

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lives from the inside out

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Secretary/Treasurer:

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Ministry Outreaches

Available in VA:

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.**

Happy New Year to you all!

How will we celebrate another year serving the Lord?

Here we are entering a new year while still holding on to all of the memories of last year's blessings. Our prayers for all of you reading this newsletter is for God's will to be done in each of your lives. Most of you know in March of this year it will be our 31 year in jail and prison ministry. Since the beginning people like you reading this have helped us grow allowing us to serve men incarcerated all over the USA through the pen pal ministry. Your generous financial gifts have allowed us to maintain a comfortable budget, not extravagant, but able to pay the bills and keep our ministry equipment in good working order.

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry will celebrate the new year by remembering how we began with the ministry being supported by one man's salary, and praising God for His faithfulness to us in that He put it into your hearts that this ministry worthy of your support and

prayers.

How will you all celebrate? The world will celebrate in their normal fashion with parties and reveling. We as Christians have another way. In Nov. we celebrated Thanksgiving. I am sure if Jesus is Lord of your life you have much to be thankful for. Then in Dec we celebrated the day Christians have set aside to praise God for Jesus being born. In April on the 1st day of April we celebrate the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus where God paid the debt for the sin of those who belong to him. Why not celebrate the new year thinking of what we can do this new year for the Lord, things we put off last year because we were too busy. Let's promise to put God first in 2018 and

serve Him in a manner deserving of the creator of the universe. On thanksgiving the men in prison always share some of the things they are thankful for. Even in prison these believers have many things they are thankful for. So instead of resolutions maybe we could make a list of things we want to accomplish for the Lord this year. Things we could improve in our own lives and people we will set our heart toward to share the gospel with, that they might be saved. And enjoy the wonders of belonging to God as sons and daughters.

Still looking for pen pals for male inmates

Many people today seems to think letter writing is a thing of the past. They now text and e-mail and say they just do not have time to sit down and write a letter or even type up a page to mail out to someone in need of a friend. During the year of 2017 I wrote approximately 455 letters. Even with a very

busy daily schedule God still allows me time to write these people and I enjoy it as a very positive part of sharing the good news of Jesus. There are many people who sit around day after day who are retired and wondering what can I do for the kingdom to share God with others, I would suggest

becoming a pen pal. If you read the pan pal brochure you will see how easy it is and how to avoid any unseen circumstances. Even with the 11 volunteers writing inmates we could use many more. Anyone who has been a pan pal always speaks of it as a very rewarding experience.

The house that God built

On Oct 31 2015 we bought a house to use for a restoration program for inmates being released from prison. We desired it to be a 12 month Christian program in which the residents would be placed in a job, pay off their court cost, and fines paid, get acclimated to society, and find a place to live after they successfully complete the program. This was prayed about for many years. We tried to buy several other properties which did not go through so we did not press the issue allowing God to lead us in His direction for the right place. After the purchase of the house donations for repairs came in surprisingly fast along with many Christians to do many of the job needed to be done to get the house livable. As we got close to the time we could move men into the house we felt the residents could complete much of the work remaining; we started the task of seeing a director of operations. To run the house and keep the ministry accountable for the men living there with the neighbors This was where things came to a halt. We had hoped to find someone retired who would be willing to live in the house and his room and food would account for part of his salary. We could not find anyone interested in doing that. We figured after one of the residents went through the 12 month program they would hopefully be qualified to take the position of director but we needed someone for at least the first year. Many suggestions came forth one of which was "why didn't Ron live there and run the house that would

be perfect." While this seems to be an excellent idea, there is no way I could of take on the task of running the house full time and do all of the other duties I am now involved in, and who would be in the house when I was preaching or doing the Bible studies at the prisons. So after two years of seeking a director and the house sitting empty while we paid the utility bills, the board agreed to rent the house out for a year while continuing to seek someone to run the house. We did not have any inmates facing release to come to the program at that time either so this seemed like the ideal way to handle this.

One Nov. 1st a family moved into the house and signed a 1 year lease. These funds will go into the Restoration House fund and continue to seek someone to run the program. When we bought the house our main thought was it was such a good price and even though it needed a great deal of work we figured it would be worth it. We now know the neighbor hood does not seems to be the ideal place for the program, we have a

great investment and we can sell the house and look for a piece of land somewhere away from other houses so there will not be as much scrutiny from neighbors having recently released inmate living next door. We did hear many negative comments from some of the neighbors at first but since they never saw us move anyone in they were silent for a while. One thing we do not want to happen is for people to think we went into this endeavor unprepared without prayer. I started praying for such a program even before I was released over 30 years ago. The board and I sought the Lord before we bought this property, so it is not time for us to second guess God but to wait on Him. Many people are disappointed that after everything that was done we are now renting the House out, none more that me.

While waiting on the Lord we will save money from the rent to pay a director or buy another place not close to other houses. Meanwhile we will seek other uses for the house such as a house for battered woman, a house for woman coming out of prison, and several other uses to serve the Lord with this house. We covet your prayers for guidance and that everyone have patience with us as we are having patience while waiting on the Lord. There is a good reason for this holdup and God has not revealed to us yet. We have not given up on the idea, so please do not give up on us. Also **we could use 4 more board members with time to spend in working with Ron with this program.**



The Day of Jubilee 2017

Here are three pictures of the day of Jubilee which was held at LWCF on Sept 30th. Unfortunately the Mennonite relief sale was moved to the same day so that cut back on many of the regular attendants as they were obligated to attend the sale. However, we had a wonderful attendance of over 60 people and more ex-inmates to give testimonies that any year so far. These men and women shared

how God had blessed them while incarcerated through various Christian Prison Ministries. We had a group of volunteers from Liberty Church from Appomattox who allow me to join them on their nights when they teach and preach at DCC. Their in the bottom picture to the left sitting together. We had plenty of great food prepared buy some of the people in the picture to the right the others in that pic-

ture help prepare the Outreach Meal which the church provides each month to share with the community I will share more pictures on the next page.



More on the Day of Jubilee help in Sept 2017

Having the Day of Jubilee in the LWCF sanctuary has made things so much more comfortable for those who attend. Although we never had any complaints when it was held at my very small house outside or when we started holding it Tim Millers house where there was more room and could be held inside, the inside bathrooms and use of the kitchen, sound system, and plenty space for eating makes the event at the church more comfortable for all involved. We certainly appreciate the use of the church and the support of LWCF for

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. We have seen a reduction in the number of people from the valley who did attend the Jubilee in the past, although we see that these people do attend the Fund Raising Banquet on the first Saturday of March at MT View Mennonite Church in Stuarts Draft. This coming March will be our 31st year of serving the Lord. The Banquet at this point will be held on March 3rd if there is any change in that date we let everyone know in plenty of time. The

pictures to the right are of the Day of Jubilee celebration 2017 as you can see we had a great turnout, good food, along with wonderful praise songs to God. We gave all honor, praise and glory to God for all of the 30 + years of ministry to those incarcerated and their families. As I mentioned we are now receiving letters from an inmate on Bangkok Thailand which now make us an international ministry, God is soooooo good.



Four Board Members Needed

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry continues to seek 4 board members who have time to work hands on with some of the needs as the needs arise in this ministry, such as when we get a Restoration House Program started. Although we have the house there is a need for board members to assist with the daily running of the house. At least two of these board members should be male members since we will be dealing

with male residents unless we find another use for the house it has been our desire to use the house and program for the glory of God. A lot of people put a lot of time and money into this project with the idea of housing inmates who have no place to go after their release from incarceration, especially those who have been incarcerated for longer periods of time.

However if God has another use of the house we definitely want to be open to it. As I have mentioned using it as a battered woman's shelter, or a house for female inmates being released in which case we would need a female director and female board members to assist the director since it will take more than one or two people to run the house successfully.

Pray for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry for 2018

First of all as I mention these needs I have to praise God for all God's provisions through these almost 31 years through people like the ones reading this newsletter and the churches who have supported us so faithfully. However I have mentioned certain needs in the newsletter and I will put them here for your prayer list.

1. We need families to write the many male pen pals I have all over the world. Many have life without parole so there is very little

chance they will surprise you with a visit.

2. As I just mentioned we need four board members. If anyone is interested when they contact us we can explain the duties expected from a board member.
3. Since we bought the house and got it ready for inmates thinking we needed to do that first and then find someone to run it we need someone who would

be free to move into the house when the lease is up with the people renting the house now.

4. We need someone willing to take time to work with Ron to understand the running of the ministry from the executive director's position so if something happens to Ron the ministry will continue on until the Lord comes.

5. In one of my earlier newsletters I mentioned other areas of the ministry we could use help to take some of the work on that the executive director is now gladly doing which the new director might not want to take on these extra duties. So once again we need people to fill spots in this ministry looking to the future and the desire to continue this work.

JAN 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New years	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	31			

FEB 2018

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			

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.

"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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An Inmate's Testimonial

On the night of June 6, 2002, I consciously made a cry out to God. At that time, I was not exactly sure who it was I was calling on. The only thing that I was sure of was that I needed someone to answer.

During the early years of my life, my mother and father both trained me in the way that I should go. I followed the way, but I truly never knew the way. Around the age of fourteen I began to become infatuated with the sensual callings of the world. Everything and anything that was not 'Holy' seemed to attract my attention. It was only a matter of time before what the world had to offer became my primary focus. God was placed in the back seat. Honestly, I am not sure if He even had a seat. For

approximately ten years I enjoyed riotous living and I ignored the voice of God calling out to me. Because of my disobedience I suffered tremendously and I inflicted great sorrow upon myself. The pain and anguish increased so intently that I began to find it difficult to make simple everyday decisions without feeling extreme guilt and shame.

It was on one unforgettable night that my life, and all the hell and torment I had been going through seemed to come to a halt. I cried out to God. He answered. My life instantaneously changed forever. I asked God that if he was real to reveal himself to me. I demanded Him to move something or to make an object appear from nowhere. I wanted to see something miraculous, but God did not

move anything or materialize anything. But just before I had begun to lose all hope, He responded by sending a man to me asking, "Young man, do you know Jesus?" That gentleman gave me a Bible with specific instructions. I was to read the book that night, and in the morning, if I did not want to keep it, I was to return it. During that night, I felt that God was speaking to me through the actions of that man and through the book I was given. When I opened the Bible the first passage of scripture I read was Psalm 40. Verses 1-3 immediately spoke thunderously from the very pages. I was most assuredly convinced that God had answered.

After I received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord

and Savior, I felt that He was calling me to do a work, and that work was in prison ministry. I continued to study God's Word and in 2004, I accepted a job working in prison ministry. I have been employed as a Resident Counselor at a transitional house called Liberty Ministries, where ex-offenders and ex-addicts are taught the disciplining aspects of the Bible. I have been dedicated to this work and I believe it is my reasonable service.

Written by,

Jonathan L.