

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lives from the Inside Out

SEPT/ OCT
2017

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Oh boy, it's time for the 30th Day of Jubilee!

In March, we started our 30th year of ministry. Since we have the Day of Jubilee toward the end of each year, September 30, 2017 will be the 30th Day of Jubilee for the ministry. We will be celebrating the event at Living Word Christian Fellowship (LWCF), 5150 Lowesville Rd., Arrington, VA 22922.

There will be lots of praise for God's direction over these blessed years of serving Him in the jails and prisons throughout VA and in some outreaches throughout the USA. We start the celebration with music from people who sing to praise God, not to entertain. Then we listen to testimonies from people who have been blessed through various prison ministries or family members of the one incarcerated. We will also hear testimonies of

people involved in the letter writing ministry (pen pal). Sometimes we have letters from inmates speaking of the blessing it is to have a pen pal on the outside who cares enough to take the time to write to them. After more songs of praise and prayer, we have a wonderful meal and fellowship with everyone who joins us. There has always been more than enough food and lots of desserts.

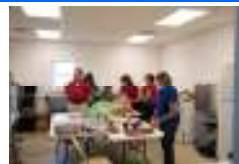
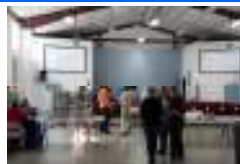
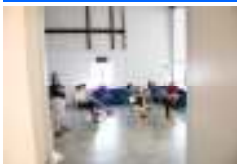
We would love for you to come and join us and tell others who might have an interest in our work. Ex-offenders are welcome and have a standing invitation from me at the prisons at which I minister and the pen pals to whom I write. When some of these men or women give a testimony and you see them year after year still walking with the Lord, you know this is real in

their life. However, we have seen men stay out of trouble for many years and still end up back in prison because they slacked up in their devotion to God, just like many other Christians do. Even though these Christians might not slide into crime since that would send them to prison, they are still walking outside of God's will.

I remember the first gathering before it was actually called the Day of Jubilee. It was a reunion of people who had ministered to me while I was incarcerated and other inmates who they served as well. We had a wonderful turn out and decided to make it an annual event set aside to praise God for "I was in prison and you visited me." (Matt 25:6) "O taste and see that the LORD [is] good." (Ps 34:8) Join us!

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.

Pictures of last Year's Day of Jubilee



After 30 years of ministry, I see God has brought us a mighty long way.

Once in a while, it is good to remind ourselves of how far God has brought us as individuals, as well as congregations and ministries. When I got out of prison, I tried to get back into prison. Sounds stupid, right? I tried to become a Christian volunteer and do what I knew was God's call on my life. Since I was still on parole, the DOC said I would have to be off of parole in order to be considered for volunteer status. So I immediately started in the local jails, which were not as restricted.

As I volunteered in some of the local jails in Central VA, I also decided to get training and support from ministries who were already well established in prison ministry. I started taking training from Prison Fellowship (PF) founded by Chuck Colson. Some of the PF volunteers who used to minister at Staunton Correction Center (SCC) were also going through these training courses, so I joined them. I took every course they had which gave me new insight I had not previously had - to minister to the staff while ministering to the inmates.

After completing all of these courses and having several years of jail ministry behind me, I had established a good reputation and got letters to present to the officials at SCC, the prison where I had been released

from. I was turned down the first couple of times until PF signed me up as a volunteer for a seminar. When I got to the prison, they did not want to allow me in. The Captain who knew me while I was incarcerated and was in charge said, "I know him. Let him in."

A counselor who I had known had the position as volunteer coordinator and was against having an inmate volunteer. Later, after being an active volunteer for a while, I was at a banquet the prisons used to have to show appreciation for the many hours volunteers give to the prisons. While there, I ran into the counselor who was dead set against me coming back into the prison, not so much me personally but an inmate in general. At one time, she had been my counselor, and we got along fine. She knew of my perfect inmate record and my participation in the literacy volunteers where we helped inmates get a GED or at least a 6 grade level education so that they could be eligible for parole. At one time, the DOC wanted to get all of the illiterate inmates up to being able to read and write some. I was an inmate volunteer to help with this. My ex-counselor was also aware of the fact that I worked a job, took every training course available while incarcerated, wrote letters for inmates who

could not read or write, and read their incoming mail to them from family. She knew I had been a leader of the Christian Fellow group of inmates and so did the warden who was also against me becoming a volunteer. In fact, he was instrumental in my first denial to get back in SCC. Later he was promoted to Regional Director and another warden took over. That was when I got in. While I was at this banquet, I had a chance to speak to the volunteer coordinator and the ex-warden. I asked if they still felt that I should not have become a volunteer. The ex-warden said, "he saw me as an exception" and my inmate and volunteer record stood to prove that.

After establishing myself with PF and when I started applying for volunteer status in other prisons, I signed up as a separate individual ministry, later to be called Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. Getting into these other prisons was not without problems, being turned down at least once in each because I had been incarcerated. Being established at SCC made the way, and I can now go into any state, federal, or county facility. Personally, God has also brought me a mighty long way. Praise His Holy Name.

September is the month we set our budget for the next fiscal year.

We are so thankful for the giving from so many generous people over the years, and especially at the banquet, Day of Jubilee, and other love offerings given when we visit a congregation and give an update on the work of the ministry. We are very thankful for so many monthly donations which we have grown used to receiving which helps us make our annual budget, as well as the quarterly giving and the once a year gifts which seem to always

come in when they are needed.

To you many generous people, we say thanks and may God bless each of you 100 fold for your generous kindness to a ministry which some say is not worth their giving. We have not had any problem reaching our budget because of this faithfulness. We continue to be very frugal with our funds knowing if the Lord give us a Director for the Restoration House, we will need to have funds to begin the only salaried

position for this ministry. So as you all continue to be faithful in your giving, we will be both faithful in our spending and accountable to all of you and mostly Jesus.

If you have any question about any aspect of this ministry, please feel free to contact us. If your congregation would like us to come and share, please let us know. There is not a charge for our coming; it only costs you a little time.

What is going on with Restoration House?

Well so far we have interviewed several people for the position of Director of Operations for the Restoration house. The first man was very qualified but did not want to live in the house since he had a house rent free already. We were looked over our budget and figured his desired salary along with an additional salary for someone to spend the night at the house we could not come up with the funds to accommodate this amount. The free rent and food were supposed to account for part of the Directors pay and with they no longer in the picture we had to seek someone willing to actually live in the house.

We spoke to another man very interested in helping young adults who he had been working with already. He is also qualified but his main desire is to work with young men who have begun straying for a good path before they reach the point of incarceration. He also said it would be 8 to 12 months before he could leave his current position so that leaves us waiting much longer for the house to be opened and used. While there are a couple of men who have requested Restoration House to parole to none of them have been granted parole as of yet. One man just got what could have been his 25th turn down for parole.

We recently worked on the ground of the yard and have it just about leveled out and clear of roots and rocks to plant grass seed. We still need sp painting on the inside and will be going back to work on the house as soon as we can stir up some volunteers. Basically the house could be loved in right now, but as long as it is empty we want to continue to as much work as we feel necessary to make it nicer. We do not want to continue to leave the house empty, costing us monthly

rather than having it bringing in money so it looks very probable we will need to rent it out, until we can find a director and save those funds toward running the house once men are moved in.

Some might think why didn't you allow for all of this before you put all of the work and money into this project? We have been questioned about this and other matters having to do with all of the work and money volunteers have put into the house, and all we can say is I prayer for this for many years before we made this move. We sought several properties before this one and God did not see to it we going any of those properties. We prayed for God's will in getting this house, we got it at a very reasonable price, and we got the finances and volunteers very easily. We receiver all of this as God confirming our desire to serve Him in this manner since there is such a great need for programs like the Restoration House Program. What we can not figure out at this time is why the hold up now that everything is in place, but I have served God long enough to know He has a reason. I do not feel we have moved ahead of God, or not heard him. I feel as we are patient He will reveal His perfect will and it is out prayer that as God reveals His will to use He will also reveal it to and many people who gave so generously and worked so diligently on this project. We would not want any of our brothers or sisters to misunderstand the true reason we wanted to accomplish this project. So we beseech you breathers to pray for God to make it clear what is His desire for this house and then bless us to do exactly what He desires for us to accomplish.

I was given this thought & articles from one of my pen pals:

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Surprised? It was an Apple but with extreme limited memory. After just one byte, everything crashed.

God looks past our words to our heart.

There are no ordinary people –we were created to be unique.

The first step to receiving God's forgiveness is to admit that we need it.

The best kind of a friend is a praying friend.

Hope means the most to those who have lived without it.

Test and trials are to draw us closer to God.

1 Cor. 2: ¹⁰But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

A thought & prayer from:

Jan. 26, 2002 When I pass a stranger, let me know if you desire me to stop. Never let my day be so busy doing what I feel is your work to pass by a soul that needs to hear of you. Give me discernment in all situations as to whether I should speak or not, and give me peace with that decision, as it were from you.

SEPT 2017

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OCT 2017

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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 we have the (MOM) Monthly Outreach Meal at Living Word Christian Fellowship. Day of Jubilee is Sept 30th

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, and 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."

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

More of Inmate's Corner and some things inmate pen pals share with us.

These poems are from one of my pen pals in prison in CA. He writes some each time he mails me a letter and also shares thoughts that he has as well as thoughts from famous People. When you write one of these pen pals, you get a taste of God's transformation of those much of society wants to forget.

Do It Now!

It seems we have so little time to do the kindly things. Before we realize the truth we find that time has wings. We plan to give a word of cheer to one who needs a friend. We plan to see someone who's ill who may be near the end. And there's a letter we should write to someone who is sad.

Our words might be just what they need to Cheer and make them glad. It is easy to procrastinate and leave such task undone. But such a curse bring regrets when life's short race is run. There is a cure for all these ills just three words tell us now! To bring a speedy perfect cure they're simply "do it now!"

"Greatest Kind of Love"

Lord grant us the forever kind that sees the faults, but doesn't mind
 The kind that says I love you still
 if not by feelings, then by will.
 The kind that's like our own love, Lord
 that seeks to serve not earn reward.
 The kind that sees the best in each
 that seeks to pray for not to

preach
 And when old age should take it's toll
 love look beyond and love the soul.
 Be thou out anchor and our joy
 a stead fast love time can't Destroy.
 A love-made choice to always stay
 to be there till our dying day.
 And when death comes to break earth's spell
 lord, may you tell us,
 "you loved well."

"Lord I trust You"

Lord I'm so thankful for blessings that you give. For Your Word that teaches me the way I ought to live. I'm thankful for the bad times so I can appreciate the good. For Your wisdom that helps

me do
 the things I know I should.
 And when the storms of life thunder in
 with gust that tear apart.
 I'll not fear for Your Spirit abides within my heart.
 That's why I can face today and all tomorrows to.
 It truly makes a difference,
 Lord
 when I put my trust in you.

We thank all of you who send articles, poems, or anything to use in these newsletters. If you have something you would like to share, send it to us and if it is appropriate, we will be happy to use it.