

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

July / August 2019



God's Vineyard: from Seed to Fruit

Matthew 21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard...."

The Bible often speaks about God's kingdom in terms of a garden or a vineyard. In fact, over 60 verses in the Bible alone speak specifically about God working with us much like a gardener or vineyard owner. In all cases, the goal of a garden is to provide a controlled lush environment for fruit to grow. I have personally seen God's gardening work in me, as He has planted me, pruned me, and produced His fruit as I walked with His Spirit. I am often a stubborn patch needing weeding and the shears, but God has always been patient with me.

This story is just another chapter of my garden life in Christ. Not only will I grow in this situation, but seeds of encouragement are about to spread to new soil for the glory of Christ.

When a dear Christian friend of ours went to Federal prison for 5 years, we were heartbroken. This dad, computer specialist and elder in the church was now gone, his wife having to

pick up the broken pieces. Not only was he fired, but he lost his security clearance, any future career or health insurance. Many friends, even church friends, cut ties. My husband and I vowed to help however we could, and I promised to write to Ron every week. I did. As I wrote to him, I asked about the 12 or so inmates staying in his room. I started to send them Christmas cards, notes and birthday cards. They were amazed that some strange lady cared enough to send them something. As Ron would read my letters to those in his room, I decided to start a monthly newsletter. I called it "Joy Through The Stamp". I realized that these people needed the light of Christ and joy. Ron and his roomies were the first 12.

Over the years that number grew to over 50 as inmates were moved to different facilities and spread the newsletter through word of mouth. God even provided for me, allowing people in my church to give me stamps, envelopes, bookmarks and cash to help (I never asked for help!). This confirmation showed that God was using me in this new part of His vineyard, and helping me to sow a

new plot in the garden....the plot where inmates live and try to receive the grace of Christ and His holy Word.

Through one of these pen pals I was able to meet Chaplain Ron Baker and learn about his prison ministry. I was able to receive 40 names of ladies who are incarcerated, waiting for a pen pal. Now my mail ministry is over 100 a month, and I am blessed beyond measure to know these dear people who are part of Jesus' family. I am able to bring them encouragement through the little stamp. God will rise up anyone, even a middle-aged housewife like me, to work in the prison part of His Kingdom. I never expected I'd be doing this in a million years, but I find it so rewarding and an honor to touch other people with Christ's love and comfort.

This year I decided to launch a website

www.joythroughthestamp.com which you can visit to read more of my story and find prayer requests of prisoners who need you to intercede for them. God is the Master Gardener; I am honored to be a humble worker in His field.

Rochelle D. Felsburg

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Bible courses

Ministry training seminars are available for local churches.

Seek the best spiritual gift God has for you and be satisfied.

I feel very special being blessed for over 32 years with what consider the best ministry God could of allowed me to be a part of, the prison ministry. Of course that is because God has provided all I need to accomplish His work.

When I got out of prison I felt a call to preach God's Word in the prisons as I mention in my testimony however several well meaning Christians discourages me from doing that, sharing the lack of certain educational qualifications along

with my sorted past. So I did not follow though with this call and ended up back into prison of my own accord. God reassured me He had a purpose for me to serve Him and He would make up for all I was lacking to fulfill all He would direct me to do. He gave me a heart and compassion for inmates no matter what their crime was, praise God! He gave obstacles in getting started to be sure I would not allow anything to stop me this time.

After some time of writing

local inmate we put the pen pal outreach on our Web page and letters started coming in from all over, from broken people sharing the need to repent and turn their lives around. Some have been in and out of prison over and over, and made a similar statement to someone else the last time they were incarcerated. God did not tell me to remind them of the many time they said they were sorry, just to show them His love and share His grace, peace, and forgive-

ness with them. These people became more intimate friends as they shared so many areas of their personal lives we me, not seeking to impress me but to show someone willing to listen; their true repentance and wanting to have a very personal walk with Jesus. Someone to lead the way and share Scripture with them and answer questions. I would not change my life for all the fame one could have. Just to follow my call and to have inmates know someone care, is enough.

Life without hope?

Suppose you made a terrible mistake, or two, or three. Then suppose your freedom was taken away and you were separated from everyone you loved and all you knew. Then you were told you would never be able to return to your loved ones again. The friends you thought you had no longer wanted anything to do with you, and unfortunately you had lost your family's respect through those mistakes you made. It seems you have nothing for which to live. You have a very important road to take, and, with the right help, hope can be restored. However, with the wrong help you will become more embittered and hopeless.

Satan is on the prowl everywhere trying to limit the gospel from being shared any place people are willing to spread it. Prison is no

different. Satan is doing his best to cut back all Christian programs in all of the Virginia prisons. The Department of Corrections is not even aware of this attack. Since in essence as a whole the state cannot be Christian, they as a whole think they are doing what is necessary to settle disputes from cult groups such as the Druids and Wicca who say they are not getting equal time with the much larger religious groups, such as the Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, and the Protestant groups. Protestants have been limited to one service a week. The men must either go to a Sunday worship service or a Bible study during the week after years of having both. Some men only attend the Sunday service anyway so this will not be hard for them; however, many men attend every Bi-

ble study faithfully and are growing in their understanding of the Word of God. Some are teaching the teachers who bring the Word to the prisons!

When a man enters the prison or jail, it is great when other Christians get their attention and show God's love by inviting them to church and Bible study so God can begin restoring that hope many of these men lost with either a very long sentence, or, as many are receive life with no chance of being released, no parole.

Because of the way drugs get into the prisons the mail is being scrutinized to the point many would-be writers are even discouraged to write letters, since every place the men go have their own set of rules on letters, visits, and programs.

I have no problem with men

and women paying for their crimes. It is when supposedly good Christians allow them to be forgotten as if they don't deserve another chance. Unless you have someone in jail or prison who you love, it is hard to keep up with their treatment. Their treatment is not usually made public; however, as they are losing their religious freedoms we need to pray, "God, what can we do?" The Word of God gives men with a life sentence, with no chance for parole, hope. I see men who have 40+ years under the old law, which allowed parole, to get turndown after turndown after 23 or more those men come to the service saying, "Maybe next year," or, "God must have some more for me here." That is the kind of hope only God's Word can give.

How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to pro-

mote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

A thought I had on June 23, 2003 My mind seeks the flesh and my body follows. My spirit seeks the Lord and my heart follows. I must allow God to merge my mind and spirit with His Spirit and let His Spirit rule and abide over my flesh.

Reminder of the Day of Jubilee celebration on Sept 28

This will be number 32 for the Day of Jubilee celebrations. It will be held once again at LWCF my home church located at Living Word Christian Fellowship 5150 Lowesville Rd. Arrington VA 22922. If you get lost the morning of the event just call the church at 434-277-5193 and someone will be

there from about 9:30 or 10:00 since the celebration starts at 10:30. We will be sending out a flyer with more details with the Sept/Oct newsletter. We will have new testimonies from men and women who were changed through the gospel brought to them through a prison minis-

try like this one. There will certainly be songs of praise to God for 32 years of blessings. We will have great fellowship between ex-offenders and those who join us and we promise along with the spiritual food received there will be a great physical meal as well. Come and join us!



Mrs. Barbara Holmes and daughter Beke from Bible Readers Outreach Ministry enjoy the Jubilee.

What must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:27-31 ²⁷And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." ²⁹Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and

Silas. ³⁰And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Just saying the words I believe do not save anyone. People confess Jesus all of the time to get something they want or to get out of trouble. Rom. 10: 9,

10 ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Confession without a heart felt belief does not save, when one is saved their will be evidence!

A testimony from an ex-offender



JUNE 2019

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 / 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

JULY 2019

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 days I minister at Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.

Blue numbers are the Sundays I preach at the Local Holiness church.

July 1st the ministry schedule will change do to DOC policy only allowing one Christian program a week

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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Offerings & donations are tax deductible since Rehoboth is a non-profit organization. They can be sent to the address below and will be used to further the Jail & Prison Ministry.

Ministry Address:

**Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry
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Schuyler, VA 22969-9607
E-mail: rrbak@juno.com
Phone: (434) 831-2593**

Web site: www.jailandprisonministries.org

Answers to last issue's quiz

16. The Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 5:3)
17. Those who mourn (Matt 5:3)
18. The earth (Matt 5:5)
19. Righteousness (Matt 5:6)
20. The pure in heart (Matt 5:8)
21. Peacemakers (Matt 5:9)
22. Salt (Matt 5:13)
23. A light (Matt 5:13)
24. Their good deeds (Matt 5:16)
25. The law and the prophets (Matt 5:17)

out of?

15. What two food items did John the Baptist eat?
16. In what river did John the Baptist baptize?
17. What two groups of religious leaders did John the Baptist verbally attack?
18. John the Baptist said any tree that doesn't produce what must be cut down?
19. What two things did John the Baptist say the coming one would baptize with?
20. Two times God spoke to people about Jesus and said, "This is my son." When were they?
21. What descended on Jesus like a dove at his baptism?

Angels & Saints are our classmates
The Holy Bible is our study book
Trials & Temptations are our exams
Winning souls is our assignments
Praying & Worship is our motto
The crown of life is our degree.....forever...
Enroll today my Brothers & Sisters in Christ
Unbelievers still have time. There is always room,
Because the tuition is free.....

This article was shared from one of my many pen pals you would be blessed by their skills in drawing, writing poems, and thoughts to ponder. Join us as a pen pal and enjoy some of the best blessing of sharing God's love you could ever enjoy.

Bible Quiz questions

11. By living in Nazareth, Jesus could now be called a what?
12. What Old Testament prophet did Matthew say predicted John the Baptist's desert calling?
13. What were John the Baptist's clothes made of?
14. What was John the Baptist's belt made

The Lord's Education

The church is our college
Heaven is our university
Jesus is our Principal King
The Holy Spirit is our Teacher