

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Rehoboth Jail & Prison

Changing lives from the inside out!

Ministry Newsletter

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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.**

**May / June 2018**

## Have you Wished Your Mother a Blessed Mother's Day?

My mother is with the Lord and some of you reading this might be in the same situation. I for one caused



my mother much pain in her life with the wrong choices that I made even after being raised to do good. Perhaps some of you have also caused your parents much worry, but your mother or father is still living and you are estranged from him or her. Why not do all you can to make this the happiest Mother's Day you can by telling your mother how much you love her?

I was able to show my

mother that I had repented and was following God before she went to be with the Lord. She had not been saved when I got back walking with the Lord, so I started sharing Scriptures with her and encouraged her to watch certain Christian preachers on TV. I bought two Bibles exactly alike with footnotes. I would tell her to turn to certain pages and read. Since she did not know the order of the books of the Bible, this made it easy for her and I to be reading the same material. While I was waiting for parole, I continued to share my love for God with her, and she continued to see a difference, although just in letters not my attitude. I came home on the three day furlough, and she saw a difference in me for sure. I spent my time ministering to some of my

kin and to her and my stepfather, as well.

While waiting for the parole board to release me, my mother went to be with the Lord. However, she had received Jesus as her Lord and Savior before that occurred. When I got her letter explaining what she had done, I was happier than if it had been my release on parole. I was upset with God for not allowing me to get out before she died, but He comforted me and made me see the bigger picture. Ministering to my mother while I was incarcerated helped draw her to the Lord, and it also drew other family members to Him.

Are you taking a chance to witness to your mom if she is not saved and if she is saved, are you enjoying that fellowship?

## What is the Best Gift for you to Give Your father?

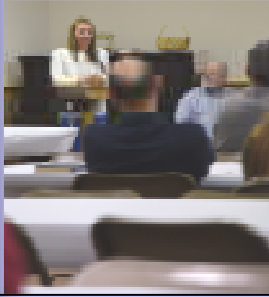
Ex 20:12<sup>4</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” How is your relationship with your father? God commands us to honor both parents, and it does not say only if they are great parents. Some of us might not have had the best father we could of wished for and some of us might not have been the father God

wanted us to be. If you father is still living, it is not too late. If it was your children who got the short end of the deal and they are still alive, it is not too late. God warns us in Romans 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” The best Father's Day is to be reconciled with children and fathers who have somehow been separated by actions, no matter who brought the ac-

tions about. I know many inmates would love to be reconciled with family members, but because of past behavior, they find it almost impossible. Matthew 19:26 says “But Jesus beheld [them], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Don't give up, keep praying and do your part. That is all you are responsible for.

The 3rd Annual Banquet Held in March

Here are some of the people giving testimonies of God's work in the Prison Ministry, pen pal ministry and other outreaches.



Hannah Swan, a pen pal, goes the extra mile to visit her female pen pal in jail.



Charles Kelly above tells how God can be a blessing anywhere.

Although the number of attendees have declined from the first banquet of 157 to the second of 87 to the most recent one of 42, we had a wonderful time celebrating the work the Lord is doing through various prison ministries, especially the pen pal

Mrs. Locklear tells about the blessing of her 4 boys being involved in the pen pal outreach and its blessings to them.



What a blessing it was for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry to join with Mt View Mennonite Church once again in March to celebrate the conclusion of 31 years of ministry and begin number 32. As always, Mt View provided a very warm and hospitable welcome to all who attended. The fellowship was great, and the food was, as always, outstanding. The barbecue chicken was a lot of work for Brother Driver, but he did it as if it was nothing. Everyone enjoyed it very much, and Mrs. Yoder and those who helped with the side dishes and the desserts outdid themselves and made the meal a high point as they do every year.

We had some new speakers to share about their experiences, some as pen pals and others as visitors who went into the jails and prisons. One such person was Miss Hannah Swan (top left picture). She has gone into both Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons with the group, and she is now writing two female pen pals. Even with her very busy nurses' training and work schedule, she has managed to visit one of her female pen pals, and she has plans to visit the other which is a lot further away. She testified of the joy she saw on the inmates faces when she visited them, and how she was amazed with the knowledge of the Bible many of the inmates had and their willingness to share with the volunteers that wisdom. She shared on how attentive the men were while the Word was being shared and how respectful the inmates were and appreciative of the efforts the volunteers

make to come in and share God's love. I had hoped that with her sharing, others would see the joy in being a pen pal and not think of it as a burden or something they would not have time for. We did pick up a pen pal from the meeting, so praise the Lord.

The next picture is Charles Kelly. He spoke of the elated feeling the men have when the volunteers come in and share God's Word. Since he was incarcerated, he gave a first hand understanding of how the men look forward to outside volunteers coming in to visit. Some of the men do not get visitors, so they come just to see people from the outside world. However, when they come, they hear the Word, and when they hear the Word, it has a chance to be planted on good soil prepared by the Holy Spirit. Charles shared how much the men appreciate letters. As I said, some do not get visits, and they do not get letters, so they write various places to get a letter even if it has to be from a group whose desire is to share the good news about Jesus.

When I write my first letter back to an inmate, I explain fully what we will do and address the things that we have been asked to do which we are not able to do for them. Many of the men writing want money, some for legitimate needs, others just to con well meaning people out of their money. You say "how do you know?" Remember, I was incarcerated, so I say it first hand. This is why I explain to the inmates that we do not send money. Today, as I am writing this letter, I have over 120 inmates that I am personally

writing to, so if one says I only need \$45 how can that hurt, I explain that if I did it for one pen pal, I should be ready to do it for all. We print a brochure for all of the volunteers who want to be a pen pal and warn them ahead of time to the incidents I have experienced in my incarceration and in the 31 years of ministry.

Now back to the testimonies, to me these are some of the very best parts since all of the glory needs to be to God. If any good thing comes from a ministry, it is because God was in it. Charles saw God moving in the working of the ministry. He is out of jail now, has a good job and wife, and is serving the Lord and working for and in the church.

There are so many success stories of inmates getting out of prison and living many years serving the Lord. The majority of these people were ministered to from volunteers sharing the Word of God with them. The Banquet on the first Saturday of March and the Day of Jubilee on the last Saturday of September gives this ministry a chance to share with our supporters what we have been up to. These testimonies show God is as real in the prison as He is on the street. All the time we hear of inmates going back to prison, but very rarely do we hear of the wonderful success stories of the men and women who get saved in prison and live the rest of their lives for the Lord. Thanks to those who allow us to have the Banquet and the Day of Jubilee so we can share these positive stories so that people will see how people forgotten by society can be saved by God's Love shown through volunteers.

## A Family Sharing the Word of God With the Lost

My family and I participate in Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministry by writing to pen pals who are in prisons across America. As the mother of four sons (19, 17, 17, and 15-years old) who write to their own pen pals, I take the time to preview both the letters coming into our home from the inmates, and the ones going out. This is to keep the conversations positive and focused on appropriate subjects.

After a year or so of writing letters, I can personally answer a question you may be asking about this ministry:

Why write letters to inmates?

#1) They are lonely. Many of them have been rejected by their friends and even their families for the crimes they have committed. Some of them have serious emotional struggles due to the environment they are in and their own histories. Can you sense how prone to self-pity, anger, shame, guilt, and disappointment they can be?

#2) They need to experience

God's love so they can learn to practice showing it to others. Some of these folks are hoping for a *real* friend, someone with whom they can share their struggles and victories. Many of them are very open to being disciplined and mentored. They know they need help. Frequently, desires are expressed for an older, more mature believer to begin writing and investing in them.

#3) They need our prayers and our encouragement. Some of them are facing long sentences that seem to stretch on endlessly. Some are on death row.

#4) There are things we can learn from them, especially in the humble state they are in. Some of them have begun (or are trying to begin) ministries and groups within the prison. Some are planning for ministries they want to have up and running when they get out. Some of them are incredibly gifted and talented.

#5) When they receive letters from us regularly, it is also a testimony to others in the

prison system (inmates and people who work there). When mail call time comes and the Christians are getting their "love letters" from the family of God, it says something about Christ *and* His church. We can show God's faithfulness and love to others beyond the men and women we are writing to in this way.

Even though it takes time both to write and to preview all the letters, I have noticed many tangible blessings our family members have received since we have been writing letters. The inmates themselves have blessed each one of us in sharing: the stories they are living, articles they are reading, poetry they are writing, wisdom they are gleaning, jokes they are telling, schoolwork on which they are working, grades they are earning, books they are reading, and music they are enjoying.

Our inmates send us many blessings in cards and poems and even artwork. A couple of examples: One of my sons got a beautiful pen and ink drawing in December 2017

because his inmate wanted so badly to send him a Christmas gift last year. My husband and I recently received a poem written by our inmate commemorating our 20th anniversary which is coming up in July.

It has been good to practice the self-discipline of focusing time and energy on someone else every Sunday afternoon. Thinking of others in their difficulties and praying for them is an important Christian practice. One of the ways we can be a living sacrifice as we are told to be in Romans 12:1-2 is to give of our time, energy, and love. The pen pal ministry is one way you can do this! If you are on the fence about whether to participate in this ministry and you have the ability to spend a little time every week and invest in an inmate, I highly recommend it.

by Kelly Locklear

Just one example of their talent here below is a card on man drew.

## We are still 4 seeking board members & pen pals.

For many months now in many newsletter and other outgoing mail we have mentioned some needs for the ministry and so far we have not gotten any replies. So here they are again in case someone new reads this newsletter and is interested in filling any of these needs. We could use 4 board members, some who would have some free time to help Ron

with some of the duties he is now fulfilling.

We are also experiencing a great increase in the pen pan minister demands, which we would like someone to take over and Ron will show them how to cut back on the work of writing the letters and this person would be in charge of seeking pen pals as we get new inmates. I would still be

hands on with the pen pal ministry I would just not be totally responsible for all of the letter writing.

If you are not one who can help in either of these areas PLEASE be in prayer for these two major needs they are only two of many but they are two very serious needs and neither one would take a lot of time just what even time one was willing to put into it.





## MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <small>Mother's Day</small>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## JUNE 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 <small>Father's Day</small>	18	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.  
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."**

**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**

### Quiz answers from March issue and more questions

1. A dream ( Matthew 2:13)
2. Hosea (Matthew 2:15)
3. Herod Died (Matthew 2:15)
4. Two years old (Matthew 2:16)
5. Jeremiah (Matthew 2:17)
6. Four (Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 19, 22)
7. Archelaus (Matthew 2:22)
8. Herod ( Matthew 2:22)
9. Nazareth (Matthew 2:23)
10. Galilee (Matthew 2:22,23)

- thew.
4. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus included what woman who tricked her father-in-law into sleeping with her?
5. Who was the son of Boaz and Ruth in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus?
6. Only one unnamed woman is mentioned in Matthew's genealogy as the "wife" of someone else. Who was it?
7. Who was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary in Mathew's genealogy?
8. Three sets of how many generations are mentioned in Matthew's genealogy?
9. According to Matthew 1, how did Mary become pregnant?
10. What did Joseph quietly want to do with Mary?

Answers to this questions will be shown in July's newsletter.

### New Bible quiz questions

1. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus begins with what Person?
2. Which of the twelve tribes did Jesus descend from?
3. Name the five women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy from the Gospel of Mat-

### Thoughts to ponder from me on the inside.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, may you do it in the Lord.

Life has no remote. So get up and change it yourself.

Jesus came to bring us hope in the darkness of circumstances.

The one who died as our substitute now lives as our advocate.

Faith testing times can be faith strengthening times, .

Christ has replaced the dark door of death with the shiny gate of life.

#### An Irish Toast

May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

Make Eternal things your Daily priority.

Irish Poem  
 May the road rise up to meet you  
 May the wind be always at your back  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face  
 And the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
 And until we meet again  
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Various inmates from all over the USA are sharing some thought poems and other articles some original some they have picked up in their travels. It is our hope you will see the creativity of them men and for those incarcerated that you will also enjoy the quizzes.*