every aspect of this celebration. What does going into debt and buying extravagant gifts for family have to do with Jesus?} **Heb. 12: 28, 29** "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **29** For our God [is] a consuming fire." {Thinking of God being a consuming fire, do we honor His Son in a reverent manner since He also if a consuming fire?} **1 Tim.1: 17** "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever". **1 Tim. 6: 15** "Which in his times he shall shew, [who is] the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; **16** Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen." **Rev. 5: 12-14** **12** "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. **13** And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. **14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."

I never want to become the Christmas police. I do know that over the years I have grown to understand there are better ways for me to celebrate Christian Holidays. One of the things I have tried to do is, to focus better on the true meaning of the holiday, rather it be, Thanksgiving, Easter, or Christmas; I cut out as many of man's traditions, which have been added. No matter how much fun it might be, I do not want a special, spiritual event to be polluted by doctrines of man or demons.

Josh. 24: 15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites {the god of this world}, in whose land ye dwell:

but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

NOV 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
19	20	21 <small>Ron's Birthday</small>	22	23 <small>Thanksgiving</small>	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DEC 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	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25 <small>Christmas</small>	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.
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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Inmate's corner

Sudoku Word

Use the following letters listed once in each line or box. A, C, H, I, M, R, S, S, T
Find the hidden words

I	M		A	S		C		
S					R	S		
	H	R	I		T	M		
A			S	M				
M		C	T		A	R		H
				H	C			S
		I	C		M	H	S	
		T	H					M
		M		A	S		I	R

Sudoku Word

Use the following letters listed once in each line or box. C, E, E, R, R, R, S, T
Find the hidden words

		R	T	E				R
C	T	R			U			
		E				C		
			C			U		S
	E		U		R		C	
T		U			E			
		E				R		
			R			S	U	E
R				U	S	T		