

July Aug

Rehoboth

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(letter writing)

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**Ministry training
seminars are**

**available for local
churches.**

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lives from the inside out

Train up a child in the way they should go

Are you your child's best friend? Do you discipline your child in love so he or she will know the commandments of the Lord? If you consider yourself a perfect parent you will not need to read any further. I am writing this article because I deal with young men and women who were raised in the church and went to youth meetings and Sunday school all their early life. However their attention was set on the games, meals, and fun; when it came time for Bible training their attention drifted and there was talking between the students, interruption to cause attention to be focused on the student, and even general disrespect for the one bringing the Word of God to the students. I have been dealing with inmates for 44 years considering the 13 I was incarcerated and I have seen very young men come to prison with a life sentence without any chance of parole. Some of them who might actually give me the time to talk to would say how they went to church, Sunday school, Vacation Bible school, and youth gatherings all of their early lives. Then when I ask how they ended up in prison they would say they went for the fun and when it came time for the teaching of the Word they would cut up

because they were not interested in that part, they just went for the fun. When I ask what the instructor did the young men said they were so glad that we were just there that they would not really do much, they would tell us to calm down and we would for a few minutes but there was really no reason to stop because we did not see the importance in this part of the meeting and no one really gave us reason to take it serious.

Of course more of these youth would not even bother to speak about this situation, so I had the word of many who would have the rest of their life in prison to think about their decisions to turn their back on God. What a serious consequence for the foolishness of these youth!

I deal with many men who have been incarcerated for 40 + years. These men who have been incarcerated still have a chance for release since they were convicted when VA had a parole system in place. Many of them were locked up for many years before God actually got their attention. They finally received Jesus as Lord of their life however because of the consequences of their crime and the lack of compassion from the governor and the parole board they are still incarcerated. Locked

up but as they say not locked out. I see these men get turn down after turn down and come to the service disappointed but not distraught.

Then there are the youth who came into prison after the VA parole system was done away with. They will die in prison unless God intervenes or the law changes. Some have become more bitter and more violent and are in the super max prisons. They have not yet seen the light.

Some of these same youth are serving the Lord and are resigned that God can do anything and their hope is in the Lord that in prison or out they will serve the Lord.

As I was pastor for 7 years, and have visited many churches, I especially watch how people react when the word is being taught and preached. I learned just because people have the Bible on their phone it does not mean they are looking up scriptures when the Word is being shared. I have always be in favor of families sitting together so the parents can be responsible for their own children. If people are talking at my services in the prison I address the situation and ask who ever is talking to share what it is or wait until they leave God's service. Of course most pastor's

Continuing: Train up in the way they should go.

would never do that. Many of the people including some of the youth have now gone into shut-down mode. They either find something on their phone to keep them occupied or they laugh and talk among themselves in church, Sunday school, or youth meeting when the Word of God is being taught. Some lean their heads down as if praying or reading, trying to catch nap. Some of these youth might find themselves in some pretty devastating situations. Consequences of intentionally ignoring the "Words of life" from a youth leader, Sunday school teacher, and/or Pastor which took time to study so people might hear God's instruction and apply it to their lives. The saddest thing is they are responsible for it

even if they ignore it's importance.

Pro. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This verse does not have any guarantee with it, but if it is practiced it releases the parent from their responsibility. Teachers will know what I am speaking about when I say many parents send their children to school or church thinking this will teach their children discipline. If the child does happen to learn some, their parents have still failed their part.

I see just as many men in prison who went to church and youth groups as the ones who never even heard the Word of God come from their parents except as a curse word. Perhaps some were

trained properly but turned away after this proper training.

Schools have PTA meetings to allow parents who are interested to speak to the teachers to see how their children are behaving and what some of their needs are. I feel the churches should have something similar so the parents could check on their children's behavior in class and keep an eye on their own youth in worship. Most teachers do not want to cause brother and sister to get upset with them by telling the parents if a child is misbehaving in class. Some parents would just blame the teachers. I am sure our teachers can verify that.

The word makes it clear it is every parents responsibility to

keep a check on their children and if they are not behaving properly take the appropriate steps. In the same way teachers should be willing and not afraid to share misbehavior of youth with parents. Some of this is just foolish jestings which can easily be dealt with if the your child understands the importance of hearing God's Word while they are young to prevent future consequences from sin.

I share this because I was one who did not apply what I was hearing from the preacher after I received Jesus and I did not understand until much later in life the importance of God's Word. It is my prayer more youth being churched will apply God's Word while young and avoid the pitfalls of a sinful life ignoring all, they are hearing in church and

Pen pals are blessing the ministry and so are volunteers to help.

A thought from May 16, 2003

My trust is in the Lord and my confidence to do all things. Now when things do not go right for me let me know God is able and if it is His will for me to accomplish anything, He will see me through it.

Over the past several newsletters I have shared the need for more volunteers for the growing pen pal ministry. What a blessing it is to have so many men and now many more women finding our pen pal outreach from other ministries who find our Web site and share our address with them. I have received many new volunteers and several have volunteered to write several inmates themselves. There is still a great need for more volunteers, for example on Monday May 14th I got 15 letters out of the mail box and 10 were first time inmates requesting a pen pal. Three were ladies. I am receiving many more female inmates requesting someone to write

than even before. As more people get a pen pal, me at first, they tell others that they actually found a ministry who responds to their request. So others in turn write.

You would be surprised at how many inmates write and explain that they wrote several pen pal ministries but never got any kind of a response. I usually respond the same day or at least the next day and they are amazed to get a response so quickly.

I have a basic letter made up for new requests for a woman inmate and a separate one for the male inmate. This letter explains basically some of the thing on the pen pal brochure which we encourage volun-

teers to read before becoming a pen pal. I explain things we do not do, such as send money, stamps, do research or contact family members which could really stir up a hornet's nest.

So far I have never had a volunteer stop writing someone for any reason other than the schedule got really busy or the inmate stopped writing and they were not at a point to take on another one. One situation I pray to remedy is when I give a volunteer a pen pal and they forget to write. If I tell the inmate to expect a letter they get very disappointed when they write me wondering why they have not heard anything yet.

How would you like to serve the Lord as a board member of

Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministry is looking for at least four new board members to be actively involved in the every day work of the ministry. Not that these volunteer would be working every day but someone who could set aside a few days once in a while to help with the day to day duties of this ministry and help Ron with some of the ministry's demand on him.

The pen pal ministry continues to grow and the Lord has provided around 40 volunteers

to write a number of inmates; some of these volunteers are writing up to 5 inmates each. We are thankful for these volunteers but in the month of May I received 21 new request for pen pals and the first week of June we received 10 new request. We could use some help coronation these new request from inmates with people in churches. This could be done by someone who is not even a board member he or she would just work with Ron and it could be done from

their own home.

When we go to speak at various church or other originations we like to keep the display board updates. If someone could help with this it would a great blessing, since Ron usually does it himself. This could also be does from someone who did not want to be on the board.

However we desperately need at leas 4 board members with time to work with Ron at times in the daily ministry duties.

A thought from June 6, 2002

Today is the day the Lord has made and I will rejoice and be glad and blessed in it because I am a child of God. He desires only good things for me, and when trials come they are to strengthen me not to confuse me. His word I must hide in my heart so I will always know His will

Would you like to submit an article to use in a newsletter?

From time to time I share poems or testimonies from inmates in the newsletters and we have had church members also share something for the newsletter. If you would like to offer anything for a future publication please feel free to send it in a format it can be cop-

ied and pasted into the newsletter format. Cross word puzzles could be use with use putting it in one addition and the answers in the next issue. As you see on the last page I am using Bible questions that a lot of the inmates like and a few church people who take time to

read the entire newsletter have also gotten something out of it. If you would like to send anything for the newsletter send it my e-mail as an attachment, but one that can be copied and pasted not a PDF attachment please.

Will you be there?

2 Pet. 3:10 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

If your congregation want an update on this ministries.

We have a couple church who invite us to come and give a short presentation and update on the ministry once a year. We set up a display board and we have brochures which we pass out that gives details on all of the outreaches we partner with church to do. We do this after the service is over in the foyer and we answer any ques-

tions the people might have about what the ministry is involved in. Recently as I was set to visit a church in the valley. I knew that an inmate in a local jail had a family near the church where I was going to speak. I told him to invite his family and sure enough I met the man's mother, father, his wife, daughter. and son as well.

He is one of the men I write along with the other 127 or more by the time you read this. So invite us at no charge we just want people to know we are available to families who have friends or family members in jail or prison. If they do not know about us how can we help them.

This is when we visited Greenmonte back in 2012



JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	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				

AUG 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	29	30	31	

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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Quiz answers from May/June and questions for this issue

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abraham (Matthew 1:2) 2. Judah (Matthew 1:2) 3. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary (Matthew 1:3, 5, 6,16) 4. Tamar (Matthew 1:3) 5. Obed (Matthew 1:5) 6. Bathsheba the wife of Uriah (Matthew 1:6) 7. Jacob (Matthew 1:16) 8. Fourteen (Matthew 1:17) 9. The Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18) 10. Divorce her (Matthew 1:19) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What name will people call Jesus because it means "God with us"? 5. In what town was Jesus born? 6. In what region was Bethlehem located at the time of Jesus? 7. Who was king in Israel when Jesus was born? 8. From what direction in relation to Jerusalem did the magi come? 9. What sign did the magi see in the sky? 10. Besides King Herod, who else was disturbed by the news of a new king? |
|--|---|

New Bible questions

1. Who told Joseph to name the boy Jesus?
2. Joseph was told to name the boy Jesus because he would save his people from what?
3. What prophet did Matthew quote that said the virgin would give birth to a child?

You're Always There For Me

When the world comes crashing in
 And chaos rules my mind,
 I turn my heart to you, Lord
 And pure, sweet peace I find.

An Inmate's Testimonial

You lift me out of trouble
 You comfort me in pain,
 You nourish, heal and cleanse me
 Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of Joy and Bliss
 When things are going right,
 You lift me even higher
 And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers
 You hear my every plea,
 I'm safe because I know
 You're always there for me.

Random verse to think about

1. "The Lord is my help and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)
2. "Be still, know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)
3. "Be still before the Lord and

wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in His way, and over the man who carries out evil devices." (Psalm 37:7)

4. "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord, In the Lord of the living." (Psalm 27:13)

5. "God in His Almighty love is able to do exceedingly abundantly above All we ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20)

If you would like to submit something for the newsletters such as a poem or some kind of spiritual quiz fell to send it to use and it is appropriate we will be happy to use it. Perhaps your experience with ministry might be something you might want to share.