

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Rehoboth Jail & Prison

changing lives from the inside out

Ministry Newsletter

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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 2019

Happy Mother's Day to All Who Have Been Blessed to Be a Mother

I have lost lots of members of my family. I have lost lots of good friends as well. The greatest loss in my life was when I lost my mother, but only for a while. The second greatest loss was my sister. She and I were very close, just as my mother and I were. I do not take lightly the loss of grandparents, uncles, aunts or cousins, but out of all, my greatest loss was my mother.

Losing her was bad enough, but when I think of the time lost that I wasted in worldly ways, which I could have spent with her, that makes it worse. I never knew how much I would regret not spending time with her until it was too late to do anything about it. Work was important and other things were needed to be done, but what about all of the

foolish things I spent time in which did not accomplish anything positive? It was time wasted on the flesh.

Oh, I spent time with her on holidays and sometimes weekends, but once she was no longer around for me to speak to face to face, to call on the phone, to just spend time telling her how much she meant to me, only then did I know I should have done much more.

When I was young and started working while in school, every time I saw something she might need, I would surprise her with it. When I was getting paid, I made sure I gave her money every week even when I was in high school for all the things she did for me. I wrote her every day in the Army and in prison. I sent her money from prison to

pay the phone bill so I could call any time and talk as long as allowed.

But I bet if someone asked her which she would of liked more than all of that, even though she greatly appreciated all I ever did for her, I bet she would say I wish he would of spent more time with me, and most of all not followed the ways of the world which took him away from me for so many years.

You might say "are you bragging or complaining?" I guess I would ask you if your mother is still living, will you live with much regret after she is gone for not spending more time with her?

On a lighter note, I wish all of the mothers who read this letter a blessed and prosperous Mother's Day.

Do Fathers Get the Same Attention as Mothers?

We know in many cases, mothers are the major caretakers in the family, and therefore, the children might have a more intimate relationship with the mother than the father, but not always. However, it does not have to be that way. When the father comes home from a hard days work, he does not always pay as much attention to the children as he could. Later on in life, these fathers could be

very sorry after their children move on to have their own family, and unfortunately, they now do not have as good of a relationship with their father as they might of. It is never too late as long as the child and the parent are alive to revive that relationship, with a little work and prayer.

Regrets are terrible things, and the only way to get over regret is to make whatever

regret you have right. Whatever a father needs to do to make things right with his child, do it before it is too late. Whatever a child needs to do to revive a unsatisfied relationship with a dad, do it. I miss my father. We were never close. He was not around. He loved me in his own way, but he is no longer around. We did make things right before he left this world and for that, I am blessed.

A thought I had
May 2, 2002

When it is warm, people call for the cool breeze. When it is cold, they call for the warmth of the sun. Is there no way to be content? When the rain comes, some would say I had plans, Why couldn't it rain another day? But if you held the rain off, another would complain. Let me be content with what God brings exactly when He brings it and praise Him for he is God.

Col. 3:2-11 ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

What Can You Do for This Ministry???

Our readers have been so generous with their prayers and financial support. We cannot say thank you enough. We praise God for all of the times we are invited to a church, given time to share a few words about the ministry, setup a display, and after the service, answer questions about the ministry and sign up new volunteers for the pen pal outreach.

However, we still have some needs we would like to share with you. Please continue to pray. We would not have lasted 32 years without your prayers and God showering his grace, mercy and power on us. Along with your prayers and continuing financial support, we would ask for two more board members.

Anyone interested can contact us for details about the positions. I would also very much enjoy having someone willing to work from home updating some spreadsheets and certain files for me. I have worksheets for the pen pals, and they could use updating from time to time, and the list of people and addresses of ones writing and those no longer writing could use updating.

At this time, I am doing this myself, but with all of the letters that I am writing daily for a lack of volunteers, it is hard to keep both up the way they should be caught up. I could forward the information to someone and explain how to do them and they could update the files and e-mail them back as an attachment. I have re-

ceived 24 new requests from inmates for a pen pal in the last 16 days. While I look at who is writing, I see some have stopped writing, and their names need to be moved to the inactive file. Either they are now just writing their pen pal and no longer writing me, or they were tired of writing me and tired of waiting for a pen pal. I do this once in a while, but it should be done more often.

So if you might be interested in these or other opportunities to work with the ministry, PLEASE let us know, and we can find a place for you.

Contact the ministry by phone or e-mail, and we will get right back to you. We need HELP!

What Does It Take to Be a Pen Pal and What Are the Dangers?

If someone reads the pen pal brochure and follows all of the instructions, there is very little risk at all. Number one, most all of the inmates are out of state inmates who are not likely to get out of prison and come all the way to VA to hurt someone who has only shown them the love of God. Plus, you as a Christian have God watching over you. Number two, if you are still concerned, use an assumed name and a P.O. Box, or you could use the church address and still use an alias. After all, many of the inmates use an alias. (smile) Number three, I try to write at least three letters to the men to try to get a feel as to what they

are looking for. If I have a doubt about someone, I am either very careful about who I give their name to, or I keep their name for myself. By the time I have received three letters, I can usually make a decision as to if I feel comfortable giving their name out or not. Number 4 and very important, many of the men writing have a sentence so long they will die in prison, or they have life without the opportunity for parole. If one of those men were in some way to escape, since the institution would have the pen pals address, that would be the last place an escaped convict would go. In the many years I have been writing inmates, I

have had many very friendly men say they want to come to see me when they get out, but I have yet to have anyone try to contact me after they are released from prison other the one in VA.

We have made the pen pal experience as safe as possible if the brochure is followed. I always try to make sure every volunteer reads the brochure, however, if they do not follow it, at least we tried to inform them. I have as of the day I am writing this article, over 136 inmates male and female who would love to get a letter from you hearing, "you got a letter."

- 1 Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?
- 2 Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to our known God.
- 3 It is not enough to have a song on your lips; the song must also be in your heart.
- 4 My job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible.
- 5 Don't dig up doubt you planted in faith.
- 6 In the years of living this life of faith, I have never known God's care to fail.

These are some thoughts to ponders from an inmate in CA. I am not sure if he read them somewhere or if they are his original thoughts.

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 that 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 discipled 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.

These are thoughts from Mrs. Kelly Locklear whose four sons were pen pals for several years and the family would set down every weekend and write their pen pal. We love to get families involved because the men and women in prison no matter what their crime was, they miss their families.

The Bible Reading Outreach Ministry

Since the Bible Reading Outreach Ministry has joined us, I see God blessing this ministry and our partner ministry together even more than before, and it gives me a clearer picture why God brought us together. It is nice to be able to send Mrs. Holmes an e-mail when I get a letter from a new inmate who wants a Bible lesson and know that same day or so a lesson will be mailed out to them.

Before this partnership, I had a list of places that sent Bible studies, and the men would write to those ministries, but it might take a long time to get a lesson or they might not hear back at all. Then there were times when some of the ministries were no longer active and did not reply to the inmate since there was no one to reply.

When I was incarcerated, letters from home daily were a great blessing. I had several pen pals, as well as my family. I really enjoyed all these letters. Then there were the men who could not read or write. When I wrote the first letter to their family for them, it started something that would change these men's lives. I would read their responses to the men and then write back. Those men would not have had any idea how their families were doing if they had

not received this mail unless they ran up the phone bill which was more costly a while back. After the correspondences started, I could see such a change in their countenance when the men stood at mail call and heard their name. They were so proud to finally get a letter and be reassured that their family still loved them even as God loved them even in their sin. As God had forgiven these men, their family also forgave them. I saw a new spirit in these men just because they were getting mail.

Of course, there are lots of men and women who will never hear from home. They have burned those bridges behind them, so they seek a stranger to bear their soul to. Some are not looking for the Lord when they start writing a Christian outreach. However, when the pen pal continues lifting up Jesus, many men and women start getting an interest and many of them have a change in attitude just because God used someone who loved Him to share His love with a lost soul they never met. Find the brochure about this ministry on our **Website: www.jailandprisonministries.org** along with other information regarding all we do to get the gospel to inmates all over the world.

Would You like to Share the Love of God While Sitting at Home?

Once again I would like to share the need for volunteers to write to inmates, many who will never get out of prison so they need someone to share the good news of Jesus with them. In the first two weeks of March 2019, I have 17 new requests for pen pals. Three of these were women looking for a pen pal to help them grow in the Lord while

they serve their time to pay for their crime. The others were men who wanted the same thing. While I get letters all of the time from men wanting a female pen pal, I also get many more letters from a sinner, who is seeking comfort from God and who needs encouragement and discipleship as they desire to grow closer to the Lord. Imagine you have life

with no possibility for parole. You did a crime and you are paying for it. Because of this crime, your family does not want anything to do with you, but God touches your heart and in Godly sorrow you truly repent, but no one seems to care. God's Word speaks of forgiveness and how we are to forgive and love one another. So you seek a Christian to help you grow in the Word

since you will likely never get out of prison, but no one responds to your request.

This is the way thousands of men and women feel. They truly want a Christian to comfort and help them grow. God is providing the opportunity for us to write letters sitting in the comfort of our own home.

Contact us if you feel God calling you to this vital work.

MAY 2019

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

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 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 /30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays are evenings I minister at Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.

The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church.

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 Nov/Dec Issue and More Questions

6. Capernaum (Matt 4:13)
7. Isaiah (Matt 4:14)
8. Sea of Galilee (Matt 4:18)
9. Andrew (Matt. 4:18)
10. Fisherman (Matt 4:18)
11. James and John (Matt 4:21)
12. Fishermen (Matt. 4:21)
13. Their nets (Matt 4:21)
14. Their boat and their father (Matt 4:22)
15. Syria (Matt 4:24)

21. According to the Beatitudes, which group was called sons/children of God?
22. What earthly seasoning did Jesus warn people not to lose or they would be good for nothing?
23. What did Jesus say people should never put under a bowl?
24. As people let their light shine before others, what did Jesus want them to see?
25. What two things did Jesus say he did not come to abolish?

God is Everywhere

In my Heart, He remains there

In my lungs, He's in the air
He's in the blue sky, where I stare

He's in my mind, that's all the time

He's in my hands, He shows me signs

He's got my back, He gives me wings

He's in my feet, He walks

New Bible quiz questions

16. According to the Beatitudes, which kingdom do the poor in spirit inherit?
17. According to the Beatitudes, who did Jesus promise will be comforted?
18. According to the Beatitudes, what will the meek inherit?
19. According to the Beatitudes, God bless those who hunger and thirst after what?
20. According to the Beati-

Thoughts to Ponder from Someone on the Inside

with me
He's in my lips, He talks through me
He's in my body, short and simple
Because my body is His Temple
Amen

where you've been,

its where you're going
That counts.

Three things you can never get enough of:
Chocolate, Friends, God

Walking Through

Sometimes I cannot look ahead and see
Just what may lie in store for me
But as my hand I trust with you
I am holding on and walking through.

I do not have to see the end
For my days are all in your hand
Your eyes can see more clearly still

Just keep my step within your will.

Somehow I feel you will take care of me
And never fail to supply my need
The dearest friend of all that's true

I am holding on and walking

Begin your day with
Love in your heart
Expect blessings
Share good news
Shine like the Sun
Expect blessings
Decide to Thank
God and others.

You must be the change
you wish to see in
the world.

We will be friends until
we are old and senile,
then we will be new friends.
It's not who you are or